

New Zealand's land at a glance

Our land 2018

Land is our place to stand, our tūrangawaewae, and it is what makes Aotearoa, New Zealand home. "People need nature, land and waters for life, purpose and humanity" (Te Urewera Board, 2017).

Primary production

(in 2016)

\$35.4b

in exported goods was earned from what we produced on the land.



Tourism

(in 2016)

\$14.7b

was spent by tourists who came to enjoy our natural landscapes.



Soil quality

(between 2014 and 2017)

Soil quality monitoring results showed that two out of seven indicators give reason for concern. These were phosphorus levels in soil and macroporosity – which relates to the number of big pore spaces that let air and water move through soil.

33%

of sites tested had soil phosphorus levels that were too high, which can negatively impact on water quality.

44%

of sites tested had macroporosity levels that were too low. Macroporosity is an indicator of soil compaction, which can negatively impact on water quality and the productivity of the land.

192m

tonnes of soil is lost every year from erosion. 44% of that comes from pasture.



Wetlands

90%

of wetland habitats have been lost since European settlement.

Coastal and lowland ecosystems (like active sand dunes and wetlands) continue to decline in extent.

Biodiversity

(between 2010 and 2016)

20

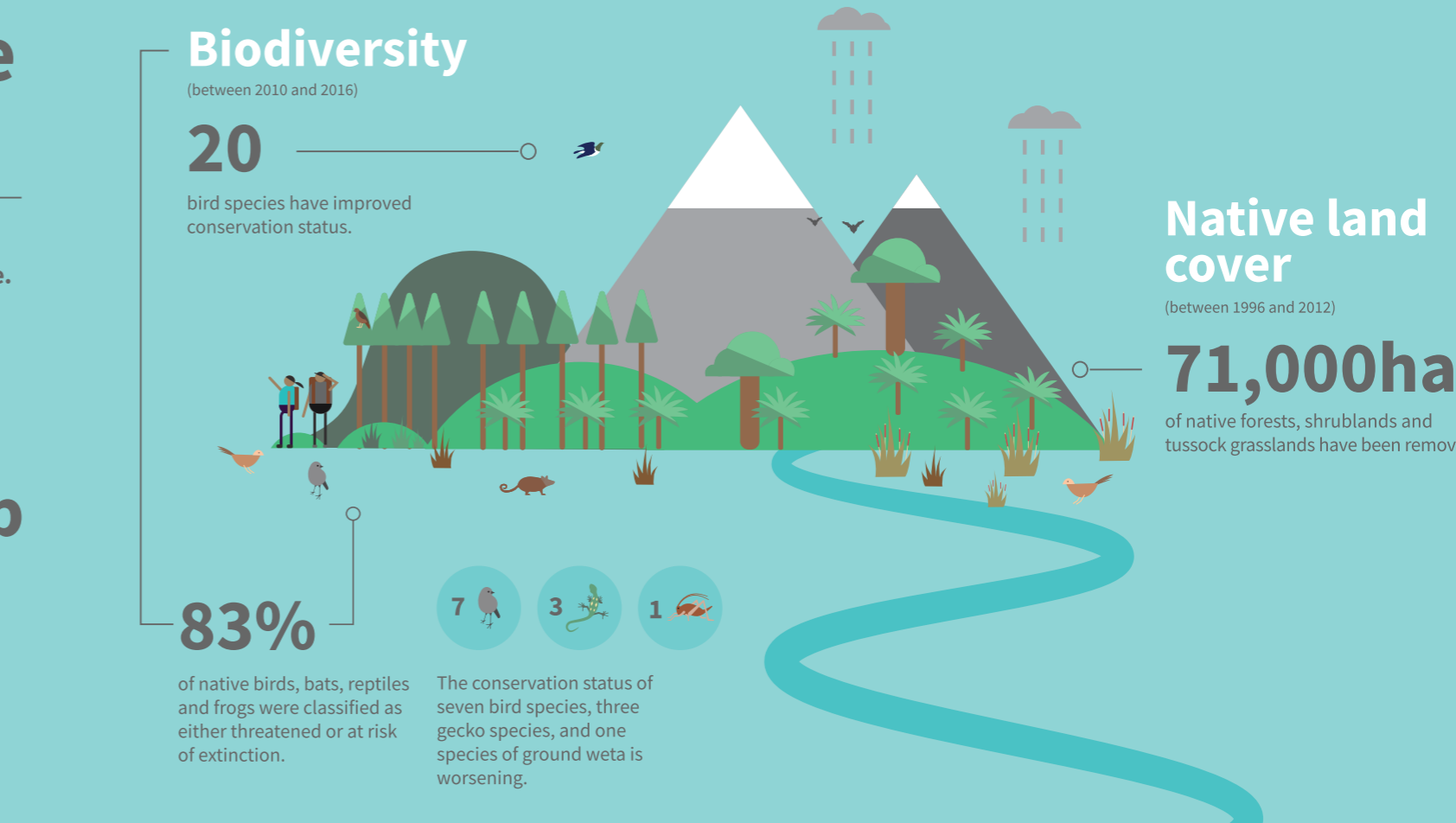
bird species have improved conservation status.

83%

of native birds, bats, reptiles and frogs were classified as either threatened or at risk of extinction.

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The conservation status of seven bird species, three gecko species, and one species of ground weta is worsening.

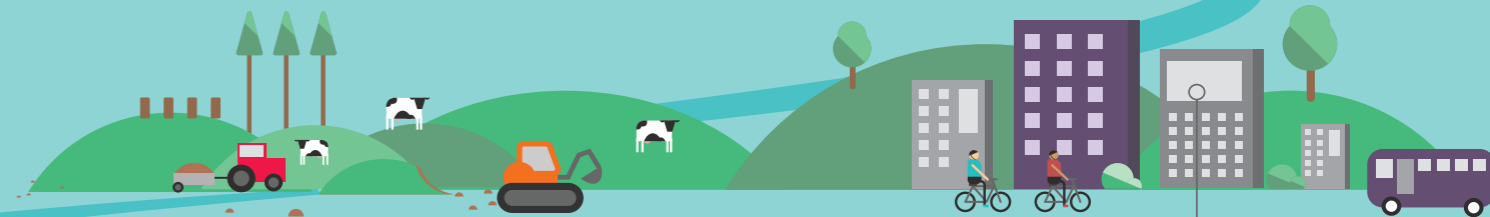


Native land cover

(between 1996 and 2012)

71,000ha

of native forests, shrublands and tussock grasslands have been removed.



Urban land use

(between 1996 and 2012)

10%

increase in the total size of our towns and cities – we've lost some of our most productive and versatile land.

Rural land use

(between 2002 and 2016)

10%

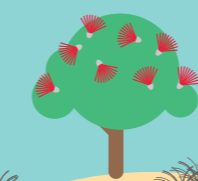
reduction in the amount of land used for agriculture and horticulture.

42%

increase in the area of land used for dairy.

20%

decrease in the area of land used for sheep and beef farming.



Ministry for the Environment
Manatū Mo Te Taiao

