

Annex 1: Biodiversity Partnership Programme Projects

Biodiversity Collaborations

The seven biodiversity collaboration projects are outlined below.

1. Rangitikei Environment Group

HRC contribution: \$95,000 – targeted rate

The Rangitikei Environment Group (REG) carries out pest plant control works within the Rangitikei District with financial support from Horizons and Rangitikei District Council (RDC). Old man's beard (OMB) is the main focus for REG and work is split between urban, rural and public reserves (including roadsides). Urban sites are tackled in a manner that is almost identical to Horizons' Weedbusters Palmerston North programme. In rural areas, REG encourages and assists OMB Self-Help Groups with control works. REG also undertakes some walking track maintenance and native planting within RDC reserves.

2. Kia Wharite

HRC contribution: \$150,000

This project is a partnership between Horizons, DOC, and local iwi and landholders aimed at improving the health of more than 180,000 ha of private and conservation land within the Whanganui River catchment. It benefits threatened species such as the North Island brown kiwi and whio (blue duck), and has the additional benefit of improving overall biodiversity and forest health.

3. Weedbusters Palmerston North

HRC contribution: \$52,301

Weedbusters is a partnership between Palmerston North City Council, DOC and Horizons. It is a site-led urban weed programme primarily focused on the control of old man's beard, gunnera, wild ginger and banana passionfruit in the greater Palmerston North city and Feilding areas.

The public are our eyes and ears out in the field, identifying infestations and calling our freephone number to report weeds. Our staff visit all reported sites between November and April, control infestations, GPS the sites and log them for follow-up visits in the next control season. Occupiers visited are also given an information pack on weed control.

4. Tawata Mainland Island

HRC contribution: \$50,000

This project comprises approximately 100 ha of forest on land administered by the Tawata Whanau Trust and Taiaoroa I.T. Farm (formerly Titi Tihu Putere Farm). It is on the true left bank of the Whanganui River about 47 km southwest of Taumarunui. Whanganui National Park is on the other side of the river.

The project's goal is to restore the health of the forest, turning it into a wildlife sanctuary suitable for the reintroduction of lost species. With Horizons' support, the forest is now completely fenced off from stock and control is ongoing for possums, rats, mustelids and goats.

5. Waitarere Beach Community Project

HRC contribution: \$7,000 – targeted rate

The Waitarere Beach Progressive & Ratepayers Association (WBPRA) approached Horizons in 2010 about a problem with coastal wattle and other exotics invading the dunes and affecting views and the aesthetic appeal

of the beach. Most of the weeds present were not among the plants that Horizons dealt with under the Regional Pest Plant Management Strategy and, therefore the Council had no mandate to control them.

Horizons commissioned an independent report and presented the findings to a public meeting with the Waitare Beach community. The community agreed to pay a **targeted** rate to Horizons for the purposes of controlling the exotic plants and restoring the native plants on the dunes. The targeted rate has been used to control coastal wattle, yucca, cape ivy, lupin and other unwanted plants and to propagate native spinifex grass for replanting cleared areas of the dunes.

6. Pūkaha Mount Bruce

HRC contribution: \$26,779

Horizons and GWRC operate a possum and predator control buffer zone around the reserve. The Horizons contribution from the Biodiversity Partnerships budget this year is \$26,779 and is spent on pest animal control undertaken by our Regional Response team. Rates funding is.

Pest plant control in the buffer zone, which includes privately owned native forest, is managed by our Biodiversity team. The pest plant work is paid for from the Biodiversity Pest Plant Control budget as this site also features within our Priority Sites programme.

7. Te Āpiti Manawatū Gorge

HRC contribution: \$109,010

The high significance of the Manawatu Gorge to many sectors of the community resulted in a collaborative approach to managing the area with the formation of the Te Āpiti Manawatu Gorge Biodiversity Project 2006-16. This has been further strengthened with the formation, in 2016, of the Te Āpiti Manawatu Gorge Governance Group to support the project. The Governance Group includes representatives from Horizons Regional Council, Department of Conservation, Rangitaane o Manawatu, Rangitaane o Tamaki nui a Rua, Kahungunu ki Tamaki nui a Rua, Palmerston North City Council, Tararua District Council, Manawatu District Council and a community representative.

Community Biodiversity Projects (\$135,852)

The Community Biodiversity project budget provides support for community groups to undertake biodiversity enhancement work. Descriptions of the projects supported under this budget are provided below. Rates funding for this entire budget is 50% General Rate and 50% UAC.

8. Te Potae o Awarua

HRC contribution: \$ 15,000

Te Potae o Awarua roughly translates to 'the protection of the Awarua lands' and is the name given to a joint initiative by the Aorangi Awarua Trust and the Department of Conservation. It is situated in the north-western part of the Ruahine Range in an area of high biodiversity value, and incorporates land administered by both the Trust and DOC. The project has developed into a predator control programme predominantly for protecting whio (blue duck) with benefits also for kiwi. Horizons' funding support helps the Trust with the costs of servicing the stoat lines on their land and also helps with the cost of transporting volunteers to service the lines on public land.

9. Massey Hill

HRC contribution: \$ 5,000

A partnership between Horizons, Massey University, Fergusson Hall Presbyterian Trust and Palmerston North City Council, this project was the response to complaints about the extent of exotic weeds on the site. Weed control is ongoing and thousands of natives have been planted to improve the aesthetics and fill the gaps left by weed removal.

10. Turitea Reserve

HRC contribution: \$ 23,000

This project has an over-arching strategy to protect and enhance biodiversity values in Palmerston North's water supply catchment. It is a partnership with Palmerston North City Council and Horizons provides funding assistance for pest animal control and outcome monitoring within the reserve. Monitoring trends for pest levels and bird recovery have led to the formation of a group to investigate the reintroduction of species to the reserve.

11. Bushy Park

HRC contribution: \$ 20,000

Horizons' funding support assists Bushy Park Trust with the costs of their predator control programme. Additionally to the financial contribution HRC staff also provide advice on pest animal control, pest plant control and wetland restoration.

12. Kahuterawa Stream Biodiversity Restoration Project

HRC contribution: \$ 22,000

A partnership between Horizons, Massey University, C T Keebles Bush Trust, Rangitāne, and the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF). The project aims to enhance the biodiversity values of the Kahuterawa Stream from the bridge at Linton to the confluence with the Manawatū River by revegetating the stream corridor with eco-sourced native plants. Massey University and NZDF provide additional income of \$8,000 each.

13. Foxton River Loop

HRC contribution: \$ 1,000

Advice and funding assistance to the Save Our River Trust and Wildlife Foxton Trust for weed control, revegetation plantings, fencing and environmental education initiatives.

14. Manawatū Estuary & Predator Project

HRC contribution: \$ 8,000

Horizons provides advice and funding assistance to the Manawatū Estuary Management Team for pest animal control, weed control and environmental education initiatives. The pest animal control is a predator trapping programme focussing on mustelids in and around Fernbird Flat and undertaken by our Regional Response Team.

15. Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park

HRC contribution: \$ 8,000

Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park is a valuable wetland forest remnant with strategic importance for the future walkway/cycleway network and recreational opportunities in and around Feilding. Horizons' Biodiversity

Coordinator is an advisory trustee (no voting rights) on the Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust. Horizons provides advice on ecological matters and funding for educational signage, planting and pest plant control.

16. Ahimate Reserve

HRC contribution: \$ 7,000

This reserve was formerly called Waitoetoe Park. Horizons supports the Ahimate Reserve community with planting days, plant maintenance and weed control. Rangitāne and Palmerston North City Council are partners in the project.

17. Gate Pa Bush Restoration

HRC contribution: \$ 1,000

A partnership between Horizons, New Zealand Defence Force and Massey University to protect and enhance one of the rare tōtara titoki forests in our Region. Gate Pa Bush is located within the Ohakea Air Force base. Horizons provides assistance with weed control in the bush.

18. Ohau Beach Walkway

HRC contribution: \$ 1,000

The project is a partnership with Horowhenua District Council and the community to create a walkway from the end of Muhunoa West Road to the beach. There is an opportunity to restore the natural vegetation sequence from the foredune to the road 900 m inland. Horizons will provide advice on restoration planting and funding for weed control and plant propagation.

19. Cape Turnagain

HRC contribution: \$ 10,000

This is a seven-part restoration project on the Cape, focusing on the restoration of coastal vegetation – specifically *Pimelea prostrata*, securing habitat for a moth endemic to Cape Turnagain; the control of invasive pest animal and plant species; and community education. The project runs from Horizons region into Hawke's Bay region. It runs through three properties and stretches along 14 km of rugged coastline. Work is focused on the restoration of 203 ha of coastal treeland, flaxland, dunelands and cliffs which are legally protected by QEII National Trust covenants. The three year project has a total budget of \$144,000 with Horizons committing to \$30,000, split over three years (i.e. averaging \$10,000 per annum) and 2019-20 will be the final year.

20. Moawhango River Willow Clearing

HRC contribution: \$ 5,000

This is an ongoing collaboration with Genesis to remove willows from the banks of the Moawhango River. The Horizons contribution to this project is \$5,000 per annum.

Community Grants (\$21,384)

This programme is designed to help community groups, schools, early childhood centres, and iwi/hapū groups with not-for-profit projects that enhance our region or encourage more people to engage with our natural environment. By providing funding and advice we are able to support the great work these groups do while encouraging more people to think about the ways we interact with our natural environment.

Community Grant applications are sought annually and guidelines have been developed to help determine whether a project could be eligible for a grant.

Iwi Biodiversity Grants (\$15,000)

This fund is designed to support iwi with environmental projects that enhance our Region's biodiversity. This budget may be allocated to other biodiversity work if suitable projects are not located over the year.