

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES FUND

PROJECTS FUNDED 1 JULY 2020 – 30 JUNE 2021

ABOUT THIS FUNDING ROUND

A total of 30 applications were received in the 2020/21 Environmental Initiatives Fund (EIF) round, totalling \$910,619 in requested funds. One application was withdrawn, two were ineligible, and seven applications were declined. Grants totalling \$417,976.82 were made to 20 projects.

WAIHAHA MARAE PAKAINGA RESERVATION

Project:	Waihaha Papakainga restoration
District/Catchment Zone:	Taupo
EIF Contribution:	\$39,839.92 (\$18,944.39 in 2020/2021; \$8,137.45 in 2021/2022; \$12,758.08 in 2022/2023)
Duration of Funding:	3 years

Waihaha Marae Papakainga Reservation (WMPR) is a land-holding trust established in 2018 to administer the Waihaha reserve area for the beneficial hapu owners by maintaining the whenua associated marae and urupa. The Waihaha wetlands are some of the most intact wetlands within the entire Taupo Catchment and contains many different native species. Threatened species include bittern, long-tailed bat, black-billed gull, fernbird and spotless crane. This project aims to tackle the increasing abundance of grey willow in the area, as this is one of the biggest threats to the Waihaha Wetland. The EIF grant will be primarily used to fund the cost of contractors to undertake ground-based control of willow and wilding pines, as well as the purchase of materials such as plants, traps and herbicides.

MOUNTAINS TO SEA CONSERVATION TRUST

Project:	Mountains to Sea Wananga 2021
District/Catchment Zone:	Coromandel
EIF Contribution:	\$7,990.00
Duration of Funding:	1 year

Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust (MTSCT) is a Northland-based charitable organisation established in 2002 to deliver the Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR) marine education and Whitebait Connection (WBC) freshwater education programmes around New Zealand. The location of this Wananga varies and in April 2021 it is to be held at the Harataunga Marae in Kennedy Bay. The EIF grant will go towards facilitation costs, videography of the event and a koha for the speakers.

NZ NATIONAL FIELDDAYS SOCIETY

Project:	Mystery Creek Community Hub
District/Catchment Zone:	Central Waikato
EIF Contribution:	\$29,983.54 (\$16,085.27 in 2020/2021; \$13,898.27 in 2021/2022)
Duration of Funding:	2 years

NZ National Fieldays Society (NZNFS) is a non-profit organisation based in Hamilton with the main purpose of running the annual Mystery Creek Fieldays agricultural event and providing educational support to the next generation of agribusiness leaders. In 2019, the society started a Predator Free trapping initiative on their own site at Mystery Creek. The site contains significant gully and riparian areas as well as important habitat for species such as long-tailed bats, kaka and mudfish. The society now wishes to create a community hub to bring together their local neighbours, local businesses, schools and local hapu within the surrounding 2100 hectares to inform, teach, inspire and support predator control, including providing traps. The EIF grant will go towards labour for coordination labour and trap costs.

NATIONAL WETLAND TRUST OF NEW ZEALAND

Project: Rotopiko Wetland Restoration and Education
District/Catchment Zone: Waipa
EIF Contribution: \$35,000 (\$15,000 in 2020/2021; \$10,000 in 2021/2022; \$10,000 in 2022/2023)
Duration of Funding: 3 years

The National Wetland Trust of New Zealand (NT) is a non-profit organisation established in 1999 to increase the appreciation of wetlands and their values by all New Zealanders. NWT is restoring Rotopiko/Lake Serpentine near Te Awamutu as a showcase wetland, to develop the National Wetland Centre and provide a place where visitors can learn about wetlands and experience their special qualities. NWT's other aims included increasing the understanding of wetland functions and processes and ensuring landowners and government agencies commit to wetland protection and enhancement. The EIF grant will go towards providing remuneration for the Executive Directors time over 3 years.

WHIRITOA CONSERVATION TRUST BOARD

Project: Whiritoa Environmental Restoration Project
District/Catchment Zone: Coromandel
EIF Contribution: \$32,572.80 (\$18,191.55 in 2020/2021; \$14,381.25 in 2021/2022)
Duration of Funding: 2 years

Whiritoa Conservation Trust Board (WCTB) has been active in the Whiritoa area for over 20 years. The group is entirely voluntary and their activities include: predator control; weed control; dotterel and other endemic species protection and monitoring; planting and restoration of riparian areas alongside the streams that run through the beach area; coastal dune and cliff planting; maintenance of public access and protection of cultural heritage sites.. Weed infestation in the reserve areas, especially on the forest, road and stream margins is a key issue for the group. The Whiritoa community has also reported increased sightings of predators such as rats and stoats. This project aims to control pest species in the Whiritoa reserve areas as well as fund weed control and riparian planting. The EIF grant will go towards the purchasing of native plants, traps and plant mats.

COROMANDEL INDEPENDENT LIVING TRUST

Project: CILT's Environmental Initiative : Native Plant Nursery-School to Work Transition
District/Catchment Zone: Coromandel
EIF Contribution: \$39,900 (\$19,950 in 2020/2021; \$19,950 in 2021/2022)
Duration of Funding: 2 years

Coromandel Independent Living Trust (CILT) has delivered many various effective environmental and social service programmes to the local Coromandel community since 1994. For this project, CILT is leasing an old depot site in Coromandel town to establish a native plant nursery as part of a wider Transition from Schools to Work programme. The EIF grant will go towards the preparation of a business plan/technical advice, project coordination and administration.

TONGARIRO NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Project:	Predator Free Taupo Community Support
District/Catchment Zone:	Coromandel
EIF Contribution:	\$10,793.16
Duration of Funding:	1 year

The Tongariro Natural History Society (TNHS) was established in 1994 and trades as Project Tongariro, Predator Free Taupo, Greening Taupo and Kids Greening Taupo. Predator Free Taupo (PFT) is a TNHS initiative established in 2017. PFT Focus' on a coordinated, community-based trapping programme which aims to help the Taupo community become free of the most damaging introduced predators by 2050. The EIF grant will go towards funding a contractor to run two practical trapping workshops and a managers' workshop in Turangi/Taupo and to fund more traps to extend existing traplines.

HABITAT TUATEAWA INC

Project:	Improving our network and recording systems for planned projects
District/Catchment Zone:	Coromandel
EIF Contribution:	\$23,754.56 (\$11,877.03 in 2020/2021; \$11,877.03 in 2021/2022)
Duration of Funding:	2 years

Habitat Tuateawa is a voluntary community group based in Tuateawa, northern Coromandel with an aim to restore biodiversity in the local area, predominantly through predator control. Over the last 20 years Habitat Tuateawa has undertaken pest control over an area of 300 ha to protect vulnerable populations of kiwi, keruru, kaka, pateke and lizards. The EIF grant will go towards wages for the group coordinator as well as towards bait and monitoring materials.

MCGREGOR BAY WETLAND SOCIETY

Project:	McGregor Bay Wetland- Conservation, Education & Art Projects
District/Catchment Zone:	Coromandel
EIF Contribution:	\$12,210 (\$6,105 in 2020/2021; \$6,105 in 2021/2022)
Duration of Funding:	2 years

McGregor Bay Wetland Society (MWS) is a local community group based in Coromandel town with the purpose of promoting the protection and the restoration of the McGregor Bay wetland at Long Bay. The society liaises with TCDC to manage the wetland as well as promoting public access and providing educational opportunities for local students. The EIF grant will go towards funding a project coordinator for the group over two years.

THE CENTRAL NORTH ISLAND SIKA FOUNDATION

Project:	North-Eastern Kaimanawa Whio Recovery Project
District/Catchment Zone:	Taupo
EIF Contribution:	\$19,910.32 (\$14,012.82 in 2020/2021; \$5,897.50 in 2021/2022)
Duration of Funding:	2 years

The Central North Island Sika Foundation (CNISF) was formed in 2016 by a collaborative group of recreational hunters, behavioural & ecology scientists, and conservationists under the guidance of the NZ Game Animal Council. Their primary purpose is to actively manage the Central North island Sika herd in order to provide enhanced benefits to

hunters and provide a higher level of protection for the ecological habitat and native inhabitants within the natural territorial range of the North Island Sika Herd. CNISF also manages several related projects in the Kaimanawa Ranges including protection of bats and surveys of deer population. The Whio Recovery Project was started in 2018 due to the decline in whio population along the Kaipo and Oamaru Rivers and the Cascade Stream. This project is mainly focused on the control of stoats, rats and other predators in order to increase Whio populations in the area. The EIF grant will be used to fund the purchase of traps, boxes and consumables.

WHAKAUPOKO WEST FRANKLIN LANDCARE GROUP

Project: Predator Free North West Waikato
District/Catchment Zone: Lower Waikato
EIF Contribution: \$18,300 (\$9,150 in 2020/2021; \$9,150 in 2021/2022)
Duration of Funding: 2 years

Whakaupoko West Franklin Landcare Group was established in 2004 as community hub programme to coordinate predator control efforts in the north west Waikato and Franklin areas. This project aims to achieve a pest-free mainland island across mostly private land in the North-West Waikato, including farmland and wetland areas along the lower Waikato River near Tuakau, AkaAka, Kariotahi, Port Waikato and Otatau. The group aims to engage with private landowners to implement pest control and ongoing monitoring to enhance the natural environment within their backyards and the wider area. The EIF Grant will be used to fund bait stations, traps and lures as well as bait and some labour costs in the Aka Aka Islands.

UPPER COROMANDEL FOREST AND BIRD SOCIETY

Project: Pest Animal and Weed Control in an iconic Kauri Forest Reserve
District/Catchment Zone: Coromandel
EIF Contribution: \$27,078.42 (\$13,682.92 in 2020/2021; \$7,876.50 in 2021/2022; \$5,519 in 2022/2023)
Duration of Funding: 3 years

The Upper Coromandel Branch of Forest & Bird (UCFB) is a small volunteer branch of the NZ Forest & Bird Society, based around Coromandel town and involved in several projects that protect and restore the local environment. These include advocacy work; riparian planting in the Coromandel Harbour catchment; restoration of the Nga Motu Aroha Islands; restoring coastline at Waitete Bay, and protection of kiwi. This project aims to restore Long Bay Reserve and Long bay Esplanade Reserve as it is an area of regionally significant coastal kauri/nikau forest. The EIF grant will be used to fund a weed control contractor over three years, and materials, traps, and contracted services for predator control.

RINGS BEACH WETLAND GROUP INCORPORATED (RBWG)

Project: New Reserve Boundary Cordon Trapline
District/Catchment Zone: Coromandel
EIF Contribution: \$15,507.60 (\$11,557.50 in 2020/2021; \$3,950.10 in 2021/2022)
Duration of Funding: 2 years

The Rings Beach Wetland Group (RBWG) was established in 2008 by volunteers who had a vision of restoring the 270 ha Matarangi Bluff Scenic Reserve into a regenerating native forest and community asset. Today RBWG continues to maintain 10km of walking tracks through the reserve, traplines in 75% of the reserve, native tree planting in the area surrounding the wetland and weed and wilding pine eradication. This project aims to establish a new trapline around part of the boundary of the reserve, with the goal being to create a 'perimeter cordon' encompassing the entire

reserve boundary against predator intrusion. The EIF grant will be used to fund a contractor to cut tracks as well as to purchase a range of traps.

KAPOWAI KIWI CARE GROUP

Project: Kapowai Kiwi Care
District/Catchment Zone: Coromandel
EIF Contribution: \$18,720 (\$9,360 in 2020/2021; \$9,360 in 2021/2022)
Duration of Funding: 2 years

The Kapowai Kiwi Care Group (KKCG) was set up in 2003 to provide a low intervention, low cost approach to protect a small Coromandel Brown kiwi population in the Kapowai Valley area. Evidence indicates that the population has grown since the programme started by up to 13%, maintaining a breeding corridor between the Whenuakite kiwi area and the Coromandel Forest Park. The two main activities of the organisation include the trapping of mustelids and refilling of bait stations on a four-weekly cycle and an annual kiwi listening survey to establish and estimate of the kiwi population and habitat location over time. The EIF grant will be used to fund the cost of a contract-trapper.

MERCURY BAY ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

Project: MBET 2020 to 2023 Work Plan
District/Catchment Zone: Coromandel
EIF Contribution: \$17,850 (\$5,950 in 2020/2021; \$5,950 in 2021/2022; \$5,950 in 2022/2023)
Duration of Funding: 3 years

Mercury Bay Environmental Trust (MBET) is a community trust operating in Whitianga and focusing on a range of environmental activities. MBET's purpose is to conserve and enhance the natural environment specifically focusing on the Mercury Bay area along the east coast of the Coromandel Peninsula. The trust's work plan for 2020-2023 covers a range of activities such as riparian planting, monitoring traplines for project kiwi, kauri reforestation, restoration of the Taputapuatea sandspit, replanting the Comers Road fire site and maintenance of the Waitaia Loop Track. The trust also operates a small nursery that provides plants and education for their projects. The EIF grant will go towards the nursery-related labour costs for the coordinator as well as potting mix.

WESTERN FIRTH CATCHMENT GROUP

Project: Miranda Stream Headwaters Biosecurity Area
District/Catchment Zone: Hauraki
EIF Contribution: \$15,966.50 (\$7,983.25 in 2020/2021; \$7,983.25 in 2021/2022)
Duration of Funding: 2 years

Western Firth Catchment Group (WFCGT) is a charitable trust comprising farmers and landowners with the objective of improving water quality and biosecurity in the Western Firth catchment near Miranda. The Trust is working with Living Waters which is a DoC and Fonterra partnership and have undertaken significant planting and planning primarily in the Pukorokoro Miranda Stream catchment. This project is aiming to install more bait stations in the Miranda Stream Catchment as it contains locally significant areas of kanuka gullies with tui and kereru and these species, as well as the seabirds, will benefit from the predator control in the catchment. This EIF grant will be used to fund the cost of bait stations as well as contributing towards some of the bait costs.

HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Project:	Aorangi Reserve Forest and Stream and the Waikino Domain
District/Catchment Zone:	Hauraki
EIF Contribution:	\$10,000
Duration of Funding:	1 year

Hauraki District Council's Community Services Team works closely with volunteer groups and advocates for the community and for this project are working with two community organisations to restore two district council recreation reserve sites. The proposed activities for Aorangi reserve include the removal of pest plants, planting of suitable native forest and wetland species and ongoing pest plant and animal control. For Waikino Domain the proposed activities include expanding on a previous planting project carried out by the community and to encompass additional areas with native planting and fencing. The EIF grant is being used to purchase some of the contractor costs, plants and materials for the Aorangi Reserve project.

TURUA HALL AND DOMAIN COMMITTEE

Project:	Restoration of the Turua Domain Remnant Kahikatea Grove
District/Catchment Zone:	Hauraki
EIF Contribution:	\$10,000
Duration of Funding:	1 year

The Turua Hall and Domain Committee provides general community support for the residents of Turua township and has been in existence since the 1950s. The aim of this project is the renovation and restoration of a small remnant of the Hauraki Plains kahikatea forest and aims to address a number of threats including animal pests, weeds, trampling of roots, access fencing and size/sustainability issues. The EIF grant will go towards funding some of the costs of this restoration project such as the construction of walkways to protect tree roots, improved fencing, and for the forest footprint to be expanded.

KING COUNTRY RIVERCARE INC

Project:	KKRC "Kick Start"
District/Catchment Zone:	West Coast
EIF Contribution:	\$10,000
Duration of Funding:	1 year

King Country River Care (KCRC) is a farmer-driven organisation formed in 2018 looking to embed a resilience approach to future planning by enhancing soil productivity, aquatic ecosystem health and indigenous biodiversity. KCRC provides leadership, coordination, and support to seven sub-catchment groups over a total area of 1,444km² including Awakino, Mokau and upper Mangaokewa catchments. The EIF grant will contribute towards some of the coordinator wages to facilitate and enable the achievement of the organisation's objectives.

WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL

Project:	The Tamariki Biocontrol Educational Project
District/Catchment Zone:	Central Waikato
EIF Contribution:	\$22,600 (\$8,475 in 2020/2021; \$14,125 in 2021/2022)
Duration of Funding:	2 years

Waikato District Council (WDC) works closely with volunteer groups and advocates for the community for ecological projects in their district. For this project WDC is working with Manaaki Whenua- Landcare Research and Enviroschools, to undertake a pest plant bio-control programme with up to 14 schools in the Waikato District. The project will focus on the Honshu white admiral butterfly, a bio-control agent for Japanese Honeysuckle. This is primarily an environmental education project that aims to promote an alternative, more sustainable and less costly means of control of an important pest plant species. The EIF grant will be used to fund an environmental education programme focusing on pest plant biocontrol including training, caterpillar purchase and materials for enclosures.