
Overview of New Zealand's Seventh National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity



**Te Kāwanatanga
o Aotearoa**
New Zealand Government

The New Zealand Government submitted its Seventh National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in February 2026 via the CBD's online portal. This national report communicates New Zealand's contribution to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) by reporting on progress towards the 13 national targets during the period 2020–2025 and by providing data and information for the GBF monitoring framework.

The report was coordinated by the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai, with contributions from:

- Ministry for Primary Industries | Manatū Ahu Matua
- Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade | Manatū Aorere
- Te Uru Kahika | Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa
- Te Puni Kōkiri | Ministry of Māori Development
- Toitū Te Whenua | Land Information New Zealand
- Environmental Protection Authority | Te Mana Rauhi Taiao
- Stats NZ | Tatauranga Aotearoa
- Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment | Hikina Whakatutuki
- Whaikaha | Ministry of Disabled People
- Manatū Wāhine | Ministry for Women.

Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

The CBD is an international treaty that aims to conserve biodiversity and ensure its sustainable use and the equitable sharing of its benefits. As a party to the CBD, New Zealand is required to have a national biodiversity strategy and action plan and to complete national reports.

New Zealand submitted [13 national targets](#) based on *Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020* (the Biodiversity Strategy) to the CBD Secretariat in October 2024. The Government's next implementation plan for the Biodiversity Strategy will be submitted to the CBD alongside the Biodiversity Strategy and national targets, which together will form New Zealand's updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

The Seventh National Report is the first to apply the CBD's new monitoring framework, and New Zealand provided the best available data and responses to all questions. This process highlighted opportunities to improve New Zealand's reporting in the future, which could also support the monitoring of indigenous biodiversity and sharing of data to inform decision making here at home.

The Seventh National Report highlights many of the activities underway across government that are contributing to progress against each of the national targets and the objectives and outcomes of the Biodiversity Strategy. The report also acknowledges that the significant contributions made by Māori iwi and hapū, communities, businesses, and private landowners have been fundamental to this progress.

It is this energy and collective effort that, if sustained, will enable New Zealand to realise the outcomes we collectively set ourselves for 2050.

Level of progress towards New Zealand's national targets

The New Zealand Government reported on current progress towards the 13 national targets, which are made up of the Biodiversity Strategy's objectives and their underpinning goals, adjusted to reflect government priorities and resources.

Snapshot of reporting for each national target	Progress reported
<p>1. Governance, legislation and funding systems are in place and enable delivery of the strategy outcomes.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Biodiversity system governance, in partnership with Treaty partners, provides leadership, accountability, including monitoring and reporting, and inclusive decision making. b) The costs and value of restoring indigenous biodiversity have been quantified and inform decision making. 	
<p>Governance and oversight arrangements provided leadership for the protection and restoration of indigenous biodiversity and involved Māori and stakeholders.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wild Animal Management Coordination Group (national) • Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance (regional) 	<p>On track to achieve target</p>
<p>2. Treaty partners, whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori organisations are rangatira and kaitiaki.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Innovative Treaty partnership approaches are developed and lead the delivery of many biodiversity restoration projects. b) Māori cultural and intellectual property rights and data interests regarding indigenous biodiversity are upheld. 	
<p>Government agencies continued to learn from and develop projects in partnership with Māori, across all aspects of biodiversity protection and sustainable use.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievements of the Kea Recovery Group • Collaborative work through Tiakina Kauri, a kauri protection programme being led by Biosecurity New Zealand • Exploration of a biodiscovery system to share benefits arising from the use of biological and genetic resources 	<p>Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate</p>

Snapshot of reporting for each national target	Progress reported
<p>3. Biodiversity protection is at the heart of economic activity.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <p>Economic tools promote the protection and restoration of biodiversity for its intrinsic value, as well as its economic benefits.</p>	
<p>New economic tools were explored in collaboration with the private sector to help protect biodiversity for its intrinsic value and economic benefit.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public consultation on biodiversity credits and sustainable finance taxonomy • Pilot projects to explore the Government’s role and the design of a nature market 	<p>On track to achieve target</p>
<p>4. Improved systems for knowledge, science, data and innovation inform our work.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <p>a) A national, agreed set of indicators, common data standards and open data agreements provide effective environmental monitoring of biodiversity.</p> <p>b) A framework for identifying and prioritising high biodiversity value areas has been developed and agreed on.</p>	
<p>The Government worked towards consistent biodiversity monitoring standards, improved access to biodiversity information and developed frameworks for identifying high biodiversity value areas.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data platforms such as the Land Atlas of New Zealand and the Department of Conservation Marine Data Portal • Framework for high-value marine biodiversity areas • BioInvest – a new Department of Conservation decision support tool 	<p>Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate</p>
<p>5. Mātauranga Māori is an integral part of biodiversity research and management.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <p>Treaty partners make decisions based on the best knowledge from multiple scientific disciplines and ways of seeing/understanding the world, including mātauranga Māori.</p>	
<p>Biodiversity knowledge was enhanced by cross-disciplinary research including mātauranga Māori, building capability and supporting decision making.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wai Tuwhera o te Taiao – Open Waters Aotearoa providing tools to use environmental DNA (eDNA) • Ngā Poutama Matawhenua providing training in digital mapping tools • Whaingā Amorangi building government cultural capability 	<p>Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate</p>

Snapshot of reporting for each national target	Progress reported
<p>6. Aotearoa New Zealand is making a meaningful contribution to biodiversity globally.</p> <p>By 2030: New Zealand provides leadership on policy and international commitments to biodiversity.</p>	
<p>New Zealand led efforts to strengthen international biodiversity agreements, technical cooperation and capacity building.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels and the Seabird-Safe Fishing Toolkit projects • Managing Invasive Species for Climate Adaptation in the Pacific 	<p>On track to achieve target</p>
<p>7. All New Zealanders have the skills, knowledge and capability to be effective.</p> <p>By 2030: Education and campaigns ensure people have the right skills to protect and manage biodiversity and that New Zealanders are aware of the value of biodiversity.</p>	
<p>The Government encouraged New Zealanders to take action to protect native biodiversity and provided opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1.18 billion invested in Jobs for Nature to support nature-based employment as part of the COVID-19 economic recovery • 'Check, Clean, Dry' and other biosecurity campaigns 	<p>On track to achieve target</p>
<p>8. Resourcing and support are enabling connected, active, guardians of nature.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <p>a) Community action groups and Treaty partners are resourced to access knowledge, expertise and information to manage biodiversity and act as environmental stewards.</p> <p>b) Landowners, businesses, resource users/owners and industry are supported and, where appropriate, incentivised to contribute to protecting and restoring indigenous biodiversity.</p>	
<p>The Government provided financial support to specific communities to protect and restore biodiversity and trialled new approaches to supporting community-led action.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry for Primary Industries and the farming industry co-funded the Farming With Native Biodiversity pilot • Ministry for the Environment ran pilots exploring how to support action and the sharing of information within communities • Contestable funding administered by government agencies 	<p>On track to achieve target</p>

Snapshot of reporting for each national target	Progress reported
<p>9. Collaboration, co-design and partnership are delivering better outcomes.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <p>Well-connected networks of relevant people, including urban and rural communities, stakeholders, Treaty partners, industry and central and local government, work together in partnership to implement the strategy.</p>	
<p>The Government contributed to the co-design and collaborative delivery of biodiversity protection programmes as highlighted under other national targets.</p> <p>Mobilised by the Predator Free 2050 goals, 18 landscape-scale projects and many community organisations have been active in co-design, collaboration and network building.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding and partnership in 18 landscape-scale predator eradication projects • National collaborations coordinated and set the direction for implementing the six pathways in the Predator Free 2050 Strategy 	<p>On track to achieve target</p>
<p>10. Ecosystems and species are protected, restored, resilient and connected from mountain tops to ocean depths.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <p>a) Improved baseline information, comprehensive mapping, and improved knowledge of species and ecosystems help reduce the cumulative effects of pressures on biodiversity.</p> <p>b) There is no loss of the extent or condition of indigenous land, wetland, freshwater ecosystems, and marine and coastal habitats, which have been identified as having high biodiversity value.</p> <p>c) The state of indigenous species known to be at risk of extinction stabilises or improves.</p>	
<p>The Government delivered operational and research programmes for threatened species, naturally uncommon ecosystems and marine ecosystems in partnership with Māori and communities.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Conservation National Predator Control Programme • New marine protection to revitalise the Hauraki Gulf/Tikapa Moana • Designation of Wairarapa Moana as a wetland of international importance and other actions to protect threatened freshwater species 	<p>Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate</p>

Snapshot of reporting for each national target	Progress reported
<p>11. Biological threats and pressures are reduced through management.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <p>a) Introduced browsers, including valued introduced species, are actively managed to reduce pressures on indigenous biodiversity and maintain cultural and recreational values.</p> <p>b) The highest priority biosecurity threats, including weeds, animal pests and diseases (e.g. introduced invasive plants, algae, mammals, fish, invertebrates and microorganisms), in all domains, have been identified and are being managed based on current and potential future impacts on indigenous biodiversity.</p>	
<p>The Government improved the biosecurity system and delivered national programmes to manage biological threats and pressures.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand Established Pests Portal • Department of Conservation Wild Animals Management programme • Regional pest and pathway programmes delivered to manage priority pests and threats 	<p>On track to achieve target</p>
<p>12. Natural resources are managed sustainably.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <p>a) Marine and freshwater fisheries are managed within sustainable limits while retaining cultural and recreational values, including for valued introduced species.</p> <p>b) Sustainable use practices that include benefits for indigenous biodiversity are standard practice and environmental outcomes improve.</p>	
<p>New legislation, policies and systems have improved the sustainable management of fisheries, forestry and terrestrial farming.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-board cameras on 220 inshore fishing vessels for compliance monitoring • National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry • Implementation of new regulations for whitebait fishing to protect threatened freshwater fish 	<p>On track to achieve target</p>
<p>13. Biodiversity provides nature-based solutions to climate change and is resilient to its effects.</p> <p>By 2030:</p> <p>a) Restoration of indigenous ecosystems, including wetlands, forests, and coastal and marine ecosystems (blue carbon), contributes to net emissions targets through carbon storage and improves our resilience to the effects of climate change, including coastal protection against rising sea levels.</p> <p>b) Risks to biodiversity from climate change, including cascading effects (e.g. increases in introduced invasive species, water abstraction, fire risk, sedimentation) have been identified, assessed and managed to build resilience where possible.</p>	
<p>Research improved our understanding of climate change risks to biodiversity and how native ecosystems can be managed to improve climate resilience and carbon storage.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change vulnerability assessments for 1,145 terrestrial taxa • Department of Conservation Maximising Carbon in Native Systems research programme 	<p>Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate</p>

New Zealand's responses to the Global Biodiversity Framework indicators

In response to the new CBD reporting requirements, New Zealand provided data for 19 of the 27 headline indicators and responses to all binary indicators that are being used to track global progress towards the goals and targets of the GBF.

Headline indicators are quantitative and require data to report on them. New Zealand provided data for headline indicators where there is international agreement on the data required and there are suitable data available. This includes data on the extent of protected areas, the Red List Index of species (an IUCN index of the overall extinction risk for species) and the total number of hectares across the country where restoration activities are occurring.

Binary indicators are a series of questions asking if New Zealand has tools such as policies, monitoring or plans that relate to the topic of the global target or goal. Responses will be analysed and benchmarked by the CBD and included in a global analysis. New Zealand responded 'Fully' to all questions for 3 of the 15 binary indicators and 'Under development' to all questions for the indicator assessing the sharing of benefits from genetic resources, referring to the work underway to develop a biodiscovery system. A mixed response was given to the questions for the remaining 11 indicators, meaning that the tools are in place to varying degrees.

New Zealand's contribution to the Global Biodiversity Framework global goals

Global goal A: Protect and Restore – Ecosystems are conserved, extinctions are halted and genetic diversity is maintained

New Zealand highlighted its global conservation leadership by sharing innovative technology and methods for eradicating invasive mammalian predators on islands and reducing seabird bycatch with other countries. Maintaining the extent and condition of naturally uncommon ecosystems and threatened species also contributes to global goal A.

Global goal B: Prosper with Nature – Biodiversity is sustainably used and its contributions to people are maintained, enhanced or restored

New Zealand highlighted work to refine existing legislation that provides direction for the monitoring and use of natural resources and the protection or sustainable management of indigenous species and ecosystems. Sustainable use and protection of indigenous biodiversity in agriculture, forestry and fisheries also contribute to global goal B.

Global goal C: Share Benefits Fairly – Benefits from the use of genetic resources are shared and substantially increased

New Zealand highlighted work underway to explore policy settings for a biodiscovery system. The system would enable the ethical and effective use of biological and genetic resources in scientific research and commercial development, and the sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of these resources.

Global goal D: Invest and Collaborate – The biodiversity funding gap of US\$700 billion is progressively closed by ensuring that adequate means of implementation are available

New Zealand highlighted its NZ\$20 million contribution to the new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, as well as the involvement of government officials in a variety of operational projects across the Pacific.

New Zealand's Eighth National Report

The New Zealand Government's Eighth National Report to the CBD Secretariat is due in June 2029. New Zealand will provide data and responses to support global monitoring of the GBF and will summarise progress against its 13 national targets.

In the interim, the Department of Conservation will produce annual progress reports sharing the Government's progress in delivering actions set out in the Biodiversity Strategy implementation plan.