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WWF- New Zealand

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION FUND APPLICATION GUIDELINES

2020

Purpose

This is a guide for organisations who wish to apply to the Community Conservation Fund (CCF) for financial assistance for projects. It outlines the process for applying to the CCF, the criteria used to assess applications and WWF New Zealand's priorities for CCF projects.

About the Community Conservation Fund

WWF believes that providing assistance to communities to take conservation action is vital to conserving biodiversity in New Zealand.

The CCF funds a range of activities that help to protect or restore priority habitats in New Zealand. It is targeted at established community groups with a proven track record of delivering conservation and restoration projects.

WWF is the Environmental Funding Manager for the [Tindall Foundation](#) and has run the CCF in partnership with them since 2000.

Aims of the CCF

- To support community groups delivering local habitat protection and restoration projects protecting and restoring New Zealand's most vulnerable habitats
- To protect and restore habitats that WWF-New Zealand identifies as a priority
- To promote increased coordination of habitat protection and ecological restoration on a catchment or landscape scale
- To raise awareness of biodiversity and conservation in the wider community
- To encourage communities to become guardians of their environment, becoming active partners in protecting, sustaining and restoring our biodiversity for present and future generations
- To increase the scale and effectiveness of community-led conservation action

Eligible Organisations

The CCF awards donations to the following organisations

- Small community groups employing less than five staff (full time equivalent)
- Locally constituted branches of national organisations with their own constitution, management committee and set of accounts

Your organisation must

- Be based and operating in New Zealand
- Be a not-for-profit entity; either an incorporated society, charitable trust, company limited by guarantee (non-profit only) or a trust set up under legislation covering Maori organisations.
- Have transparent ways of making decisions written down in a constitution or set of rules
- Have a track record, technical competence and experience in conservation, restoration or land management that enables you to deliver the project, or have guaranteed ongoing support from a competent organisation such as DOC, regional councils, NZ Landcare Trust etc.
- Have relevant policies and procedures in place if your group employs staff
- Understand your health and safety responsibilities and have appropriate health and safety systems in place including a health and safety plan specific to this project
- Be solvent and financially sustainable and demonstrate sound financial management having the necessary financial controls in place
- Have your own bank account and demonstrate that you can manage funding from a number of sources, maintaining a clear separation of expenditure and tracking of projects

The following are not eligible to apply for funding

- National or umbrella environmental or conservation organisations employing more than five (full time equivalent) staff. Please Note - locally constituted branches of large organisations, such as Forest & Bird, can apply in their own right
- Individuals or family/whānau groups
- Trading companies or businesses (for-profit organisations)
- Local authorities - territorial authorities, unitary authorities and regional councils
- Government agencies or Crown Entities
- Organisations based or working outside New Zealand
- Organisations whose primary goal is advancing political or religious causes.

Project Criteria

The following criteria are used for assessing project proposals and applicants should demonstrate that they meet these criteria in the application form

- The project must be located in New Zealand
- The application must demonstrate that funds are being directly applied to eligible activities or costs (see below)
- The application demonstrates that the project meets one of the CCF priorities (see below)
- The application demonstrates effectiveness and value for money
- The proposal must demonstrate robust project design, including a project plan with a clear vision and goals, and mechanisms to monitor and evaluate project outcomes (See [WWF's Monitoring Toolkit](#) and [CCF Project Planning Guidance](#) for help with this).
- The proposal must clearly demonstrate how the budgeted activities will contribute to the defined project outcomes
- The project has support from a cross section of the community, including the iwi/hapū with mana whenua in the project's area
- The project is supported by DOC, local or regional council
- Demonstration of a good understanding of risk management, health and safety requirements and other legislative or regulatory frameworks that may impact on its projects (see [WWF Grant H&S Requirements](#) for guidance)
- Permission from the landowner to carry out the proposed work (include as supporting information in the application)
- Projects involving investment in planting, fencing etc. should have a guarantee that the land will be protected in the long-term, preventing changes in land-use that will undermine the project's goals.

Land Tenure

The CCF will support projects on land in a range of tenures including; privately owned, multiply-owned Maori land, local authority land and Crown land in the conservation estate (DOC land). In relation to projects on DOC land the Fund will only support community groups and will not fund activities that DOC is responsible for undertaking as part of its functions under the Conservation Act 1987.

The CCF will fund projects irrespective of the protection status of the land. However, for projects involving ecological restoration involving the planting of native species or fencing, proof will be needed that there is a binding commitment from the landowner to protect these areas in perpetuity (e.g. a covenant). WWF-New Zealand encourages private landowners to protect valuable habitats and remaining remnants of natural vegetation with covenants through the Department of Conservation, Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, local authorities or with Kawenata through the Ngā Whenua Rāhui scheme for Māori owned land.

Eligible Expenditure

The CCF will pay for the following costs and activities relating to habitat protection and ecological restoration projects

- Administration and operational expenses; e.g. wages for positions that are directly applicable to programme delivery – subject to clear and transparent governance and management arrangements
- Development of restoration or management plans (by consultants or staff)
- Pest control (materials/equipment/contractors)
- Weed control (materials/equipment/contractors)
- Costs associated with species translocations or re-introductions including feasibility studies
- Costs associated with the ongoing running of a nursery if this is the most effective method of securing eco-sourced native plants or can demonstrate increased community involvement or awareness raising
- Fencing (materials/contractors)
- Eco-sourced plants and associated preparation and maintenance costs
- Equipment and tools
- Costs associated with monitoring and evaluation of project outcomes
- Volunteer expenses; travel costs, refreshments, tools and equipment, training
- Publicity and promotional materials (posters/leaflets/photos/video production/interpretation signs etc.) and other community outreach and engagement activities that help to raise public awareness of the project in the local community.
- Skill training (facilitation/equipment/materials)

Exclusions

What we do not fund

- Environmental education projects. Groups seeking funding for EE projects can apply directly to WWF-New Zealand's Environmental Education Action Fund (EEAF)
- Awareness raising without a call to action
- Funding for the same or a similar project for more than 3 years consecutively
- Donations to individuals
- Government authorities
- Projects based outside New Zealand or that have impact primarily overseas
- Overseas travel expenses, exchange programmes, conferences etc.
- Urgent or retrospective applications
- Building purchase, repair or construction
- Land purchase or associated costs, and landscaping and ground maintenance
- Capital assets or equipment costing more than \$3000
- Personal loans
- Endowment funds
- Venture Capital Initiatives
- Work that a landowner is required to do by law
- Costs associated with applications or processes under the Resource

Management Act 1991

- Establishment costs of setting up Incorporated Societies, charities or other bodies
- Research or academic projects from outside a community without its direct involvement
- Sponsorships
- Core or public health or disabilities services, medical care and research or equipment expenses, and clinical health initiatives
- Core education; scholarships, equipment, activities etc.
- Sports and recreation activities/projects
- Drama, art or performing art projects
- Religious or political advocacy or advancement
- Animal charities

CCF Priorities

Priorities for CCF funding are

- Areas of lowland biodiversity including:
 - Freshwater environments and their catchments
 - Coastal and dune systems
 - Wetlands and estuarine systems
 - Lowland and coastal forest and scrub communities
 - Coastal and inshore marine habitats
- Habitats of threatened indigenous species
- Remaining remnants of high quality habitat

Additional preference will be given to groups that

- Are working at a wider catchment or landscape-scale and the project has ecological outcomes including:
 - Protecting the integrity of existing good quality habitats
 - Restoring connectivity between existing habitats
 - Providing buffers to remaining habitat remnants
 - Restoring ecological processes
- Are working to meet priorities identified in local biodiversity strategies or action plans (if one exists)
- Create opportunities for local economic development, employment or social development
- Are part of a multi-agency partnership supported by the local or regional council and/or the Department of Conservation
- Are cooperating with or can provide support and advice to other community groups working in their area.

Application Process

Application submission

The Fund will be open from 14 September to 9 October 2020. Applications can be made at any time during the open period. All applications must be submitted before 4pm on Friday 9 October using the [online application form on our website](#).

Please note that the CCF provides one-off annual (1 year) grants of between \$1000 and \$15,000. Previous recipients may re-apply to consecutive funding rounds up to three years, or in some circumstances five years, but repeat funding for recipients is not guaranteed and new applications will need to be made for each successive year.

Please check your records carefully to see if your organisation has already received up to five CCF grants for this or similar projects. Contact WWF if you are unsure whether you are eligible for further funding.

Application assessment

In your application form you need to clearly demonstrate how you meet the Fund criteria and priorities.

If you meet these your application will be assessed by the Fund Advisory Panel in mid-November. This comprises WWF staff and independent advisors. You may be asked to supply additional information in support of your application. This may take the form of supporting letters, operational plans, copies of constitutions, accounts etc.

If you meet the eligibility criteria but the Fund is oversubscribed, we will prioritise applications that best meet Fund priorities. This decision is final and there is no right of appeal. If your application is unsuccessful we will notify you by email. You will be able to reapply to a future funding round.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome by the end of November 2020.

Successful recipients

Donations offered to successful applicants will be subject to a funding agreement between WWF-New Zealand and the recipient, and may be paid in a number of instalments payable at agreed milestones and dependent on progress.

From time-to-time WWF will evaluate the effectiveness of the Fund and an evaluator may contact and interview Fund recipients. Recipients will be required to participate in and cooperate with this process.

For more information

If you have any questions about the CCF criteria please contact WWF on:

Grant Administrator: 027 455 0051

Free Phone: 0800 435 7993

Email: community@wwf.org.nz