



# Natural Heritage Fund 2026/27

27 May 2026

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# Natural Heritage Partnership Programme



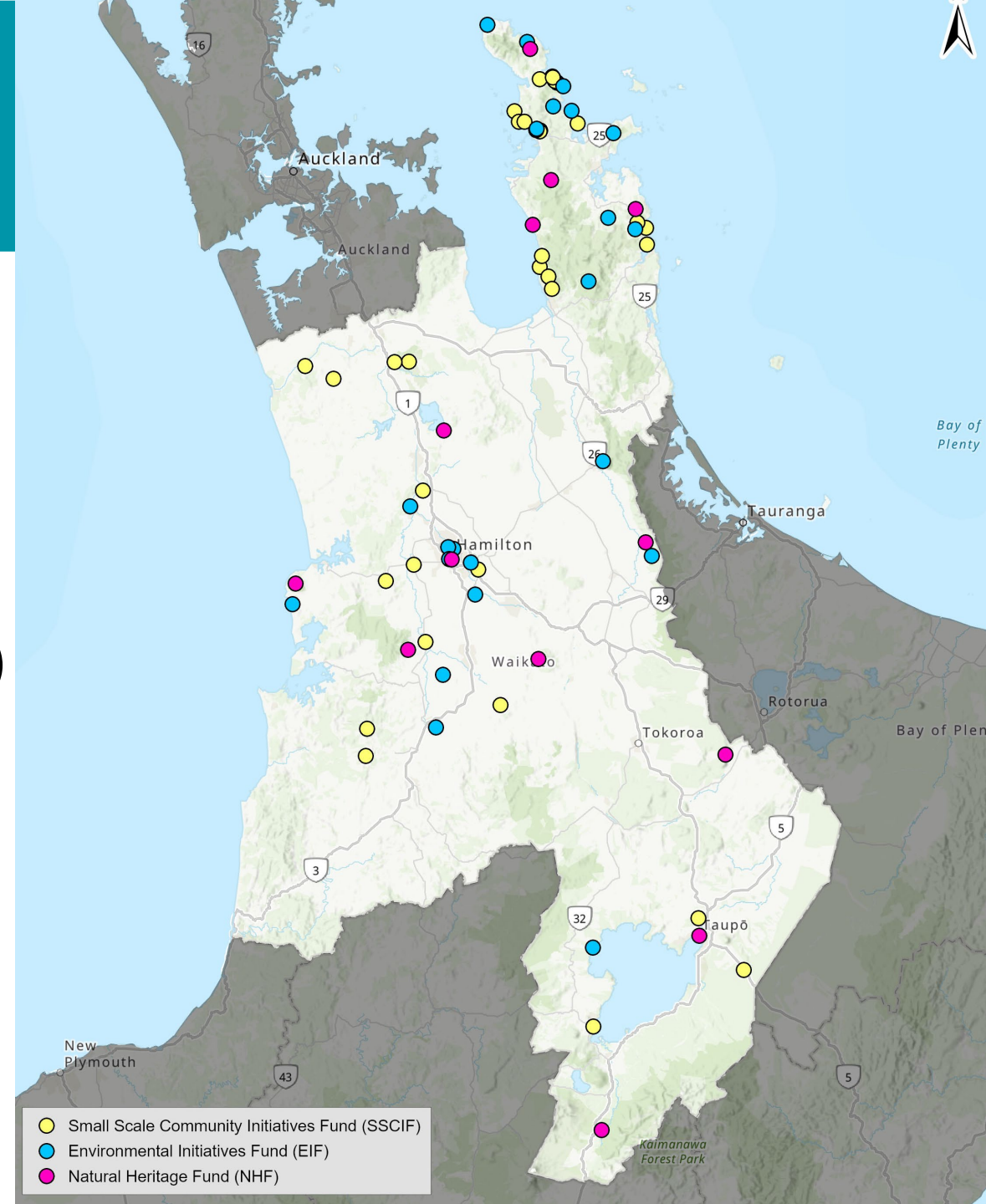
- Natural Heritage Partnership Programme (NHPP) consists of three contestable funds:
  - Natural Heritage Fund (NHF)
  - Environmental Initiatives Fund (EIF)
  - Small-Scale Community Initiatives Fund (SSCIF)
- NHPP funding policy reviewed and approved in 2024

# NHPP revenue

1. Natural Heritage targeted rate - \$15 per property per annum
  - Generates ~\$2.9 million in annual revenue
    - Natural Heritage Fund (80%)
    - Environmental Initiatives Fund (20%)
2. Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) – fixed allocation of \$195,000 per annum to the Small Scale Community Initiatives Fund

# Current NHPP Funded Projects

- Natural Heritage Fund (pink)
- Environmental Initiatives Fund (blue)
- Small Scale Community Initiatives Fund (yellow)

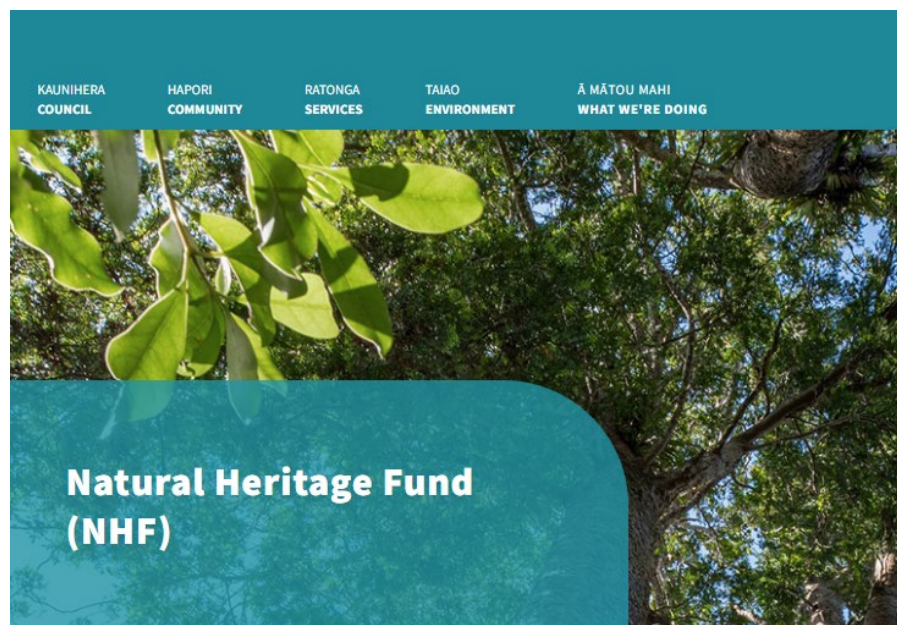


# Natural Heritage Fund - Overview

- Established in 2005
- Supports community led, collaborative projects
- Long term, landscape scale, intergenerational ecological benefits



# Application Process



[Community](#) > [Funding and scholarships](#) > [Natural Heritage Partnership Programme](#) > [Natural Heritage Fund \(NHF\)](#)

The Natural Heritage Fund (NHF) is part of the Natural Heritage Partnership Programme (NHPP).

#### **This fund is currently closed**

**Fund opened:** 27 January 2026

**Fund closed:** 24 February 2026

If you are considering applying, we encourage you to contact the fund manager, Andrew Thomas on (0800) 800 401 or [nhf@waikatoregion.govt.nz](mailto:nhf@waikatoregion.govt.nz) to discuss your project.

For information about the Natural Heritage Partnership Programme (NHPP), subscribe to the [Biodiversity Partnerships bi-annual newsletter](#).

**Waikato**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
Te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Waikato

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### Small Scale Community Initiatives Fund - 2026

[Start a submission](#) [Preview the form](#) [Download preview form](#)

Submissions are now being accepted. Submissions close at 3:00PM 25 May 2026 (NZST).

**IMPORTANT:** Please read information below to assist you in completing your application online.

#### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Welcome to the **Waikato Regional Council** online grant application service, powered by [SmartyGrants](#).

You may begin anywhere in this application form. Please ensure you save as you go.

For queries about the guidelines, deadlines, or questions in the form, please contact us on **0800 800 401** during business hours or email [smallscalefund@waikatoregion.govt.nz](mailto:smallscalefund@waikatoregion.govt.nz) and quote your submission number.

Click [here](#) to view the guidelines.

If you need more help using this form, download the [Help Guide for Applicants](#) or check out [Applicant Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)

#### NAVIGATING (MOVING THROUGH) THE APPLICATION FORM

On every screen (page of the form) you will find a Form Navigation contents box, this links directly to every page of the application. Click the link to jump directly to the page you want.

# Funding Process

## Step 1 – Assessment of applications

Applications are assessed against six criteria:

1. Fit with the Council's regional outcomes, strategic priorities and policies
2. Environmental enhancement
3. Community participation and awareness
4. Collaboration and partnership
5. Viability
6. Value to mana whenua



Photo: Mahakirau Forest Estate

## Step 2 – Moderation panel convenes

- Moderation panel agree recommendations for ICMC

# The role of ICMC

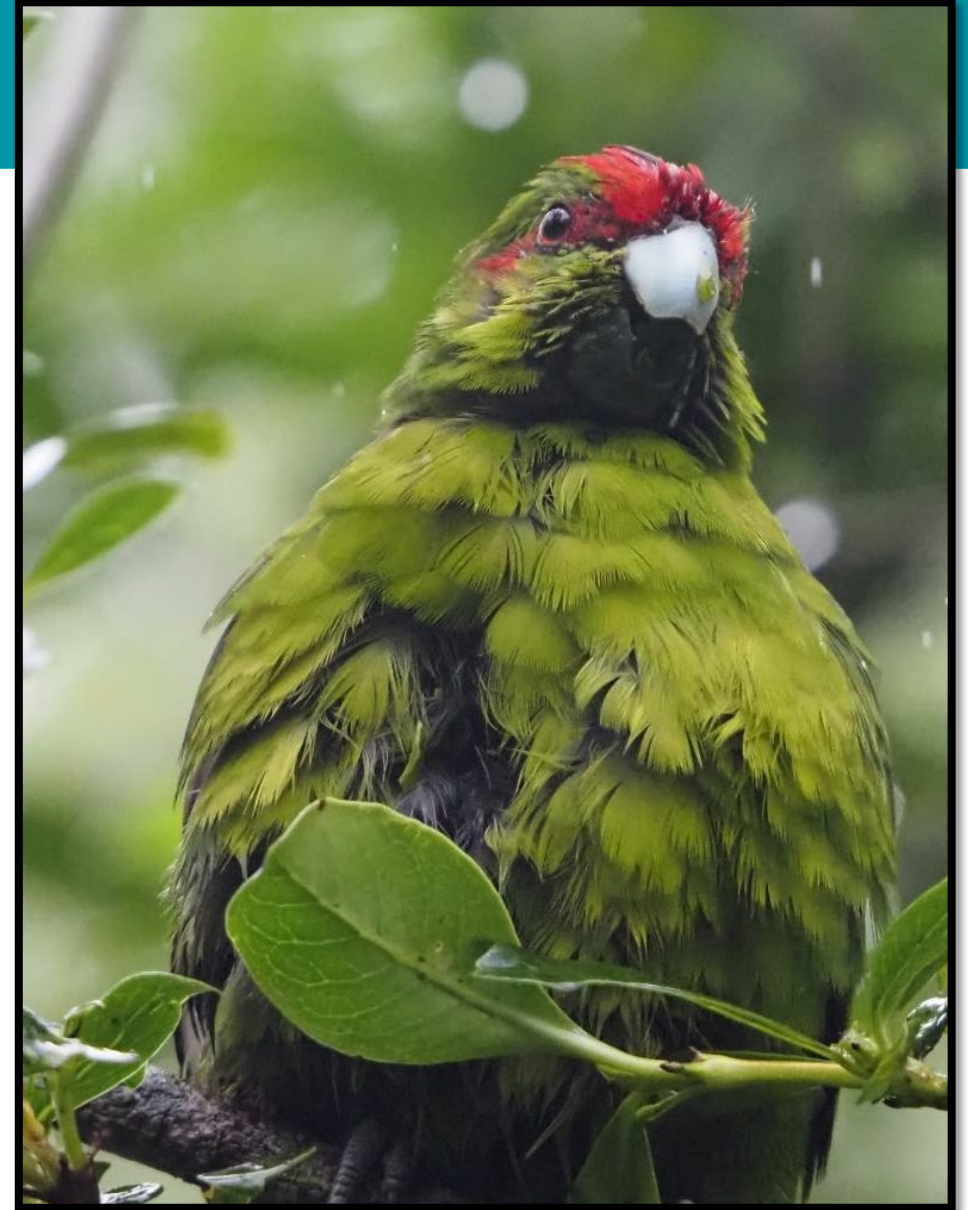


## Step 3 – ICMC Funding Decisions

- Review staff funding recommendations and make the funding decisions

# NHF Funding Overview 2026/27

- Six applications received, requesting a total of \$3,277,797
- \$2,021,122 available for distribution
- \$122,006 put into reserve for distribution in 2027/28

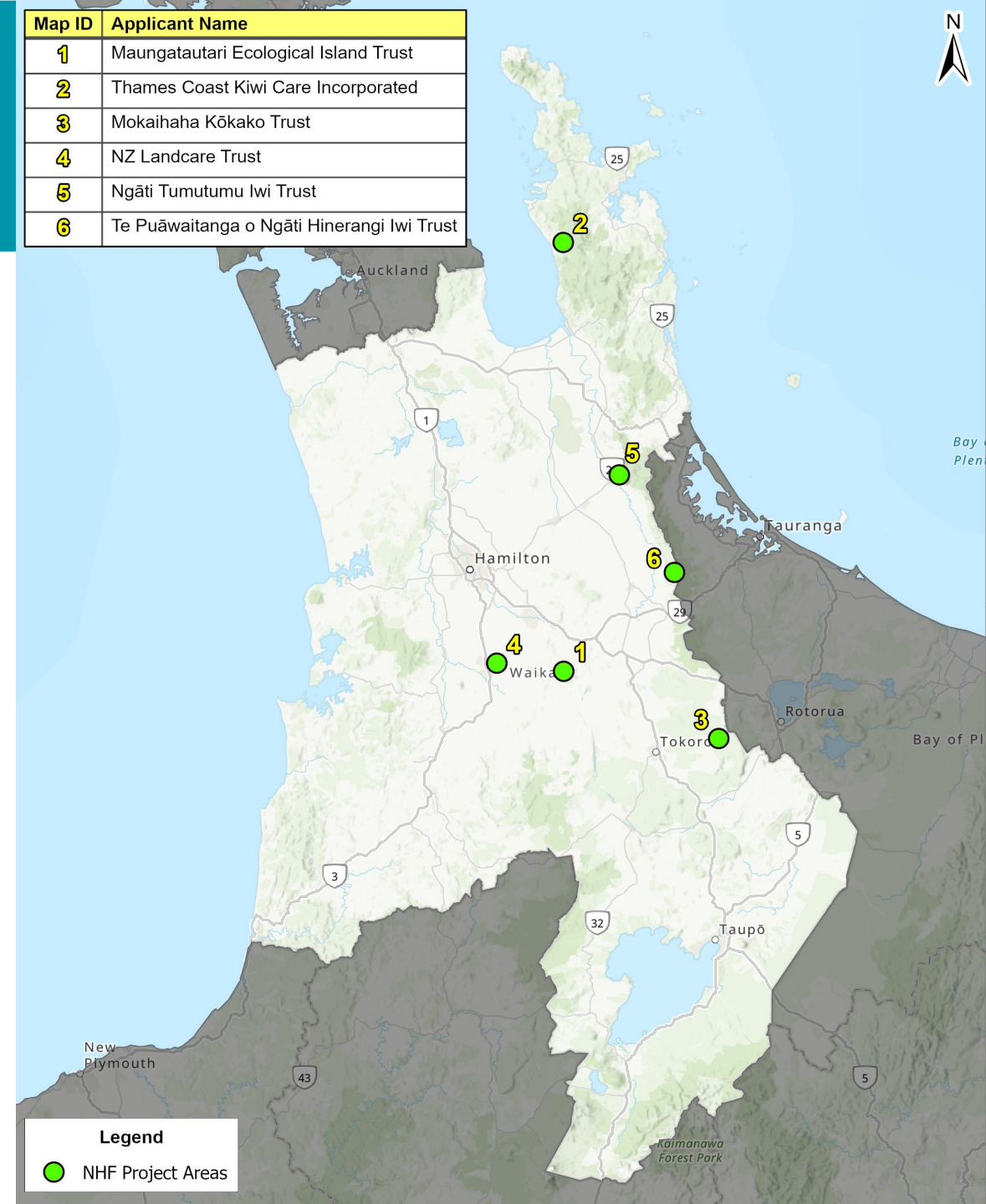


# Funding Requests and Recommendations Summary

Applicant Name	Project Name	Amount Requested	Funding Period (years)	Funding Recommended
<b>Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust</b>	Maungatautari - the seed source of biodiversity and community well-being	\$1,736,229	2	\$1,140,300
<b>Thames Coast Kiwi Care Incorporated</b>	Mountains to sea: Thames Coast predator control and habitat protection	\$340,000	4	\$340,000
<b>Mokaihaha Kōkako Trust</b>	Mokaihaha Predator Control and Kōkako Survey	\$72,815.5	2	\$72,816
<b>NZ Landcare Trust</b>	Taiea te Taiao Maungatautari to Pirongia Ecological Corridor	\$346,000	4	\$346,000
<b>Ngāti Tumutumu Iwi Trust</b>	Tumutumu Kaitiaki Taiao	\$477,185.22	0	\$0
<b>Te Puāwaitanga o Ngāti Hinerangi Iwi Trust</b>	Wairere Mahi	\$305,567.37	0	\$0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$3,277,797.09</b>		<b>\$1,899,116</b>

# NHF 2026/27 applications

Map ID	Applicant Name
1	Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust
2	Thames Coast Kiwi Care Incorporated
3	Mokaihaha Kōkako Trust
4	NZ Landcare Trust
5	Ngāti Tumutumu Iwi Trust
6	Te Puāwaitanga o Ngāti Hinerangi Iwi Trust



# Funding recommendations

Staff recommend the following:

1. Funding four applications totaling \$1,899,116, consisting of:
  - Three applications fully funded as requested
  - One application partially funded over two of three years requested
2. Two applications are not funded

# Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust

**Project:** Maungatautari – the seed source of biodiversity and community well-being

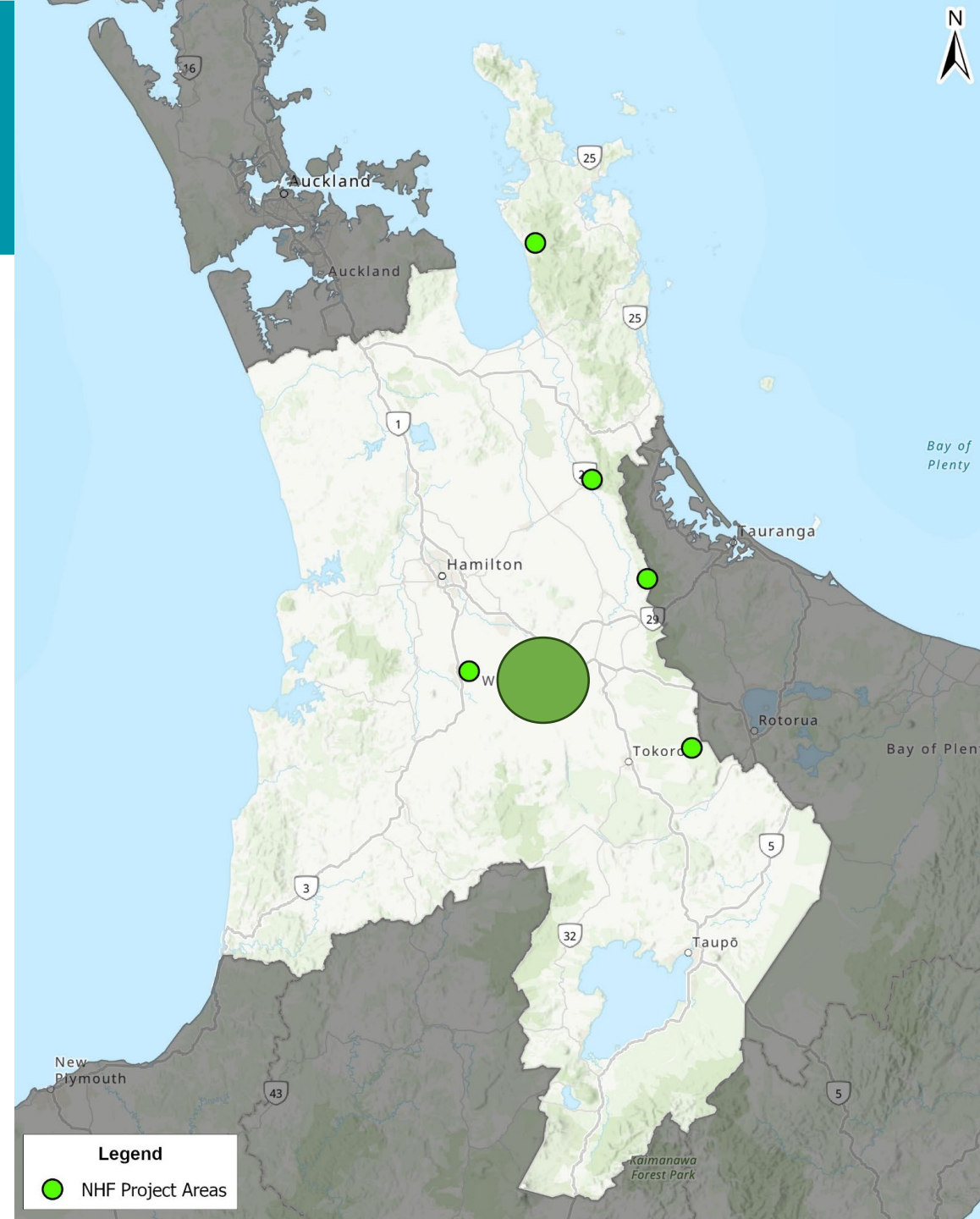
Funding requested for:

- Staff labour – operational delivery of the threatened species management programme, maintaining the pest-proof sanctuary and delivering their environmental education programme
- Materials – threatened species management, fence breach responses and repairs

Applicant Requested: \$1,736,229 (3 years)

**Staff Recommendation: \$1,140,300**

Partial funding – Two years of the three requested



# Thames Coast Kiwi Care Inc.

## Project: Maintaining and expanding Thames Coast predator control and habitat protection

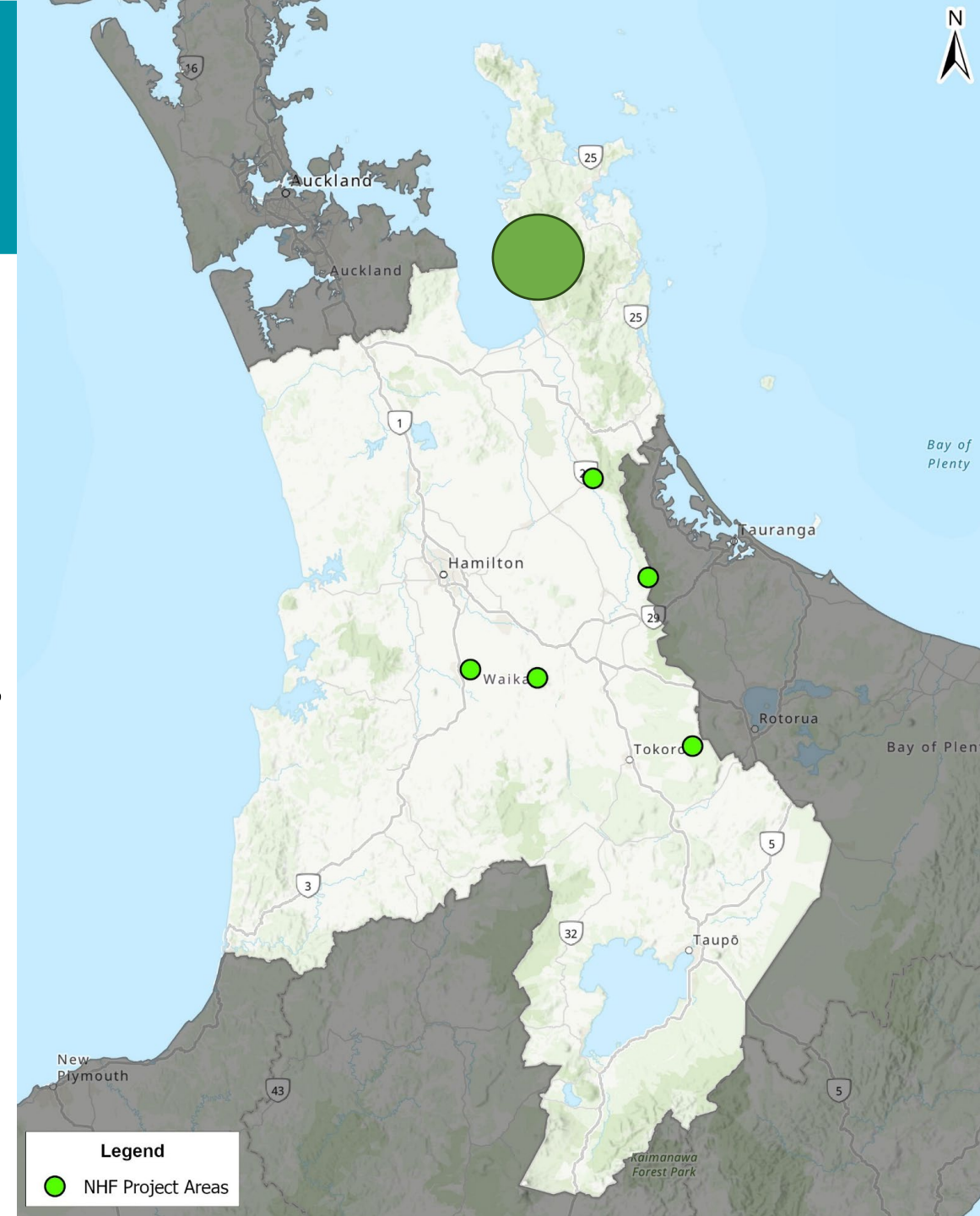
Funding requested for:

- Contracted labour – for project management and volunteer coordination
- Materials – to purchase traps and trap consumables

Applicant Requested: \$340,000 (4 years)

**Staff Recommendation: \$340,000**

Fully fund – as requested



# Mokaihaha Kōkako Trust

**Project:** Mokaihaha Predator Control and Kōkako Survey

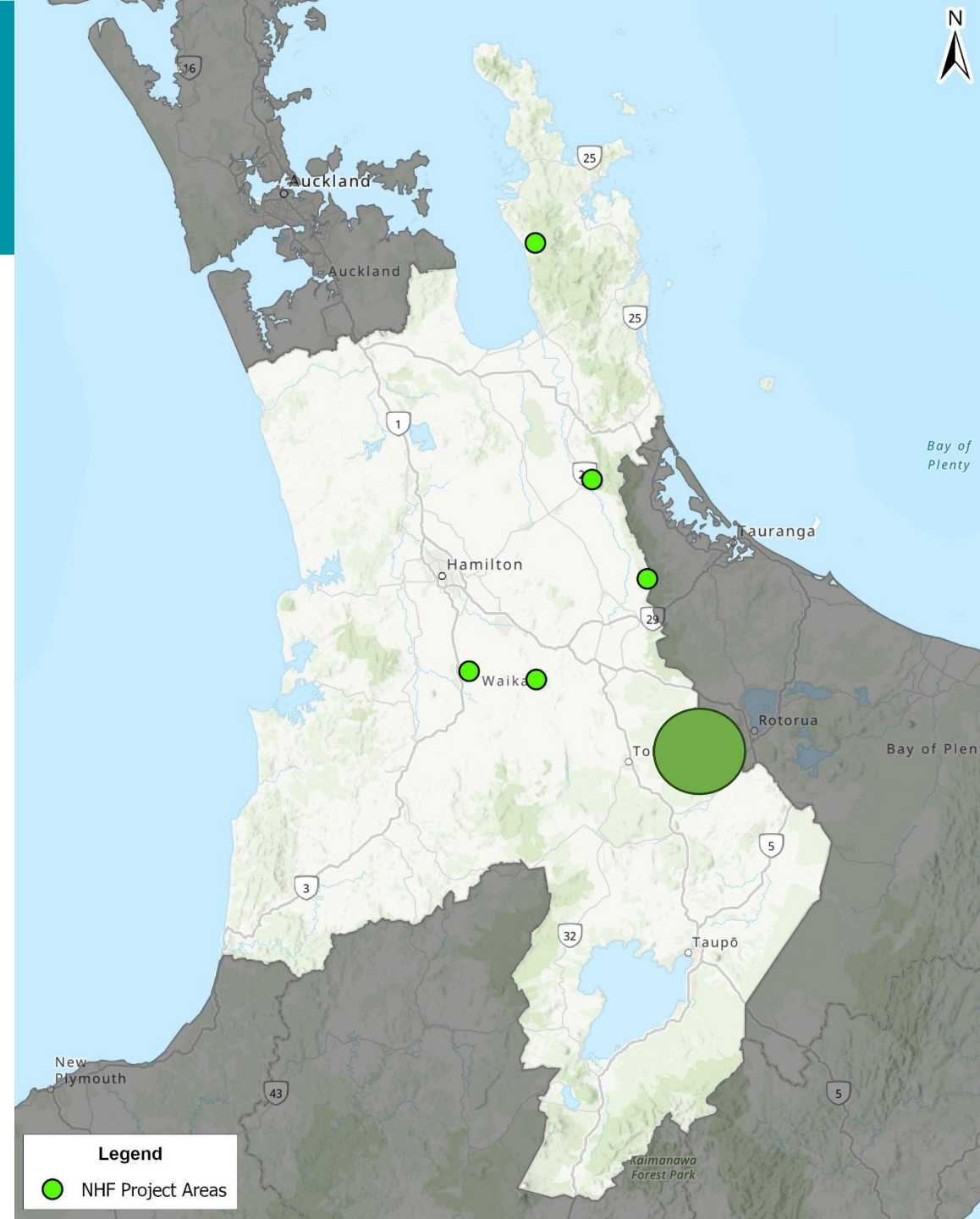
Funding requested for:

- Contracted labour – for pest animal control and a kōkako population survey
- Materials – for trap and track maintenance

Applicant Requested: \$72,816 (2 years)

**Staff Recommendation: \$72,816**

Fully fund – as requested



# NZ Landcare Trust

**Project:** Taiea te Taiao Maungatautari to Pirongia Ecological Corridor

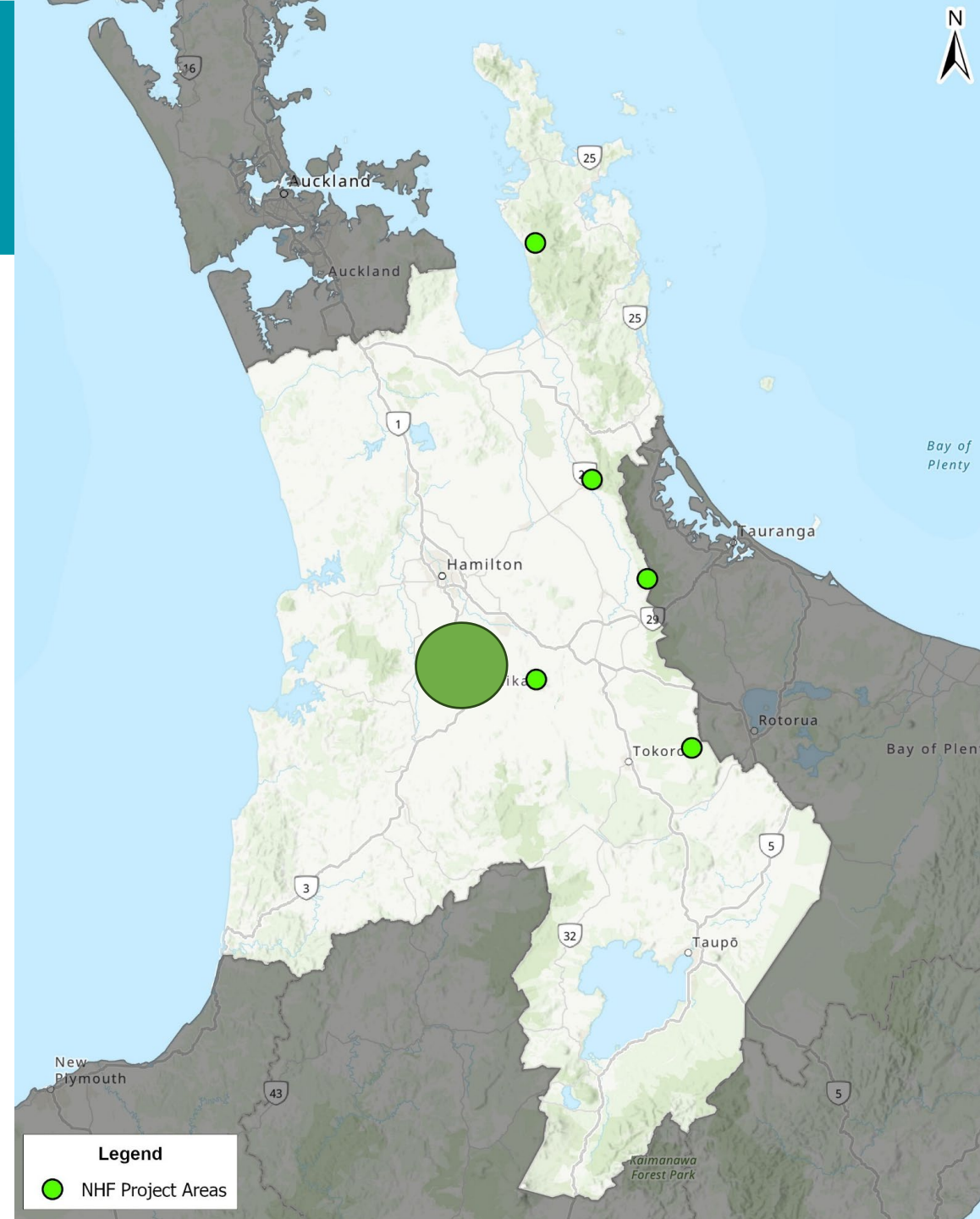
Funding requested for:

- Staff labour – for project management, administration and coordination
- Materials - for events and enhancement work throughout the corridor.

Applicant Requested: \$346,000 (4 years)

**Staff Recommendation: \$346,000**

Fully fund – as requested



# Ngāti Tumutumu Iwi Trust

## **Project:** Tumutumu Kaitiaki Taiao

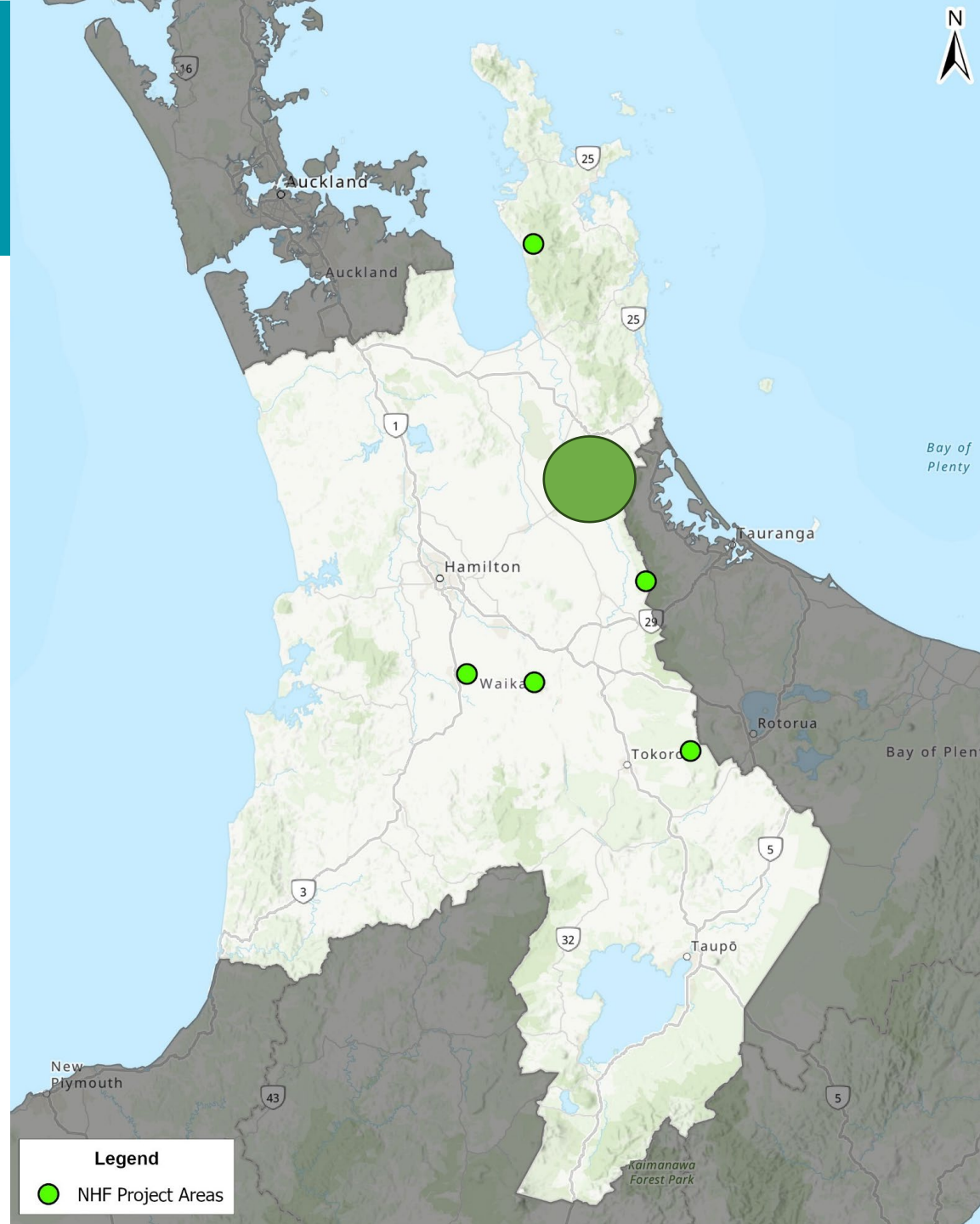
Funding requested for:

- Staff labour – Operational delivery of the pest plant control programme and planting programme
- Materials – required for pest plant control work

Applicant Requested: \$477,185 (3 years)

**Staff Recommendation:**

**Not funded – recommend they apply to the Environmental Initiative Fund in June**



# Te Puāwaitanga o Ngāti Hinerangi Iwi Trust

## Project: Wairere Mahi

### Funding requested for:

- Staff labour – for project management, administration and project delivery for pest control programme
- Materials – for operational delivery

Applicant Requested: \$305,567 (3 years)

### Staff Recommendation:

**Not funded – recommend they apply to the Environmental Initiative Fund in June**

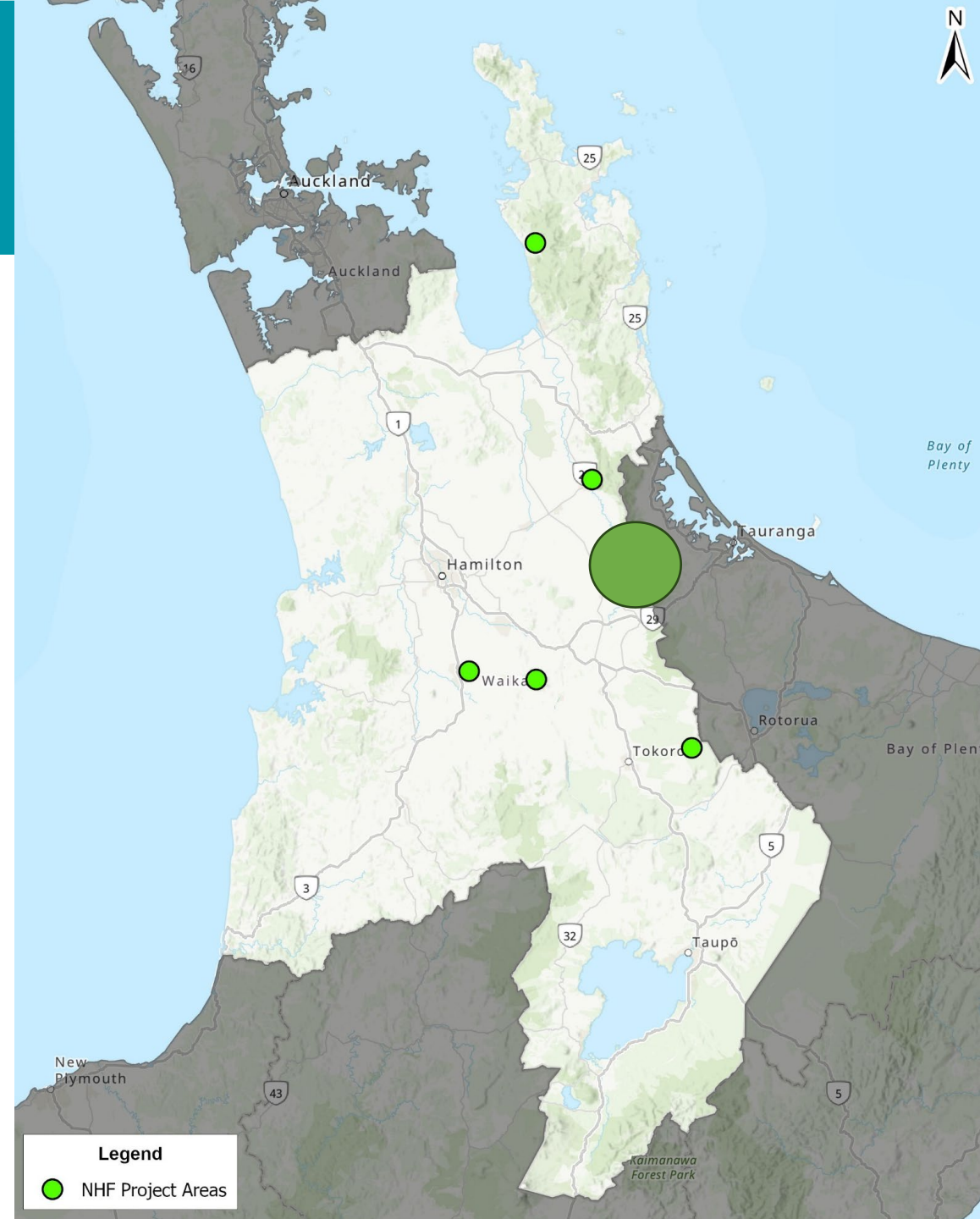




Photo: Ian Preece

# Questions?

Patrick Whaley

Manager – Biosecurity and Biodiversity

Natasha Grainger

Team Leader - Biodiversity

Andrew Thomas

Biodiversity Partnerships Lead (Acting)