Glossary

Benthic: living on or under the substrate at the bottom of the ocean.

Biodiversity (biological diversity): all biological life, including fungi and micro-organisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystems of which they form a part. *The term biodiversity in this plan means indigenous biodiversity unless otherwise stated.*

Biosecurity: the protection of people and natural resources, including biodiversity, from unwanted organisms capable of causing harm.

Buffer zones: the zone around a core protected area that shields that area from possible disruptive external influences.

Catchment: a catchment is all the land from the mountains and hills to the sea, drained by a single stream and its tributaries.

Community: the collection of organisms found at a specific place and time.

Competitor release: the expansion of a species in the absence of a competitor.

Convention on Biological Diversity: an international agreement on biological diversity that came into force in December 1993 . The objectives of the Convention are: the conservation of biological diversity; the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources.

Core areas: interior areas of a patch that retain similar abiotic and biotic conditions to pre-fragmented conditions and do not experience strong influences from neighbouring patches.

Corridor: narrow strips of land that differ from the matrix on either side. Corridors may be isolated strips, but are usually attached to a patch of somewhat similar vegetation.

Daylighting: the redirection of a stream from a pipe into an above-ground channel to restore a stream of water to a more natural state.

Diadromous: diadromous fish migrate between freshwater and seawater.

Eco-domain: a domain representing a cluster of repeating biogeoclimatic patterns where within each domain there are a consistent, predictable response of ecosystems to impacts and changes.

Ecology: the study of the distribution and abundance of species and the relationship and interactions between the species and their environment.

Ecological integrity: an ecosystem is considered to be healthy and have “integrity” when it hosts all the native plants and animals typical of the area, and when ecological processes are functioning well.

Ecological region: an aggregate of adjacent ecological districts with very closely related characteristics.

Ecological significance: defined for an area by one or more of the following ecological features: representativeness of Wellington’s indigenous biodiversity, high diversity of ecological and physical features, degree of natural character, relative size and shape, relative rarity and special features, buffering, connectivity and viability. These ecological features contribute to Wellington’s indigenous biodiversity and include consideration of current and potential biodiversity values.

Ecological succession: a fundamental concept in ecology that refers to more-or-less predictable and orderly changes in the composition or structure of an ecological community. Succession may be initiated either by formation of new, unoccupied habitat (eg a severe landslide) or by some form of disturbance (eg fire, severe windthrow, logging) of an existing community.

Eco-sourcing: the propagation of naturally occurring (ie not introduced accidentally or deliberately by humans) plants from local areas and the planting of them back within the same region.

Ecosystem: a dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit.

Edge effects: the changes in population or community structures that occur at the boundary of two habitats.

Emergent trees: trees that are over 30 metres tall and tower above the forest canopy.

Endemic: an indigenous species that is restricted to a particular geographical region, ie it is found nowhere else in the world.

Exotic species: *see Introduced species.*

Ex-situ conservation: the conservation of species outside their natural habitat.

Feral species: a domesticated species that has become wild.

Habitat: the place or type of an area in which a living thing naturally occurs.

Inanga: the adult lifestage of the most abundant whitebait species, Galaxias maculates.

Indigenous: a plant or animal species that occurs naturally in Wellington

In-situ conservation: the conservation of species (and the ecosystems and habitats that support them) within their natural surroundings.

Introduced species: a plant or animal species that has been brought to the locality by humans.

Kaitiakitanga: implies guardianship, stewardship, protection, care and vigilance. It introduces the idea of an inter-generational responsibility and an obligation to protect the natural environment.

Key Native Ecosystem: an area that is actively managed by GWRC to protect and enhance indigenous biodiversity values.

Land environment: an area whose boundaries encompass similar environmental characteristics caused by environmental variables such as climate, landform and soil

Locally significant species: a species that has no national or regional threat status, but is important in Wellington for its cultural values

Meso-predator release: a situation in which populations of small and medium-sized predators rapidly increase after the removal of larger predators.

Native species: see Indigenous species.

Originally rare ecosystems: an ecosystem type that was present, and rare, when Māori arrived - and still exists today.

Outcome monitoring: monitoring the desired outcome of biodiversity activities, eg an increase in native birds.

Output monitoring: monitoring the outputs from activities required to reaching your desired outcome, eg a reduction in pest animal numbers.

Podocarps: trees or shrubs that have linear-like leaves and are usually dioecious. Eg totara, rimu, kahikatea, miro and matai.

Representativeness: the extent to which areas are capable of reflecting known biological diversity and ecological patterns and processes.

Regeneration: the natural process by which plants replace or re-establish themselves

Resilience: the capacity of a system to absorb disturbance while undergoing change so as to still retain essentially the same structure and functions

Restoration: intentional activity that initiates or accelerates the recovery of an ecosystem

Revegetation: the process of replanting and gaining vegetated cover on disturbed land

Riparian: the interface between land and a river or stream

Stepping stones: patches of discontinuous vegetation that can be used to link larger areas together.

Sustainable: conducting activities or using the components of biodiversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biodiversity.

Threatened species: a species that is vulnerable, endangered or presumed extinct. Acutely and chronically threatened indigenous species are species that meet the specific criteria to be listed in one of these categories in the "New Zealand Threat Classification System Lists" (refer to doc.govt.nz for up-to-date lists).

Translocation: a deliberate and mediated movement of wild individuals or populations from one area to another.

Vascular plant: a plant having specialized tissues (xylem and phloem) that conduct water and synthesized foods, as any fern, gymnosperm, or angiosperm

Veteranisation: destructive pruning methods, which accelerates the ageing process of trees.

Weed: any unwanted plant organism that outcompetes, displaces and/or prevents natural succession of indigenous species.

Wellbeing: the state of being comfortable, healthy, or happy; both mentally and physically.