



# ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE PROJECTS

## PROJECT 1

Provide grants to support communities in existing local freshwater and coastal restoration projects

### Issue:

- Estuarine and coastal habitats are facing threats from development and pollution, which has had a significant effect on the native species living in these environments.
- The sea is suffocating under excessive sediment loads from land run-off, severely impacting estuaries which are nurseries for juvenile fish and resting places for migratory birds.

### Solution:

- Provide grants for community projects to complete riparian restoration in catchments that flow into the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park to help reduce sedimentation, improve water quality, provide improved habitat for fish nurseries to support improved fish stocks.

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## PROJECT 2

Support the development of a traceability system to enable full fisheries supply chain traceability from catch to consumer

### Issue:

- Consumers have the potential to increase demand for sustainable seafood, however there is often not enough information available to distinguish sustainably harvested seafood from less-sustainable options.
- It is technically challenging to trace fish from its harvest across multiple supply chain transactions in a way that offers consumers verified information on where and how their fish was caught.
- For the seafood industry to embrace more traceable and transparent supply chains, examples are needed to demonstrate the benefits of this approach.

### Solution:

- Develop an innovative data capture system as part of a robust traceability system to trace fish from catch to consumer.
- Create traceable seafood products that give consumers unprecedented access to origin and attribute information.
- Prove the benefits of the technology and the method to the seafood industry.

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## PROJECT 3

Support action-based kaitiakitanga, led by mana whenua and the community, to protect and regenerate Waiheke Island's marine environment

### Issue:

- Mana whenua have suffered disconnection from their whenua and moana.
- Waiheke Islands' marine environment is degraded, including functional extinction of key species.
- Siloed legislation and management perpetuate disconnection and don't support holistic approaches.

### Solution:

- A mana whenua workstream that increases the quantity and quality of Ngāti Paoa connection with the moana via multiple approaches.
- Prototype multiple regeneration projects that enable mana whenua and other communities to rebuild marine health.
- Fund collaborative workshops and technical groups that amplify and learn from all knowledge sources

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## PROJECT 4

Develop a marine mammal sightings app to capture long-term data on marine mammals in the Hauraki Gulf which will be used for spatial-risk assessments for multiple species

### Issue:

- Lack of funding for marine mammals in NZ leading to a lack of data.
- Many marine species listed as Threatened, At Risk or Data Deficient.
- We don't understand how many marine mammal individuals exist, where they are, and where the threats are.

### Solution:

- Develop a use-friendly app which can be used to log marine mammal sightings.
- Use tourism companies and citizen scientists to log species sightings.
- Use the data collected to conduct long-term studies to better understand species abundance, movement and threats, and map this information, to increase marine mammal knowledge and protection.

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