

# INFORMATION SHEET

## Mātauranga Kura Taiao Fund

*Read this information sheet to help you determine whether the Mātauranga Kura Taiao Fund is suitable to fund your project proposal and whether your organisation has the capacity to meet the obligations of the Fund.*

### About the Mātauranga Kura Taiao Fund

Ngā Whenua Rāhui exists to protect the natural integrity of Māori land and to preserve mātauranga Māori, so that the values, stories and history associated with our natural taonga are not lost to the world. Ngā Whenua Rāhui is the Government's affirmation of the status of tangata whenua and their tino rangatiratanga to assist Māori landowners in the protection of their indigenous environment. A governing committee (now known as the Amorangi) formed in 1991 under the guidance of Sir Tumu Te Heuheu, reports directly to the Minister of Conservation.

Ngā Whenua Rāhui offers two funds:

- The Ngā Whenua Rāhui Fund provides protection for Māori landowners through the use of 25-year renewable kawenata (covenants). These legal agreements provide significant operational support to Māori landowners.
- The Mātauranga Kura Taiao Fund seeks to preserve the customs, history and stories associated with Māori land and tikanga.

The Mātauranga Kura Taiao Fund fully affirms spirituality and cultural history as inseparable elements in Māori conservation and indigenous biodiversity initiatives.

Traditionally the transfer of knowledge within whānau, hapū and iwi had always involved expert individuals, tohunga and wānanga. With the advent of time and circumstance, this system of knowledge transfer is gradually declining, and many traditional practices and knowledge are being lost. The Mātauranga Kura Taiao Fund was created to support tangata whenua to preserve their traditional knowledge, tikanga, history, stories and practice through the handing down of that knowledge to future generations.

### What is Indigenous Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth including all flora and fauna, and the ecosystems they form. Indigenous biodiversity is the relationship between all natural living species within the specific area in which they live. Indigenous biodiversity demonstrates the fundamental principle whereby human activity is one of many strands of the web of life where all life forms are connected to each other. Humans share a common whakapapa with animals and plants and are therefore part of nature. The responsibility of people to other living things is expressed in the concept of kaitiaki.

Customary values and practices come from this relationship between ourselves, our landscape, our environment and our natural resources. That relationship reinforces tangata whenua to a specific geographic area.

*Rangatira* in conjunction with *kaitiaki* and *take tūpuna* are central components in the management of indigenous biodiversity.

### What is Mātauranga Māori?

Traditional Māori knowledge about Aotearoa's indigenous biodiversity is knowledge that hapū and iwi have accumulated over the years they have been a part of the whenua. Traditionally, the transfer of knowledge involved expert individuals e.g. tohunga, but modern influences has seen this system gradually decline. This traditional knowledge about Aotearoa's indigenous biodiversity is an important

source of knowledge that is vulnerable to ongoing erosion and loss. Its recognition, use and protection are central to Māori participation in indigenous biodiversity management.

Mātauranga Māori is that knowledge that tangata whenua have accumulated over the years they have been part of the whenua, particularly that mātauranga that relates to te taiao and taonga species associated with Tāne-Mahuta 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 Māori connection to the natural world.

## Who can apply

Applications will be received from any Māori individual or organisation representative of a whanau, hapū or iwi with a legal status (e.g. charitable trust, incorporated society, ahu whenua trust, Māori reservation trust etc).

For more detail, refer to the fund criteria below.

## Fund criteria

The fund's major aims are:

- To protect, preserve and promote traditional knowledge, history, stories and practices of tangata whenua in the management of indigenous biodiversity and natural resources.
- To restore kaitiaki responsibilities to protect the mauri of the whenua and that unites the spiritual, cultural and physical caretaking of our natural resources.
- To increase tangata whenua capacity to retain and promote mātauranga Māori and its use in indigenous biodiversity management.
- To uphold the role of tangata whenua participation in the management of indigenous biodiversity, consistent with customary knowledge and practice.

Applications may cover all taiao and taonga species associated with Tāne-Māhuta and the freshwater realm of Tangaroa which include (but not limited to) whenua, repo, awa, ngahere, manu, ngārara, ika and rongoā.

Project purpose, objectives and outcomes must align with the Fund's kaupapa and criteria and must relate to indigenous biodiversity management.

Applications for funding will be considered against the following criteria:

- Applications focus primarily on cultural resilience, maintenance and practice.
- Applications that relate to the revival, use and retention of traditional Māori knowledge and its practical use in the management of indigenous biodiversity.
- Projects incorporate traditional knowledge and practice in indigenous biodiversity management.
- Projects involve tohunga, kaumātua or pukenga in the transmission of knowledge and tikanga.
- Projects include a practical hands-on approach to the application of mātauranga Māori.
- Applications that demonstrate how it will pass on and retain the traditional knowledge and practices for the benefit of future generations.
- Projects that develop initiatives for tangata whenua to become involved in shared management of cultural and natural values.
- The risk to loss of mātauranga Māori or taonga species.
- Projects that include the recording and transmitting of oral tradition and practice for current and future generations.
- Projects that are part of a wider programme or initiative of indigenous biodiversity or natural resource protection.

Applications that are less likely to be funded include projects:

- with no tohunga, pukenga or kaumātua involvement
- that utilise non-Māori experts as their sole or main source of knowledge
- with a primarily non-Māori academic focus
- whose primary activity is research based with no practical, or long-term plan for the application of mātauranga Māori
- that are primarily concerned with western scientific methods of indigenous biodiversity protection
- wānanga, with no long-term plan in place for practical application of the knowledge gained

### **What cannot be funded?**

- Fencing only or planting only projects
- Conference fees, travel and accommodation
- Legal or accounting expenses
- Commercial organisations
- Projects that accrue profit to the applicant, project sponsor or any associated individual or entity
- Retrospective costs (projects that have been completed or costs committed before signing successful application terms & conditions)
- Land purchase
- Salaries or wages
- Projects that require but have not been granted resource consent
- Any remedial works or activities required as conditions of a resource consent
- Projects receiving funding from another source (unless the funding is being applied for a different purpose within the same project and is not being funded from elsewhere)
- Tertiary fees or scholarships
- Local government or central government departments for activities deemed their responsibility

### **How are applications assessed?**

Applications are assessed according to how well applications meet the following:

- (a) How well the application meets the Fund Criteria.
- (b) The use and inclusion of tohunga, kaumātua and pukenga in delivery of the project outcomes and in particular, the transfer of mātauranga Māori.
- (c) The capability of the applicant to deliver the project outcomes and the likelihood of the project's success.
- (d) Whether the applicant is actively involved in the project and contributing e.g. in the form of materials, labour, education or financial contribution.

### **When is the fund open, what are the closing dates?**

The Mātauranga Kura Taiao Fund does not have opening and closing dates. The Amorangi of Ngā Whenua Rāhui meet up to four times a year to consider applications. You may need to allow for up to four months before you hear whether your application for funding was successful.

### **What should I do if we get funding from another source for the same project we've applied to this Fund for?**

If your project secures funding from another source subsequent to your application to our Fund, you must inform us as soon as possible. This will not disqualify you from consideration for MKT fund support. However, if your application is successful, the amount of funding your project receives may be adjusted.

## **Can we change the purpose for the use of funds?**

No, if you want to change the purpose for which your application was approved you must return the funds in full and then reapply for new funding on a fresh application form. The new application will then be considered on its merits.

## **Is there a limit to the amount of funding I can apply for?**

There is no set limit to the amount of funding a project can apply for. The requested amount of funding should reflect costs that are reasonable and necessary for implementation of the project and successful achievement of its outcomes. Grants amounts are considered against available funds.

## **How many years of funding can I apply for?**

You can apply to fund a one-off event or for a project that runs over multiple years. If your project is multi-year, the total funding requested in your application should reflect the sum of the funding you would like to receive across all the years of the project. MKT will fund your project up to three years at which time the project outcomes will be reviewed. If further funding is necessary to complete your project, this must be negotiated.

## **What supporting information must be submitted with the application?**

First time applicants need to supply a copy of their organisation's rules (e.g. trust deed, marae charter or constitution) or a certificate of incorporation, charitable trust certificate or other evidence of your organisation's legal status.

All applicants need to supply at least two letters of support. These letters might be from a kaumātua, tohunga or pukenga from your local marae, a governing body, an organisation that you are affiliated to or a community organisation or network. The letter should state support for the work of your organisation and the project you are applying for. It should also endorse that your organisation is in a good position to deliver the project. These letters need to be recent within at least the last three months.

If your application is not fully completed or we don't receive all of the information we require at the time your application is submitted, your application will be put on hold until this information can be provided to us.

## **How will we know if our application has been successful?**

Once your application has been received, it will be assessed to determine if it meets the Fund Criteria and that all required documentation is attached. You will be advised if it is ready to be forwarded to the Amorangi for a decision at their next meeting or if further work to your application is required.

## **Timeframes and funding decisions**

You can make an application for a grant at any time of the year. Your application will be assessed and prepared for the next meeting of the Amorangi. The Amorangi meet up to four times a year.

You may also apply to the Fund more than once a year. If you are applying to fund a separate project, your application will be assessed as per usual. If you are applying for further funding for the same project, you will be contacted to discuss this further.

There is no limit to the amount of times you can apply.

Once your application has been submitted and assessed, generally the time-frame for a funding decision will be ten weeks once we have all the completed information.

## **Are there any conditions if our application is successful?**

Yes. If your application to the Mātauranga Kura Taiao Fund has been successful, there are a number of accountability and reporting requirements that apply. By signing the Terms and Conditions attached to your original application form, you agree to abide by these conditions:

- (a) Grants must only be used for the purpose authorised as stated in your application.
- (b) Grant funds are released in progress payments according to the activity phases and timeframes specified in your application. Properly completed invoices must be supplied before the release of the next progress payment.
- (c) Grant funds must be spent within the timeframes specified in your application. If you require an extension, contact the Kaitakawaenga on 027 3905183 or email [mktfund@doc.govt.nz](mailto:mktfund@doc.govt.nz)
- (d) You are required to submit progress reports 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 (attaching receipts and invoices) detailing how the grant money has been spent.

*Note: Your next progress payment will not be released until we have received the required written and financial reports and your invoice.*
- (e) Unspent funds must be returned to the Mātauranga Kura Taiao Fund. If you wish to use these unspent funds for other costs associated with your approved project, you must get prior approval from the Kaitakawaenga, Mātauranga Kura Taiao. Unspent funds cannot be used for another non-approved project.
- (f) Grant funds cannot be used to pay retrospective costs, i.e. any transactions or costs that are already underway or pre-paid, for example resource orders, deposits and purchases, made prior to approval of the grant. No exceptions.
- (g) You may be requested (with reasonable notice) to provide properly audited accounts related to Mātauranga Kura Taiao funding of your project.
- (h) Failing to comply with the accountability and reporting requirements will jeopardise further grants.
- (i) We reserve the right to publish the names of successful applicants and details of their grants.

## Contact us

If you have any questions about the Fund or require assistance to complete the application form, contact the Kaitakawaenga, Mātauranga Kura Taiao on 027 3905183 or email [mktfund@doc.govt.nz](mailto:mktfund@doc.govt.nz)