

Biodiversity Offsetting under the Resource Management Act (New Zealand)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · New Zealand

Quality score: 27/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Since 2014 New Zealand's national biodiversity-offsetting guidance has let developers offset unavoidable habitat loss through resource consents aiming for 'no net loss' — but an independent study of 81 consents found 35% of compensation conditions were not being met.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	1/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	1/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

[New Zealand Department of Conservation & Ministry for the Environment — RMA biodiversity offsetting guidance](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

[NZ Department of Conservation: Biodiversity offsetting](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

[Taylor & Francis: Ecological compensation — an evaluation of regulatory compliance in New Zealand](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

[LGNZ: Biodiversity offsetting under the Resource Management Act — summary document](#) — accessed 2026-07-04

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