



**Antarctic
Science Platform**

Guidelines for applications to the Impact Support Fund 2025-2032

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Opportunities under the Impact Support Fund

The Antarctic Science Platform (hereafter the Platform) has established a Protected Areas Takere (PAT) to facilitate translation of Platform research findings into policy-relevant outputs that contribute to effective management outcomes for the Ross Sea region in the face of a changing climate.

The mandate of the Protected Areas Takere is to work across iwi, Māori, and science users to facilitate optimal integration of emerging science into decision-making. Immediate targets for this work include two protected area systems – the Ross Sea region Marine Protected Area (RSrMPA), and the Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPA) - and the development of environmental state assessment tools and signposts.

Priorities

The Protected Areas Takere (PAT) will have an early focus on developing product relevant to the 2027 review of the RSrMPA. This will be the first 10-year review of the effectiveness of the MPA in achieving its goals, and PAT will work closely with impact partners to ensure that the platform plays its part in co-production of material to be presented by the NZ Delegation to the review process.

At the same time, to support general environmental management and specific CEP goals, we will work closely with iwi and relevant impact partners to co-develop signposts of change in terrestrial and nearshore ecosystems that can be linked to anticipated climate change and increased extreme event frequency. We will focus on resolving climate-related threats to ecosystems and assessing how to optimise the conservation of existing regional biodiversity and biogeography through systematic spatial planning, including assessment of the resilience of the existing protected area network to changing climate drivers.

Finally, the Protected Areas Takere will work with Antarctica New Zealand to develop ways in which the signposts developed in the individual work streams can be integrated into the under-development New Zealand Antarctic Environmental Assessment. Environmental reporting is a mandatory responsibility for New Zealand under the Antarctic Treaty system and is currently high on the agenda of both Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and the Committee for Environmental Protection, with both bodies operating with the Antarctic Treaty System to conserve the continent and its surrounding waters.

The Impact Support Fund has been created to facilitate co-development of outputs that contribute to impact within these priority areas.

Objectives of the Impact Support Fund

The Fund will enable projects that are not supported by other means, and which focus on generating impactful outputs and outcomes within the mandate of the Platform. Researchers working in collaboration with partner organisations can use any available research to contribute a critical New Zealand perspective to fora that facilitate impact within the targeted topic areas.

The Impact Support Fund has a total value of approximately \$800,000. The fund will close for new applications after this amount has been granted. Individual grants are not expected to exceed \$50K.

Rules

- Submissions can be made at any time.
- The proposal must be submitted by a New Zealand-based research organisation, and should be co-developed with, and supported by, a relevant impact-facilitation partner.
- The New Zealand PI must be employed by the New Zealand-based research organisation that submits the proposal and would normally be expected to be linked to the Platform.
- Grants are intended to be targeted, to run for a maximum of 24 months, with a start and end date to be agreed. A target for the impact must be defined, as well as an impact pathway and timeline.
- The proposed project must not already be supported by other means. Where a grant provides funding to complement or extend existing research activity to amplify impact, this must be made clear in the application.
- Grants are expected to utilise existing research, data, data products, and tools, and should not be used for generation of new original data.
- Grantees must be prepared to support Antarctic Science Platform outreach activities.

Applications

Applications for funding are expected to follow a pathway similar to that in figure 1 below.

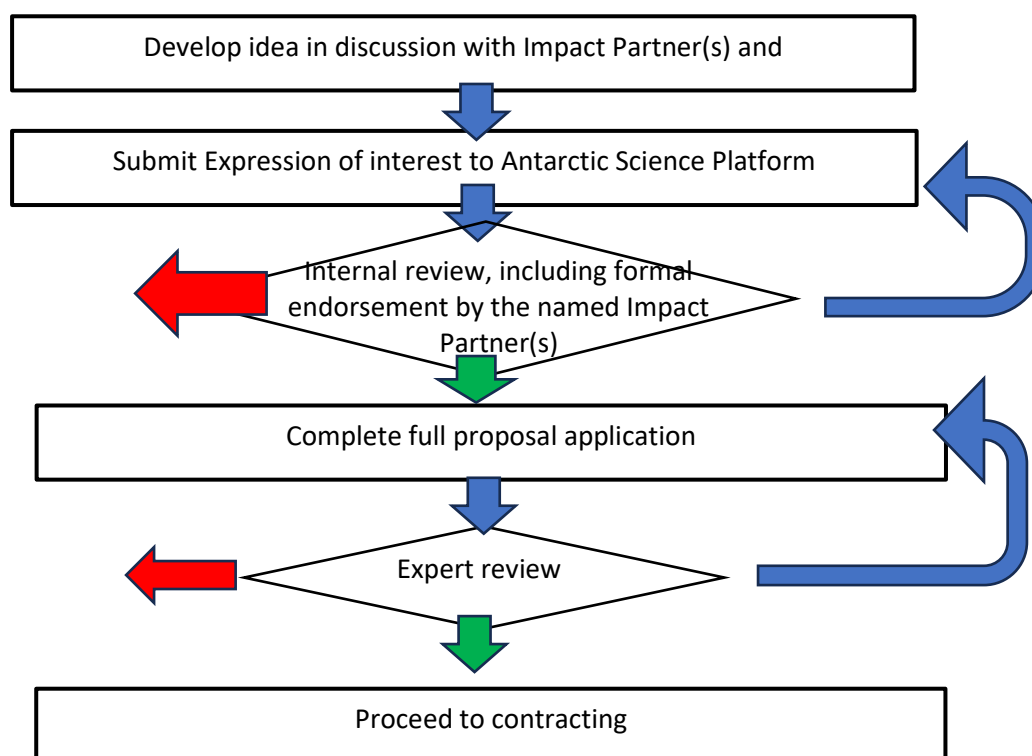


Figure 1. Development pathway for project support through the Impact Support Fund

Expressions of Interest

Initial applications should be as an expression of interest (Eoi) using the template provided (see Appendix 1) and can be submitted at any time. The Eoi template is short, minimally formal and intended to minimise time and effort.

Applicants are expected to develop Eois in collaboration with Platform Impact Partners and Programme Leaders. The specific Platform impact statement(s) that the application will address should be indicated (see Appendix 2).

These Eois should describe the impact to be achieved, information to be used, the nature of the output and how the output will achieve impact.

Eois will be assessed by relevant members of the ASP's Impact Partner Group and, where approval is forthcoming, a template will be provided for development of a costed proposal.

Proposals

Proposals should be developed using the template provided on acceptance of an Eoi. Full proposals should not be submitted before an Eoi has been approved.

Proposals will be first assessed for relevance and compliance by members of the Platform Leadership Team. After internal approval, proposals will be peer reviewed by relevant members of the ASP Independent Science Panel and/or the Impact Partner Group. The composition of the Impact Partner Group is included in Appendix 3.

Success will be based on an applicant's demonstration of:

- access to any necessary data,
- necessary technical skills and experience to complete the task,
- depth of understanding of the issue addressed,
- quality of connection to impact partners,
- exposition of how the proposed activity will achieve impact,
- conformity to the mandated impact statements of the Platform (see Appendix 2).

Final approval for funding will come from the Platform Steering Group.

Applications will be assessed on the information provided in the application form and any supporting documentation that the submitter considers useful. Assessment criteria will be weighted in the following manner:

60%	Potential impact of proposed work – evidence of a clear impact that will advance NZ's aspirations for Antarctica
20%	Track record of applicant - applicant has a strong track record of impact delivery
20%	Relevance – the work is of international relevance

Submission

Eois and proposals should be submitted by email to scienceplatform@antarcticanz.govt.nz. Incomplete applications will not be considered, but will be returned to the applicant for further iteration.

Successful Grants

If an application is successful, a contract will be entered into between Antarctica New Zealand (as the host of the Antarctic Science Platform) and the PI's institution.

Conditions of Contract

In making its investment decisions, the Antarctic Science Platform may also:

- set pre-contract conditions which must be met before the investment is contracted;
- negotiate appropriate and agreed milestones and deliverables;
- assess the appropriateness of the budget submitted with the application.

Reporting

The Antarctic Science Platform will require a report be submitted on the agreed activity funded, by the agreed date.

Contacts

For questions about the application process, please contact the Antarctic Science Platform Manager scienceplatform@antarcticanz.govt.nz

Appendix 1. Expression of interest format.

1. Applicant detail

Name:

Affiliation:

e-mail address:

Phone number:

2. Impact Statement

What is the impact that you are proposing to achieve? (One sentence)

3. Impact partners

Who are your impact partners? (One sentence)

Describe the interactions you have had and the feedback you have received from impact partners and Platform PIs in initiating this application. (200 Words or less).

4. Impact pathway

Describe the information that will be used, where it is held, how it will be used to develop output(s) and the way in which the output(s) will be used to achieve the impact statement. (200 Words or less).

5. Conformity to Platform impact statements

Which of the Platform Impact Statements does this address?

Appendix 2. The Antarctic Science Platform's Impact Statements

The purpose of the Antarctic Science Platform is to conduct excellent science to understand Antarctica's impact on the global earth system, and how this might change in a +2°C (Paris agreement) world. [For more information about the Platform – visit www.antarcticsscience.nz.]

The Platform is structured around four impact statements:

1. Understanding the stability of the West Antarctic Ice sheet:

- 1.1** Uncertainty in sea-level rise predictions is reduced through improved understanding of the rate-determining processes and feedbacks on marine-based ice mass loss to inform sea-level rise adaptation options
- 1.2** Thresholds identified for irreversible loss of marine-based ice sheets allow critical assessments of mitigation pathways (e.g. Paris Agreement) and inform international decision makers
- 1.3** Understanding the far-reaching impacts of ice sheet melt on sea-ice, biological systems, global ocean circulation and climate informs adaptation options and critical assessment of mitigation pathways

2. Understanding the impacts of change in the Antarctic atmosphere and Southern Ocean

- 2.1** The distinction of natural-and human-induced changes in the Antarctic atmosphere and the Southern Ocean provides a basis to build international commitment to climate change response strategies
- 2.2** Uncertainty in future climate scenarios is reduced through improved understanding of how oceanic and atmospheric processes influence the cryosphere
- 2.3** Management of the Antarctic and Southern Ocean environment is improved by greater understanding of the implications of regional climate change on biological systems

3: Understanding threats to ecosystem dynamics in the Ross Sea

- 3.1** The structure and dynamics of the Ross Sea region ecosystem are sufficiently understood to forecast large scale biological responses to environmental change
- 3.2** New Zealand's Ross Sea Region Marine Protected Area monitoring strategy is capable of detecting changes in ecosystem components, and contributes to international efforts supporting informed decision making
- 3.3** The conservation value and benefits of the Ross Sea Region Marine Protected Area (MPA) are described and used to inform the design of this MPA and others worldwide

4: Understanding change in terrestrial and nearshore Antarctic environments, and the connections between them

- 4.1** Increased understanding of the sensitivity and vulnerability of ecosystems (marine and terrestrial) to climate change and human influences supports integrated management
- 4.2** The importance, variability and vulnerability of processes that connect different Antarctic environments (aquatic, terrestrial and coastal) is understood.

Appendix 3. Membership of the impact partner advisory group (DRAFT)

Name	Organisation	Relevant areas of expertise
Ceisha Poirot	Antarctica New Zealand	Environmental management, monitoring and reporting, Event planning, Committee for Environmental Protection
Enrique Pardo	Department of Conservation	Ross Sea region Marine Protected Area, CCAMLR (EMM)
Cassandra Brooks	SCAR, University of Boulder	Ross Sea region Marine Protected Area. Environmental management, monitoring and reporting
Ian Tuck	Ministry of Primary Industry, CCAMLR	Ross Sea region Marine Protected Area, CCAMLR Scientific committee, fishery management, environmental management, monitoring and reporting
Aimee Tang	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Antarctic Policy, ATCM.
Tim Naish	ESNZ, VUW, WCRP	Climate, sea level
Hannah Chorley	Ministry for the Environment	Climate adaptation, sea level rise
Richard Smith	ESNZ	Natural Hazards
Gary Wilson	SCAR	Overview