



Native Biodiversity

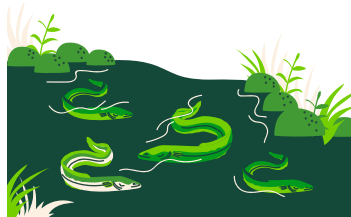
What is native biodiversity?

Biodiversity translates simply to "biological diversity", or the diversity of living things in an area.

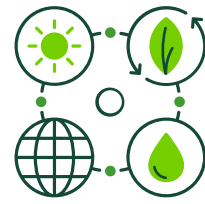
Biodiversity can be measured at three scales:



the number of species in an area



the amount of genetic variation within each species in an area



the diversity of ecosystems in an area

To enhance biodiversity, all three types of variation should be maximised.

Native biodiversity refers to species that occur naturally in New Zealand. This means the species either evolved here or arrived without the help of humans.

Why is biodiversity important?

People need a healthy environment to provide



food, water & air
the essentials of life

These essentials are provided when an ecosystem has all the parts it needs to function. Without living things, the natural ecosystem will stop functioning altogether. To put it simply, humans cannot survive without biodiversity.

Increasing biodiversity will also make species and ecosystems more robust when there are disturbances - whether it's pest species, diseases, climate change or another impact.

Biodiversity can also benefit farms. For example, increasingly, consumers will pay a premium for sustainably produced products, and native species can help with nutrient cycling, pollination and erosion control.

