



Evaluation of Eco-index Biodiversity Products

There is a lack of accurate and regularly updated biodiversity and ecosystem data for Aotearoa New Zealand. We need better information and tools to inform efforts to protect and support biodiversity. Eco-index is an innovative initiative delivering resources and digital tools across multiple sectors to support biodiversity planning and ecosystem reconstruction efforts.

In 2023, Eco-index undertook an evaluation of our early-stage and conceptual biodiversity resources to understand their real-world applicability. The evaluation results are informing ongoing resource development and are summarised here.

33

Participants
in total

13

Government

7

Industry

5

NGO

4

Iwi

4

Community

Six Eco-index resources were evaluated:

- A national level biodiversity vision for Aotearoa New Zealand
- Restoration targets, by catchment (15%)
- Where should I restore and how much will it cost?
- Impact-investment modelling (best restoration and biodiversity management activities for optimal outcomes)
- Remote sensing detectors (using satellite imagery and machine learning to build biodiversity detectors)
- Aggregate biodiversity score for Aotearoa New Zealand

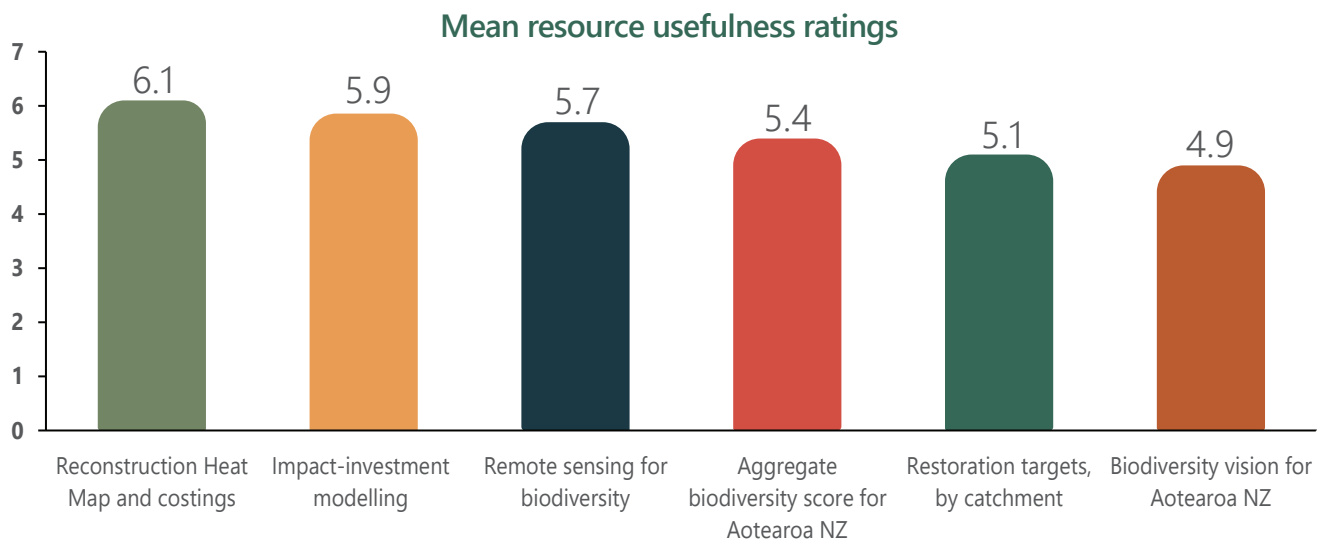
Overall, how easy would you rate the Eco-index resources to understand?

On average, participants rated that the biodiversity resources were easy to understand. However, participants noted potential issues for those from a non-scientific or data background. We are developing explanatory material to support resource interpretation.



Usefulness of Eco-index resources and their potential use

Overall, participants expressed excitement and anticipation about the resources and their potential use cases. Participants consistently wanted resources with direct practical application, including where exactly they should begin planting trees or restoring ecosystems, and detailed dollar estimates of how much work would cost. Many participants highlighted that the resources would be highly useful for decision making, including land use planning, restoration projects and policy development. They were also seen as valuable resources for facilitating dialogue with various groups, such as landowners, planters and funders.



Feedback:

"That's such as epic visual to see where we should be targeting our [biodiversity] efforts." Industry

"[The resources] lay out a good pathway, which aligns well with Māori values." Iwi Organisation

"This [resource] is super practical. Again, helping people make decisions how to prioritise and know how much it will cost." NGO

"Very, very useful, that again helping landowners that we work with decide where to focus their planting efforts." NGO

These findings inform the continual development of Eco-index resources. Thanks to those who participated in the evaluations. Subscribe at www.eco-index.nz/subscribe to receive the updates on the latest from Eco-index.