



Transitioning Exotic Forest to Native

SFFF Project 21156 (2022-2027)

Project Partners Update – March 2023

Tāne's Tree Trust is pleased to have started the Transitioning Exotic Forest to Native project supported by the MPI Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures fund and our forestry partners.

The key objectives are to:

- Provide a national overview of the current state of native understory in plantations based on existing LUCAS plot data that TTT have been given access to.
- Undertake national surveys to gain a better understanding of radiata pine understorey composition and structure along key abiotic (rainfall, air temperature, latitude) and biotic (seed source, plantation structure) gradients. This will provide us with more information about the successional changes over time and thresholds for successful regeneration.
- Undertake regional surveys in Tairāwhiti to add to our understanding of how canopy density affects the understory composition and trajectory.
- Establish trials sites testing planting and natural revegetation success with and without browser exclusion and under manipulated pine canopy conditions.
- Model carbon outcomes based on exotic to native management regimes.
- Bring all the research together into management guidelines and recommendations for monitoring the transitional stages.

The beginning of the project has concentrated on getting our management systems, reporting standards and field survey methodologies in place.

We have also been contacting our forestry partners to ask for access to their LUCAS forest plot data. Many thanks to everyone who has given Tāne's Tree Trust approval to use their data in our national understory assessment and to MfE for facilitating the sharing of information. So far, we have access to 262 LUCAS data plots from across Aotearoa/New Zealand. If you would like to support our project and have yet to provide us with access to your LUCAS data please contact Meg Graeme (meg@ecologist.nz) our Project Manager.



Next steps

Dr Mark Kimberley will begin initial assessment and analysis of the LUCAS data.

Dr Adam Forbes has just finished undertaking bioclimatic plot surveys in South Island plantations and is planning his North Island surveys. Thanks to Ernslaw One, Ngāti Tahu forestry, OneFortyOne, Panpac, Manulife, and Hawke's Bay Regional Council who have been assisting with these surveys so far.

Meg Graeme and Michael Bergin have begun understory plot surveys under different pine canopy densities in Tairāwhiti. Discussions have been held with Aratu Forests, Summit Forests, Ernslaw One, Juken, Ngāti Porou Whanui Forests, Gisborne District Council and private landowners. Field work had started with assistance from Juken and Aratu Forests however we are now assessing how and when we proceed with this workstream following Cyclone Gabrielle.

Site identification for the transition trial research is being undertaken and this workstream will be led by Michael Bergin.

We welcome any feedback or questions about this research programme.

Ngā mihi nui | kind regards

the Tāne's Tree Trust team

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