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Ref: OIAD-5064

24 April 2025

Tēnā koe Rhys

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 25 March 2025, in which you asked for:

- *A list of all NGOs which may be, but are not limited to Greenpeace, WWF (World Wild Life Fund) and Forest and Bird that received government funding in the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years.*
- *The total amount of funding provided by your Ministry to each NGOs.*
- *Copies of any reports or evaluations conducted on the effectiveness of this funding.*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

NGOs and funding

The two tables, incorporated in our response, list the non-government organisations (NGOs) with a nationwide focus that we consider to be within scope and have received funding, during the financial years noted in your request.

Please note the Department's financial year runs from 1 July to 30 June. This means that the financial information set out in the two tables specific to the 2024/25 financial year is only up to the end of the third quarter, being 31 March 2025.

We also note that the spend detailed fluctuates due to the funding being unevenly distributed, depending on what each project requires and when; the duration of each project varying; and some projects concluding, with a corresponding decrease in funding.

Table One contains details of the NGOs who received funding via grants awarded. This includes grants for projects from the Jobs for Nature programme and the DOC Community Fund (DOCCF).

Table One

NGOs	Amount paid 2023/24*	Amount paid 2024/25 (YTD)*
Backcountry Trust (Aotearoa) (DOCCF)	\$550,000	\$250,000
Conservation Volunteers New Zealand (Jobs for Nature)	\$1,293,776	\$631,255
Kea Conservation Trust (DOCCF)	\$214,780	\$863
Mountains To Sea Conservation Trust (DOCCF)	\$70,767	\$11,350
The Nature Conservancy (TNC New Zealand Trust) (Jobs for Nature)	\$1,928,120	\$75,857
Predator Free New Zealand Trust (Jobs for Nature/DOCCF)	\$1,555,134	\$580,900
Sika Foundation Conservation Trust (Jobs for Nature)	\$369,450	\$237,713
Sustainable Business Network (Jobs for Nature)	\$222,800	\$13,400
Te Araroa Trust (DOCCF)	\$27,800	\$28,000
Trees That Count/Project Crimson (funding transferred to DOC in 2023 to manage as grants to support native tree planting)	\$870,000	\$250,000
TOTAL	\$6,945,627	\$2,079,338

*All figures GST exclusive

Meanwhile, Table Two is limited to those NGOs engaged for specific contracts for services.

Table Two

NGO	Amount paid 2023/24*	Amount paid 2024/25 (YTD)*
Environmental Defence Society	\$157,000	\$0
TOTAL	\$157,000	\$0

*All figures GST exclusive

Reporting and evaluation

With respect to reports or evaluations connected to this funding, we advise that the Department actively seeks value for money from grants awarded and programmes funded to provide the best conservation outcomes possible within available budgets.

Reporting is undertaken to ensure projects/programmes are meeting their contractual obligations, but evaluation reports are not required by all funded projects/programmes. The reporting undertaken for individual projects receiving grants is unlikely to be for the sole purpose of determining effectiveness, per your request.

Jobs for Nature

Jobs for Nature is a \$1.185 billion programme in response to COVID-19 to create both nature-based employment and enduring environmental benefits between 2020 and 2025. Five government agencies administer the funding, of which the Department manages \$485.3 million over 225 projects across New Zealand. We include a link to the Department's webpages related to Jobs for Nature:

[Jobs for Nature – Mahi mō te Taiao: Our work](#)

Jobs for Nature funding is evaluated as part of the cross-agency programme evaluation. This includes an independent multi-year evaluation, Te Ao Māori evaluation, economic and social impact assessments, and benefits case studies. As all the reports and evaluation material is either publicly available, or will be publicly released as it becomes available, provision of this information is refused per section 18(d) of the OIA, as it is or will become publicly available.

This published information includes a Jobs for Nature impact assessment (October 2024) (refer to [Final-report-2024-Q4-J4N-impact-results-2024.pdf](#)). For ease of reference to the wider range of reports and evaluation material, we include the following link below:

<https://www.jobsfornature.govt.nz/publications/>

DOCCF

The DOCCF supports community-led conservation projects on public and private land. It is available for community groups, iwi and private landowners across New Zealand for projects that protect and restore New Zealand's threatened species and ecosystems.

Funding rounds are not held every year. More information, including a list of the successful applicants can be found on the Department's website: www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/funding/doc-community-fund/

Projects that are successful are required to report against the deliverables and budget agreed in the Deed of Grant entered into by the Department and the applicant(s). As they are not specific to effectiveness per se, we have not included copies of this type of reporting.

Contracts for services

Copies of the two independent pieces of research, in the form of finalised reports, from the Environmental Defence Society are publicly available here:

- [Reform of the Wildlife Act 1953: An Opportunity for Transformational Change of Aotearoa New Zealand's Biodiversity Law | EDS](#)
- [Restoring Nature: Reform of the Conservation Management System | EDS](#)

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of our decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the OIA.

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

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David van der Zouwe', enclosed within a faint rectangular border.

David van der Zouwe
Director Strategic Partnerships and Investment
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*