



# **Biodiversity Monitoring Specialist**

## **(part-time fixed term contract ending 30 April 2020)**

### Role Description

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Forest Bridge Trust is a registered charitable trust. The vision of The Forest Bridge Trust is to create a connected landscape of healthy forest and flourishing indigenous wildlife from the Kaipara Harbour in the west to the Pacific Ocean in the east.

We plan to achieve that vision by working with land owners in our target area, providing materials, manpower, support and information so that they can fence off native bush remnants and control plant and animal pests. We also work with school and community groups and involve them in our efforts to create the forest bridge.

#### **DESCRIPTION**

This role has been established to assist with identifying the rationale and scope for biodiversity monitoring, aiming to identify and recommend a framework for assessing and reporting on findings, thereby helping to improve the quality of our reporting and ability to make strategic decisions on future activities.

In parallel, an assessment of social behavioural changes in the relevant communities and measurement of engagement with key stakeholders will be required.

Emphasis should be on measuring results and using established methods, rather than collecting large amounts of data that cannot be analysed.

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

This work includes:

- Developing **key indicators** for measurement of and reporting on success (e.g. measurement of success with achieving connectivity, buffering, and establishment of safe habitats; success with community/landowner engagement).
- Establishing a programme for collecting **baseline information** to measure future success (e.g. to measure change in area and extent of habitats and connections; volunteer effort).
- Recommending biodiversity and social **monitoring methods**.

- Establishing **annual monitoring programme and schedule** to establish a baseline and a programme of ongoing monitoring (a timetable identifying when to undertake what monitoring, how, and who by).
- Developing a **data storage and reporting programme**, e.g. a one-page report card.

### **General Requirements**

- All volunteers, employees and contractors are expected to uphold the values of the trust— Respect; Integrity; Empathy.
- Must be able to commit to a certain level of effort so that the work gets done on time.
- Must be flexible with your time as the workload is not consistent – sometimes information is required at short notice and is not evenly spread.
- Ideally you will be relatively local and that you identify with the Trust's area of interest.
- Understanding biodiversity patterns, trends and indicators.
- Sound knowledge of environmental policy and legislation.
- Aptitude for computers and statistics.
- Strong Interpersonal skills.
- Strong knowledge of best practice standardised biodiversity monitoring methodologies and practices in NZ, e.g. Department of Conservation biodiversity online monitoring toolbox; Auckland Council Guidelines on community biodiversity monitoring; Landcare Research guidelines on biodiversity monitoring for regional councils (including Tier 1 and Tier 2 outcome monitoring programmes); Commissioner for the Environment recommendations on SOE framework and monitoring.

### **WHEN AND WHERE**

- This is a fixed term contract ending 30 April 2020 but with a possibility of extension if funding allows.
- This is an opportunity to work independently, from home but requires regular contact with Trust management within the Rodney district, including attendance at board or committee meetings as needed.
- Hours can be flexible but candidate will need to work with key stakeholders to deliver the outputs required by the end of the contract term.

### **PREFERRED EXPERIENCE/QUALIFICATIONS**

The ideal candidate will be an experienced ecologist (10 years) with at least a bachelor's or master's level degree in ecology, botany or environmental science, and with experience developing and implementing and reporting on ecological monitoring programmes (vegetation and fauna) and working with communities. Experience working in the Hoteo and Kaipara catchment areas would also be beneficial.

For more information see our Website: [www.theforestbridgetrust.org.nz](http://www.theforestbridgetrust.org.nz)  
To apply, email a covering letter and C.V to [manager@theforestbridgetrust.org.nz](mailto:manager@theforestbridgetrust.org.nz)