

Te whaitua whenua | The land domain

*The people are guardians of the natural world, and the natural world is a guardian of the people.
He kaitiaki ngā tāngata o te ao tūroa, ā, ko te ao tūroa he kaitiaki o ngā tāngata.*



Around **50%** of our terrestrial flora and fauna are found nowhere else on earth.

The land mass of Aotearoa New Zealand is shaped by active tectonics and complex landscapes supporting unique and varied plants, animals and ecosystems.

Decline in ecosystems

Forest



Pre human settlement indigenous forest 2018 / 2019

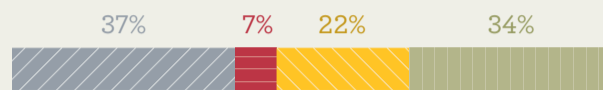
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Land biodiversity state and trends

■ Data Deficient*
 ■ Threatened
 ■ At Risk
 ■ Not Threatened

*A species is 'Data Deficient' when not enough is known to assign a conservation status.

Conservation status of resident indigenous terrestrial species 2019



Number of species assessed: 10857

Ecosystems under threat



'Naturally uncommon' ecosystems such as active sand dunes and braided riverbeds covered less than 0.5% of landmass prior to human arrival. Today, **45 out of 72** naturally uncommon ecosystems are considered to be threatened.

Species under Threat



Around **1 in 3** indigenous reptiles are threatened with extinction.

Number of species assessed: 105

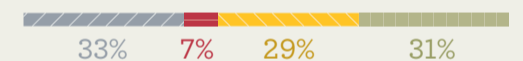


What we don't know



More than **1 in 3** indigenous land invertebrates are Data Deficient.

Number of species assessed: 3764



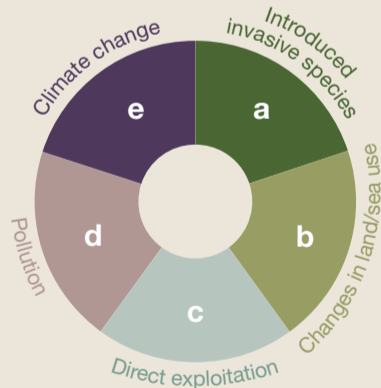
Species in decline



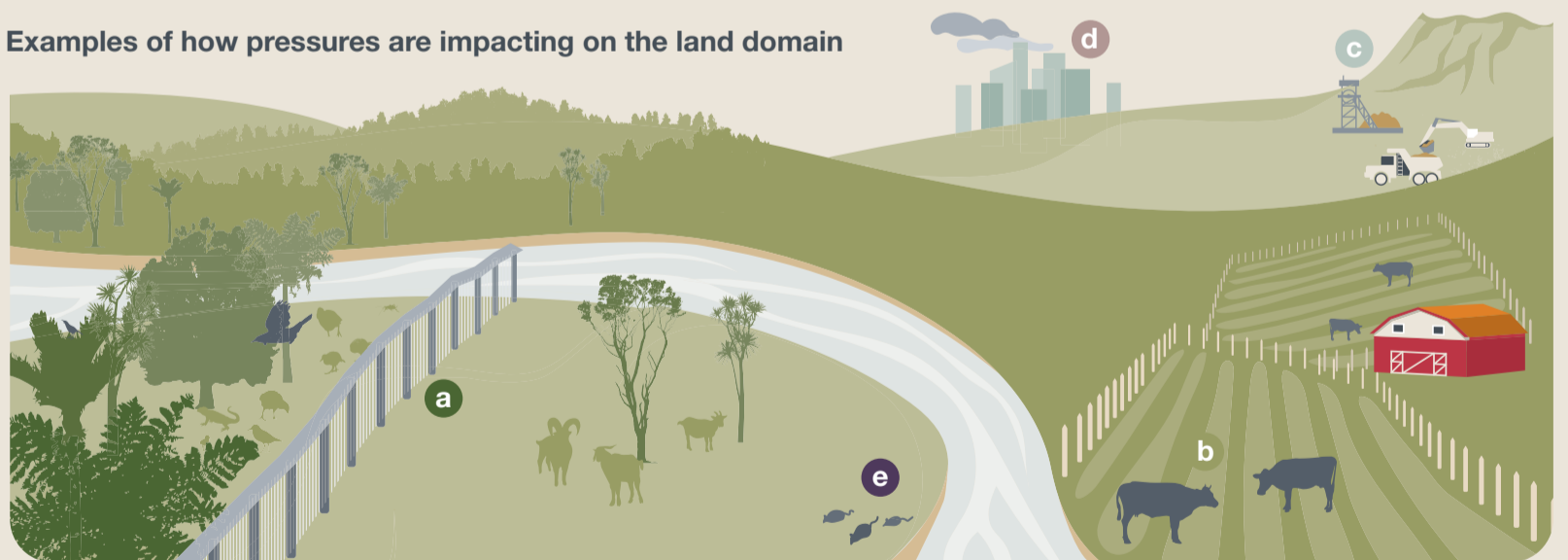
Between 2014 and 2018, **61** vascular plant species changed conservation status due to declines in populations.

Land biodiversity pressures

Examples of how pressures are impacting on the land domain



Five pressures, related to human activity, are causing the decline of biodiversity in Aotearoa. Their impacts are complex and different for each domain.



a Threatened flora species continue to decline in part because of browsing pressure from introduced herbivores, while without predator control many of our fauna species would become extinct.

b Indigenous ecosystems continue to be lost through conversion to intensive primary production.

c Mining can cause biodiversity loss as the resources sought for extraction are often in the same places as rare ecosystems and threatened species habitats.

d Increasing urbanisation and light pollution has been associated with pekapeka/long-tailed bats avoiding the habitats they need to survive and reproduce.

e Climate change is expected to result in rats, introduced wasps, pest ants and hedgehogs increasing in population size, moving into new habitats and expanding their range of prey species.

Related Resources:

The information presented in this series of factsheets is sourced from the report Biodiversity in Aotearoa – State, Trends and Pressures:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/nz-biodiversity>

Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/anzbs-strategy> sets a strategic direction for the protection, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity in Aotearoa for the next 30 years.

Separate sheets are available for **marine** and **freshwater** domains as well as a generalised sheet for combined domains at <https://www.doc.govt.nz/nz-biodiversity>