

New Zealand's Biological Heritage National Science Challenge

Criteria to prioritise investment across SOs or 2023/4 Goals

Prioritising research needs is a common task for researchers especially in the biological heritage space.

Less common but more important in an environment of scarce resourcing is 'prioritising the priorities'. When determining a portfolio research to invest Challenge funds across our Strategic Outcomes and 2024 Goals, the following criteria must be considered.

Criterion	Explanation
Creates impact	How will this investment make a real difference, create impact and help achieve the Challenge's Mission? Significant progress must be made in exemplar areas by 2024 in order to incentivise and deliver collective impact.
Supports Māori aspirations and the intent of Vision Mātauranga	How does this investment support the aspirations of Māori (iwi, hapū, whānau)? Is it co-designed with Māori, and does it resource Māori appropriately? Investment must support our Māori KPIs and align with our 'Best practice guidelines for working in partnership with Māori'.
Leverages co-investment	How does this investment leverage off other investments in the system? Co-investment can include cash; data; infrastructure; knowledge; study sites and facilities; capability and expertise; etc., with no one of these being afforded a higher priority than the others.
Currently under-invested area at a system level	How does this investment address vital gaps? A Strategic Outcome or 2024 Goal may be currently under-invested, yet be an area that would be the game-changer if significant progress was made; often requested but not necessarily resourced by stakeholders when prioritisation is done at the level of each individual organisation.
Alignment with whole-of-government and business initiatives	How does this investment align with other initiatives? These may include: sustainability initiatives; greening finance; socially-responsible investments; wellbeing; PCE recommendations in recent reports; Primary Sector Council initiatives.
Reduces fragmentation and builds scale	How does this investment reduce system fragmentation? Investment should build bridges among research teams or organisations that were not previously connected in order to reduce investment overlap and deliver collective impact.