

One Billion Trees Fund

Partnership Grants Assessment Criteria

Any individual, non-government organisation, Māori organisation, company, charity, research organisation, or council can apply for funding.

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 for funding

Priority will be given to projects which focus on one or more of the key enabling activities.

Priority area	What we want to know
Labour/workforce development	Will the project result in increased availability of labour to establish, plant and maintain trees, and/or an upskilled workforce?
Information (advice and support)	Will the project result in increased advice and support for landowners through improved information, technical advice and/or extension services?
Tree-planting and restoration on a large scale (this will likely involve multiple landowners within a catchment or landscape)	Will the project contribute to improved environmental outcomes (e.g. erosion control, freshwater quality, biodiversity) on a correspondingly greater scale?
Science and innovation	Will the project improve our knowledge, expertise or technology to support growing, planting and maintaining trees in the right place, for the right purpose?
Seedling production	Will the project contribute to up-scaled and more efficient production of seedlings relative to demand and will it deliver a diverse range of tree species?

Other projects will be considered where they will clearly contribute to more trees in the ground, or to getting the right trees in the right place for the right purpose.

Applications will be assessed for their:

- Contribution to One Billion Trees outcomes.
- Links to Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) and wider government outcomes.
- Connections to regional stakeholders, networks and/or frameworks.
- Ability to achieve additional public benefits, i.e. ones that could not be achieved without assistance.
- Demonstration of suitable project governance.
- Demonstration of ability to deliver, including appropriate project delivery, relevant expertise of the project team, and compliance with relevant good practice.
- Level of co-funding from applicant and third parties.
- Value for money.
- Demonstration of risk management.

If projects include tree planting, applications must also meet the *Eligibility criteria for grant funding*, below.

Your application will be assessed using the following criteria

Criterion	What you need to do
Contribution to One Billion Trees outcomes	<p>Demonstrate that your project has the potential to contribute to one or more of these outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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. <p>We will also consider how your project will contribute to these outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand's ability to meet its climate change obligations through the establishment of trees.

Criterion	What you need to do
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 'Continuous canopy' refers to the system of managing a forest sustainably through selective harvesting of trees, so that a canopy or cover is preserved.
Links to PGF and wider government outcomes	<p>Show how your project aligns with these outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance economic development opportunities • Create sustainable jobs • Enable Māori to reach full potential • Boost social inclusion and participation • Build resilient communities • Lift the productivity potential of regions • Help meet New Zealand's climate change targets • Increased employment and productivity • Enhancement of natural capital
Connections to regional stakeholders, networks and/or frameworks	<p>Provide evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - connections with regional networks, and local support (e.g. from councils, iwi) - discussions/agreement with relevant local stakeholders. <p>We'll consider how your proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - aligns with, or is supportive of, local development plans (e.g. regional council plans), Māori development plans, or similar strategic documents - shows how regional connectivity will improve as a result of your project - uses local contributions, including funding via commercial and non-commercial partnerships.
Ability to achieve additional public benefits	<p>Provide evidence that there will be a demonstrable benefit as a result of our investment.</p>

Criterion	What you need to do
	We will not fund a project that is already underway or which involves maintenance of core infrastructure or which covers activities already funded.
Project governance	Provide evidence of robust project governance, including identifying potential conflicts of interest and how they will be mitigated.
Ability to deliver	<p>Provide details of project execution, including appropriate project delivery, financial planning, and relevant expertise of the project team.</p> <p>We'll consider whether your project demonstrates compliance with relevant good practice, e.g. biosecurity guidelines.</p>
Co-funding (typically at least 50%)	<p>Provide evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - your co-funding; and - third party funding. <p>We'll consider the level of additional funding and in-kind contributions relative to the project outcomes (typically at least 50%).</p> <p>We'll take into account your commitment to the project as shown by your level of co-funding.</p>
Value for money	<p>Provide a detailed budget for the project, making it clear what we are being asked to fund.</p> <p>We will take into account what other funding sources have been explored and whether more funding will be required after this project.</p> <p>Demonstrate a good return on investment and/or benefits that are economic, environmental and/or social.</p> <p>We'll consider the overall value of the outcomes of the successful project.</p>
Risk management	<p>Show that you have identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - any risks posed by the project, including health and safety risks - technical and delivery risks - how risks might be mitigated. <p>We must be satisfied that the level of residual risk is acceptable and that the funding asked for is appropriate for this level of risk.</p>