



TĀNE'S TREE TRUST

*Native Forests for our Future
Hereherera te Wao-nui-a-Tāne*

SFFF Project 21156: Transitioning Exotic Forest to Native (2022-2027)

Project Partners Update – March 2026

Kia ora koutou,

This 5-year Tāne's Tree Trust research project is supported by the Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures fund and our forestry partners. Our latest milestone is the release of the [Preliminary Transition Guidelines](#). These guidelines are based on our research to date including:

1. LUCAS analysis - Land Use Carbon Analysis System (LUCAS) data was analysed to assess native understory development and forest characteristics within plantation forests to better understand these forests and necessary management to encourage a transition.
2. Tairāwhiti surveys - Targeted plot surveys assessed existing understory characteristics specific to Tairāwhiti/Gisborne region to understand what local management actions are required to support a pine to native forest transition.
3. Bioclimatic surveys – Plots surveys around the country were undertaken to gain information about bioclimatic effects that are supportive of an exotic to native transition.
4. Carbon/biodiversity modelling – The dynamics of transitional forest under a range of contexts were modelled. The modelling covered different scenarios with/without browser control and nearby native seed sources, and with varying levels of disturbance (e.g. storm events causing wind throw or managed thinning).

Project results were drawn together to help guide transition management, highlighting the key factors affecting a successful transition, and monitoring required to show transition success.

These are preliminary guidelines which will be updated at the end of the project with further research findings from ongoing field trials.

More information about this project is available on the [TTT transitioning project website page](#) which includes links to available project reports, published papers, and newsletter updates.

We thank everyone who has assisted Tāne's Tree Trust with this project. Please get in touch if you have any feedback or questions about this research programme.

Ngā mihi nui | kind regards
the Tāne's Tree Trust team

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