



07 December 2020

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, received on 09 November 2020 in which you asked for:

- *How much does each regional alliance expect to receive from the Kaimahi for Nature fund?*
- *How many regional alliances are there expected to receive the fund?*
- *How much of the \$200 million will be allocated outside of regional alliances?*
- *Why was the southern South Island alliance allocated the sum of \$24 million out of the Kaimahi for Nature fund?*
- *How are sums decided to be allocated to regional alliances?*

The Government's Jobs for Nature programme is a multi-agency approach that will see the investment of \$1.245 billion and the creation of 11,000 nature-based jobs over a four-year period. The agencies involved are the Department of Conservation, Land Information New Zealand, Ministry for Primary Industries, Ministry for the Environment, and Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

As a part of the Jobs for Nature programme the Department of Conservation (DOC) has been allocated a total of \$501.5 million to create 6,000 nature-based jobs.

DOC is responsible for three funding streams within the Jobs for Nature programme: Kaimahi for Nature; Restoring Nature; and Protecting Nature. Each funding stream has been approved the following amounts, and our response provides information about the Kaimahi for Nature funding stream:

- Kaimahi for Nature - \$200 million
- Restoring Nature - \$154 million
- Protecting Nature - \$147.5 million

Partnerships are at the heart of Jobs for Nature. DOC is working with our Treaty partners, communities, businesses, local government and government agencies to support people into nature-based employment.



As we understand the changes to the economy as a result of COVID-19, we will continue to review and refine our approach to funding to best support those regions that need it most.

Department of Conservation's Kaimahi for Nature (\$200m) funding stream:

- Kaimahi for Nature has an initial focus on reaching workers before they become unemployed, giving businesses battling COVID-19 an opportunity to temporarily redeploy their staff into environmental projects in their own region. Funding will be delivered with the support of Regional Alliances who identify and prioritise nature-based projects in their region. At a minimum, Alliances or their equivalent shall consist of iwi, regional council and central government representatives, and may include other partners as appropriate.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *How much does each regional alliance expect to receive from the Kaimahi for Nature fund?*

Alliances operate within Regional Council boundaries. This approach enables effective engagement with multiple communities of interest. Please see Appendix One.

2. *How many regional alliances are there expected to receive the fund?*

We expect that in total 20 Alliances will be recognised for the purpose of accessing Kaimahi for Nature funding. Multiple Alliances will be set up within the Bay of Plenty and Manawatu-Whanganui regions, to better meet the needs of these more complex regions.

3. *How much of the \$200 million will be allocated outside of regional alliances?*

\$15 million has been provided for national-scale projects received by the Jobs for Nature Unit. These projects include targeted conservation projects and projects which meet the funding criteria for Kaimahi for Nature and will provide a benefit across more than one region. A 'contingency' has also been held and will be allocated in future years based on how the needs of regions evolve.

4. *Why was the southern South Island alliance allocated the sum of \$24 million out of the Kaimahi for Nature fund?*

The Southern South Island consists of two Alliance regions; Southland and Otago. Both Southland and Otago Alliances chose to work together within one Alliance structure in order to support relevant projects and priorities for their regions. The funding allocations for each regional council boundary has not changed.

5. *How are sums decided to be allocated to regional alliances?*

In June 2020 the Jobs for Nature Unit assessed information from Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Stats NZ and Ministry for Social Development to understand the largest impacted areas following the COVID-19 crisis. The allocations of allotments included assessing both short-term and long-term economic impacts, including the take-up of the wage subsidy and social deprivation.

In the Bay of Plenty and Manawatu-Whanganui the original allowance was then re-allocated, across the multiple Alliances in those regions, based upon social deprivation of local areas within rohe and the percentage of population density in that area.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents will be published on the Department's website.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

If you wish to discuss this with the Department, please contact Caroline Robertson on [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] or by email crobertson@doc.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reg Kemper'.

Reg Kemper
Chief Advisor Jobs for Nature
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Appendix One: Kaimahi for Nature allocations

ALLIANCE	FUNDING ALLOCATED:	ALLIANCE / REGIONAL ENTITY STATUS
Northland	\$ 15,500,000	Being established
Auckland	\$ 13,500,000	Being established
Waikato	\$ 10,500,000	Being established
Bay of Plenty - Okurei	\$ 2,950,000	Established
Bay of Plenty - Kohi	\$ 2,610,000	Being established
Bay of Plenty - Mauao	\$ 4,840,000	Being established
Taranaki	\$ 10,500,000	Established
Gisborne	\$ 12,500,000	Being established
Hawkes Bay	\$ 11,000,000	Being established
Manawatu-Whanganui - Manawatu-Horowhenua	\$ 3,732,985	Being established
Manawatu-Whanganui - Rangitikei-Whangaehu	\$ 1,930,457	Being established
Manawatu-Whanganui - Central Plateau	\$ 2,196,235	Being established
Manawatu-Whanganui - Whanganui	\$ 3,840,323	Being established
Wellington	\$ 6,500,000	Being established



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Northern South Island	\$	12,000,000	Established
West Coast	\$	13,000,000	Established
Canterbury	\$	12,000,000	Being established
Otago/Southland	\$	24,500,000	Being established
Chatham Islands	\$	5,000,000	Established

Note: Bay of Plenty was originally allocated \$12.9M. \$2.5M has been committed to a Bay of Plenty project. The remainder (\$10.4M) was then allocated to 3 Alliances in the Bay of Plenty region as above.

