

NZFrogs Amphibian Award

Information for Applicants: *Leiopelma* are a genus of three nocturnal forest-dwelling frogs (*Māori: pepeketua*) endemic to Aotearoa New Zealand: Archey's, Hochstetter's, and Hamilton's frogs. *Leiopelma* are part of suborder Amphicoela, the most basal clade of all living frogs, emerging over 210 Mya. They possess a variety of distinct traits: *Leiopelma* do not jump to move on land (preferring to crawl), they swim with an alternate leg stroke (not a typical 'breaststroke') and do not croak or call. In Aotearoa, pepeketua are considered taonga by tangata whenua, as such, iwi partnerships and community engagement for action based conservation is essential to ensure *Leiopelma* persists for generations to come.

The NZFrogs Amphibian Award aims to support projects with the potential to contribute to amphibian conservation, research or science communication in Aotearoa New Zealand. Grants of up to \$300 NZD are available per project, under exceptional circumstances NZFrogs anticipates a maximum of two awards in any given calendar year. NZFrogs Amphibian Award may be used for a variety of project-related expenses such as: fieldwork (equipment, consumables, etc.) costs, travel or accommodation, and science communication activities or resources.

Eligibility: Preference will be given to those applicants focussing on *Leiopelma*, albeit projects that focus on introduced amphibians are also eligible. Applications may be on an individual or organisational basis including, but not limited to: independent researchers or consultants, university staff or students, community groups, ecosanctuaries, zoos or wildlife parks, and science communicators.

Applications: Applicants should state their full names, affiliation, and contact details, followed by a short 'proposal abstract' (about 250 words) that describes the project or activity, its importance for amphibian conservation, and, for research, its potential to progress New Zealand herpetology. Applications are to include an additional 'budget statement' (about 250 words) regarding how the funding would be used, and why these expenses are necessary for the completion of the project or activity. Please also briefly indicate (single sentence responses): whether *outstanding* animal ethics permits and sampling permission (including iwi consultation) are required, and any proposed research outputs (unpublished report, thesis, published journal etc.). Student applicants must also identify their supervisory team, and provide contact details for the primary supervisor.

Applications must be submitted by 15/07/2026 to this form [here](#).

Selection Criteria

Grants will be based on the quality of the proposal (i.e., scientific or conservation merit). The final decision for the award rests with the NZFrogs Board. NZFrogs reserves the right to withhold this grant if no applications meet an acceptable standard.

Conditions

Recipients of the NZFrogs Amphibian Award will be asked to provide:

- Short summary (250 words) describing how the funding was used, outcome of the project or activity.
- A selection of five photos (and videos if possible) that can be used for an NZFrogs social media post highlighting the project, its people, and its outcomes.
- Recipients must acknowledge the support of NZFrogs Amphibian Award in publications, presentations, or otherwise arising from the project or activity.

