

# Department of Conservation Community Fund | Pūtea Tautiaki Hapori

Supporting communities to protect threatened species and ecosystems in Aotearoa.



Kākāriki karaka / Orange-fronted Parakeet. Photo: © Bernert, Sabine



## PURPOSE

The Department of Conservation Community Fund (DOCCF) supports **community-led conservation projects** that protect and restore New Zealand's most threatened species and ecosystems.

For the 2026 funding round, **\$9.2 million** is available to help communities deliver projects that create long term benefits across public and private lands.



## WHO CAN APPLY

**Community-led organisations** such as iwi, hapū, whānau, community conservation groups, and NGOs are eligible to apply.

- Applicants must be legal entities and GST registered.
- Only **one** application per organisation will be accepted.
- Government departments and territorial authorities are **not eligible**.



## ELIGIBILITY

Applications must:

- Focus on protecting and restoring **threatened species and/or threatened ecosystems**.
- Have support from **iwi, hapū, or whānau**.
- Seek a minimum of **\$150,000** for projects of **up to 3 years**.
- Include a minimum contribution of **50% of in-kind and/or co-funding**.



## ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed on:

- Benefits for the **target threatened species/ecosystems** and wider conservation benefits.
- Project **readiness, capacity and capability** to deliver the project successfully and on time.
- **Sustaining biodiversity benefits** beyond the funding period.
- How the project will enable **iwi/hapū/whānau to act as rangatira and kaitiaki**.
- **Iwi/hapū/whānau input into and support** for the proposed activities.
- Level of contribution towards the project (**in-kind and/or co-funding**).
- **Community engagement and collaboration**.



## WHAT TO EXPECT

The DOCCF is a **contestable** fund and is highly oversubscribed. Demand often exceeds funding available. Meeting the eligibility criteria **does not** guarantee funding.



Department of  
Conservation  
Te Papa Atawhai