

NATURAL HERITAGE FUND

PROJECTS FUNDED IN THE 2025/26 FUNDING ROUND

ABOUT THIS FUNDING ROUND

A total of six applications were received in the 2025/26 Natural Heritage Fund (NHF) round, totalling \$1,899,472.46 in requested funds. Grants totalling \$1,658,108 were made to the following six applications.

E ORA TĀNE PEST MANAGEMENT LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

Project:	Predator Control for Biodiversity Recovery – Lake Rotoaira Forest Trust whenua
District:	Taupō
NHF Contribution:	\$300,000
Duration of Funding:	3 years

E Ora Tāne is the environmental delivery arm of the Lake Rotoaira Forest Trust, an ahu whenua trust overseeing 24,000 ha of Māori land. Established in 2020 with support from Jobs for Nature, E Ora Tāne delivers large-scale biodiversity restoration and pest control programmes across the central North Island, led by mana whenua, employing local whānau, and embedding mātauranga Māori into its operations.

The funding will go towards:

- Staff labour costs – pest animal control work.

HE AKINA LIMITED

Project:	Whakaora Tauhara Maunga Initiative
District:	Taupō
NHF Contribution:	\$294,976
Duration of Funding:	3 years

He Akina provides management, operational, and secretariat support to the Tauhara Collective. Founding partners of the Collective include Tauhara Middle 15 (TM15) Trust, Opepe Farm Trust (OFT), Opepe Farm Limited Partnership (OFLP), Tauhara Mountain Trust (TMT), and Tauhara North Partnership Limited (TNPL). He Akina holds delegated authority on behalf of the Tauhara Collective to provide executive management, project management, financial and accounting support. This is a mana whenua led project which is building capacity and capability for Māori on and around Tauhara maunga.

The funding will go towards:

- Contracted labour – pest animal control, track cutting and marking.

TE PAIAKA LANDS TRUST

Project: Te Whakamaru o Horohoro
District: Rotorua & South Waikato
NHF Contribution: \$177,718
Duration of Funding: 2 years

Tipu Environmental is the environmental arm of Te Paiaka Lands Trust and will be responsible for delivering the pest animal control programme on Horohoro Maunga. This trust was set up in 2004 as a whenua topu trust for the people of Ngāti Kearoa Ngāti Tuara (a hapū of Te Arawa). The trust runs a dry stock farm, a native tree nursery and undertake riparian planting and pest control projects.

The funding will go towards:

- Labour – pest control work and project management.

TONGARIRO NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY INCORPORATED

Project: Project Tongariro Core Mission Support
District: Taupō
NHF Contribution: \$300,000
Duration of Funding: 4 years

Tongariro Natural History Society Incorporated, trading as Project Tongariro, have been operating as a subregional hub in Taupō and Tongariro for over 40 years. They have established several subprojects; Greening Taupō, Kids Greening Taupō, and Predator Free Taupō, as well as delivering on-the-ground restoration projects including Lake Rotopounamu and Te Matapuna Wetland. Their core objectives are for community mobilisation, education, species monitoring and on-ground restoration.

The funding will go towards:

- Labour – core staff for hub operations and subproject delivery.

WAIKATO ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

Project: Empowering Communities to Protect Wetland and Stream Biodiversity, Together
District: Multiple
NHF Contribution: \$265,498
Duration of Funding: 2 years

Waikato Environment Centre, trading as Go Eco, operate a subregional hub delivering a number of different focus areas including biodiversity, climate resilience, kai education and zero waste. This project seeks to increase wetland and stream biodiversity by building community capability and capacity.

The funding will go towards:

- Staff labour costs – designing and running community workshops.
- Contracted labour costs – experts to support the community workshop delivery.

WHENUAKIWI TRUST

Project: Whenuakite Kiwi Care Group NHF 2025
District: Thames-Coromandel
NHF Contribution: \$319,916
Duration of Funding: 3 years

Whenuakiwi Trust, trading as Whenuakite Kiwi Care Group, has been delivering pest animal control in the Whenuakite area of the Coromandel for 25 years. Initially this work was focussed on protecting the local population of North Island brown kiwi, but their scope has extended to New Zealand dotterel, kererū, kākā and Australasian bittern.

The funding will go towards:

- Contracted labour – pest control work.
- Materials – traps, lures and consumables.