

Nature Stewardship

Nature

Credit: 38

Points: 2

Outcome

Biodiversity is restored beyond the building site.

Criteria

Credit Achievement	2 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of restoration or protection are provided. • Restoration or protection activities are beyond the development's boundary. • The building owner, as part of the project's development, undertakes activities that protects or restores biodiversity at scale. • These actions occur beyond legislated requirements.
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Additional information

Stage implementation

Strategy	Brief	Concept	Design	Tender	Construction	Handover	Use
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Synergies with other credits

- Impacts to Nature

Sustainable Development Goals

- Goal 15 (Life on Land)

Relevant reporting initiatives

- GRESB

Requirements

Credit Achievement

To be eligible for the *Nature Stewardship* credit, the project must meet the *Credit Achievement* in *the Impacts to Nature* credit.

The project must comply with **all four** of the following criteria:

- Area of Restoration or Protection
- Location of Restoration or Protection Activities
- Activities to Protect or Restore
- Legislated Requirements

Area of Restoration or Protection

The area of restoration must be equivalent to the total GFA of the development or site area, whichever is greater.

Location of Restoration or Protection Activities

Land for restoration must be in New Zealand and restored to ecological value equivalent to an indigenous or functioning ecosystem relevant to the ecological district. Restoration that leads to realise ecological values of the land, such as wildlife corridors, habitat creation, pollution mitigation or pest management are also available under this credit. The location of the land designated for the offsite restoration must not be in the development boundary.

A qualified Ecologist must confirm that the ecological value is enhanced.

There are situations where land restoration may occur in a site where the building is located, but not within the development boundary (e.g., a university campus). Project teams are encouraged to contact NZGBC to determine whether this site complies.

Project teams must ensure that the land being claimed for restoration and protection activities is not being double counted for multiple buildings or other activities. The Assessor reserves the right to query for additional information during assessment.

Activities to Protect or Restore

Achieving the credit can be done by either:

- The project owner protecting, restoring or rehabilitating an area offsite themselves
- The project owner supports an organisation that restores or rehabilitates an area on their behalf

Where the project owner supports an organisation on their behalf, demonstration of the form of support is required (e.g., financial statements, in kind resourcing)

In all cases, for the activities above, the project team must show how the action is additional. That is, the action goes beyond any legislated requirements and how it is resulting in an outcome that wouldn't have happened otherwise.

There may be other pathways that can be used by building owners to demonstrate that they are restoring or protecting an area outside their development boundary. Project teams are encouraged to contact NZGBC to explore these opportunities.

The project owner restores or protects an area themselves.

A Restoration or Protection Management Plan (Plan) must be prepared by an experienced ecologist. The Plan must detail how ecological values are to be enhanced and/or restored including:

- What site was chosen and evidence of its purchase
- Why the project chose the site, with details on ecological value
- How the site for restoration will unlock ecological value equivalent to a indigenous or functioning ecosystem.
- Validation of the offsite restoration approach by a suitably qualified independent ecologist.

- The timeframes for protection or restoration
- Commitment to set-aside and manage the site land in perpetuity including on-going funding provision
- How the design contributes to ‘Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy’ and other current indigenous and biodiversity strategies and policies.

The above information must be provided at time of submission to claim the credit.

The project owner supports an organisation that restores an area on their behalf

A narrative detailing the restoration activities must be provided, including how the area for restoration will provide ecological values equivalent to an indigenous or functioning ecosystem relevant to the ecological district, as well as meeting the minimum size requirements.

Evidence of the form and extent of support is required (e.g., financial statements, in-kind resourcing)

Evidence of partnership must be provided at the time of submission to claim the credit. The partnership must be funded for at least five years. The restoration activities must be verified by an independent third party.

Legislated Requirements

Where the project is required to provide biodiversity offsets, invest in land restoration, restore land, or similar, require development approval, or other legislated requirements, these actions cannot be used to demonstrate compliance with this credit.

Submission content

Submissions for this credit must contain:

- **Submission form**
- **Evidence** to support claims made in the submission

Recommended evidence:

- Offsite Restoration Management Plan
- Evidence of site purchase
- Evidence of formal partnership
- Overview of restoration activities
- Evidence of funding provisions
- Evidence of project specific additionality
- Evidence of key or threatened species that the habitat restoration, protection, or rehabilitation will support.
- Evidence of engagement with Mana Whenua

Alternate documentation can also be used by project teams to demonstrate compliance.

The recommended evidence listed above is applicable to the as built submission. See the Design Assessment section in the Introduction for more information on submitting evidence for the Design assessment.

The key requirement is that evidence is provided to support each claim made within the Submission form.

Guidance

Offsets

This credit does not replace nor reward formal regulated offset requirements as covered by the Resource Management Act or associated policy documents and/or any replacement legislation or environmental offsets policy.

Development boundary

Refers to the boundary that is being developed as part of the project's development approval. This includes the building or buildings, landscaping, car parking, ancillary infrastructure, or even other buildings within a broader precinct.

Off-site vs. on-site restoration

Actions to enhance biodiversity within the site are addressed by other credits in this category.

As the aim of this project is to increase biodiversity in areas outside the site as far as practicable, solutions that enhance the site, or adjacent buildings that are owned or developed by the same entity, are unlikely to be considered for this credit. There may be exceptions, for example where the enhancement is occurring in another area of a precinct or campus (e.g., a waterway restoration activity). However, in such a situation, the Assessor would expect to see how the enhancement is tied to the building seeking certification, how it is being funded, and how it is additional – it wouldn't have happened otherwise.

Restoration activities

The range of possible offsite restoration actions may include the following:

- Habitat improvement, restoration, or expansion
- Direct threat mitigation
- Creation of natural habitats
- Ecological recycling or re-use of natural materials
- Re-introduction of species or natural processes
- Pest or predator control measures
- Treatment of pollution or impacts caused by human intervention such as noise, traffic or erosion.

Examples of partner organisations

There are many organisations in New Zealand that may be used for the second pathway. Some examples are:

- Department of Conservation
- Local and Regional Councils
- Other local groups that are committed to land restoration

Supporting information

Advice on restoring and protecting ecological values and ecosystems is available from local and regional Councils.

- [Auckland Council - Healthy Waters Biodiversity Offset Bank](#)