

NATURAL HERITAGE FUND

PROJECTS FUNDED IN THE 2026/27 FUNDING ROUND

ABOUT THIS FUNDING ROUND

A total of six applications were received in the 2026/27 Natural Heritage Fund (NHF) round, totalling \$3,277,797 in requested funds. Two applications were unsuccessful. Grants totalling \$1,981,302 were approved by the Integrated Catchment Management Committee to the following four projects.

MAUNGATAUTARI ECOLOGICAL ISLAND TRUST

Project:	Maungatautari – The seed source of biodiversity and community wellbeing project
District:	Waipa
NHF Contribution:	\$1,222,486
Duration of Funding:	3 years

Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust, trading as Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari, manages New Zealand's largest fenced biodiversity sanctuary near the township of Cambridge. Through the eradication of pest animals and reintroduction of threatened species, including kiwi, kākāpō, kōkako, takahē and tuatara, the sanctuary has successfully restored a functioning forest ecosystem. It also supports scientific research and delivers an environmental education programme.

The funding will go towards:

- Staff time for threatened species management, volunteer coordination and maintenance of the pest-proof fence sanctuary
- Materials required for biosecurity responses from fence breaches and fence repairs.

THAMES COAST KIWI CARE INCORPORATED

Project:	Mountains to sea: Thames Coast predator control and habitat protection
District:	Thames-Coromandel
NHF Contribution:	\$340,000
Duration of Funding:	4 years

Thames Coast Kiwi Care Incorporated is a community-led society formed in 2006 to protect a population of North Island brown kiwi on the western Coromandel Peninsula. It delivers landscape-scale pest animal control across more than 5,000 hectares, supported by volunteers and contractors, and has expanded since 2022 to protect a wider range of threatened species, including long-tailed bats.

The funding will go towards:

- Project management, volunteer coordination and operational costs to deliver pest animal control
- Materials to expand and maintain their trapping network.

NEW ZEALAND LANDCARE TRUST

Project:	Taia te Taiao – Maungatautari to Pirongia Ecological Corridor
District:	Waipā, Ōtorohanga
NHF Contribution:	\$346,000
Duration of Funding:	4 years

New Zealand Landcare Trust is an independent charitable trust established in 1996 to promote sustainable land and water management across Aotearoa. It works nationally with farmers, iwi, landowners, and communities to deliver practical, community-led environmental solutions and large-scale restoration initiatives, including the Taia te Taiao biodiversity corridor.

The funding will go towards:

- Staff time for coordination, project delivery and community engagement
- Materials for enhancement and engagement events across the ecological corridor.

MOKAIHAHA KŌKAKO TRUST

Project:	Mokaihaha Predator Control and Kōkako Survey
District:	South Waikato
NHF Contribution:	\$72,816
Duration of Funding:	2 years

Mokaihaha Kōkako Trust is a community-led trust established in 2017 to restore the Mokaihaha Ecological Area. Its primary focus is protecting a nationally significant population of North Island kōkako through sustained, landscape-scale pest animal control.

The funding will go towards:

- Contracted pest animal control work and a survey of the resident kōkako population.