VISION CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Financial Feasibility

Taumārere Catchment
Nature-Based Solutions Feasibility Study

Prepared For:
Northland Regional Council

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Preface

The **Taumārere Hydrological Catchment**, encompassing the Upper Kawakawa River area, faces significant environmental challenges, including persistent flooding impacting communities and critical infrastructure, along with degraded water quality, erosion, and biodiversity loss. This comprehensive feasibility study was initiated to understand the opportunities and constraints for implementing **Nature-based Solutions (NbS)** and restoration to address these issues. This project was supported by funding from the **Ministry for the Environment's (MfE) NbS for Flood Mitigation Programme**. The project's overarching ambition is to provide a foundational blueprint to guide future restoration, with its process and outcomes having the potential for replication across Northland and wider Aotearoa New Zealand.

This study employs a multi-faceted and integrated approach, **combining advanced scientific analysis with deep community and cultural engagement**. It has systematically moved through phases involving extensive consultation with iwi, notably **Ngāti Hine**, and utilised **high-resolution GIS mapping** and **hydrological analysis** to identify and prioritise suitable NbS sites, alongside assessing **financial viability** and developing robust **monitoring frameworks**. This collaborative and data-driven methodology aims for solutions that are culturally aligned, **ecologically considered**, and **financially assessed**, ultimately aiming to reduce flood risk, improve water quality, enhance ecological health, and strengthen community resilience and cultural well-being.

This phase one report focuses on the **financial feasibility of NbS** in the backdrop of **rural Northland** and the typical profitability profiles of land in the region given the full range of costs involved. The project explores **alternative revenue sources** and **diversification of land use** to provide a financial incentive and realistic options for driving the NbS implementation. Enabling pathways are explored to offer a mechanism to **support catchment management** through multiple avenues. This is done in light of the strengths, constraints and risks currently in the catchment and seeks **a strategic pathway** to NbS roll-out. A case study site developed to help pull the financial feasibility and wider project objectives into an easy-to-follow example.

Taumārere Catchment Nature-Based Solutions Feasibility Study
Financial Feasibility

First Edition

This report has been prepared by Vision Consulting Engineers Limited (VISION) based on the agreed scope of our engagement for this literature review. It is intended for the use of our Client, Northland Regional Council, and for broader dissemination to inform wider stakeholders and the public on the findings related to the Taumārere Hydrological Catchment and Nature-Based Solutions.

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Executive Summary

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) offer an integrated approach to improving climate resilience, ecological health, and cultural outcomes across the Taumārere catchment. This **Financial Feasibility Study** supports the wider NbS project by outlining the costs of implementing restoration at scale and the financial tools, incentives, and revenue streams that can **support long-term landowner engagement**.

Implementation costs vary significantly by activity and site condition. Common interventions like riparian planting, wetland restoration, and erosion planting typically range from $5,000 to $15,000 per hectare, rising to over $20,000 for sites requiring fencing, planting, or engineered works.

The economic case for NbS strengthens when marginal or high-risk land is considered. Restoration can reduce operating costs while opening revenue from carbon credits, rongoā (medicine), nurseries, watercress farming, eco-tourism, and more. These **alternative revenue models** help shift land use from **perceived loss to intergenerational return**—especially when paired with funding, rates relief, or market incentives.

A case study site demonstrates how mapped risk and opportunity layers can guide farm-scale decisions. **The report recommends a phased, locally driven approach that achieve initial objectives, supports community delivery, and builds long-term viability through training, tools, and trust.**

Key Themes and Findings

Hydrological Resilience

- NbS reduce flood peaks, support baseflows, and improve overall catchment function. Tools like leaky barriers, wetlands, and floodplain reconnection provide distributed, low-impact flood mitigation.

Land Economics & Revenue Potential

- Marginal land often delivers low farm returns but holds high restoration value. NbS can unlock income from carbon credits, rongoā crops, nurseries, and other whenua-based enterprises.

Cost-Effective Implementation

- While costs vary, phased rollout, local crews, and targeted design inputs make delivery more affordable. This report offers cost profiles and prioritisation tools to guide strategic investment.

Cultural Values & Mātauranga Māori

- Ngāti Hine values are woven throughout—from planning to monitoring—supporting restoration that is grounded in whakapapa, kaitiakitanga, and place-based knowledge.

Monitoring for Impact & Funding

- Simple, outcome-focused monitoring tools help verify results, unlock funding, and build trust. SMART metrics are aligned to both community values and funder expectations.

Community-Led Delivery

- Local workforces, marae hubs, and school groups are central to long-term outcomes. Community involvement reduces cost, builds capacity, and strengthens ownership.

Strategic Alignment and Opportunity

NbS are gaining national and global traction as effective, low-carbon responses to environmental risk. In Aotearoa, New Zealand, the government is starting to prioritise NbS in policy frameworks addressing freshwater reform, climate resilience, and biodiversity recovery. This project aligns directly with those aspirations, offering practical, region-specific guidance for **scaling up restoration and sustainable land management** in rural landscapes.

For Northland, the Taumārere catchment presents both a **challenge and an opportunity**. Flooding, sedimentation, and ecological degradation impact rural communities, infrastructure, and cultural sites. Yet the region also holds significant whenua (land) under **Māori ownership, strong environmental leadership**, and a track record of **successful community restoration**. This foundation creates fertile ground for **long-term, systems-based investment**.

This Financial Feasibility Study supports the **strategic shift** from isolated planting efforts to coordinated, landscape-scale planning—underpinned by sound economics and locally grounded insights. By **integrating costs, revenue pathways, and delivery models**, the project bridges the gap between aspiration and implementation.

It also responds to the call for **practical funding mechanisms** that work for rural landowners and iwi. Through meaningful engagement with Ngāti Hine and other stakeholders, this study identified shared values around the economy, culture, and te taiao (the environment) and helps position NbS not just as conservation, but as **long-term infrastructure for regional wellbeing**.

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose and Scope of this Financial Feasibility Study & Framework

This financial feasibility study has been developed to support the implementation of **Nature-Based Solutions (NbS)** across the **Taumārere hydrological catchment**. It is designed as a practical guide for **councils, land managers, catchment groups, iwi partners**, and project funders - helping to guide restoration priorities, project budgeting, and funding applications. It also provides realistic options for innovative technologies and alternative revenues.

NbS are increasingly recognised as delivering multiple benefits in addressing climate resilience, water quality, and biodiversity loss (Boffa Miskell Limited, 2024). While not a formal business case, this document provides indicative cost estimates for eight core NbS types identified through on-ground engagement and catchment-scale mapping For costing, these NbS types were assessed individually, using available data from local suppliers, recent projects, and restoration practitioners. Broader costs (e.g., land purchase or surveying) are noted but not covered in detail.

This document is intended as a high-level decision-support tool for community, landowners or managers, funders, and project managers, helping to build confidence, clarify expectations, and identify areas where investment can be made effectively.

1.2 Linkages to Wider NbS Project

To ground this financial feasibility study in **community voice, spatial intelligence, and outcome accountability,** this report builds on three major outputs developed during Phase 1 and Phase 3:

- **Consultation Summary:** Engagement with Ngāti Hine, local contractors, landowners, and community groups confirmed the priorities for restoration and highlighted on-the-ground constraints and aspirations. Specific sites were identified where īnanga (whitebait) spawning, tuna (eel) habitat, and water quality are under pressure. This insight informed NbS selection and became embedded in cost and delivery planning.
- **Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA):** High-resolution spatial mapping and modelling identified areas of greatest risk and opportunity for intervention. This informed the suitability and strategic placement of each NbS type, shaping how cost and feasibility were approached geographically.
- **Monitoring Framework:** A parallel report provides a modular framework for measuring the cultural, ecological and hydrological outcomes of each NbS. This study draws directly on the monitoring framework to estimate the cost of implementation-linked monitoring efforts for each NbS.

1.3 Objectives of this Assessment

This document supports **strategic planning, funding alignment,** and **implementation decision-making** across multiple project partners and governance levels.

This study has three primary objectives:

1. **Estimate indicative implementation costs** for each NbS type based on local rates, equipment, labour, and practical delivery constraints.
2. **Assess the financial feasibility** of delivering NbS across varied site types, taking account of long-term maintenance, local workforce readiness, and delivery methods.
3. **Support future funding applications** by providing cost estimates, justification for investment, and links to community and environmental outcomes.

1.4 How to Use This Document

This document supports both **strategic planning** and **on-ground delivery** in the Taumārere catchment. Use this document to:

- **Understand the typical cost considerations** of delivering each NbS, including labour, materials, and monitoring.
- **Plan funding applications** with credible, site-specific financial assumptions that align with local delivery capacity.
- **Prioritise restoration investments** based on feasibility, long-term value e.g., against an identified issue, and local context (e.g., land condition, access, readiness).
- **Compare "alternative revenue" options** such as carbon credits, biodiversity markets, alternative land uses e.g. rongoā-based enterprises, paludiculture (wetland agriculture).
- **Strengthen pathways for community delivery of projects** by empowering whānau groups to manage and design projects directly.
- **Integrate cultural and environmental value** into funding applications using both financial and qualitative benefit framing.

2 NbS Implementation high-level Costs & Prioritisation

This chapter presents **indicative cost profiles** for the eight core NbS types shown in Figure 1 identified during earlier mapping and consultation phases for the Taumārere catchment.

Each of NbS type was carefully selected to work with the natural landscape while supporting multiple environmental and social benefits. By taking a whole-catchment approach, we can reduce flood risks, protect water quality, restore natural habitats, and improve climate resilience.

It should be noted that **NbS 9 – Catchment Management** – has been included in the project as an example land activities and management calendar (Appendix A). NbS 9 is not a spatially assessed, rather inferred from the MCA mapping for nutrient & pathogen relative risk and priority layers with management tools applied as required. The calendar is aimed to guide conversation around land management, environmental stressors, and the potential use of NbS to support the activity. The environmental triggers stated in the calendar are indicative only and must be informed by local knowledge as response to climate stress is dependent on-site setup and baseline conditions.

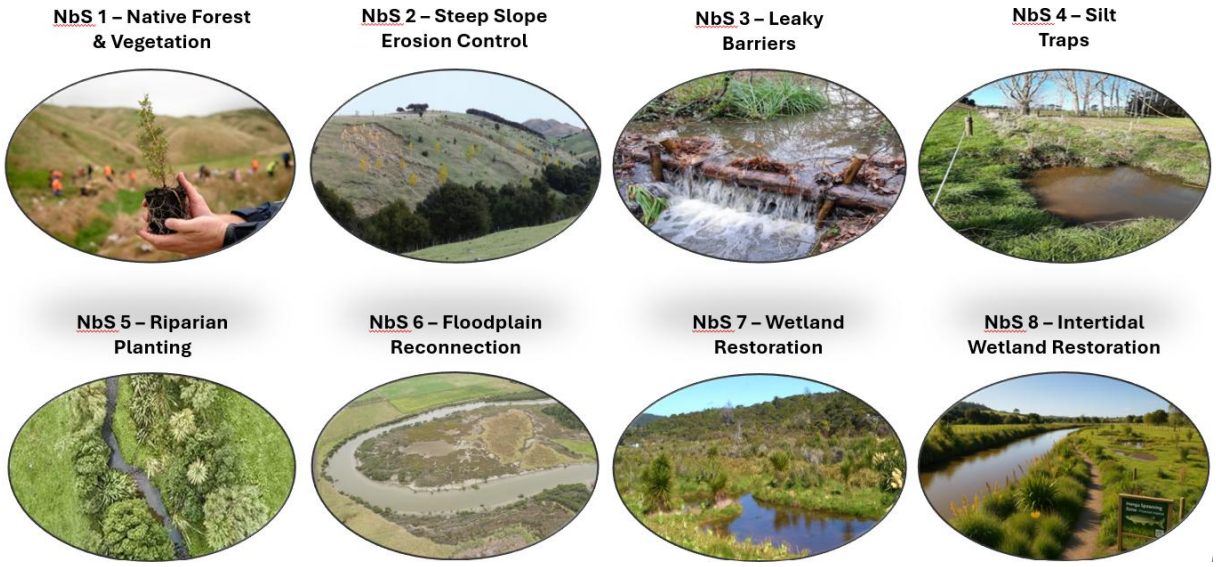

Figure 1: NbS types selected for the Taumārere feasibility study

2.1 Cost Considerations for NbS

Estimating the cost of NbS is subject to variability. Unlike conventional infrastructure, NbS projects work with living dynamic systems subject to seasonal, ecological, and social variability. This section provides a framework for thinking about cost considerations, rather than prescriptive budgets. It is intended to support:

- Comparing NbS types by general **affordability and complexity**
- Identifying practical, "**early win**" interventions
- Planning longer-term or staged **investment pathways**
- **Selecting NbS that align with local context**, delivery capacity, and funding potential

While a wide range of cost estimates exist across literature and practice, they should be interpreted cautiously. Per-hectare or per-unit values are often highly site-specific and can vary by **order of**

magnitude depending on NbS implementation method, consenting needs, and monitoring or maintenance levels.

The following factors consistently influence the cost and feasibility of NbS delivery:

- **Site Suitability & Accessibility** – steeper or remote sites tend to increase delivery and maintenance costs.
- **Labour, Equipment & Materials** – availability of local contractors, skilled crews, and planting material directly affects pricing.
- **Monitoring & Maintenance Requirements** – some interventions require multi-year upkeep (e.g. weed control, replanting) or baseline surveys.
- **Community & Contractor Readiness** – work crews, schools, and restoration groups can reduce costs if adequately supported.
- **Funding Alignment** – some interventions align better with funding streams such as carbon credits, biodiversity pilots, or regulatory mitigation.
- **Scalability & Sequencing** – costs may reduce over time with local capacity building, bulk procurement, and staged delivery models.

2.2 NbS High-level Implementation Costs

Indicative implementation **costs vary significantly** depending on scale, terrain, and planting method. However, Table 1 provides a generalised cost range per unit for each NbS type, based on current rates and practitioner feedback.

These ranges provide a quick-glance comparison tool for funders, project managers, and landowners.

Table 1: Summary of high-level NbS Implementation Costs and Key Delivery Considerations

NbS Type	Indicative Cost Range	Monitoring Needs	Revenue/Funding Potential	Delivery Notes
Ecological Restoration Project	Community Level: up to $10,000/ha Commercial inc. planning: up to $100,000/ha (MfE, 2023)	Project dependent; but aligns with low-cost methods listed below.	Project dependent	Vary depending on project – cost range for comparison only
Forest & Native Vegetation Restoration	$2,500 - $20,000/ha (Motu, 2017) (TTT, 2025)	Canopy, photo-points, bird counts	Carbon credits, cultural harvest, One Billion Trees	Iwi-led planting, local contractors
Erosion Control & Slope Stabilisation (planting only)	~ $10,000 – $13,000/ha - see (KMR, 2025) for detailed cost breakdowns. Costs may be reduced on simple sites; however, plant spacing and total dictates cost.	Drone, erosion pins, visual surveys	Sediment reduction funds, avoided downstream costs	Forestry & fencing crews, hill country training
Leaky Barriers	$150 – $1,500/barrier – costs depend on size, access, construction difficulty, and materials (often acquired onsite).	Visual, photo-points, optional sensors	Sediment retention, school involvement	Low-tech, community-installed. Usually materials (logs/ branches) won onsite. Large structures may require machinery to drive in poles etc.
Silt Traps	+$150/ 1m³ trap - Cost varies based on trap size etc Easier to price per/m³ soil excavated/ moved	Sediment depth, turbidity sampling	Water quality co-benefits, compliance offsets	Requires digger access, can pair with fencing and planting in riparian area.
Riparian Planting	$22,000 – $34,000/ha (KMR, 2025). Costs reduced by local nursey partnerships.	Vegetation checks, visual inspections	Carbon, biodiversity, habitat restoration	Suitable for schools, contractors, iwi crews
Floodplain Connection & Restoration	+$10,000/ ha but varies significantly depending on design	Water levels, habitat mapping	Flood mitigation, biodiversity offsets, carbon	Involves design, consent, and collaboration. Multiple elements (riparian planting, leaky barriers, earthworks, etc).
Wetland Restoration	$2,000 – +$50,000/ha. Range from flat simple sites with minimal prep (weeding only), to large wetlands with earthworks	WQ, invertebrates, vegetation survey	Biodiversity, carbon, paludiculture	Suited to marginal land, community partnership. Cost varies with complexity, i.e, large earthworks, engineered design, water level control, etc
Intertidal Wetland (Īnanga Focus)	$2,000 – +$50,000/ha for prep and planting (as per wetland restoration)	Spawning surveys during timing windows	Biodiversity credits, cultural monitoring funding	Timing critical, stock exclusion essential
Catchment Management (integrated)	Variable depending on method.	Site-specific tools and telemetry	Cross-cutting value – flood, WQ, resilience	Coordinated delivery + monitoring backbone

Note: Prices reflect costs at time of publication (July-2025) and may fluctuate due to contractor availability, access, species selection, and land condition.

2.3 Preparation, Monitoring, & Maintenance

Table 2 summarises the main preparation, access, monitoring, and maintenance needs for each NbS type, to support prioritisation and budget decisions. The table assumes **baseline maintenance** (e.g., weeding, fencing upkeep, infill planting), excluding damage from high-intensity **storms or floods**, which may require **contingency planning**.

Actual costs are difficult to quantify practically for complex projects and for early-stage financial planning purposes, it can be helpful to apply a "**standardised monitoring and maintenance allowance**" of, for example, $1,500–$2,500/ha/yr planting-related interventions like spot spraying until plants establish, or $15,000–$25,000 per catchment for low-cost sensor-based monitoring across sites to tie in with NRC's Environmental Monitoring Fund (subject to availability).

Table 2: Indicative Preparation, Access, Monitoring, and Maintenance Needs

NbS Type	Prep & Access Level	Monitoring & Cost Level	Maintenance Needs
Forest & Native Vegetation Restoration	Moderate - site access, fencing, weed control	Moderate - canopy cover, species health, bird presence, infill survival	Moderate - weeding, infill planting, fencing, pest control
Erosion Control & Slope Stabilisation (generally planting only)	High - remote/steep access, fencing, erosion-prone soils, weed control	Moderate - canopy health, drone imagery, slope movement, downstream sediment checks	Moderate – infill planting, erosion monitoring, fencing repairs
Leaky Barriers	Low - hand tools or light machinery, local timber, simple construction	Moderate - visual/photo point checks, debris accumulation, ecological observations if required	Low - periodic inspection and repairs (if not placed in high-energy flow paths)
Silt Traps	Moderate to high - digger access, spoil removal, complex siting on slopes	Moderate – sediment accumulation (depth) checks, trapping efficiency	Moderate - periodic excavation cycles or as needed depending on rainfall and trap capacity
Riparian Planting	Low - straightforward access; fencing may be required, weed control	Low – visual inspection, survival rates	Moderate – weeding, infill planting
Floodplain Connection & Restoration	Moderate to High – planning, earthworks, consent, weed control	High - habitat condition, hydrology verification, sedimentation rates in early years	Moderate - weeding, flow redirection, sediment clearing if dual-used as silt traps
Wetland Restoration	Moderate to High - site contouring, fencing, access setup, weed control	Moderate to high - groundwater levels, flows, WQ, ecology	Moderate - hydrological adjustments, weeding, sediment removal in cases of high inflow or sedimentation
Intertidal Wetland (Īnanga Focus)	Variable - from fencing & planting only, up to stop earthworks, stopbank/ structure removal, weed control	Moderate - spawning assessments, water quality, salinity, tidal hydrology	Low - seasonal check-ins, infill planting, passive maintenance
Catchment Management (Integrated)	Moderate to High - coordination, GIS setup, policy/planning frameworks	Moderate to High – telemetry, analysis, software subscriptions	Variable – depends on site scale, tech dependencies, and scope of implementation

Notes on Table 2

The indicative preparation, monitoring, and maintenance levels presented in the table reflect broad terrains, field experience and land pressures across New Zealand restoration projects (MfE, 2023).

- ***Monitoring Costs** are assumed to use **low-cost, non-invasive methods** such as fixed-point photos, canopy assessments, and visual checks aligned with current best practices and Ngāti Hine monitoring protocols (Ngāti Hine, 2022). **Higher-tech tools** (e.g. sensors, telemetry) may increase up-front cost but reduce long-term labour (PCE, 2024).*
- ***Maintenance Needs** assume routine upkeep (e.g., weeding, pest control, infill planting) but **do not account for extreme weather impacts**, which can increase effort, particularly on slopes and in flood-prone areas (MfE, 2023).*
- ***Cost Ranges** are intended to support early-stage prioritisation and **do not replace site-specific design or contractor pricing**. They can be used to build "starter budgets" or funding applications for initial scoping phases.*

2.4 Prioritisation Guidance

Table 3 is designed support early-stage decision-making in three areas:

- **Implementation Feasibility** – How easy is it to deliver on-the-ground?
- **Cost Efficiency** – What is the approximate cost per unit impact?
- **Strategic Value** – How well does it address multiple outcomes (e.g., flood, habitat, water quality, cultural revival)?

Table 3: Prioritisation Guidance

NbS Type	Implementation Feasibility	Cost Efficiency	Strategic Value	Recommended Use
Forest & Native Vegetation Restoration	Medium	Medium	High - climate, culture, biodiversity	Long-term land retirement and catchment stabilisation
Erosion Control & Slope Stabilisation	High for planting	High	High - sediment/ WQ, slope safety	Targeted steep, high-risk sites; fund-dependent
Leaky Barriers	Medium	Medium	Medium - sediment, minor habitat created	Quick-win community or forestry projects
Silt Traps	High	High	High - sediment, WQ	Target paddock, drain, and farm track outlets
Riparian Planting	High	High	High - biodiversity, shade, buffers	Suitable across farms, schools, streams - broad delivery base
Floodplain Connection & Restoration	Low	Medium	Very High - flood attenuation, biodiversity	Strategic flagship sites only or within wider restoration projects
Wetland Restoration	Low	Medium	High – WQ, biodiversity, carbon schemes	Marginal paddocks, headwaters, wet sites
Intertidal Wetland (Īnanga Focus)	Medium	Medium	High - fisheries, culture	Small, seasonal, high-visibility sites with public access
Catchment Management (Integrated)	Medium	Variable	Very High - catchment-wide approach needed	Overarching strategy – links all NbS types

Notes on Table 3:

The prioritisation matrix is informed by technical feasibility assessments, practical delivery experience, and ecological benefit modelling in Aotearoa and internationally (IUCN, 2020; Morrison, 2023; PCE, 2025; Water, 2024).

- ***Feasibility rankings*** *reflect field experience and public consultation in Northland and restoration projects elsewhere. Steep slope planting, while high in ecological value, poses logistical constraints—hence a "Low" feasibility score without targeted support by a local supporting network.*
- ***Cost efficiency*** *is relative to the impact per hectare or unit (e.g., sediment reduction, flood attenuation) rather than pure dollar per hectare cost. Tools like leaky barriers and riparian planting consistently rank high due to low cost and wide deliverability (IISD, 2023).*
- ***Strategic value*** *reflects alignment with policy, cultural, ecological, and hydrological goals. NbS that support multiple outcomes—such as floodplain restoration (flood + habitat) or intertidal wetlands (cultural + ecological)—are ranked accordingly.*
- ***This matrix is a decision-support tool*** *developed for this NbS project. Rankings may shift depending on site-specific priorities, catchment dynamics, or community values.*

2.5 Early Design Input: Cost-Effective Decisions that Shape Outcomes

For more complex projects, the opportunity to add value is greatest in the early stages of NbS project development before groundwork begins. This is when targeted design inputs can reduce risk, lower long-term costs, and improve project outcomes.

The **Project Life Cycle Costs** chart (Figure 2) illustrates this relationship:

- As time progresses, the **cost of change increases**.
- Meanwhile, the **opportunity to influence outcomes declines**.

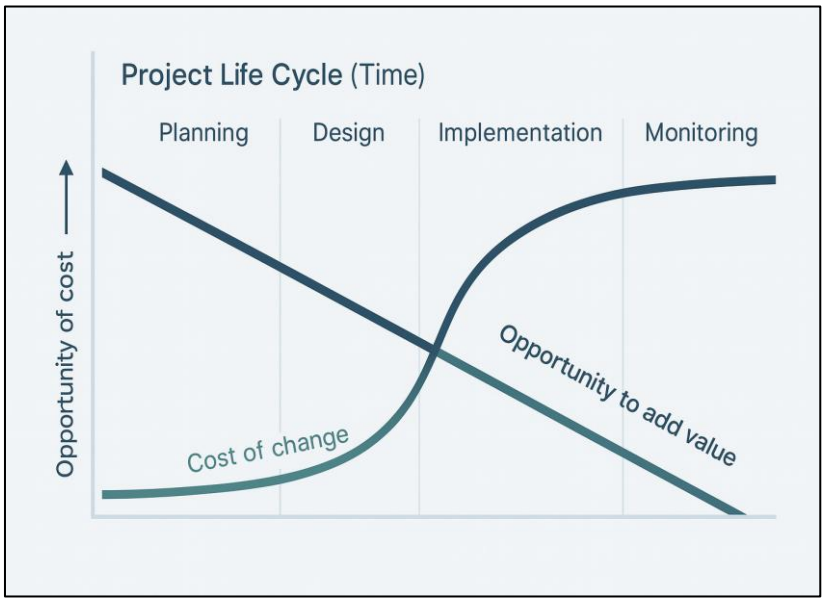

Figure 2: Project Lifecycle Costs Diagram

Early-stage design assessments are where traditional wisdom and professional input delivers a high return on investment, especially on complex, high-risk, or sensitive sites. These services support feasibility, align projects with funder expectations, and avoid costly redesign or failure later.

Key Early-Phase Design Inputs for NbS:

- **Hydraulic modelling** – To inform wetland size, floodplain reconnection, and flow pathways.
- **Habitat and ecological surveys** – To confirm presence of key species or restoration targets (e.g. īnanga spawning).

- **Erosion and slope assessments** – To prioritise stabilisation and determine safe access or planting techniques.
- **Cultural site assessments** – To integrate rongoā (food gathering) zones, wāhi tapu (sacred place) protection, and kaitiaki (guardian) values.
- **Consent scoping and engagement** – To identify regulatory needs early and build local support.

2.5.1 When Are These Inputs Necessary?

Not all NbS sites require complex design work. **Low-risk interventions**, like riparian planting, often need basic site checks and fencing layout. However, additional **design input should be considered** when:

- **Consents** are required.
- The site drains to **sensitive ecological receptors** (e.g. wetlands, spawning sites).
- Restoration is adjacent to **infrastructure** (e.g. roads, bridges, power lines).
- There is a **high risk of erosion, invasive species spread, or sediment loss**
- The project is a **flagship or high-investment site** with visibility or community interest.

2.6 Recommendations for Sequencing NbS Projects

To support delivery across diverse land types, a flexible sequencing framework (MfE, 2022):

Engage communities and build delivery capacity early

Prioritise sites where local contractors, iwi, or school groups can participate—linking ecological outcomes with employment, education, and cultural revival.

Start with high-feasibility, low-cost interventions

Begin with readily implementable actions such as riparian planting, slope planting, and silt traps. These techniques are understood, low risk, and offer community engagement potential to build early momentum and confidence.

Plan flagship investment projects in parallel

Larger interventions - like wetland restoration, floodplain reconnection, or catchment-scale management - require more time, funding, and design input. Begin early-stage scoping, monitoring, hydraulic modelling, ecological surveys, and stakeholder engagement in tandem with initial works.

Layer projects in time and space

Implement NbS in a phased manner - moving from simple to complex, visible to strategic, and single-benefit to multi-benefit. This creates learning cycles, strengthens partnerships, and aligns with funding availability.

Incorporate monitoring and design at each step

Use modular “clip-on” monitoring tools for each NbS to demonstrate early outcomes and support future funding. Apply targeted design studies (e.g. erosion risk, spawning zones) where risk, infrastructure proximity, or ecological sensitivity justifies it. See the project’s **Monitoring Framework** document for more information.

3 Land Use Economics & Profitability

This chapter explores the current land-use profitability in the Taumārere catchment for marginal land. Insights shared throughout consultation with **Ngāti Hine have shaped this chapter**, particularly in relation to past enterprises, and aspirations to develop self-sustaining businesses and

environmental enterprises grounded in whenua-based kaitiakitanga (guardianship). This draws directly on the legacy of **Te Papa Pā Orooro** – Ngāti Hine's award-winning environmental team - and the **Jobs for Nature** programme.

3.1 Profitability of Marginal Land: The Break-Even Point

Understanding land-use returns helps shift the narrative from "**loss**" to "**restoration opportunity**". In the Taumārere catchment, many marginal areas present challenges and costs to farm yet return minimal profit. Examples include:

- **Erosion-prone slopes** requiring reseeding, track maintenance, or fertiliser
- **Low-lying paddocks** that flood frequently, damaging pasture (etc)
- **Wet or shaded zones** that are difficult to graze or crop

Table 4 compares estimated **annual net returns per hectare** for common and emerging land uses in Northland. The simplified ranges are drawn from national benchmarks, regional economic studies, and sector reports, and represent typical performance on productive versus marginal land. As such, they must be used as a guide only given market vulnerability.

Table 4: Approximate Annual Net Returns by Land Use Type

Land Use Type	High-Quality Land Returns (before costs/ tax etc)	Marginal Land Returns / Notes & Sources
Dairy	$1,469–$3,671/ha (25-75th percentile before tax etc) (DairyNZ, 2024a)	$0–$800/ha (sub-10th percentile) (DairyNZ, 2024a)
Sheep & Beef (hill country)	$300–$400/ha (based on tonnes of pasture/ ha) (NZFFA, 2020)	< $300/ha on steep/erosion-prone land (NZFFA, 2020)
Commercial Radiata Pine Forestry	~ $1,000 - $3,172/ha (NZFFA, 2020)	Highly variable between $330 and $640/ha/yr on highly erodible land (Canopy, 2019); carbon credits can improve returns to $1,500/ha (MyFarm, 2021)
Mānuka Honey – Plantation	~ $1,000/ha net by year 7 (Tupu, 2025)	Well-suited to hill country; low-input model. Establishing a mānuka stand starts from around $2,500 to $3,000 per hectare (Tapu, 2025).
Beekeeping (other)	$380 a kilo for pure propolis (Ecrotek, 2021) Hive rental (niche) $450/hive/year (Rentahive, 2025)	Even low-density sites support apiaries - consider local conditions (site drainage, cattle access)
Avocado/Citrus/ Horticulture	Gross returns of $85,000–$125,000/ha (avacados) on high-performing irrigated land (NRC, 2023). Citrus varies by species from $20,000 - $35,000/ ha (Tupu, 2017). Horticulture Northland rural zone gross output of $14,940/ha in the General Coastal Zone, $10,980/ha in the Coastal Living Zone, $21,850/ha in the Rural Production Zone and a significant $107,620/ha in the Rural Living Zone (kiwi orchards) (FDNC, 2020)	High operational costs. Not viable on marginal slopes or dry gullies
Paludiculture (harakeke, *Sphagnum* moss)	Not typical on high-quality land	Well-suited to wet, low-drainage sites. See Chapter 4 for more details on revenue.
Native Plant Contract Growing	Varies significantly on operational and selling model.	Requires nursery infrastructure or wetland grow-out model (see Chapter 4)
Bulk Flax for Processing	Not typical on high-quality land	Local cultural and craft uses. High-tech innovation using flax also possible avenues (KiwiFibre, 2024)

Notes on Table Rates and Assumptions

- ***Forestry**: $1,000/ha reflects pine plantation woodlot returns under typical rotation cycles and up to* $3,172/ha on flat easy access land *(*NZFFA, 2020). *Carbon market returns vary but can improve total yield where eligibility and sequestration rates are favourable.*
- ***Bulk Flax for Processing**: KiwiFibre (2024) highlights potential for native flax fibre markets. Kiwifibre's plant is located in Christchurch and there are currently no local drying/processing centre locally, reducing margin and scalability in the short-term.*

4 Alternative Revenue Pathways

This chapter provides explores alternative revenue pathways for marginal land from restoration-compatible enterprises. The challenge is in the perception that retired marginal land is unprofitable. However, across Aotearoa and globally, alternative revenue streams such as carbon credits, native wetland nurseries, fibre crops, eco-tourism, and food sovereignty are reshaping how marginal land is valued (Manaaki Whenua, 2020).

Public consultation for the Taumārere catchment NbS project has highlighted the interest in alternative revenues. For example, the **Ngāti Hine Forestry Trust** have ambitions to transition to diverse native forestry stands alongside commercial pine and have set up trials to validate future investment. However, consultation raised questions about:

- **Fair compensation**
- **Shared investment** in outcomes
- Recognition of **upstream contribution** i.e., flood reductions downstream of NbS site.

The above points highlight the **complexity** of financial considerations when planning NbS and catchment-wide projects. However, the potential alternative revenues and employment opportunities may pave a way forward for innovative land-based projects returning a **profit alongside the numerous co-benefits.**

4.1 Alternative Revenue Streams for Marginal or NbS-Compatible Land

This section provides high-level information on **alternative revenue streams** identified through **consultation with Ngāti Hine**, who emphasised the importance of **practical, culturally grounded land-based enterprise**.

4.1.1 Carbon & Biodiversity Credits

Both the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and emerging voluntary biodiversity credit markets offer income for storing carbon and improving biodiversity. Māori land blocks and regenerating forests are often suitable candidates.

As evidenced in a July 2025 *Northland Farming Lifestyles* article, pilot schemes for voluntary biodiversity credits are actively being developed in Aotearoa, with initiatives like Te Tōa Whenua Northland trialling credit generation through indigenous restoration (NFL, 2025). Also, see the Toha Network for an alternative voluntary credit system (Toha, 2025).

Research suggests that carbon sequestration for planted forests of totara, kauri, kahikatea, rimu, other conifers increases steadily in the range:

- **10.0 to 16.4** $tCO_2\ ha^{-1}\ yr^{-1}$ (mean annual increment (MAI) over 50 years) and
- **18.2 to 29.9** $tCO_2\ ha^{-1}\ yr^{-1}$ (current annual increment at age 50 years)

Exotic Radiata Pine have a mean annual increment of 21 to 27 $tCO_2\ ha^{-1}\ yr^{-1}$ for radiata pine at age 50 years (Pure Advantage, 2022).

However, current rates are directed by the regional zoning displayed in the Carbon Look-up Tables for the ETS lists the carbon MAI over 50 years as ~7 $tCO_2\ ha^{-1}\ yr^{-1}$.

Estimated Returns:

- Native forest (ETS): ~7 tCO_2/ha/year = **$490/ha/year** at ~$60/t (June 2025)
- Exotic pine: ~21–27 tCO_2/ha/year = **$1,260–$1,620/ha/year**

- Voluntary biodiversity credits pilot schemes have started in New Zealand to generate revenue to **directly fund restoration** (EKOS, 2025; Sanctuary Mountain, 2025).

Challenges:
ETS registration and compliance, permanence rules, market volatility.

4.1.2 Native Nurseries & Contract Growing

Contract native nurseries are already a component of the restoration supply chain supporting restoration (riparian and wetland planting). For Ngāti Hine, this aligns with the need to eco-source local species and builds whānau employment, self-sufficiency, and restoration momentum.

Small nurseries (<2ha) surveyed typically grow a mix of natives as shown in the chart below (NZPPI, 2019) and two-thirds of those surveyed produced and sold up to 50,000 seedlings per year. The ideal setup being bulk orders made for restoration projects planned within the catchment; planting areas being taken from spatial mapping and analysis to an agreed rate.

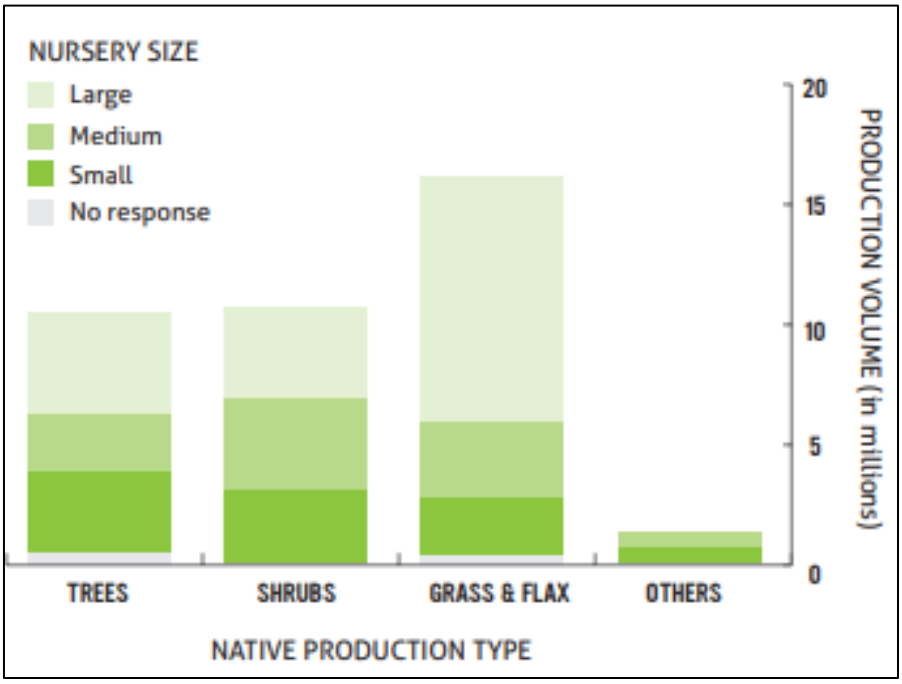

Figure 3: Production Volume of Native Plants by Plant Type for 2018 (NZPPI, 2019)

Estimated Returns:

- Unable to quantify given the variety of plants and nursery setups available.
- Must assumes for basic irrigation and nursery infrastructure; estimated costs vary significantly and often rely on donated space to grow plants.
- Market growth reported at 7.5% per annum (NZPPI, 2019)
- Scion's 10 hectare nursery in Rotorua has shade houses, controlled climate propagation facilities, commercial bare-root operations and a large purpose-built container-growing operation. The specialist container-growing facility can on-grow 700,000 seedlings a year (Scion, 2025).

Challenges:
Requires accessible flat land, water, shade structures, pest control, and propagation knowledge.

4.1.3 Apiary & Pollination Services

Beekeeping provides multiple benefits including pollination services, propolis, and direct honey income. Restored native bush supports premium Mānuka blends and native bush honey. Of interest is the growing "apitherapy" industry that extends beyond the well-known health benefits of bees and their products.

Estimated Returns:

- Mānuka honey yields are variable ranging from 15-52kg per hive per season, with an average of around 23kg per hive. Industry best practice is one hive per hectare of mānuka plantation. Mānuka honey prices depend mainly on UMF®/MGO content, ranging from $16/kg for low UMF®/MGO honey to $60+/kg for high UMF®/MGO honey. Net returns around $1,000/ha/yr by year 7, with a 20 year productive life per stand (Tupu, 2025)
- Kiwifruit pollination rental approx. $250/ hive (StevesHoney, 2025)
- Can be hosted on regenerating or marginal land
- Establishing a mānuka stand starts from around $2,500/ ha to $3,000/ ha (Tupu, 2025)

Challenges:
Hive management, pest/disease control, market access, extreme weather.

4.1.4 Rongoā & Cultural Crops

Plants like kawakawa, horopito, and harakeke (flax) offer cultural significance, ecological, and market value through rongoā, weaving, and craft industries. These can integrate education or nursery hubs.

Revenue Potential:

- Often grown alongside nursery operations
- Products are varied and sourced seasonally
- Growing demand in Māori-led health and wellbeing markets
- No market value data was available for these markets. However, **growth of over 7% is forecast** in the NZ & Australian herbal supplements market with demand for natural nutrition increasing (CMI, 2025)

4.1.5 Watercress Farming

Suitable for wet or intermittently wet gullies, small-scale aquaculture/ hydroponic (pumped water system) potential, with a fast-growing, edible crop that supports food sovereignty and market sales.

Estimated Returns:

- Harvestable growth in 6-8 weeks @25 per square meter
- $3–$7/bunch retail (assume 2 plants per bunch – it could vary on growth)
- ~ **$38–$88 gross per square meter in 6-8 weeks**
- Gravity-fed or pumped irrigation options
- Dry watercress powder, often blended with other beneficial plants, is sold in the health "super" food industry for up to $350/kg (Cress Valley, 2025)

Challenges:
Weed control if grown outdoors, food safety, market access.

4.1.6 Paludiculture (e.g. Harakeke, sphagnum moss)

Paludiculture is defined as **productive use of wet or rewetted land**, especially carbon-rich peatlands. The idea is to keep the carbon locked in the ground and harvest what grows above it. Target "paludicrops" that grow well in these conditions (NIWA, 2023). **Fast-growing fodder** crops and **construction materials** (fibre-based) can also be grown. **Constructed wetlands** or grow-out systems can provide a controlled growing environment offline from the main river channel if water resources allow.

Example paludiculture crops include,

- **Harakeke (flax)**: Used not just for traditional crafts but already harvested for flax-based high-performance materials or products, like snowboards (KiwiFibre, 2025). Can also be used in fodder mix. (Morice, 1969) estimates that a potential yield of 155-163 kg/ha of linoleic acid (an essential omega-6 fatty acid) from harakeke seeds may be possible.
- ***Sphagnum* moss:** used widely in horticulture and cultivated *Sphagnum* biomass supplies the reptile and horticultural sectors, selling for NZ$980- 390/490 per m^3. Global average production is 260 g m^2/ yr, or 3.7-6.9 t dry matter (DM) /ha /yr Current production costs are approximately NZ$ 98 m-3 based on production costs of NZ$ 48,900 /ha /yr (Mulholland et al. 2020).
- **Kai (food)**: A wide range of food crops including berries can be grown in wetland setups. Additionally, some wetlands may benefit from infrequent grazing disturbances.
- **Rongoā (medicine)**: numerous plants are traditionally harvested from wetter areas throughout the year. As an example, prices of dried kawakawa typically range between NZ$75 and NZ$300 per kg (Aimers, 2021)
- A **wide-range of nature-based products** for river, wetland restoration, erosion control could be grown and developed for catchment restoration (Salix, 2025) showing the diverse potential applications and questions, such as, can flax fibre replace coir products which are used in civil infrastructure and restoration projects?

Constraints on Returns:

- Processing infrastructure for bulk drying and processing crops becomes a significant barrier.
- Transport costs are also limiting i.e., KiwiFibre drying plant is in Christchurch.
- Setting up modified, managed or constructed wetland operations for paludiculture was estimated in Germany to cost between $2,140 - $3,124/ha (NIWA, 2023).

4.1.7 Kai Gardens & Specialty Horticulture

Northland soils support niche marketable crops as is evidenced by the wide abundance of local produce. Community enterprise, school and marae gardens, or orchard co-ops have a place in the history of the local area. There are garden orchards and seed sources throughout the catchment.

Returns:

- Ranges significantly from returns around 10-20% retail price when sold wholesale to **100% return direct to consumers** (GroCycle, 2025).
- Community models also **attract grant funding**
- More suitable to **share produce locally** or as koha (donation) only

4.1.8 Eco-Tourism & Cultural Trails

Eco-tourism is a growing sector and embodies a diverse range of activities. Storytelling, guided walks, and restoration experiences can align with the Twin Coast Cycle Trail, Hundertwasser toilet, and Kawakawa station, amongst other local and regional attractions.

Attempting to quantity revenue potentials within the scope of this report is not possible given the complex nature of the tourism market. The business case being drafted for the catchment looks at regional economic variables in more detail.

4.1.9 Native Timber Production & Selective Harvesting

Long-rotation native forestry provides ecological services (erosion control, biodiversity gains) while supporting high-value timber at maturity. Selective harvesting aligns with tikanga Māori (correct procedure), and cultural uses like carving and waka-building, along with sustainable commercial enterprises. Less suitable for carbon and biodiversity credits if intended for harvest.

There are a wide range of environmental factors to consider when planning planting, like temperature, rainfall, sunlight/ wind exposure, water availability (drought), and pests. Selecting the right trees is important to success as laid out in the A New Zealand guide to growing our native tall tree species (NZFS, 2025). The tree species planted also need to fit in with management objectives and future needs.

Revenue Potential:

- Revenue from the open market is difficult to estimate and future forecast for trees planted now.
- Native trees are typically planted under the ETS (standard and permanent claims) or other credit system or as part of long-term biodiversity & alternative revenue at local scale plans (i.e., by Ngāti Hine Forestry Trust).
- Selective thinning every 10–20 years.
- Marketable uses: carving timber, furniture, posts, restoration material.
- Stocking rates vary significantly from $2,500–$66,000/ha.
- Forests in the ETS can also include shrubs, smaller trees, and other plants.

5 Enabling Pathways for Innovation and Long-Term Adoption

5.1 Why Enabling Pathways Matter in NbS

For NbS uptake to progress it is ideally supported by **enabling pathways** like vocational training, digital innovation, community tools, and practical monitoring methods to sit alongside everyday land management.

In the Taumārere catchment, the ambition is not only to **deliver on-the-ground restoration**, but to **seed a new approach to land and water care**: one that blends mātauranga Māori (Harmsworth, 2013), local knowledge, and accessible tools.

Innovative technology aims to provide communities with tools and enable pathways to long-term positive outcomes of NbS. Local aspirations raised in community engagement are to blend:

- **Digital tools** with local and cultural knowledge
- **Hands-on restoration** with **spatial planning**
- **Monitoring technology** with **community storytelling**

5.2 Strengthening Catchment Management Through Vocational Training Pathways

Why it Matters:
Vocational training plays a key role in shaping how **future land managers** work alongside nature. In Northland, vocational training programmes in agriculture, land production, and sustainability provide an important foundation for developing long-term land stewardship skills and values. However, as environmental pressures intensify, there is a growing need to blend **catchment-scale thinking**, ecological restoration, and regenerative methods into these programmes.

Central to the longevity of nature-based projects would be co-developing educational material between local tutors, iwi leaders, land managers, and restoration practitioners (etc) to support:

- **Short modules or field days** showing how NbS reduces nutrient loss, sedimentation, and flood impacts.
- Highlight practical **co-benefits for landowners**: like reduced input costs, increased resilience to water stress, improved access to funding or carbon schemes.
- **Mātauranga-aligned** restoration practices (Harmsworth, 2013), which can help **support local identity** and **self-determination**.

5.3 Smart Tools and Enabling Technologies

The implementation and long-term outcomes of NbS can be significantly **enhanced** by using **digital tools and planning platforms**. These innovations improve efficiency, reduce labour costs, increase monitoring accuracy, and support informed, adaptive land management. Enabling tools from digital farm plans to drone mapping can **improve outcomes** and help support projects in being **fundable and scalable**.

Table 5 summarises a range of tools and innovative technologies grouped by function, highlighting their practical application and **relevance to the Taumārere catchment**. It also includes indicative benefits and key considerations for cost, uptake, and delivery across community-led or iwi-aligned projects. The table aims to generate ideas and conversations around trialling new technology alongside traditional approaches.

Table 5: Enabling Tools and Technologies to Support NbS Implementation

Category	Tool / Approach	Primary Purpose	Example Application	Benefits to NbS	Notes on Costs & Challenges
Forecasting & Planning	Rainfall Forecasting Apps	Short-term weather planning	Avoid stock or machine use on wet paddocks	Reduces compaction, prevents runoff	Free tools (e.g. MetService); uptake depends on farmer familiarity
Remote Sensing	Drone Surveys	Aerial imagery for restoration tracking	Sediment mapping, vegetation recovery	Supports prioritisation and visual reporting	Initial purchase or hire costs; requires trained operator
Spatial Mapping	LIDAR & High-Res DEMs	Terrain, slope, and flood modelling	Farm zoning, wetland design	Informs MCA and planning accuracy	Available from councils/LINZ; processing may require GIS expertise
Spatial Mapping	QGIS / LandVision Platforms	Layer and analyse catchment features	NbS opportunity mapping	Freely available, powerful for catchment and farm planning	Requires moderate GIS literacy
Farm Planning	Digital Farm Plans	Integrate soils, slope, and restoration into farm ops	Identify planting/fencing zones	Holistic view of land use and NbS integration	Mixed tools—free versions exist; setup requires initial support
Farm Innovation	Fenceless GPS Collars (e.g. Halter)	Adaptive grazing and zone exclusion	Exclude stock from wet or riparian areas	Enables rotational grazing without fencing	High upfront cost; some training needed
Machinery & Planting	Tree-Planting Augers & Drones	Accelerate revegetation, especially on steep terrain	Mass native planting on erosion-prone slopes	Reduces labour demand and fatigue	Augers: tractor-mountable; Drones: emerging, costs vary
Cultural Integration	Geo-Spatial Rongoā Mapping	Identify culturally important planting sites	Harakeke zones, kawakawa regeneration	Embeds mātauranga Māori into NbS delivery	Needs partnership with iwi and cultural experts
Monitoring & Verification	Low-Cost Loggers & Telemetry	Measure water levels, soil moisture	Leaky barrier and floodplain monitoring	Data supports adaptive management & funding eligibility	~$400–$1000 per unit; scalable over time
Monitoring & Comms	Photopoint Apps & AI	Track changes over time visually	Restoration progression, canopy recovery	Accessible to community groups, funders, and whānau	Low cost; requires photo station setup and app use
Modelling & Planning	AI / Predictive GIS Models	Estimate erosion, runoff, restoration success	Map erosion hotspots, test NbS placement	Supports proactive decision-making	Free models exist (e.g. SAGA, QGIS); training required

6 Feasibility Summary, Risks & Recommendations

6.1 Can NbS be implemented and are they worth it?

Feasibility means more than technical suitability or raw cost it's about whether the system is ready to support meaningful delivery: socially, financially, and ecologically (IUCN, 2016). Restoration in Northland usually progress effectively when all parties get around the table early in the project and openly discuss the **history of the land and aspirations for its future**.

This project looks at feasibility from the following aspects:

- **Technical feasibility (Chapter 2):** Do interventions suit the site and cost assumptions?
- **Economic feasibility (Chapter 3):** Can NbS outperform low-yield or degraded land uses?
- **Financial feasibility (Chapter 4):** Are viable income streams emerging to sustain uptake?
- **Institutional feasibility (Chapter 5):** Do local organisations, training systems, and tools support delivery at scale?
- **Cultural feasibility (Chapters 4 & 5):** Do solutions align with mana whenua values, intergenerational care, and community aspirations?

6.2 Key Feasibility Strengths

Despite the complexity of land use change, this project as shown interest in the benefits that NbS could offer when done right under local governance. This highlights the strengths with how NbS align with Ngāti Hine aspirations for the Taumārere catchment. These strengths span physical suitability, cultural leadership, community momentum, and emerging revenue streams—**together forming a strong foundation for long-term investment.**

1. High Suitability of Marginal Land for NbS

Research suggests that economic returns on marginal hill country can be minimal at best, and switching to more sustainable land use options could be more beneficial, both to your business and the environment (NRC, 2025). Restoring them can reduce sediment loss, mitigate floods, and cut farm input costs—while better aligning with land capability (Lynn, 2009).

2. Local Leadership and Cultural Alignment

Ngāti Hine's proactive role and long-term vision expressed in the 2022 environmental management plan make them enablers. Their integrated approach—blending mātauranga Māori with economic planning - supports durable governance grounded in whakapapa, mauri, and whenua-based enterprise.

3. Established Community Restoration Ethos

Years of riparian fencing, planting, pest control, awa (river) and wetland protection have built a solid foundation. Community planting events, iwi-led nurseries, Te Papa Pa Orooro and local restoration projects show grassroots momentum for expanding NbS.

4. Vocational Training and Knowledge Transfer Potential

Examples like Te Papa Pa Orooro and the Jobs for Nature programme show positive social and environmental gains for the young workforce.

5. Diverse Revenue Streams

Alternative income pathways such as native plant nurseries, mānuka honey, fibre crops, biodiversity credits, cultural and eco-tourism are aspirational.

6. Clear Strategic Alignment with Policy & Funding Priorities

National and regional policy prioritises flood resilience, indigenous partnership, and catchment-scale planning. NbS feature positively in adaptive planning strategies and are often the prioritised approach (MfE, 2022). NbS align with biodiversity credit pilots (EKOS, 2025).

6.3 Barriers to NbS Roll-Out

While the outlook for NbS implementation in the Taumārere Catchment is positive, several practical barriers must be acknowledged. These span landowner concerns, funding uncertainties, and monitoring gaps - each with the potential to limit uptake or scalability. Addressing these proactively is a contributor to building long-term positive outcomes.

1. Landowner Hesitancy or Resistance

Some landowners may be reluctant to adopt NbS, especially where interventions suggest land retirement, wetland reversion, or perceived loss of control and revenue. Common concerns include losing productive land, distrust of government-led initiatives, needing to choose between short-term income over long-term resilience at a time of economic uncertainty. Recent investments in fencing or drainage may also deter involvement until the medium-term.

2. Funding Uncertainty & Long-Term Resourcing

While initial grants (e.g., MfE, NRC, DOC) have supported early-stage work, ongoing investment for implementation, maintenance, and monitoring remains subject to external factors. Co-funding delays, limited financial models for long-term upkeep, and the lack of reliable income from non-commercial NbS types may challenge continuity. There is uncertainty around the requirements to manage and monitor restored dynamic landscapes once restoration is implemented (IUCN, 2020).

3. Skills Gaps & Workforce Constraints

Despite strong community interest expressed in community engagement, delivery may be slowed by contractor shortages, seedling supply constraints, or a lack of practitioners who blend ecological, hydrological, and cultural knowledge. Workforce partnerships and upskilling will be a requirement.

4. Climate Change Compounding Effects

Floods, droughts, and temperature extremes may affect NbS viability by stressing riparian vegetation and wetland systems or reducing returns from alternative land uses like honey or fibre production. While NbS are designed to build climate resilience, their establishment and viability can depend on relatively stable environmental conditions i.e., flash floods damaging riverbank planting.

5. Monitoring Gaps & Outcome Verification

Scaling NbS depends on the ability to verify outcomes for funders, landowners, or credit systems. Without accessible, low-cost monitoring frameworks, outcomes like biodiversity gain or carbon storage may remain unverified (see ***Monitoring Framework*** developed for this NbS project), limiting confidence and eligibility.

6.4 Strategic Implementation in Taumārere Catchment

The successful scaling of NbS will depend not only on costs and site suitability, but also on sustained community capability, clear funding pathways, and systems that support landowner participation. The following recommendations offer a practical roadmap to support delivery.

1. Prioritise High-Value, Low-Resistance Sites

Start where ecological benefits and community readiness align—particularly in marginal zones with low productivity or visible flood/erosion issues.

- Focus early-stage investment on riparian planting, silt traps, and leaky barriers to intercept silty runoff.

- Engage landowners already involved or are next to existing projects and help collaborations form.
- Provide design and community/ landowner engagement support and early funding access for these “quick win” areas.

2. Build Funding Packages Around Co-Benefits

Leverage diverse outcomes such as carbon sequestration, water quality improvements, biodiversity gains, cultural heritage, etc to attract co-funding and justify investment.

- Bundle cost estimates, MCA maps, and monitoring plans into funder-ready proposals.
- Align projects with appropriate fund criteria, biodiversity credits, or regional resilience funding.

3. Support Community-Led Delivery and Workforce Activation

Upskilling iwi crews, local contractors, and the community builds long-term capacity and ownership as expressed in multiple wānanga (workshops) attended during this project (see ***Public Consultation Summary*** document for this project).

- Invest in wraparound training, tools, and delivery support.
- Partner with marae-based hubs, schools, landowners, and restoration groups to build delivery momentum.

4. Embed Alternative Revenue Pathways into Planning

NbS are more compelling to landowners and community when they generate multiple benefits for the economy, culture, and taiao (environment).

- Promote investment in current or pilot models with revenue potential e.g., honey from manuka on marginal steep land, watercress in re-wetted areas, rongoā gathering areas.
- Frame restoration-ready zones as “sites of economic innovation”, for instance.

5. Expand Monitoring and Verification Tools

Robust, low-cost monitoring enables access to funding, credits, long-term tracking, and local trust in NbS efficacy (see ***Monitoring Framework***).

- Develop simple, app-based or photo point frameworks tailored to each NbS type.
- Align systems with cultural, credit eligibility, and regulatory reporting where feasible.

6. Mainstream NbS in Regional and Farm-Scale Planning

Integration and collaboration are the proven key to successful restoration mahi (work) in the Taumārere catchment.

- Embed NbS into digital farm plans, flood models, and catchment prioritisation tools.
- Include NbS as legitimate delivery mechanisms in council and partner catchment plans.

7 Case Study Financial Feasibility Example

7.1 Site Overview and Purpose

A 200 ha sub-catchment in the upper Taumārere catchment was selected to use as a costing exercise. This site is not presented as a detailed restoration plan but rather as a demonstration of how catchment-scale mapping, stakeholder engagement, and NbS costing can inform landowner decisions.

The site description was selected for the following reasons:

- Steep grazed slopes prone to erosion
- Drained flats with legacy ditches and compacted soils
- In-stream sedimentation issues near road bridge.
- Cultural observations of declining tuna habitat and shifting patterns

The following NbS interventions are proposed:

- **Steep slope erosion control:** Planting to stabilise hillslopes and limit sediment input.
- **Riparian restoration:** Planting and fencing to reduce instream erosion, lower water temperature, and improve habitat.
- **Wetland creation:** Attenuate peak flows, trap sediment and nutrients, and reduce flooding at the road bridge.
- **Water management upgrades:** Improved sediment trap maintenance and pond function to support downstream habitat.

7.2 Restoration Quantities: Area Take-Offs and Site Assumptions

The map analysis identified a range of NbS to implement and developed these through early "planning" for a theoretical hydraulic model to test benefits to flood outcomes. Table 6 and Figure 4 show the NbS totals implemented in the model. For information, early modelling results showed a 15-20% reduction in peak flow leaving the site during the 1 in 100 year rainfall event in the 1 hr and 24 hr events respectively. This could form an argument in the financial feasibility of NbS.

Note: This case study represents only a portion of the full sub-catchment. Site boundaries were defined based on landowner willingness, hydrological relevance, and logistical visibility for future monitoring and outreach.

Table 6: Proposed Restoration Design Totals

NbS Type	Unit	Quantity	Notes
Riparian Planting	ha	2.7	5–10 m average buffer width
Riparian Fencing	m	3,000	Both sides of watercourse, 2-wire
Slope Planting	ha	30	Mix of shallow gullies and steeper faces
Slope Fencing	m	5,000	Includes corner posts and gates
Wetland Restoration	ha	1.6	Includes reconnection and vegetation
Silt Traps/Dams	units	16	Small-scale, integrated into existing drains
Excavator Use	days	8	Costed separately below
Monitoring (3 years)	-	1	Simple baseline, photopoints, walkovers

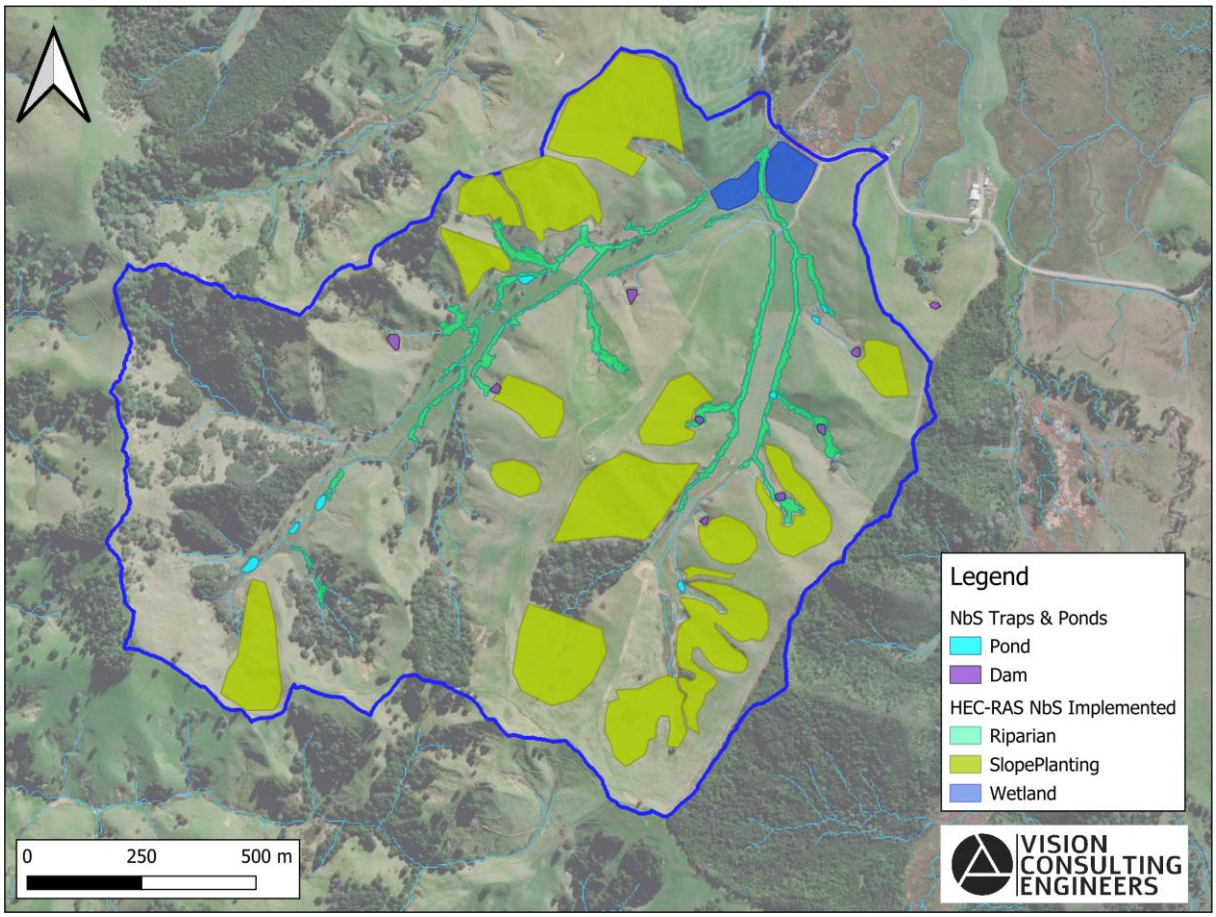

Figure 4: NbS Implemented in the Hydraulic Model

7.3 Indicative Cost Range – Standard Practice

The following table estimates are based on site conditions allowing for budgeting under variable rates, site constraints, and potential co-funding. Rates generally align with previous chapters; however, local costing considerations have been factored in to the calculations.

NbS Type	Quantity	Estimated Cost (Low)	Estimated Cost (High)
Riparian Planting (2.7 ha)	2.7 ha	$13,600	$17,680
Riparian Fencing (3,000 m)	3,000 m	$39,000	$75,000
Slope Planting (30 ha)	30 ha	$120,000	$240,000
Slope Fencing (5,000 m)	5,000 m	$65,000	$125,000
Wetland Restoration (1.6 ha)	1.6 ha	$12,960	$32,400
Excavator Use (8 days)	8 days	$8,000	$12,000
Monitoring (3 years)	-	$20,000	$20,000
Total		**$278,560**	**$522,080**

The restoration costs for around **35 ha** within the 200 ha sub-catchment site including up to 16 silt traps and nominal monitoring fee equates to a range **of $7,958/ ha** to **$14,916/ ha**. The cost ranges are anticipated to be on the lower end of the range given Ngāti Hine's commitment to developing plant nurseries, local work crews, and having resources (like excavators and drivers) close to the restoration action.

7.4 Alternative Revenue Potentials

The land is currently used for hill country grazing with higher quality grassland in valley bottoms. Depending on the landowner direction, **bee keeping** within the proposed steep slope planting could offer an alternative revenue. Planting steep slopes and riparian margins with manuka and kamuka (ideal for steep dry slopes), as well as other native nectar producing plants, shrubs and trees could offer up to 30 ha of prime foraging for bees. The recommended 1 hive/ ha and anticipated $1,000/ha/yr after 7 years of growth (Tupu, 2025) could potentially see returns of **$30,000/ year** from the steep slope and riparian planting. This would be in comparison to the estimated $400/ ha/yr returns for hill country farming in Northland.

The wetlands are proposed to be designed to encourage habitat and biodiversity. The farmer is a kaitiaki of tuna and, although the habitat is unlikely to sustain additional harvest, it is a step in the right direction to protecting and enhancing downstream wetlands of significance. However, hydrological function would need to be understood if aquaculture is intended. Similarly, small quantities of wetland plants could be harvested.

7.5 Catchment Tools to Support Implementation

While the financial figures and area take-offs provide a grounded cost estimate, the outcome of any restoration depends on **ongoing engagement, visibility, and data-informed decision-making**.

The following catchment tools are recommended to **support the implementation and adaptive management** of this case study site:

Tool	Application at Case Study Site
Digital Farm Planning	Overlay proposed NbS zones, watercourses, fencing alignments, and cultural layers into an integrated restoration plan.
Drone Surveys	Baseline site mapping and annual aerial imagery to track vegetation recovery, erosion changes, and wetland health.
Monitoring Apps	Use monitoring and photo survey tools for accessible progress tracking and community involvement.
Telemetry & Loggers	Install water level loggers or soil moisture sensors in key areas to verify performance (e.g., adjacent to and in wetlands) if intended as a research site.
Story Mapping	Share restoration journey with schools, funders, and community through interactive maps and visuals.

8 Conclusions & Strategic Recommendations

NbS offer an approach to land and water management in the Taumārere catchment. This financial feasibility study demonstrates that, when targeted at marginal land, NbS can be **economically assessed**; however, careful planning needs to be done when considering long-term business investments.

Rather than seeing restoration as a cost, this report invites **reframing restoration as intergenerational investment**. The opportunities lie not just in improved land condition, but in **developing alternative income streams**, reducing long-term input costs, and aligning with policy momentum around flood resilience, biodiversity, and cultural revitalisation.

Key Strategic Insights:

- **Marginal land offers an opportunity** - low current profitability makes it ideal for conversion to high-value ecological infrastructure.
- **Local leadership is already active** - iwi, community groups, and restoration teams are well positioned in the catchment to scale delivery.
- **Alternative revenue streams are possible** - carbon, biodiversity credits, rongoā, native nurseries, and eco-enterprise can shift the balance.
- **Upfront costs can be managed** - especially through sequencing, community delivery, and aligning with funder-ready templates.

Recommendations:

1. **Support early-stage pilots** using MCA mapping outputs and community readiness as the basis for “restoration-ready” site selection.
2. **Build flexible funding packages** that bundle NbS types, monitoring plans, and co-benefit narratives into integrated proposals.
3. **Back workforce training** and community-led contracting models to enable scalable, culturally grounded delivery.
4. **Promote catchment storytelling** and simple verification tools to sustain momentum, trust, and investment over time.
5. **Embed NbS into regional systems**—planning, farm advice, and policy frameworks—so they become standard, not supplementary.
6. **Catchment-wide monitoring** programme can be implemented, especially in the upper catchment, to establish baselines and prioritise restoration.

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Appendix A

Example Seasonal Activities Calendar, Environmental Stressors, and Potential NbS Use.

Example Seasonal Activities Calendar: Environmental Stressors, and Potential NbS Use

VISION CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Activity	Peak Month for Activity												Land Requirement for Activity	Environmental Risks	Environmental Risk Level	Climate Risk Factor	Hydrological & Eco-Flow Considerations	Climate Trigger Thresholds: *values should be specified based on farm criteria*	NbS Intervention	Land Use Suitability for NbS	Land Use Suitability Reason	NbS Priority Level	NbS Feasibility Challenges
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec											
Dairy - Calving							X	X	X				Access to fresh pasture, dry ground, adequate shade, and water sources	High runoff & nutrient leaching in wet conditions	High	Floods increase runoff. September gets increasingly wetter	High runoff & nutrient leaching. September increasingly wetter	Rainfall >25mm/day: restrict access to wetter areas, Rainfall >75mm/3 days; avoid slope access.	Riparian buffers, wetland restoration, silt traps, fencing. Rotational grazing. Weather alerts.	Medium	Potential for riparian buffers but productive land use limits large-scale NbS. Target marginal land.	High	Requires landowner buy-in, percieved loss of productive land
Dairy - Peak Milk							X	X	X	X	X		Access to fresh pasture, dry ground, adequate shade, and water sources	Moderate sediment & nutrient runoff overall. Accessways overwhelming drainage with high nutrient load in runoff	Medium	Drought & flood puts stress on cows. September wetter & June is drier	Moderate nutrient/ sediment load Track/ yard drainage capacity.	Drought >14 days: increase shade & water availability (avoid access to watercourses), Rainfall >25mm/hr: monitor flooding runoff for water quality (WQ) trigger limits	Riparian buffers, wetland restoration, silt traps, fencing. Rotational grazing. Weather alerts.	Low	Economic trade-offs and production demands limit major NbS interventions	Medium	Requires landowner buy-in, percieved loss of productive land
Dairy - Dry-off Period				X	X	X							Access to fresh pasture and dry ground	Moderate for silt/ nutrient loading in runoff and flooding	Medium	High rainfall increases mud & runoff	Moderate nutrient/ sediment load in runoff.	Rainfall >25mm/day: restrict access to wetter areas, Rainfall >75mm/3 days; avoid slope access.	Riparian buffers, wetland restoration, silt traps, fencing. Rotational grazing. Weather alerts.	Medium	Potential for riparian buffers but productive land use limits large-scale NbS. Target marginal land.	Medium	Requires landowner buy-in, percieved loss of productive land
Beef & Sheep Farming - Lambing/Calving							X	X	X	X			Access to fresh pasture, dry ground, adequate shade, and water sources	High runoff & nutrient leaching in wet conditions	High	Floods increase runoff. September gets increasingly wetter	High runoff & nutrient leaching. September increasingly wetter	Rainfall >25mm/day: restrict access to wetter areas, Rainfall >75mm/3 days; avoid slope access.	Riparian buffers, wetland restoration, silt traps, fencing. Rotational grazing. Weather alerts.	High	Potential for riparian buffers but productive land use limits large-scale NbS. Target marginal land.	High	Requires landowner buy-in, percieved loss of productive land
Beef & Sheep Farming - Stock Finishing	X	X	X	X	X							X	Access to fresh pasture, dry ground, adequate shade, and water sources	Moderate runoff from overgrazing	Medium	Drought reduces stock weight gain, flood events disrupt grazing	Moderate runoff in dry conditions. Baseflow important for water supply.	Drought : adjust grazing rotation and provide water supply, High Daily Rainfall: avoid grazing steep slopes and wet areas	Managed grazing, sediment traps, riparian planting, wetland restoration.	Medium	Rotational grazing and sediment traps can be implemented with minimal disruption	Medium	Requires landowner buy-in, percieved loss of productive land
Beef & Sheep Farming - Breeding & Winter Grazing						X	X	X	X				Access to fresh pasture and dry ground	Moderate stock and sediment impact on waterways	Medium	Heavy rainfall increases erosion, waterlogged soils impact feeding	More runoff in wet or compact fields. Baseflow important for water supply.	Local conditions and drainage on site determine triggers.	Stock exclusion from waterways, regenerative grazing	Medium	Potential for riparian exclusion zones and rotational grazing to reduce runoff	Medium	Requires landowner buy-in, percieved loss of productive land
Commercial Forestry - Radiata Pine Planting					X	X	X	X	X	X			Stable soil conditions for planting and root establishment	High when land is cleared for planting	High	Drought stress affects seedling survival, floods damage new plantings and mobilse sediment	Sediment loss risk during heavy rain	Local conditions and drainage on site determine triggers.	Sediment retention ponds, staged harvesting, wetland restored downstream as WQ buffers	High	Afforestation and sediment control can be integrated during planning nd planting phases	Medium	Loss of commercial land; however, reduced losses and environmental impacts.
Commercial Forestry - Radiata Pine Harvest - All year	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Dry access routes for machinery, erosion-prone areas protected	High sediment runoff during harvest	High	High rainfall during harvest increases sediment loss	Post-harvest erosion risk	Local conditions and drainage on site determine triggers.	Sediment retention ponds, staged harvesting, wetland restored downstream as WQ buffers	Medium	Afforestation and sediment control can be integrated during planning nd planting phases. Forestry industry looking to transition marginal land to natives	High	Loss of commercial land; however, reduced losses and environmental impacts.
Horticulture (mixed variety) - Growth & Flowering							X	X	X	X	X	X	Stable conditions, weather protection, trellis support, pollinators, access	Mixed with seasons and weather extremes	Medium	Both drought and floods can negatively impact growth & yield	Baseflow important for summer irrigation. Adequate drainage and water management	Local conditions on site and crops determine triggers.	Restoring baseline hydrology for water resource supply in drought with a selection of suitable NbS - see mapping	Low	Land is primarily dedicated to production with minimal intervention areas	Medium	Limited space for NbS - use marginal. Riparian coridoor restoration priority.
Horticulture - Avocado Harvest	X	X								X	X	X	High water demand, stable soil, erosion control	High irrigation demand & runoff. Vehicle movement.	High	Floods impact fruit quality, drought increases irrigation demand	Flooding disrupts harvest	Drought >30 days: protect root systems with mulch, Rainfall >75mm/3 days: prevent soil erosion	Rainwater harvesting, buffer strips	Medium	Tree-based systems allow NbS adoption but may require irrigation adjustments	High	Flood-sensitive NbS planning needed
Horticulture - Kiwifruit Harvest			X	X	X	X	X						High water demand, stable soil, erosion control	High nutrient loading in runoff & pesticide use. Water demand.	High	Excess rainfall damages fruit, drought increases irrigation needs	High rainfall and drought sensitivity	Local conditions on site determine triggers.	Restoring baseline hydrology for water resource supply in drought with a selection of suitable NbS - see mapping	Medium	Limited space for NbS but strategies to restore local natural areas can improve resilience and baseflow buffering.	High	Riparian coridoor restoraiton priority. NbS projects can be undertaken on marginal land if available.
Horticulture - Citrus Harvest					X	X	X	X	X	X			Stable soil moisture, protection from excess rainfall/ drought	Moderate harvesting impact	Medium	Heavy rainfall may delay harvest	Minimal impact	Prolonged extreme weather conditions : triggers set as per site conditions	Minimal intervention needed	Low	Land is primarily dedicated to production with minimal intervention areas	Low	Minimal interventions needed

Example Seasonal Activities Calendar: Environmental Stressors, and Potential NbS Use

Activity	Peak Month for Activity												Land Requirement for Activity	Environmental Risks	Environmental Risk Level	Climate Risk Factor	Hydrological & Eco-Flow Considerations	Climate Trigger Thresholds: *values should be specified based on farm criteria*	NbS Intervention	Land Use Suitability for NbS	Land Use Suitability Reason	NbS Priority Level	NbS Feasibility Challenges
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec											
Market Gardening - All Year	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Well-drained soil, moderate irrigation, disease-free conditions	High sediment risk if drainage not suitable. Nutrients application can be high.	Medium	Drought reduces crop yields and increases irrigation needs. Storms can damage crops.	Suitable drainage to control runoff rate and nutrients leaving garden	Drought: increase irrigation, Heavy Rainfall: check drainage to slow runoff into waterways	No-till practices, rotational cropping, sustainable "green" drainage	Low	Used commercially. High-value land. However, NbS for land management may be suitable.	Low	Commercial high-production land.
Freshwater Fisheries - Tuna Migration				X	X	X	X						Protection from poor WQ and high-energy floods.	Moderate eco-flow impact from migration barriers	Medium	Drought lowers connectivity, limiting migration and increasing predation. Floods damage nets.	Requires consistent natural river flow patterns, including freshes	River flow <50% median: check connectivity/ WQ during low flows, Heavy rain/ Peak flow event >5yr return period: remove nets, monitor damage	Fish passage restoration, wetland connectivity, riparian planting and fencing	High	River connectivity and WQ improvements can directly benefit eels	High	Barriers to fish passage need legal approval - checks required
Freshwater Fisheries - Tuna Harvest							X	X	X	X	X		Protection from poor WQ and high-energy floods.	Low impact but requires good WQ	Low	Floods can displace populations, but high flows trigger migration. Droughts can collapse migration.	Flood timing and magnitude stimulate and impact migration timing	High flows: potential for spawning site erosion, Low flows: connectivity issues	Habitat conservation, minimal impact land use. Instream habitat restoration.	Medium	Barrier removal and fish passage restoration are effective solutions and happen inchannel. Improving WQ through land management and restoration also possible.	High	Hydrological alterations required at large-scale. Taonga species for protection.
Freshwater Fisheries - Whitebait Spawning	X	X	X	X	X								Unobstructed river flow, good habitat connectivity, good WQ	Low impact but requires good WQ, access, habitat for buffering impacts	Low	Low flows reduce spawning habitat quality	Spawning depends on enviornmental triggers like high-tide flows and habitat	Low flows (triggers set on local hydrology): migration barriers increase, water temp rises.	Habitat protection (Riparian and tidal wetland restoration)	High	Riparian planting and tidal margins provide improved spawning conditions	High	Riparian restoration requires maintenance
Freshwater Fisheries - Whitebait Migration								X	X	X			Flow conditions and WQ that allow migration	Low impact but requires good WQ, habitat for buffering extremes	Low	High energy flooding can damage habitat	High flows improve migration success	Low flows (triggers set on local hydrology): migration triggers reduced, water temp rises	Barrier removal for upstream migration	High	Barriers removed/ modified in the channel. Riparian planting and fencing are common in farm plans.	Medium	Migration success dependent on flow conditions
Aquaculture - Mussel & Oyster Harvest				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		High WQ in the bay i.e., steady baseflows.	Moderate sensitivity to water pollution	Medium	Low flows and floods reduce water quality for filter feeders	Water quality-dependent habitat	Low flows and high flow triggers required based on hydrological regime. Water quality triggers as per industry guidance.	Land based NbS used in this work selected to naturalise hydrology	Medium	Slowing the flow helps to improves hydrology, benefitting aquaculture. However; benefits realised downstream in the estuary.	Medium	Improvement relies on catchment-wide projects
Duck Hunting - Game Season		X			X	X	X						Healthy native ecosystems, low competition from pests	Medium disturbance to wetlands; however, local land management practices differ.	Medium	Drought reduces available wetland habitat. Floods limit safe access.	Wetland hydrology changes affect habitat (drainage)	Drought >locally significant #days: aquatic life potentially under stress.	Wetland & riparian coridoor restoraton	High	Wetland conservation can enhance habitat and is supported by Fish & Game NZ. Wet areas are often marginal land.	High	Hunting access to be maintained. Loss of marginal land.
Bee Keeping - Hive Management	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	Flat, well-drained land, easy access, nectare-producing plants.	Low impact - hive placement/ management	Low	Flooding disrupts access to apiary	Minimal impact	Wet/ dry weather: check hives & apiary drainage/ water supply	Pollinator-friendly plantings in habitat restoration.	Low	Apiaries often on hard stand ground. Pollinator-friendly plantings enhance honey production and biodiversity and are suitable across a range of marginal habitats.	Medium	Need landowner cooperation. However, planting fits farm plans.
Bee Keeping - Mānuka Flowering							X	X	X	X			Sustainable harvesting zones - ideally organic and native	Low impact - pollination phase	Low	Drought affects nectar supply, storms disrupts forage	Weather extreme buffering and baseflows	Persistent wet or hot weather: risk of hive stress	Pollinator-friendly plantings in habitat restoration.	High	Native planting supports pollinator habitats and improves biodiversity. Honey a viable revenue when good nectar available.	High	Dependent on ecosystem & bee health; loss of investment.
Bee Keeping - Mānuka Honey Harvest								X	X	X	X		Stable weather conditions for hive access	Low impact - minimal land disturbance when access drainage functioning	Low	Drought/ wet weather affect honey yield & hive activity	Minimal impact	Persistent wet or hot weather: risk of hive stress	Native plant conservation, no direct impact	Low	Hive frames usually removed to honey processing facility	Low	Market-dependent economics

Limitations: The calendar has been drafted for the Taumārere Catchment Nature-Based Solutions Feasibility Study and is intended to act as a tool to highlight potential use of NbS in the local context. The CLimate Trigger Thresholds stated are indicative only and require local input specific to site and baseline conditions.

J15763 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES REVIEW

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Project Reference: 15763
27/02/2025

Northland Regional Council,
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Attn: Meg Tyler

Dear Meg,

1 Introduction

Funding plays a crucial role in the scale, scope, and ultimate success of NbS projects. Identifying sources of grants and understanding the requirements for applications in terms of collecting baseline information, application requirements, reporting, and monitoring, is essential to ensure the long-term viability of a project.

This review evaluates suitable funding sources and the requirements of each to ensure that NbS and restoration work can be effectively tracked, is accountable and sustainable over time.

In the context of the Kawakawa River catchment NbS project, ongoing monitoring and community observations have highlighted the need for improvements in water quality and hydrological response, particularly flooding. Significant efforts have been made, and continue to be made, to reverse the degradation of the natural environment and restore mauri and cultural connection; however, much more work is on the horizon.

The main ambition is to use the findings of this funding review to design a framework and workflow tailored to the specific needs and priorities of the Kawakawa River catchment, ensuring alignment with both environmental goals and community aspirations. The review provides the foundational knowledge to support the development of actionable recommendations for monitoring and securing funding for NbS implementation in the region.

2 Funds and Grant Opportunities

Funds were identified through online searches, public engagement, and industry and innovation research. The funding sources (Table 1) are all available in Northland and provide a wide scope of application in NbS projects.

The following lists represents the funds reviewed and identified as suitable for NbS projects; both to fund direct works and also community aspects.

A full list of available funding sources is provided in Table 2 at the end of this report and provides the fund name, provider, eligibility criteria, fund description and basic requirements, monitoring and reporting needs, available funding amount, key dates, and links to online fund information.

Table 1: Funds Considered in Study

Fund Ref #	Fund Name	Provider
1	Northland Hill Country Erosion Programme	Northland Regional Council (NRC)
2	Climate Resilient Communities Fund	NRC
3	Environment Fund	NRC
4	Environmental Leaders Fund	NRC
5	Tāngata Whenua Environmental Monitoring Fund	NRC
6	DOC Community Fund – Pūtea Tautiaki	Department of Conservation (DOC)
7	Nature Heritage Fund	DOC
8	Ngā Whenua Rāhui	DOC
9	Mātauranga Kura Taiao Fund	DOC
10	Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures (SFF Futures) - Te anamata o ngā kai me ngā weuweu toitū	Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)
11	Contaminated Sites and Vulnerable Landfills Fund (CSVLF) Tahua mō ngā Pae Hawa me ngā Ruapara	Ministry for the Environment (MfE) - Manatu Mo Te Taiao
12	Māori Agribusiness Pathway to Increased Productivity (MAPIP) programme	MPI
13	Māori Agribusiness Workforce programme - He Ara Mahi Hou	MPI
14	Māori Agribusiness Extension (MABx) programme	MPI
15	Māori Agribusiness Innovation Fund	MPI
16	NZ Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS)	MPI (for forestry sector only)
17	Aquaculture Planning Fund	MPI / Fisheries New Zealand - Tini a Tangaroa
18	Strategic Science Investment Fund (SSIF) / Natural Hazards and Resilience Platform	Ministry for the Business, Innovation, & Employment (MBIE) / Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences Limited (GNS)
19	Envirolink Scheme	MBIE
20	Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS)	Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) - Te Tari Taiwhenua
21	Lottery Environment and Heritage grants	DIA
22	Community and Volunteering Capability (CVC) Fund	DIA
23	WWF-New Zealand Community Conservation Fund	WWF
24	Whanua/ Community/ Environment Funds	The Tindall Foundation
25	Trees for Survival (TFS)	Trees for Survival Charitable Trust/ Rotary Club Supported
26	Foundation North Fund	Foundation North
27	Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) Program - Internationally available	VERRA
28	Voluntary Carbon Market - Internationally available	ACR at Winrock International
29	Game Bird Habitat Trust Fund	Fish & Game NZ
30	givUS	Generosity NZ

2.1 Key Themes of the Funding Streams

The funding opportunities cover a range of key themes, such as, environmental and social initiatives, including erosion control, climate resilience, biodiversity restoration, Māori engagement, education, and community projects. The following sections provide a summary of the funding opportunities.

- **Erosion Control & Land Restoration:**
  - Multiple funds support afforestation, riparian planting, and erosion control initiatives, with some funding allocated based on landowner eligibility and site conditions.
- **Climate Resilience & Community Adaptation:**
  - Funding is available for projects enhancing community resilience against flooding, droughts, and extreme weather events, with some funds requiring applicants to define success measures and monitoring strategies.
- **Biodiversity & Environmental Restoration:**
  - Grants are allocated for riparian restoration, wetland enhancement, and native planting, sometimes with co-funding from applicants or subject to land use conditions.
- **Māori Engagement & Environmental Monitoring:**
  - Funding specifically supports tangata whenua-led environmental monitoring efforts.
  - Some funds require the applicant to define their own monitoring strategy including use of cultural indicators as key parameters.
- **Education & Leadership Development:**
  - Specific funds target schools, early childhood centers, and training programs to build environmental leadership and career opportunities in conservation.
- **Community-Led Conservation & Social Wellbeing:**
  - Several funds support community groups and NGOs with a focus on social impact and well-being improvements through NbS.
  - Contestable funding models require detailed applications with defined project deliverables.
- **Community-Led Conservation & Social Wellbeing:**
  - Several funds support community groups and NGOs with a focus on social impact and well-being improvements through NbS.
  - Contestable funding models require detailed applications with defined project deliverables.
- **Innovation in Farming & Sustainable Land Use:**
  - Some funds promote regenerative agriculture, sustainable farming practices, and carbon sequestration innovations through afforestation and ecosystem-based solutions.
- **Contaminated Land Restoration & Remediation:**
  - Some funding streams support remediation of contaminated sites, including:
    - Restoration of degraded land through bioremediation, phytoremediation, and soil stabilization.
    - Clean-up of pollutants affecting water quality in wetlands, rivers, and estuaries.
    - Long-term monitoring and risk assessment to track pollution reduction over time.

  - These projects often align with regional council initiatives, central government funding, and private-public partnerships.

- **Scientific Research & Environmental Data Collection:**
  - Dedicated funds enable scientific monitoring, tool development, and the collection of environmental data for better decision-making.
- **Voluntary Carbon Trading Schemes (VCS/VCM):**
  - Wetland restoration and afforestation projects can generate carbon credits under voluntary schemes like Verra's Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and the American Carbon Registry (ACR).
  - These schemes provide financial incentives for NbS by allowing projects to sell carbon offsets to private buyers or corporations aiming to meet carbon neutrality goals.

2.2 Key Monitoring & Reporting Requirements

Monitoring and reporting requirements vary, with some funds requiring detailed tracking while others allow applicants to define their own measures of success. The following list summarises the key monitoring and reporting requirements of the funding options identified.

- Monitoring expectations vary—some funds require detailed reporting, while others do not specify requirements.
- Some funds require applicants to define their own success measurement approach.
- Environmental monitoring strategies are sometimes required as part of the application.
- Progress tracking and project milestones are occasionally mentioned but not always mandatory.
- Some funds do not specify any monitoring requirements.
- Carbon markets projects must adhere to strict validation and monitoring requirements, including:
  - Baseline assessments to quantify pre-restoration carbon storage.
  - Soil carbon and methane/nitrous oxide flux monitoring using gas flux chambers or modelling.
  - Independent third-party verification (VVB audits) before carbon credits can be issued.
  - Long-term monitoring (10+ years) to ensure permanence of carbon sequestration.

Table 2: Summary table of Funding Options

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
Northland Hill Country Erosion Programme	Northland Regional Council (NRC)	NRC, with funding assistance from Te Uru Rākau Forestry New Zealand, is trying to reduce erosion in our region, particularly on highly erodible hill country.	Landowners	Northland has major erosion issues, with over 60% of the region and 40% of the region's grazing land classified as highly erodible. Historical conversion of forested land to pasture has led to very high levels of sediment in streams, lakes, harbours and coastal systems. This is a contestable fund to subsidise land treatments on highly erodible grazed land, including: • land retirement fencing for natural regeneration or planting • planting of native establishment species (2ha minimum funded at $4326 per ha) • fencing of grazed bush blocks • poplars and willows for erosion control in pasture.	None specifically identified.	As per application.	Not specified.	https://www.nrc.govt.nz/your-council/work-with-us/funding-and-awards/funding/grants-for-fencing-andor-planting-natives-on-erosion-prone-land/

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
Climate Resilient Communities Fund	NRC	The Climate Resilient Communities Fund supports projects that help Northland's most affected communities withstand our changing climate.	Community organisations. Applicants must either be a legal entity registered in New Zealand (i.e. be an incorporated society, charitable trust, a not-for-profit limited liability company, etc).	Floods, droughts and severe weather disrupt our lives, damage our homes and community infrastructure, impact our wellbeing, and make it harder to maintain a reliable food, water, and energy supply. Being resilient isn't just about bouncing back from these events, but also about growing and getting better at dealing with future challenges. Contestable Funding is available for projects that: • Build capacity and scale-up regional initiatives. • Educate, raise awareness, and encourage participation in resilience actions around Te Taitokerau. • Strengthen local connections, collaboration and relationship building for enduring partnerships. • Create plans and programmes to drive transformational change for community and tangata whenua climate resilience. • Take action under one or more of four priority impact areas: Food resilience (Te Kai); Water resilience (Te Wai); Energy resilience (Te Ngao); Nature-based Resilience (Te Taiao). Reporting should include: • a description of the project, who was involved, and how it was achieved; • information and data that measure outcomes; • the positive impacts of the project and what this means for the community; • the lessons learnt, including any difficulties you faced so that future improvements can be made; • information on the level of engagement and how you encouraged the community to take part; • plans for ongoing work, and what you plan to do next; and • your message to others on how they can participate.	Define own method to measure project success i.e., how it contributes towards a climate resilient community based on objectives and goals. Various reporting options available to suit the project brief - see notes in basic requirements.	Applications currently closed. Contestable Climate Resilient Communities Fund between $5,000 plus GST and $40,000 plus GST The total value of funding available this financial year is $600,000.	28 April 2025: Round two applications open 3 June 2025: Round two applications close July 2025: Applicants notified of outcome	https://www.nrc.govt.nz/environment/climate-action/climate-resilient-communities-fund/

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
Environment Fund	NRC	Applications for grants to support riparian and wetland fencing are closed.	Funding can be allocated to individuals and voluntary groups for eligible projects; this may include landowners, community and conservation groups, local Māori groups and schools.	NRC contribute towards the cost (subject to criteria) for projects like: • Fencing off rivers, streams, drains, wetlands and coast • Fencing for soil conservation / erosion control and land retirement • Dune restoration • Pest control - see the Bio-fund information Important things to know • There are funding caps – based on the size of the property. Funding for lifestyle blocks below 10ha is discretionary only, based on the issue to be managed. • Planning to fence off waterways? Make sure there's an alternative stock water source before you apply for funding. • You can't apply retrospectively for funding of projects you've already started/completed. • Funding is allocated based on the relative merit of the project (it's not first in first served). • Projects must be of long-term benefit to the local environment and show evidence of good resource management/good farming practice. • Projects designed for personal or commercial profit, required under resource consent or simply to beautify a site, are not eligible for funding. • Boundary fencing will not be funded, unless the fence is designed to keep livestock out of a waterway which is on the property boundary. • There's a limit to the number of grants you can get in successive years.	N/A – not specified.	As per project.	We're proposing to pause grant funding from the Environment Fund for 2024/25 and 2025/26 while staff focus on implementing new regulations.	https://www.nrc.govt.nz/your-council/work-with-us/funding-and-awards/funding/environment-fund/

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
Environmental Leaders Fund (ELF)	NRC	ELF aims to support schools and early childhood centres with projects that increase their students' knowledge and passion for the environment, and help to build climate resilience in our schools and surrounding communities.	Northland Schools and Early Childhood Centres	Northland Schools and Early Childhood Centres can apply for up to $3000 for environmental projects that enhance students' knowledge and passion for the environment with funding from Northland Regional Council. The Environmental Leader's Fund now has an increased focus on climate action. We are looking for applications for projects that fall into one or more of the following categories: • Exploring alternative energy and sustainable transport • Improving biodiversity • Supporting a circular economy and reducing waste • Protecting and preserving water • Growing Kai. • Working with community groups in your local area is encouraged.	None specified. Success measured against project objectives and goals.	a limit of $3000 available per project, as well as a total budget of $35k for the ELF.	The online form will be available online when applications open in 2025.	https://www.nrc.govt.nz/education/awards-and-funding/environmental-leaders-fund/
Tāngata Whenua Environmental Monitoring Fund	NRC	The Tāngata Whenua Environmental Monitoring fund recognises the strong connection tāngata whenua has with our taiao. The fund supports tāngata whenua to undertake their own environmental monitoring within Te Taitokerau.	The applicant is an established legal or operational Tāngata whenua entity such as a marae committee, Hapū trust, Iwi Authority, or a consultant contracted to act on the entity's behalf.	There are three main environmental monitoring types; air, soil, and water. Types of mahi the fund supports includes: • monitoring by tāngata whenua to understand the cultural and physical health of fresh and coastal waterbodies (and associated ecosystems) and / or the impacts of climate change on fresh or coastal waterways • development of indicators or methods for assessing the 'cultural health' of fresh and coastal waters and assessing the impacts of climate change • assisting in the review or development of parts of iwi or hapū environmental management plans related to the above training and capacity building for tāngata whenua to undertake environmental monitoring related to the above. • Techniques to monitor may include filtration, sedimentation, electrostatic samples, impingers, absorption, condensation, grab sampling, and composite sampling. Data collected from these methods of environmental monitoring are either categorized, analysed or visualized, and create actionable insights that drive informed decision making. The fund is not intended to support monitoring that is the primary responsibility or function of another council or agency that is outside the boundaries of Northland Regional Council jurisdiction.	Applicant to define monitoring strategy. The application requires a description of: i. the aspects to be monitored: ii. the methods used to collect and record the information gathered: iii. a map of the proposed sites to be monitored: iv. the frequency of the monitoring: v. completion date: vi. a description of how the information is to be collated and reported. vii. A description of the aims of the monitoring and expected benefits / uses the monitoring will provide.	The maximum allocation for any one application for funding is $20,000.	2025 deadline for applications : 5:00pm Friday, 28 February 2025	https://www.nrc.govt.nz/your-council/working-with-maori/grants-and-funding/tangata-whenua-environmental-monitoring-fund/

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
DOC Community Fund – Pūtea Tautiaki	Department of Conservation (DOC)	The DOC Community Fund supports community-led conservation projects on public and private land across New Zealand that protect and restore our threatened species and ecosystems.	Funding is available for community groups, iwi and private landowners	The fund prioritised projects that contributed to the DOC strategic conservation goals, particularly in the following areas: • Restoration of native ecosystems (e.g., reforestation, wetland restoration) • Pest and predator control (e.g., trapping, bait stations, fencing) • Threatened species management (e.g., monitoring and recovery of endangered species) • Freshwater and marine conservation (e.g., riparian planting, estuary protection) • Building conservation capability (e.g., training, education, and capacity-building for community groups) • Enhancing partnerships between DOC, iwi, and local communities to deliver conservation outcomes	Not specified - projects are assessed against applicant objectives. ***Progress report*** Complete the six-monthly progress report template. This template enables you to report on the progress made on your project, including activities completed and achievement of key milestones. ***Final report*** Complete the final report if your project has been completed. This template includes a section for you to provide us with key statistics/data in relation to your project.	As per 2023 information; the total amount funded for threatened species and ecosystems is $7,200,000 (excl. GST), and for cultural heritage and back country infrastructure is $2,000,000 (excl. GST).	Currently closed - opening date for 2025/2026 not confirmed.	https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/funding/doc-community-fund/

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
Nature Heritage Fund	DOC	This fund helps private landowners, local government, community groups, and others permanently protect high value ecosystems.	Applications can be made to the fund by: private landowners; local and regional government bodies, and local authority trading enterprises; professional and community-based organisations; local, regional, and national "umbrella" organisations; non-government organisations (NGOs); central government departments and agencies.	The fund aims to to support the protection of indigenous ecosystems on private land aiming to permanently protect high-value ecosystems. It does this by purchase of interest, or, while leaving the land in private ownership, through covenanting, leasing, accords, and management agreements. Funding applications may be for: • land purchase and initial associated costs (eg fencing, survey, valuation and title transfer fees) • covenant and initial associated costs (eg fencing, survey and covenant and registration fees) Proposals are assessed against four core criteria listed below as well as other material required in applications. **1. Representativeness**: Ensures that viable or sustainable examples of all natural ecosystems are protected by approximately the same proportions in which they were originally present in the natural landscape. **2. Sustainability**: Ensures that the natural values proposed for protection can be sustained within the protected area by determining whether the values for which the area is protected will persist in the long term. **3. Landscape integrity**: The extent to which an ecosystem contributes to the original integrity of the landscape. It is important to ensure the original character, context and range of processes that link the various ecosystems are maintained, along with the natural nutrient cycles, energy flows and hydrology. **4. Amenity and utility**: Natural ecosystems contribute to people's physical and spiritual welfare, providing educational, heritage, recreational, tourist and other amenity value. They also contribute ecosystem services including conserving soil, maintaining water quality and supply, and storing carbon.	See four core criteria for assessments along with questions related to each core criteria (see website and application information). No specifics; but a well-defined baseline of the site is required to gauge outcomes.	The contestable fund is currently closed.	The fund is currently closed. For updates on when funding rounds will open, subscribe to our mailing list. Email NHF-Admin@doc.govt.nz with the subject 'subscribe'.	https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/funding/nature-heritage-fund/

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
Ngā Whenua Rāhui	DOC	The Ngā Whenua Rāhui Fund supports the protection of indigenous biodiversity on Māori-owned land while honouring the rights guaranteed to landowners under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.	Māori land authorities such as trusts and incorporations, organisations representative of whānau, hapū or iwi, and Māori owners of General land. Applications must be made in the name of the organisation or individual who has legal status on the land block you are seeking protection over.	The principles of the fund are geared towards the owners retaining rangatiratanga (ownership and control) of their land. In its kaupapa and role, Ngā Whenua Rāhui is reaffirming the bond between tangata whenua and the land. When assessing applications, consideration is given to: • the extent to which the project meets the Fund's criteria of spiritual and cultural importance, representativeness, practicality for sustainable management and landscape values. • the merit of the proposal, particularly in its relationship to the Ngā Whenua Rāhui purpose, scope, objective and strategy. • the contribution owners will commit to the project. • the owner's capacity to satisfactorily complete the project (including long-term management) and to meet the terms and conditions of any grant. • the extent to which the project is likely to enable effective ongoing actions to avoid future dependency on support from the Fund e.g. eco-tourism or other non-extractive activities such as honey production. • projects funded for water and soil purposes by your Regional Council. Additional criteria which might be applied once other criteria have been assessed, include: • connectedness to other work and other protected areas • urgency of threats to the area that protection could alleviate • the cost of protection versus the value of protection • opportunity costs of not being able to protect other areas.	Success is measured against "clearly defined" objectives and activities.	The contestable fund is currently closed.	The Ngā Whenua Rāhui Fund is not currently accepting applications. The fund opens on 1 March and closes 31 May of every year. Applications are made by accessing the online application form.	https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/funding/nga-whenua-rahui/nga-whenua-rahui-fund/

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
Mātaurang a Kura Taiao Fund	DOC	The Mātauranga Kura Taiao Fund seeks to supports whānau, hapū and iwi to preserve traditional Māori knowledge and its practical use in the management of indigenous biodiversity.	Individuals or organisations with legal status and representativ e of a whānau, hapū or iwi.	The Mātauranga Kura Taiao Fund is a contestable fund administered by the Ngā Whenua Rāhui Komiti. There are five main aims: • Reverse the ongoing loss of traditional Māori knowledge and practice related to indigenous biodiversity. • Protect, preserve, and promote traditional knowledge, history, stories, and practices of tangata whenua specific to their natural world and resources. • Restore kaitiaki responsibilities to protect the mauri of the whenua and unite the spiritual, cultural, and physical caretaking of our natural resources. • Increase tangata whenua capacity to retain and promote their traditional knowledge and use in managing indigenous biodiversity. • Support tangata whenua participation in management of indigenous biodiversity, consistent with their traditional knowledge and practice. Applications may cover the taiao and taonga species associated with Tāne-Māhuta and the freshwater realm of Tangaroa. These include (but is not limited to) whenua, repo, roto, awa, ngahere, manu, ngārara and ika; and involves rongoā, mahinga kai, rāhui, wāhi tapu and other elements of tangata whenua connection to the natural world.	Not specified - projects are assessed against applicant objectives. Applicant is required to submit at least two progress reports per year throughout the duration of the project. These include a written report (using the template provided) describing progress against the project's outcomes, and a financial report detailing how the grant money has been spent.	No set limit; however, funding over $70k require additional information on organisation (size, financial position, capacity to support project, evidence of other funding sought). Funding available for three project years only.	The fund is currently open (February 2025) and will be accepting applications from 1 March.	https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/funding/nga-whenua-rahui/matauranga-kura-taiao-fund/ https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/getting-involved/funding/matauranga-kura-taiao-guide-for-applicants.pdf

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures (SFF Futures) - Te anamata o ngā kai me ngā weuweu toitū	Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)	SFF Futures supports problem-solving and innovation in New Zealand's food and fibre sector by co-investing in initiatives that make a positive and lasting difference.	The fund covers projects from all over New Zealand, created by: businesses non-government organisations Māori landowners researchers training institutions community groups industry bodies.	SFF Futures can provide support at any level on a co-investment basis. From small grassroots community projects to large-scale industry development, we can help you innovate and achieve your goals faster. This can include: • an opportunity for a brand-new product • a new way of tackling a pest or environmental issue • an innovation that transforms by-products into high-value products • improving animal health or welfare • improving productivity. Our 9 assessment criteria • sustainable benefits to New Zealand • innovation • beyond business as usual • fit with relevant strategies • adoption and extension/path to market • ability to deliver • governance • risk identification and mitigation • budget. Partnerships typically have a stronger emphasis on economic and financial benefits, whereas community-driven projects often focus on environmental or social benefits. However, application proposals should show consideration of each benefit area. Cofunding is required. The extent of MPI's investment will mainly be determined by the extent of the benefits made available to New Zealand (the public good).	Not specified - projects are assessed against applicant objectives. Large projects (>$2 million) will likely require a logic models or graphical depictions of a process, showing the activities that need to happen to achieve a specific result. Logic models link the problem (situation), the intervention (inputs and outputs), and the impact (outcome).	The fund covers a range of projects – from smaller projects that cost less than $100,000 to multi-million-dollar, multi-year programmes. Up to $75 million is available each year. There are 2 categories of funding – 'Partnerships' and 'Grants'.	The fund is currently open.	https://www.mpi.govt.nz/funding-rural-support/sustainable-food-fibre-futures/

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
Contaminated Sites and Vulnerable Landfills Fund (CSVLF) - Tahua mō ngā Pae Hawa me ngā Ruapara	Ministry for the Environment (MfE) - Manatu Mo Te Taiao	Contaminated Sites and Vulnerable Landfills fund (CSVLF) aims to reduce the risk to human health and the environment posed by legacy contaminated sites and vulnerable landfills.	Regional councils, territorial authorities and unitary authorities can apply for funding for sites that meet the eligibility criteria. This can be for sites they own or on behalf of other landowners.	The CSVLF supports the investigation and/or remediation of legacy contaminated sites and landfills. These are sites where past activities occurred that were likely to result in contamination either: • before the Resource Management Act (RMA) was enacted in 1991 • after the RMA was enacted in 1991 but no enforcement could be taken by the regional council, unitary authority or territorial authority to investigate or remediate the contamination. The CSVLF can support three of the four phases of contaminated land remediation. They are: • Phase 1 projects (preliminary site investigations) must be self-funded. These projects establish the contamination history of the site and form part of the contaminated site identification process. • Phase 2 – detailed site investigation. This phase is to determine the nature and extent of contamination and risk to human health and the environment. • Phase 3 – remedial planning. This phase is to consider ways to remediate or manage the site, and to develop a remedial action plan. • Phase 4 – site remediation. This phase is to use the remedial action plan to carry out remedial and management works. Funding can cover: • Costs for consultants and contractors, including: • completing investigations and remedial options assessments, peer reviews of technical reports and • undertaking the remedial works • equipment and plant hire • financial, legal, IT services and project management costs • health and safety equipment and training.	Applicants must outline project objectives (1-4), describe the milestones and main activities required to meet that objective. All objectives should use the SMART framework. Phase 2 and Phase 3 projects typically follow a standard approach based on the reports required to be delivered for investigating contaminated land and planning the remediation. Phase 4 projects may be more variable, based on site-specific requirements.	Amount funded $30 million until 2026, or funds are exhausted. The CSVLF typically contributes 50 per cent of total project costs and projects are funded for a discrete timeframe. Any funding request between 50 and 75 (maximum) per cent of total costs will be considered; conditions apply.	The fund is currently open.	https://environment.govt.nz/what-you-can-do/funding/contaminated-sites-fund/

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
Māori Agribusiness Pathway to Increased Productivity (MAPIP) programme	MPI	The MAPIP programme provides one-on-one support to Māori landowners and trustees looking to increase the productivity of their primary sector assets.	Māori landowners and trustees	The MAPIP programme can help achieve aspirations for improving the productivity of primary sector assets. The one-on-one approach is suitable if your whenua: • has been leased out for a long time, but could return to owner management • isn't being used to its full potential • could earn more money • could be managed more sustainably. • Achieving your goals with MAPIP The programme will help you access the knowledge and support you need. You might want to learn more about: • transforming underutilised whenua • overcoming challenges • developing options to improve the use and • management of your primary sector assets. What you need to take part: • have primary sector assets in collective ownership • be ready to lead the development of your idea • have a mandate or be able to get one • have clear decision-making processes • be committed to increasing the productivity of your assets.	email: maoriagribusiness@mpi.govt.nz for more information as not available on website	Not specified.	No key dates specified.	https://www.mpi.govt.nz/funding-rural-support/maori-agribusiness-funding-support/maori-agribusiness-pathway-to-increased-productivity-mapip-programme/

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
Māori Agribusiness Workforce programme - He Ara Mahi Hou	MPI	The Māori agribusiness workforce programme – He Ara Mahi Hou – funds Māori entities to provide training opportunities in the primary industries.	Māori agribusiness entity or kaupapa Māori entity that supports Māori upskilling in the primary sector.	He Ara Mahi Hou was established to support whenua Māori owners and agribusinesses to develop their workforces. The programme aims to: • create new employment and training opportunities within the Māori primary sector • increase job opportunities on whenua Māori • address specific skills shortages • support Māori primary sector productivity • support Māori entities to become accredited providers of NZQA qualifications and training. The following four types of activities have been identified as key pathways to increasing workforce skills and training opportunities for Māori. Funding could be used to support: • Feasibility studies – addressing the sector shortfall of trained workers to support Māori agribusinesses to achieve their sustainability, productivity, and employment aspirations. • Programme accreditation – increasing the number of NZQA-approved Māori agribusiness skills training programmes. • Programme Delivery (Provider training) – design and develop modules to support new Māori agribusiness training programmes and, where needed, train trainers to be able to deliver the programmes. • Programme Delivery (Training delivery) – increase opportunities for Māori to undertake skills training programmes aligned with the needs of Māori agribusinesses, from familiarisation and basic skills training to new employer training. To be eligible for support, applicants must: • demonstrate work is available for people undergoing training • link trainees to job opportunities that meet the needs of Māori agribusinesses • be appropriately resourced to undertake the initiative • be prepared to commit the time required to drive the initiative.	The day-to-day management of contracts is carried out by a MPI Māori Agribusiness regional adviser and their equivalent in your organisation. It is important for both parties to communicate regularly to ensure a successful project, with milestones delivered on time and to the level expected. Regular check-ins between the MPI Māori Agribusiness regional adviser and applicant will help combat any issues that may arise. All projects are expected to submit reports against each of the contracted milestones. Payments will be made on the delivery of each agreed milestone.	Not specified. The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) funded 16 projects worth $1.55 million in 2021 as part of a pilot. This funding can cover a range of activities and expenses. Contact a local MPI Māori Agribusiness regional adviser to discuss whether a project's eligibility for funding.	No key dates specified.	https://www.mpi.govt.nz/funding-rural-support/maori-agribusiness-funding-support/maori-agribusiness-workforce-programme/

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
Māori Agribusiness Extension (MABx) programme	MPI	The Māori Agribusiness Extension (MABx) programme supports interested Māori landowners and agribusinesses to work together in clusters towards common goals.	Māori land trusts, Māori agribusinesses, their trustees and land owners.	The MABx programme supports you to undertake change by helping you form networks, access knowledge, and support your needs. This is done in small groups, or clusters, and is built around: • building your capability as a landowner to identify and implement sustainable changes in land-use practice • working together with other landowners to make the most of opportunities to achieve the benefits of scale • providing access to a wider range of knowledge, tools and networks to support whenua development. There are 2 types of MABx clusters: • Exploration clusters: enable participants to explore opportunities to work together • Project clusters: enable participants to implement collective goals. Your cluster might want to learn more about: • growing a new crop • improving land-use management of your whenua • explore value chain options (e.g., processing capability) • marketing kai or fibre • producing new products • meeting regulatory standards • accessing new markets. What you need to take part in MABx: • be interested in exploring new options for your whenua or other agribusiness assets • be willing to work with other trusts and go through a group learning process – committing time, effort and knowledge to make it work • be willing to make changes that apply good environmental practices • have whenua administered for the benefit of Māori and administered under a formal ownership structure • have a functioning governance group and be able to obtain trustee agreement to participate.	Meet with the MPI Māori Agribusiness advisor to plan what you will do. Outline Proposal – Confirm the project/ ideas with the local MPI Māori Agribusiness advisor, so they can put together a proposal outline. This will include a statement of intended outcomes and (whakapapa).	Not specified.	No key dates specified.	https://www.mpi.govt.nz/funding-rural-support/maori-agribusiness-funding-support/maori-agribusiness-extension-mabx-programme/

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
Māori Agribusiness Innovation Fund	MPI	The Innovation Fund enables Māori to develop innovative solutions to improve outcomes and create benefits for the Māori primary sector.	To be eligible, applicants must be: a legal entity and GST registered - at least 51% Māori-owned and able to demonstrate key decisions are made by Māori - seeking funding for a primary sector-related project - able to provide in-kind co-investment.	The fund will support the development of innovative practices and products to create improved outcomes and benefits for Māori. Applications can cover the entire primary sector value chain from production, to processing and export. The fund will consider initiatives involving horticulture, aquaculture, agriculture, and forestry. Funding can be used to: • investigate or demonstrate a concept • access expert advice to explore an innovation project • develop and evaluate an innovative idea or practice. Applications will be assessed against the following criteria: • Ngā hua pūtea – economic benefits • Ngā hua hapori – community/social benefits • Ngā hua tikanga – cultural benefits • Ngā hua taiao – environmental benefits • Mana motuhake – how will this project enable the applicant to reach aspirations for its primary sector assets? • Innovation – how will this project support the production or adoption of new products and/or practices? • How well placed is the applicant to deliver the project? • Does the project fit with existing industry and/or government strategies? The Innovation Fund is flexible regarding what funding can be used for. If you have any questions, contact MPI by emailing maoriagribusiness@mpi.govt.nz	Not specified - projects are assessed against applicant objectives.	The maximum amount of funding a project can receive is $250,000. The fund is open year-round, subject to availability.	No key dates specified.	https://www.mpi.govt.nz/funding-rural-support/maori-agribusiness-funding-support/maori-agribusiness-innovation-fund/

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
NZ Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS)	MPI (for forestry sector only)	NZ ETS is part of NZ's response to climate change. The ETS puts a price on greenhouse gases to encourage environmentally sustainable behaviour.	Landowners or their representatives can apply to undertake projects on their land.	The New Zealand ETS supports global efforts to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases. It does this by helping New Zealand meet its international obligations under the Paris Agreement, domestic targets by 2050, set out in the Climate Change Response Act 2002, and emissions budgets, set out in the emissions reduction plan for 2022 to 2025. The ETS puts a price on greenhouse gas emissions. People or organisations involved in the ETS (generally land owners, businesses, or people with forestry rights) can earn credits for business activities that absorb carbon dioxide (like planting or managing forests). An emission unit represents one metric tonne of carbon dioxide or the equivalent of any other greenhouse gas (carbon dioxide equivalent). The NZ ETS covers six greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming; carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), nitrous oxide (N2O), sulfur hexafluoride (SF6), hydrofluorocarbons (HFC's), and perfluorocarbons (PFCs). All gases are treated and accounted for the same in the NZ ETS, using the carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2-e) standard unit. Over a 50-year period, an indigenous forest is estimated to sequester a total of approximately 330 tonnes of CO_2 per hectare. This equates to earning about 330 NZUs per hectare over five decades. The primary focus of the NZ ETS is forestry activities - both native planting and commercial plantation - on the following land use classifications: • Post-1989 forests (both commercial and native) • Permanent Forests (native or exotic) in the Permanent Forest Category are eligible, with a 50-year commitment to no harvesting. • Pre-1990 forests are not eligible for earning NZUs but may face deforestation liabilities.	There are several steps and monitoring/ reporting requirements that must be considered throughout the project lifespan: 1) Registration and Eligibility Verification 2) Monitoring and Reporting Requirements 3) Forest Measurement Approach (FMA) 4) Compliance Audits and Spot Checks 5) Deforestation and Harvesting Monitoring 6) Record-Keeping Requirements 7) NZ ETS Exit, Deregistration, and Liabilities	Credits are issued based on the project verification process. Credits can be: traded or held, surrendered back to offset their activities that emit greenhouse gases. - Emitters can also purchase credits to offset their emissions.	No key dates specified. Inclusion of other carbon sinks, such as wetlands or peatlands, have been considered and may be included in future NZ ETS similar to other international schemes.	https://www.mpi.govt.nz/funding-rural-support/environment-and-natural-resources/emissions-trading-scheme/about-the-emissions-trading-scheme/ Compliance for ETS: https://www.epa.govt.nz/industry-areas/emissions-trading-scheme/participating-in-the-ets/compliance-in-the-ets/

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
Aquaculture Planning Fund	MPI / Fisheries New Zealand - Tini a Tangaroa	The Aquaculture Planning Fund was set up to boost aquaculture developments.	Regional councils	Aquaculture is the raising of plants or animals in water. It can be done in coastal waters, rivers, lakes, and in constructed tanks on land. The Government set up the Aquaculture Planning Fund (APF) to help the aquaculture industry achieve its goal of $3 billion in sales by 2035. The fund supports regional councils to plan for sustainable aquaculture growth and development including: • allocating space • creating zones for new consent applications • provisions for new species • provisions to do with environmental impacts • research on information and advice that supports decision-making and improves reconsenting provisions and processes. All applications are assessed by an advisory panel. The panel recommends which applications should be funded. Using the panel's recommendations, we then make funding decisions.	Recipients of the APF are expected to implement monitoring frameworks to manage environmental changes associated with aquaculture development. This includes providing clear guidance on environmental quality objectives, monitoring and reporting methods, and standards for the region.	Not specified.	Applications have closed for 2024 and will re-open from 1 July 2025.	https://www.mpi.govt.nz/fishing-aquaculture/fishing-aquaculture-funding-support/aquaculture-planning-fund/

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
Strategic Science Investment Fund (SSIF) / Natural Hazards and Resilience Platform	Ministry for the Business, Innovation, & Employment (MBIE) / Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences Limited (GNS)	The purpose of the platform is to enhance New Zealand's resilience to natural hazards.	Not specified at this point.	The purpose of the platform is to enhance New Zealand's resilience to natural hazards. It will deliver science across the 4 Rs (reduction, readiness, response, recovery) to underpin New Zealand's Disaster Resilience Strategy, and support science capability important for New Zealand's resilience and emergency management. The platform will have a strong focus on working with research users, such as the infrastructure, insurance and other industry sectors, central and local government, and iwi/Māori. As well as delivering research, the platform will provide science capability during emergencies, and fulfil a coordination function for the science response during natural hazard events.	Not specified at this point; but likely linked to project objectives and goals.	Varies per project. Fund Value $70 million over 7 years in this platform starting 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2031.	Fund currently in development; however, will be available 2024 - 2030	https://www.resilienceplatform.nz/ https://www.gns.cri.nz/research-projects/natural-hazards-and-resilience-platform/

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
Envirolink Scheme	MBIE	Envirolink is a regional council driven funding scheme, with funds administered by the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment - Science and Innovation.	Regional council led projects. See Description and Basic Requirements	The Envirolink scheme aims to: • improve science input to the environmental management activities of regional councils • increase the engagement of regional councils with the environmental research, science and technology sector • contribute to greater collective engagement between councils and the science system generally. Proposals are assessed against the following criteria and score them from 1 (Low quality) to 7 (High quality). • Benefit criteria: Environmental benefits to New Zealand (30% weighting) • Benefit criteria: Science and technology benefits (20% weighting) • Risk criteria: Ability to deliver research, science and technology outputs (20% weighting) • Risk criteria: Implementation pathway (30% weighting) To be eligible for funding advice, the request must: • be led by at least one of the nine specified regional councils that are able to apply for advice grants • be seeking scientific or technical advice relating to environmental management • not be a routine task that a council would perform as part of its statutory role and/or as part of normal business management. **Small grants** aim to help identify information needs, receive advice on science techniques or meet training requirements. **Medium grants** are for more detailed advice, or to help support the second phase of an initial small grant project. **Large grants** are for consolidated advice involving more than one regional council.	The examples on the grant website suggest that the applicant defines the project requirements and proposes the methodology based on "best Science" to achieve the project objectives and goals.	Small advice grants of up to $10,000 excluding GST. Medium advice grants of up to $40,000 excluding GST. Large advice grants of up to $80,000 excluding GST.	No key dates specified.	https://www.envirolink.govt.nz/grants/

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS)	Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) - Te Tari Taiwhenua	COGS provides grants to non-profit organisations delivering community-based social services that contribute to achieving locally determined outcomes.	COGS provides grants to non-profit community groups and organisations delivering community-based social services, projects and events. To apply, your organisation must have less than $2 million annual operating expenditure for each of the past two years.	Organisations requesting COGS grants need to show how their community-based services or projects will contribute to: • encouraging participation in communities • promoting community leadership • developing community capability • promoting social, economic and cultural equity, or reducing the downstream social and economic costs to communities and government. Each Local Distribution Committee (LDC) also develops community outcomes they see as having priority from discussions at annual public meetings where communities are able to discuss what local benefits or outcomes they want from the COGS investment in their communities.	Not specified - projects are likely assessed against applicant objectives.	Not specified	Opening date: 16 April 2025 Closing Date: 14 May 2025	https://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/community-organisations-grants-scheme/

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
Lottery Environment and Heritage grants	Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) - Te Tari Taiwhenua	Lottery Environment and Heritage grants are available for projects that will help protect, conserve or care for our natural, cultural and physical heritage, or allow us to better understand and access these resources.	Community organisations and other groups looking to undertake work.	This fund provides grants for plans, reports and one-off projects that will protect, conserve and promote New Zealand's natural, cultural and physical heritage. **Ngā kaupapa matua / Priorities** Decisions are made based on how your project will help New Zealand's: **Natural heritage:** • Protect and restore habitats and ecosystems for native plants or animals • Protect and conserve native plants or animals that are rare, in danger or at risk in their habitats • Improve public access and information about native plants and animals **Physical heritage:** • Restore and protect places, structures or large built objects of significance to our history • Protect and conserve a place, structure or large built object for the future • Improve public access and information about places, structures or objects of significance to our history. **Cultural heritage:** • Protect collections that are at risk of being damaged or lost and make them available to the community • Improve public access and information for people to learn about and experience our cultural heritage • Conserve and protect moveable cultural property, such as photographs, paintings, furniture and other artefacts	Ngā Hua / Outcomes Organisations receiving grants are expected to demonstrate how their projects will benefit the community, and contribute to: increasing our access to New Zealand's cultural heritage; preserving and protecting New Zealand's natural environment; or preserving New Zealand's history for future generations.	Small grants: <$250,000 Large grants: >$250,000. A feasibility study with costs or restoration plan may be needed for large grants.	Opening date: 1 January 2025 Closing Date: 26 February 2025	https://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/lottery-environment-and-heritage/

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
Community and Volunteering Capability (CVC) Fund	Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) - Te Tari Taiwhenua	The Community and Volunteering Capability Fund provides grants to not-for-profit organisations for services and projects that improve leadership and strengthen the capability and capacity of New Zealand's diverse community and voluntary sector.	Not-for-profit organisations.	The Community and Volunteering Capability Fund (CVC) replaces the Community Leadership Fund, the Support for Volunteering Fund, the Organisational Capability Programme, the Youth Worker Training Scheme. The CVC has similar priorities to those funds. Requests must align with 1 of the following 4 priorities to be considered for funding (see website for more details): • sector leadership • volunteering • organisational capability • youth worker training. The following supporting information is required for all requests to the CVC: • a budget (not required for organisational capability requests) • financial statements that are no more than 18 months old. There is just over $1 million available for: • Māori, Pacific and ethnic, youth or community organisations for original one-off projects that will promote and support volunteering / mahi aroha (total funds available: $111,000) • regional volunteer centres for promoting good practice in managing volunteers; recruiting and training volunteers; and providing training and networking for organisations that use volunteers / māhī aroha (total funds available: $747,000) • Volunteering New Zealand for working with community and voluntary sector organisations and regional volunteer centres to promote and support volunteering in New Zealand (total funds available: $175,000)	Not specified - projects are likely assessed against applicant objectives.	There is just over $1 million available. You can apply for multi-year funding of up to 3 years; conditions apply.	Opening date: 7 May 2025 Closing Date: 4 June 2025	https://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/community-and-volunteering-capability-fund/

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
Community Conservation Fund	WWF-New Zealand	WWF-New Zealand, in partnership with the Tindall Foundation, supports communities and educational facilities to run projects that conserve and restore Aotearoa New Zealand's natural environments and the native species in these habitats.	The fund is targeted at local community and educational conservation groups	The Community Conservation Fund is targeted at local community and educational conservation groups based and working in Aotearoa New Zealand, engaged in projects which involve the community in conservation or education initiatives. The fund is not for individuals, national or regional umbrella groups, for-profit organisations, Government authorities, Government agencies, or overseas organisations. The Community Conservation Fund gives preference to projects that: • Are community driven, involve local communities, bring people together for shared conservation initiatives • Engage and educate children/young people through action based projects • Encourage others to learn through experience and participation • Have relationships with hapū /iwi and promote mātauranga Māori and indigenous knowledge • Restore native habitats, especially those with threatened indigenous species • Make meaningful contributions to improving connections to local environment • Promote others to gain skills and are encouraged and/or supported to take future action for the environment as a result of participating • For more information on eligibility and funding priorities please download and read the application guidelines (below).	Monitoring - see guidelines on website. Projects funded have diverse objectives and monitoring is needed that encompasses this, including: Habitat and Ecological Gains, Social Context / Community Gains, Economic Gains Attention is also given to two key areas of project management and "learnings" (or issues and innovations). These areas form important components of a successful project and some consideration of monitoring performance in these areas is important.	A maximum of NZ$15,000, for a funding period of one year.	The 2024 round has closed and the next funding round will be in August 2025.	https://wwf.org.nz/community-conservation-and-education-fund

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
Whanua/ Community / Environment Funds	The Tindall Foundation	The Tindall Foundation is a family foundation that seeks opportunities to support innovative, forward-thinking initiatives that make a positive difference for Aotearoa New Zealand	Charities and not-for-profit organisations. There is an eligibility questionnaire online.	The Tindall Foundation have three funds suitable for supporting NbS-type projects; Whānau/ Family Giving, Community Giviing, and Environmental Giving. Each fund has specific priorities which are available in detail on the website. Projects that work in the following ways and meet more of the foundation's priorities will have a greater chance of receiving support: • Working collaboratively for long-term sustainability. • Respecting the role of tangata whenua and/or indigenously led initiatives. • Connecting people with nature and environmental issues. • Long-term positive change. • National significance and scalability. • Community/public engagement. You will need to describe in a clear and concise way: • The initiative for which you are requesting a donation • The plans you have to put your initiative in place • The people who will carry out the initiative and their qualifications/experience • How much money you are requesting per year and for what period of time – if the requested amount is for 1, 2 or 3 years • The need for your initiative and how your initiative will be meeting this need • The intended outcomes of your initiative and how you will know that you have achieved these • How the initiative will be financially sustained after the donation period • A budget breakdown including any other funding applied for/secured	Not specified - projects are likely assessed against applicant objectives.	Upper limit is not specified and multi-year funding is available. Grants below $15k can be distributed by a local donation manager (LDM).	No key dates specified.	https://tindall.org.nz/

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
Trees for Survival (TFS)	Trees for Survival Charitable Trust/ Rotary Club Supported	Trees for Survival Charitable Trust partner with organisations to collectively do more for our communities and show manaakitanga (generosity and care).	Landowners, Schools, Community Groups.	Trees for Survival (TFS) started in New Zealand in 1991 and now have over 150 schools participating throughout New Zealand. This results in over 70,000 children being exposed to the programme and over 1 million trees planted since the programme started. Together with New Zealand schools, landowners and sponsorship partners, the Trust action based environmental education programme supports school communities to nurture, grow and plant native plants in areas they're needed the most - protecting and restoring habitat in streams, wetlands and on erosion-prone land. How does it work? • Schools (primary/secondary) apply to become Trees for Survival School, • TFS assists the school to locate a sponsor to fund a PGU. (Plus, ongoing financial and physical support) This is frequently a Rotary Club or local business which provides the one-off cost of a PGU (approx. $5000) and an annual servicing/supplies charge of approx. $750 • School pupils supported by TFS/Regional Councils/school community grow plants from seedlings to planting out stage. • Regional Councils liaise with landowners & select planting site. • School pupils & school community plus landowner and TFS partners, plant out native trees.	Not specified.	Not specified	Not specified.	https://www.tfsnz.org.nz/

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
Foundation North Fund	Foundation North	To enhance lives through responsible guardianship of our investments and focussed funding, anchored by our commitment to Te Tiriti.	Charitable trusts, incorporated society, marae, statutory body, branch of an organisation registered under an Act of Parliament, registered under relevant legislation or a company with a charitable status. If you are an unregistered or new group, you may be able to submit a request with the support of an umbrella organisation	The purpose is to enhance lives through responsible guardianship of investments and focussed funding, anchored by the commitment to Te Tiriti. The Foundation work in partnership with the communities of Tāmaki Makaurau and Te Tai Tokerau, and with other funders to harness their investments, granting and other activities to help achieve projects of enhanced scale and impact together. They acknowledge the need to work holistically, to evolve new ways of working and to continually grow our understanding of system level change, and what it takes to make inter-generational change happen. The Foundation are committed to: • increasing equity (Hāpai te ōritetanga); • enhancing social inclusion (Whakauru mai); • regenerating the environment (Whakahou taiao) • enabling community support (Hāpori awhina) across our rohe. The priority communities are Tangata Whenua, Pacific peoples, communities of Te Tai Tokerau, children and young people, former refugees, new migrants, rainbow communities, and people living with a disability. The Foundation are particularly interested in activities that have regard to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Climate Action	Not specified - projects are likely assessed against applicant objectives.	Quick response grants upto $25k (2 months decision period) Community grants over $25k (5 months decision period) Over the last six months, Foundation North approved 33 climate-related grants totalling $4,328,341.	Not specified.	https://www.foundationnorth.org.nz/funding

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) Program - Internationally available	VERRA	The Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) Program is the world's most widely used greenhouse gas (GHG) crediting program. It drives finance toward activities that reduce and remove emissions, improve livelihoods, and protect nature. VCS projects have reduced or removed more than one billion tons of carbon and other GHG emissions from the atmosphere.	Landowners or their representatives can apply to undertake projects on their land.	By marrying scientific rigor and transparency with innovative thinking, the VCS Program has continually brought new projects, organizations, and people into the voluntary carbon market, as well as a growing number of compliance markets, and given them the necessary confidence to participate. Natural climate solutions—also referred to as Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU)—are an effective approach to reducing and removing global greenhouse gas emissions. Verra's VCS Program leads the way in developing methodologies and other tools to unlock the carbon reduction potential of AFOLU projects. The VCS is the most widely used standard in the sector. AFOLU projects fall under the following categories: • Afforestation, Reforestation and Revegetation (ARR) • Agricultural Land Management (ALM) • Wetlands Restoration and Conservation (WRC) • Improved Forest Management (IFM) • Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) • Avoided Conversion of Grasslands and Shrublands (ACoGS) Validation and verification are critical to ensuring the integrity and quality of the projects registered in Verra's programs and program methodologies. These processes are conducted by validation/verification bodies (VVBs)–qualified, independent third-party auditors who are approved by Verra. During validation, a VVB determines whether a project meets all rules and requirements from the Verra programs. During verification, a VVB confirms that the outcomes set out in the project documentation have been achieved and quantified according to the requirements of the respective standard.	Validation and verification are critical to VCS projects along with baseline assessments and monitoring. The requirements for monitoring are specific to the AFOLU category of the project - detailed information is available on the VCS website.	Credits are issued based on the project verification process. Credits can be: traded or held, surrendered back to offset their activities that emit greenhouse gases, emitters can also purchase credits to offset their emissions.	No dates specified. Projects are currently being accepted for verification.	https://verra.org/programs/verified-carbon-standard https://verra.org/programs/verified-carbon-standard/vcs-program-details/#rules-and-requirements https://verra.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/VCS-Standard-v4.7-FINAL-4.15.24.pdf

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
Voluntary Carbon Market - Internationally available	ACR at Winrock International	ACR, a nonprofit enterprise of Winrock International, is a leading carbon crediting program operating in global compliance and voluntary carbon markets. ACR aims to create confidence in the scientific integrity of carbon markets to accelerate transformational emission reduction and removal actions.	Landowners or their representatives can apply to undertake projects on their land.	ACR oversees the registration and independent verification of projects that meet rigorous standards and adhere to science-based carbon accounting methodologies, which ensure accuracy, precision and rigor in the measurement, monitoring, reporting and verification of emission reductions and removals. ACR programmatic focus is on key sectors that can contribute transformative climate results at scale: • Forestry and Other Land Use • Non-CO2 gasses including methane and high Global Warming Potential (GWP) refrigerants • Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS)	ACR accepts GHG projects from worldwide locations, provided they conform to an ACR-approved methodology. Methodologies must be validated and verified for compliance with an ACR-approved measurement, monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) methodology and must comply with all requirements of the current published version of the ACR Standard.	Credits are issued based on the project verification process. Credits can be: traded or held, surrendered back to offset their activities that emit greenhouse gases, emitters can also purchase credits to offset their emissions.	No dates specified. Projects are currently being accepted for verification.	https://acrcarbon.org/

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Game Bird Habitat Trust Fund	Fish & Game NZ	Fish & Game works to develop and protect this habitat resource, in order to secure game bird populations for future generations.	Grants are open to anyone with support from the landowner and a recognised habitat referee.	The Trust work includes lobbying for appropriate environmental policies, developing and enhancing wetlands, providing advice on predator control and land management, advocating for environmentally sustainable farming practice and improving awareness of New Zealand's outstanding but threatened wetland resources. The money raised each year from the game bird habitat stamps programme is transferred from Fish and Game Councils and NZ Post to the Game Bird Habitat Trust. The Trust Board uses this money to help create and enhance habitat for the benefit of game birds and other wildlife.	Not specified - projects are assessed against applicant objectives and goals. These are derived from a baseline assessment of site conditions (vegetation, aquatic life, hydrology, water quality, etc).	Not specified - potentially modest; but can help with planning, restoration works, and contacts.	Applications for grants close on June 30 each year.	https://www.fishandgame.org.nz/environment/nz-game-bird-habitat-trust/

Fund Name	Provider	Fund Overview	Who Can Apply?	Description and Basic Requirements	Monitoring & Reporting	Funding Amount	Key Dates	Link
givUS	Generosity NZ	Generosity NZ is the largest digital search facility for funding information in Aotearoa. We have created two search tools that connect people to funding opportunities.	communities, volunteer organisations, schools, groups, sport clubs and Iwi.	Generosity NZ is the largest digital search facility for funding information in Aotearoa. We have created two search tools that connect people to funding opportunities. givUS are an independent social enterprise with charitable status and not a Government department. They do not receive any funding from Government. givUS offers access to grants and schemes for communities, volunteer organisations, schools, groups, sport clubs and Iwi. Generosity New Zealand does not offer direct funding, they provide applicants with access to extensive opportunities offered throughout New Zealand. Find assistance for nearly everything, including: • Operational costs • Building redevelopment • Project based resources Every organisation has unique goals and needs, which is why givUS generate personalised quotes. Most council libraries subscribe to givUS on behalf of ratepayers, which enables FREE public access. For more information, contact your nearest library.	Not specified.	Unknown.	Not specified.	https://generosity.org.nz/