

Community Support Fund 2023 review

Feb 2023 – Jan 2024

The [Community Support Fund](#) is a dedicated small grant fund operated by [Fauna & Flora](#) to support member groups of the [Coastal Communities Network](#), and other Scottish community-based organisations (CBOs) that Fauna & Flora engage with. The grant fund was established in early 2019 to enable groups to meet specific locally-determined goals, with the overall aim of or progressing local biodiversity conservation and/or development of local groups with a biodiversity focus.

In 2023, Fauna & Flora secured £25,000 for the Community Support Fund, available to CBOs implementing locally-led conservation initiatives focused on both land and sea.

In 2023, the fifth year of running, the fund supported three projects (1 terrestrial, 1 marine, 1 group development) to a total of c. £10k. 2 of these were located on the west coast and one on the east.

This year we have seen an increase in the average value of requests to £4,500 each, compared to average grants of £3000 in 2022 and £2500 in 2021.

The Community Support Fund will continue in 2024 with a total pot of £25,000, to be distributed to both marine and land-based projects. The Fund criteria, application form and successful projects list can be found [on the CCN website](#).

Successful projects in 2023

	Group	Project Title	Project description	Value	Status
1	South Skye Seas Initiative/Friends of Loch Hourn/ Knoydart Marine Group	Robolimpets	Three CCN member groups are undertaking long-term monitoring of intertidal temperature data in NW Scotland lochs and coasts using robo-limpets to mimic internal body temperature of molluscs. This is in response to concern about the decline of previously healthy blue mussel beds.	£854	In Progress
2	Tireragan Trust	Habitat surveys and fundraising capacity building	Carry out a site-wide vegetation survey to identify priorities for biodiversity action and to build capacity to fundraise, take on bigger projects and monitor their outcomes.	£4,713	In Progress
3	Charlestown, Limekilns and Pattiesmuir (CLP) Nature Conservation Group	Volunteer and Organisational Capacity Development Project towards wider Community Biodiversity and Habitat Awareness	Establish more independence and leadership amongst the volunteers so our nature group is sustainable long term and here for village generations to come. Grow capacity, develop volunteers as leaders and provide resources to ensure sustainability.	£4,290	In Progress



RoboImpets © Bewickshire Marine Reserve