



Te Uru Rākau
Forestry New Zealand

The One Billion Trees Programme

Our future, our billion trees





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INTRODUCTION

The New Zealand Government has developed the One Billion Trees Programme to increase current rates of tree planting to reach at least one billion trees over the next decade. The programme is funded by the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) which aims to realise the remarkable potential of the regions of Aotearoa New Zealand.

The programme is led by Te Uru Rākau - Forestry New Zealand within the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and supports landowners to grow both native and exotic trees to create employment and workforce development, optimise land use, mitigate climate change, support Māori values and aspirations, protect the environment and support New Zealand's transition to a low emissions economy.

There is a focus on lowering the planting barriers currently faced by landowners and improving incentives to support the right trees, in the right place, for the right purpose, and create wider social, environmental and economic benefits across New Zealand.

We will also look at how we partner with New Zealanders to achieve this goal through research, innovation and sector development initiatives.

The programme will harness and build on the afforestation and land management work already underway with landowners, Māori, regional councils, researchers, community organisations, and local communities.

THIS DOCUMENT

This document outlines the types of funding available under the One Billion Trees Programme, including an overview of what you need to consider to prepare and submit an application.

This document also provides an overview of other funding available for planting trees outside of the One Billion Trees Programme which may complement your planting project.

More information on the One Billion Trees Programme, including how to apply and the different funds, can be found here: www.teururakau.govt.nz

Whakapūpūtia mai ō mānuka, kia kore ai e whati.
Cluster the branches of the mānuka, so they will not break.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ONE BILLION TREES PROGRAMME

The One Billion Trees Programme will deliver improved social, environmental and economic outcomes for New Zealand. It will also play a significant role in moving towards a low emissions economy.

Government's role – through Te Uru Rākau (Forestry New Zealand) – is to support increased planting of a wide range of both native and exotic species to create benefits for all New Zealanders.

Why plant trees?

Trees offer a wide range of benefits to landowners, communities, catchments, regions and New Zealand including helping to:

- improve land productivity;
- tackle environmental issues like erosion;
- reduce the effects of climate change by absorbing CO₂;
- improve water quality;
- provide important habitats for a range of native species;
- enhance natural landscapes;
- provide another source of income from timber, honey and carbon credits;
- support wellbeing and create jobs and careers for our people.

STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME

Increased tree planting will occur through a variety of mechanisms.



One Billion Trees Fund

1. Direct landowner grants

- providing incentives and reducing the barriers to planting.

2. Partnership projects

- supporting increased planting by considering the role of innovation and workforce initiatives;
- looking at options to scale up some native regeneration projects.



Matariki Tu Rākau

- Planting living memorials to honour our New Zealand Defence Force members, past and present.



Crown Forestry

- entering into joint ventures or leases with landowners (such as farmers) to plant commercial forestry.



1. DIRECT LANDOWNER GRANTS

The One Billion Trees Fund will provide simple and accessible direct grants towards the cost of planting and establishing trees and native regeneration. The grants programme has a goal to support native tree planting initiatives – and will be targeting two-thirds of funding towards this.

Grants are available for landowners or organisations who have the legal right to plant on the land and can commit to maintaining the planting project for a minimum period (typically ten years).

Through these grants, you can plant trees to create more diversity on your land, reduce erosion, improve water quality, enhance biodiversity and/or develop Māori owned land. Funding wholesale conversion of farms to forestry is not an objective of the Fund.

Applications can be submitted all year round. We will aim to assess all applications within two months of receipt.

To support a strong application to the Fund, we encourage providing sufficient evidence that the proposed planting is suitable for the site and that it has a good chance of success.

Talk to us

If you have any questions please contact us at **0800 00 83 33** or **1bt@mpi.govt.nz** to discuss potential opportunities.

WHAT CAN I RECEIVE A GRANT FOR?

You can apply for any or all of the four tree planting grant categories

Type of planting	Size	Base rate/hectare	Top-up available/hectare		
			Erosion prone land OR land in areas that support regional development goals	Fencing	Ecological restoration partnership projects (see p.9)
Indigenous mix (e.g. a mix of native trees and shrubs)	1 – 300 hectares	\$4000	\$500	Up to \$500	Up to \$2000
Mānuka/kānuka (particularly for erosion control or as a nurse crop for an indigenous forest)	5 – 300 hectares	\$1800	\$500	NA	NA
Indigenous natural regeneration (e.g. retiring land and managing it to naturally return back to trees)	5 – 300 hectares	\$1000	\$500	Up to \$500	NA
Exotic (e.g. planting eucalypts, redwoods or pinus radiata to stabilise erosion-prone land)	5 – 300 hectares	\$1500	\$500	NA	NA

- You can apply for multiple areas within a single application but each area must be at least one hectare.
- We will consider applications to establish more than 300 hectares in one year on a case-by-case basis and lower grant rates may be negotiated.

Your project may be eligible for top-up rates if you are:

- undertaking assisted regeneration or planting mixed indigenous species, and fencing is necessary to protect your planting: up to 50 percent of actual and reasonable costs of fencing (capped at \$500/hectare);
- planting on land with a high or very high erosion risk¹ or land in a surge² region that faces very high establishment costs: top-ups of up to \$500/hectare;
- a partnership planting project with ecological restoration objectives: top-ups of up to \$2,000/hectare and assistance with other project costs (see page 9).

Can I register in the ETS if I receive a grant?

- Being eligible to receive a grant does not guarantee that your trees will be eligible to be registered in the ETS. Let us know in your application if you are interested to register in the ETS in the future, and we can send you information about the eligibility criteria that you will need to meet.
- If your trees are eligible to be registered in the ETS then you may do so immediately if you wish, unless you are planting pinus radiata.
- If you are planting pinus radiata, then you will not be able to register your forest in the ETS for six years from, and including, the year of planting.

¹ You may be eligible for a top up if your land is high or very high erosion risk under the Erosion Susceptibility Classification (ESC) or if you provide any other farm-scale mapping or modelling with your application that identifies your land as high erosion risk. You can view the ESC of your land at <https://www.teururakau.govt.nz/growing-and-harvesting/forestry/national-environmental-standards-for-plantation-forestry/erosion-susceptibility-classification/>

² While projects can be funded in any region, the surge regions in the Provincial Growth Fund are identified as Northland, Bay of Plenty, East Coast, Hawke's Bay, Manawatu-Wanganui, and the West Coast of the South Island.

- If you are interested in registering your grant area in the ETS in the future, then we can provide you with more information about the ETS and its specific eligibility criteria. You can also access this information at www.mpi.govt.nz/ets

Right tree, right place, right purpose

To ensure a strong application to the Fund, your proposal needs to be consistent with the principle of the right tree in the right place for the right purpose. You'll need to provide evidence of the suitability of your planting for the site and that it is likely to succeed. You will need to include a management plan.

Tip: You can find examples of a management plan and planting plan at www.teururakau.govt.nz

More details on eligibility and how to apply can be found at www.teururakau.govt.nz

Talk to us

If you have any questions please contact us at **0800 00 83 33** or 1bt@mpi.govt.nz to discuss potential opportunities.

Whatungarongaro te tangata toitū te whenua.
As man disappears from sight, the land remains.



INTEGRATING TREES INTO FARMING LANDSCAPES

The new One Billion Trees Fund can assist farmers to integrate trees into their landscapes.

Justin and Mary Vennell are fifth generation local farmers in Rewa, Manawatu. They run a 489 hectare farm with 4,500 sheep and beef units along with 80 hectares of forestry.

Due to the farm's steep terrain, it is prone to erosion and slips. However, the Vennells have worked with Ministry for Primary Industries and Horizons Regional Council to create a Whole Farm Plan, which identifies actions to address erosion, and planted different varieties of trees across their farm to reduce these risks.

Over the years, the Vennells have undertaken afforestation, managed retirement, riparian retirement and gully planting, wetland establishment, and are seeing the positive difference it is making to their landscape.

To date, they have:

- planted 57,000 cypress, eucalyptus, poplar poles, natives and regenerating mānuka;
- built 7,747m of fencing, protecting mostly riparian areas and a new wetland development;
- ensured 77 percent of the top priority land and 26 percent of the high priority land has been treated.

Once fully established, this is expected to result in 70–90 percent erosion reduction on planted land, as well as a 32 percent reduction in sediment loss from the farm, ensuring more effective land-use options for the Vennells and a more efficient working farm.

The new One Billion Trees Fund will look to create further incentives to integrate trees on farms like the Vennells have done.

A photograph of a dense forest with tall, slender trees and large ferns. The ground is covered in brown mulch. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

*We need to look after the land
and leave it in a better state than what we
found it. After all, it's our livelihood
– Justin Vennell.*

2. PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

Any individual, non-government organisation, Māori organisation, company, charity, research organisation, or council can apply for a partnership grant under the One Billion Trees Fund. New Zealand companies, including those that are foreign-owned, may be eligible if they are looking to make investments in New Zealand.

Central government organisations may be a partner to a project, but not the applicant or direct recipient of funding.

Priority areas

Partnership grants will prioritise initiatives that support some of the following outcomes:

- Increased sustainable regional development through forestry and tree planting activities.
- Increased productivity and innovation in forestry and related sectors.
- Improved support of Māori aspirations to utilise their land and resources through trees and forestry.
- Enhanced environmental sustainability through the establishment of trees and forests, in particular:
 - reduced erosion and improved water quality, particularly in at-risk catchments;
 - enhanced indigenous biodiversity through restoration of natural forest.
- Increased employment, training or work readiness for the sector's workforce for forestry and land management.

We will also consider a project's contribution to:

- New Zealand's ability to meet its climate change obligations through the establishment of trees.
- Better-informed tree planting decisions, through improved information, advice and support for landowners.
- Diversification of productive land uses, including indigenous forestry and continuous canopy forestry.

There are five key areas we are looking to support. These include:

- **Labour and workforce development** – enhanced availability of labour to establish, plant and maintain trees, and an upskilled workforce. This includes improving employment conditions, supporting more young people into forestry sector employment, and building a stronger skills pipeline for the industry.
- **Advice and information for landowners** – improved information, technical advice and extension services to support landowner decision-making, as well as communications to build understanding of and support for the multiple values of forests and different species options.
- **Catchment-based or landscape scale tree planting and restoration projects** – to deliver improved environmental outcomes in relation to erosion control, freshwater quality and biodiversity.
- **Science and research** – including modelling tools to support decision making around land use change and optimal land use, methodologies to increase seedling production and improve seedling quality, and research into overcoming social barriers to tree planting.
- **Seedlings and nursery production** – including identifying opportunities to provide sector-based support that will increase the capability of the nursery industry and supporting initiatives that will deliver the diverse range of tree species required for the programme.
- **Other** – contributing to more trees in the ground, or to the right trees in the right place for the right purpose.

Partners will typically be required to co-fund at least 50 percent of commercial projects. The ratio of co-funding for commercial and non-commercial applications will be negotiable where applications demonstrate the ability to deliver strong social and environmental benefits that would not be achieved without a greater level of public investment.

Tree planting grants for partnership projects:

A partnership project that is directly undertaking the establishment of trees is also eligible to apply for a direct tree planting grant. This may include a catchment-based project or landscape scale ecological restoration.

We encourage any partnership project or third party that is working with landowners directly and is interested to partner around grant delivery to contact us at 0800 00 83 33 or 1bt@mpi.govt.nz to discuss potential opportunities.

More details on eligibility and how to apply can be found at www.teururakau.govt.nz

Talk to us

If you have any questions please contact us at **0800 00 83 33** or 1bt@mpi.govt.nz to discuss potential opportunities.

TREES THAT COUNT CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

Trees That Count is a programme run by Project Crimson Trust. It consists of an online marketplace that connects corporate, philanthropic and public gifting of native trees planters with community, iwi and private planting groups.

The Trust's goal is to motivate New Zealanders to fund or plant as many native trees as possible which aligns strongly with the aims of the One Billion Trees Programme. A \$6.6 million partnership between the One Billion Trees Programme and the Trust will allow them to significantly scale up their efforts to encourage all New Zealanders to plant native trees to mitigate climate change, improve the environment and increase biodiversity, as well as enhance the cultural benefits of increasing native forests in our communities.

The funding enables the Trust to increase its activity to attract funding and increase the size of planting projects across the country. Specific effort is being made in the regions with six regional advisors employed to train and connect land owners, tree funders and planting groups.

This is about more than an investment in trees – it's an investment in people, our regional communities and our environment.



MATARIKI TU RĀKAU

We're marking 100 years on from the end of World War One by supporting native planting initiatives throughout New Zealand.

We expect up to 350,000 trees to be planted through Matariki Tu Rākau events between 2018 to 2020. If you have a community-led planting initiative or are thinking of creating one, get in touch. You could be a school, community group, marae or private landowner.

Get involved

To get involved, contact your local council, RNZRSA, or marae to find out if they have planned anything for your area, or to get things started.

If you'd like to apply, you can head to www.teururakau.govt.nz where you can find the application form for Matariki Tu Rākau.

Planting living memorials

More than 800 volunteers took part over two days at Manukau's Puhinui Reserve to plant more than 50,000 native trees and shrubs, including 12,000 kahikateas.

Working in partnership with the community, this initiative has created a living memorial to past, present and future Defence personnel.

The commemorative planting event moves us closer towards the goal of planting up to 350,000 trees in partnership with communities to create living salutes to our brave defence personnel.



Whāia te iti kahurangi ki te tūohu koe me he maunga teitei.

Seek the treasure you value most dearly: if you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain.

CROWN FORESTRY JOINT VENTURES

Crown Forestry, a business unit of Te Uru Rākau, is looking for landowners considering commercial radiata pine planting and who have blocks of land that:

- are a minimum size of 200 plantable hectares;
- have not been plantation forest before;
- have reasonable fertility;
- have easy access within the block and to district roads and state highways;
- have terrain suitable for current forest harvesting systems;
- are identified as suitable for production forestry in the relevant district council and regional council land use and water plans;
- can be controlled by aerial spraying, if there are weeds.

Options are leasing or a joint venture

Crown Forestry will lease the land or enter into a forestry joint venture for a one rotation (30-year) term. The Crown will pay for all establishment and management costs over the lifetime of the crop and pay a negotiated rent to the landowner.

Rents will reflect:

- the quality of the land;
- proximity to ports or wood processing plants;
- the costs Crown Forestry expect to pay over the lifetime of the crop.

Rental can be structured as an annual rental, a share of the net profit at time of harvesting, or a mix of both.

The landowner will retain all rights to any carbon credits.

Any areas of regenerating native forest within the block would be left as unplanted enclaves within the forest.

The process we'll follow

Crown Forestry will carry out a brief screening of nominated land. If it appears suitable we will prepare a forestry feasibility study that will include a full financial report. This information will be shared with the landowner and will form the basis of a lease or forestry joint venture proposal for the landowners to consider. Proposals will be tailored to reflect local issues. Once an agreement has been reached Crown Forestry will commence forestry operations on the land.

Get in touch

If you are interested, email crown.forestry@mpi.govt.nz or visit:

www.mpi.govt.nz/about-us/crown-forestry/helping-achieve-one-billion-trees/

MORE ABOUT THE ONE BILLION TREES PROGRAMME

The One Billion Trees Programme presents a significant opportunity for New Zealand economically, socially and environmentally. It is funded by the Provincial Growth Fund and managed by Te Uru Rākau – Forestry New Zealand.

More information on the Programme and funding available can be found at www.teururakau.govt.nz

Talk to us

If you are unsure whether your project is eligible for a grant, partnership or Crown Forestry relationship or you need further advice to help shape up your planting project, you can call us on **0800 00 83 33** or email **1bt@mpi.govt.nz** to help us understand your proposal and eligibility.



Kaua e rangiruatia te hāpai o te hoe; e kore tō tātou waka e ū ki uta.
Do not lift the paddle out of unison or our canoe will never reach the shore.

OTHER FUNDING AND PROGRAMMES AVAILABLE

In addition to the One Billion Trees Programme there are a range of other funding and programmes available which may complement your planting project. These include:

Emissions Trading Scheme for forests

If you have exotic or native forest on your land, or are considering planting trees, you may want to think about whether the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) is right for you.

Forests which meet certain eligibility criteria can be registered with the ETS to earn carbon credits as they grow and store carbon.

You can access a range of information about the ETS at www.mpi.govt.nz/ets. You can also call us on **0800 CLIMATE (254 628)** or email climatechange@mpi.govt.nz if you have questions.

Assistance from regional councils

Many regional councils have funding or other assistance available for planting projects to control erosion, establish riparian margins and enhance biodiversity. Contact your regional council to see what assistance may be available. This includes funding through the Hill Country Erosion Fund.

Ngā Whenua Rāhui Fund

The Ngā Whenua Rāhui Fund supports the protection of indigenous ecosystems on Māori-owned land through the use of 25 year renewable kawenata (covenants).

Visit the Department of Conservation website www.doc.govt.nz, call **0800 112 711**, or email kaitakawaenga@doc.govt.nz for more information.

DOC Community Fund – Pūtea Tautiaki Hapori

The DOC Community Fund is an annual \$4.6 million fund directed at practical, on-the-ground projects which maintain and restore the diversity of our natural heritage and enable more people to participate in recreation, engage with conservation and value its benefits. The fund is open to landowners, community groups, umbrella organisations, and whānau, hapū and iwi groups. Visit the Department of Conservation website www.doc.govt.nz, call **0800 862 020**, or email doccf@doc.govt.nz for more information.

Afforestation Grants Scheme

With the launch of the One Billion Trees Fund, the final round of MPI's Afforestation Grants Scheme has now been completed and no further applications will be received through this scheme. The new One Billion Trees Fund allows for more flexibility, including applications all year round.

Erosion Control Funding Programme

The Gisborne district has a severe erosion problem – 26 percent of Gisborne district's land is susceptible to severe erosion, compared with only 8 percent of all land in New Zealand. MPI provides funding through the Erosion Control Funding Programme (ECFP) to Gisborne district landholders and community groups to help reduce wide-scale erosion problems in the Gisborne district. Grants to landowners will now be administered through the One Billion Trees Fund, while community groups are still encouraged to apply to the ECFP.

Trees That Count

Trees That Count invites community groups and avid tree planters to apply for trees for the upcoming planting season.

To apply for trees, you must register with Trees That Count. Head to www.treesthatcount.co.nz for more information.

Māori Agribusiness – Pathway to Productivity (MAPIP) Programme

The MAPIP Programme is dedicated to partnering with Māori to sustainably increase the productivity of their primary sector assets such as agriculture, horticulture, forestry, or seafood that are in collective ownership. It has a specific focus on tangible on-the-ground projects that will lead to increasing their productivity. Visit www.mpi.govt.nz/funding-and-programmes/maori-in-the-primary-industries/maori-agribusiness/ to find out more, email MAPIP@mpi.govt.nz or visit your local MPI office.



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