# New Zealand’s Biological Heritage National Science Challenge Criteria to prioritise investment across SOs or 2023/4 Goals

Prioritising research needs is a common task for researchers especially in the biological heritage space.

Less common but more important in an environment of scarce resourcing is ‘prioritising the priorities’. When determining a portfolio research to invest Challenge funds across our Strategic Outcomes and 2024 Goals, the following criteria must be considered.

| **Criterion** | **Explanation** |
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| Creates impact | **How will this investment make a real difference, create impact and help achieve the Challenge’s Mission?** Significant progress must be made in exemplar areas by 2024 in order to incentivise and deliver collective impact. |
| Supports Māori aspirations and the intent of Vision Mātauranga | **How does this investment support the aspirations of Māori (iwi, hapū, whānau)? Is it co-designed with Māori, and does it resource Māori appropriately?** Investment must support our Māori KPIs and align with our ‘Best practice guidelines for working in partnership with Māori’. |
| Leverages co-investment | **How does this investment leverage off other investments in the system?** Co-investment can include cash; data; infrastructure; knowledge; study sites and facilities; capability and expertise; etc., with no one of these being afforded a higher priority than the others. |
| Currently under-invested area at a system level | **How does this investment address vital gaps?** A Strategic Outcome or 2024 Goal may be currently under-invested, yet be an area that would be the game-changer if significant progress was made; often requested but not necessarily resourced by stakeholders when prioritisation is done at the level of each individual organisation. |
| Alignment with whole-of-government and business initiatives | **How does this investment align with other initiatives?** These may include: sustainability initiatives; greening finance; socially-responsible investments; wellbeing; PCE recommendations in recent reports; Primary Sector Council initiatives. |
| Reduces fragmentation and builds scale | **How does this investment reduce system fragmentation?** Investment should build bridges among research teams or organisations that were not previously connected in order to reduce investment overlap and deliver collective impact. |