

Position Specification

Nature Heritage Fund Committee

On behalf of the Minister of Conservation, we are inviting applications from people with expertise in ecology, biodiversity, land tenure and valuation, and environmental protection, to be considered for appointment to the Nature Heritage Fund Committee.

Nature Heritage Fund Committee

The Nature Heritage Fund (the Fund) helps meet the cost of protecting areas of high ecological value by providing contestable finance for projects that protect ecosystems. The Fund's Committee is an advisory committee established under section 56 of the Conservation Act 1987, to assess applications against the Fund's criteria and provide funding recommendations to the Minister of Conservation.

Core capabilities sought:

The Committee seeks to protect remaining natural indigenous eco-systems of high ecological value for preservation of biodiversity in indigenous flora and fauna, to safeguard their heritage value, and ensure that nature conservation on private land is an integral part of sustainable lands ethics.

Ideal candidates will specifically draw from the following capabilities:

- **Governance:** we are interested in nominees with experience in governance, particularly those that have served on environmental boards or from serving on a crown entity board, with demonstrable ability in consensus building.
- **Ecological expertise:** due to the Committee's technical nature, knowledge of ecology, indigenous terrestrial biodiversity, and conservation would be an advantage.
- **Māori cultural values:** we are seeking nominees with understanding of customary land use, kaitiakitanga, and Māori cultural interests and values.
- **Land tenure and valuation:** understanding of land use and tenure, and familiarity with land valuation would be desirable.

Commitment & Remuneration

Appointments are ordinarily for three-year terms. The Committee meets as required by way of either physical meetings or video conferencing. Board meetings typically require around a day of preparation. Some matters are considered by the Board via circulation, as required. Members receive a daily meeting fee of \$190, and \$250 for the Chair.

Nominations

Please submit your application to the Department no later than 5.00pm on 28 February 2023, by completing the online application form linked below:

- [Nature Heritage Fund Committee nomination form 2023](#)

Any queries should be directed to the Department's Statutory Bodies Team, at nominations@doc.govt.nz.

Current Board composition

Name	Term end	Region
Dr Gerry McSweeney	30 June 2023	Hokitika
Sue Rickman (Chair)	12 July 2023	Hamilton
Paula Smith	30 June 2023	Banks Peninsula
Gina Solomon	12 July 2023	Kaikoura
Aroha Te Pareake Mead	30 June 2025	Wellington

The Fund

[About the Nature Heritage Fund: Funding \(doc.govt.nz\)](#)

The vision of the Fund is to protect indigenous ecosystems that represent the full range of natural diversity originally present in the landscape, through the establishment of a sustainable and interacting system of protected areas.

The Fund provides the finance and negotiates the purchase of areas in need of protection for its clients. It also contributes towards purchases made by local authorities or other agencies prepared to manage protected areas as reserves under the Reserves Act 1977.

Where landowners want to protect natural areas, but not relinquish title to their land, these areas can be covenanted. A covenant is a legal agreement that protects the area, in perpetuity, and is registered against the title of the land. The Fund provides assistance with fencing, survey, and legal costs.

Since 1990 the fund has protected over 349,000 ha of indigenous ecosystem through legal and physical protection (ie direct purchase or covenanting).

The Fund's scope includes all indigenous terrestrial ecosystems that, in their local or national context, are considered important ecologically. It includes indigenous forests, wetlands, tussock lands, and coastal ecosystems on private land. The following four criteria are recognised in determining nature heritage value:

- **Representativeness:** Ensures that viable or sustainable examples of all natural ecosystems are protected by approximately the same proportions in which they were originally present in the natural landscape. The aim is to

protect both common and rare species habitats and communities, and the ecological processes and interactions that link them.

- **Sustainability:** Ensures that the natural values proposed for protection can be sustained within the protected area by determining whether the values for which the area is protected will persist in the long term. Size and shape of the protected area, how well it is protected or buffered from the effects of surrounding land uses, and existing and potential threats are all considered, along with linkages to other protected areas.
- **Landscape integrity:** The extent to which an ecosystem contributes to the original integrity of the landscape. It is important to ensure the original character, context and range of processes that link the various ecosystems are maintained, along with the natural nutrient cycles, energy flows and hydrology.
- **Amenity and utility:** Natural ecosystems contribute to people's physical and spiritual welfare, providing educational, heritage, recreational, tourist and other amenity value. They also contribute ecosystem services including conserving soil, maintaining water quality and supply, and storing carbon and welfare of the (local) people.

~ Whatungarongaro te tangata toitū te whenua ~

~ As man disappears from sight, the land remains ~