4. Site descriptions

Descriptions for all 113 sites are presented below, including maps, grid references, area, altitude, ecological units, landform/geology (summarised in Appendix 10), vegetation, notable species, and ecological significance. The percentage cover of ecological units has been included in the site descriptions, and individual ecological units within sites have, with some exceptions, been mapped. Vegetation types within ecological units are defined by 'abundant' species (species forming > 50% of the canopy) where present, otherwise 'common' (species which form 20–50% of the canopy) species, plus overall vegetation structure. If there are no common canopy species, vegetation types are defined by 'frequent' species (which form 10–20% of the canopy). The vegetation types are aggregated into 19 major vegetation types (from the PATN cluster analysis), which are then aggregated into higher level habitat mapping units (forest, forest-shrubland, shrubland, wetland, estuarine, dunes). Appendix 10 presents the concordance of ecological units, the 19 major vegetation types, and the six habitat mapping units, as well as area and level of ecological significance. Faunal records from the SSBI database held at Northland Conservancy, Department of Conservation, are given with site number and date of observation. Records of threatened flora and fauna have been obtained from herbaria and other databases and information systems like the SSBI mentioned in Section 2.1 and 3.6.1, or were made directly during this survey. Unless referenced, the Fauna section of each site description lists indigenous fauna observations made during this survey. The current New Zealand conservation status (e.g., Gradual Decline) which is derived from Hitchmough et al. (2007) and unpublished lists of Regionally Significant flora and fauna. See Appendices 8.5 and 8.7 for lists of flora and fauna respectively present in Kaipara ED (Northland). The Significance section specifies the ecological and conservation values of the site according to Section 2.4 (Criteria for assessment of the significance of ecological units). This includes the presence of any 'representative ecological units', ie priority ecological units representing the highest quality examples of ecological units characteristic of the diversity in the ED, or the best examples of depleted and hence underrepresented ecological units. It also includes presence of threatened and regionally significant species, land environments classified as Acutely Threatened, Chronically Threatened or At Risk (MfE 2007), and the existing degree of statutory protection.