

Glossary

Benthic: living on or under the substrate at the bottom of the ocean.

Biological Diversity (biodiversity): the variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems (Convention on Biological Diversity).

Biosecurity: the protection of people and natural resources, including biodiversity, from unwanted organisms capable of causing harm.

Community: the collection of organisms found at a specific place and time.

Convention on Biological Diversity: an international agreement on biological diversity that came into force in December 1993. The objectives of the Convention are: the conservation of biological diversity; the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources.

Diadromous: diadromous fish regularly migrate between freshwater and seawater.

Ecology: the study of the distribution and abundance of species and the relationship and interactions between the species and their environment.

Ecological significance: defined for an area by one or more of the following ecological features; representativeness of Wellington's indigenous biodiversity, high diversity of ecological and physical features, degree of natural character, relative size and shape, relative rarity and special features, buffering, connectivity and viability. These ecological features contribute to Wellington's indigenous biodiversity and include consideration of current and potential biodiversity values.

Ecological succession: a fundamental concept in ecology, refers to more-or-less predictable and orderly changes in the composition or structure of an ecological community. Succession may be initiated either by formation of new, unoccupied habitat (eg a severe landslide) or by some form of disturbance (eg fire, severe windthrow, logging) of an existing community.

Eco-sourced species: plants that have genetic provenance in the location.

Ecosystem: a dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit.

Endemic: an indigenous species which is restricted to a particular geographical region ie it is found nowhere else in the world.

Exotic species: see Introduced species

Ex-situ conservation: the conservation of species outside their natural habitat.

Feral species: a domesticated species that has become wild.

Habitat: the place or type of an area in which a living thing naturally occurs.

Inanga: the adult lifestage of the most abundant whitebait species – *Galaxias maculatus*.

Indigenous species: a plant or animal species that occurs naturally in New Zealand.

In-situ conservation: the conservation of species (and the ecosystems and habitats that support them) within their natural surroundings.

Introduced species: a plant or animal species which has been brought to the locality by humans.

Kaitiakitanga: implies guardianship, stewardship, protection, care and vigilance. It introduces the idea of an inter-generational responsibility and an obligation to protect the natural environment.

Key Native Ecosystems: a Key Native Ecosystem (or KNE) describes a natural feature that is exceptionally important in terms of its ecological value and/or biodiversity.

Land environment: an area whose boundaries encompass similar environmental characteristics caused environmental variables such as climate, landform and soil.

Native species: see Indigenous species

Originally rare ecosystems: an ecosystem type that was present, and rare, when Maori arrived – and still exists today.

Representativeness: the extent to which areas are capable of reflecting known biological diversity and ecological patterns and processes.

Sustainable: conducting activities or using the components of biodiversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biodiversity.

Threatened species: a species that is vulnerable, endangered or presumed extinct. Acutely and chronically threatened indigenous species are species that meet the specific criteria to be listed in one of these categories in the "New Zealand Threat Classification System Lists" (refer to www.doc.govt.nz for up-to-date lists).

Translocation: a deliberate and mediated movement of wild individuals or populations from one area to another.