



Estimated contemporary and pre-human wetland area, by type (2008 estimate)

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Publisher	New Zealand's Environment Reporting Series: The Ministry for the Environment and Statistics New Zealand
Description	Wetlands support unique biodiversity and provide important services. They clean water of excess nutrients and sediment, help absorb floodwaters, and act as carbon sinks (remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere). They also have cultural importance for Māori, and provide valuable food and materials (eg flax). Draining wetlands for agricultural and urban development over the past 150 years has significantly reduced their extent, leading to a loss of biodiversity and natural function. This dataset contains estimates of the national extent of the different types of wetlands in contemporary and pre-human times. This dataset relates to the "Wetland extent" measure on the Environmental Indicators, Te taiao Aotearoa website.
Source	Landcare Research
Rights	Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand
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Rights	http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/nz/
Coverage	National, contemporary and pre-human
Identifier	https://data.mfe.govt.nz/table/52541-estimated-contemporary-and-pre-human-wetland-area-by-type-2008-estimate/
Type	Dataset
Language	eng-nz
Subject	watercourse, landscape