**Solo taxonomy rubric:** Ecological comprehension

**Field trip:** *Environmental guardianship in Tamatea Dusky Sound*

This rubric aligns with the New Zealand Curriculum's Science and Social Sciences learning areas, facilitating ākonga exploration of marine and forest ecosystems, fostering their understanding of biodiversity, and encouraging them to recognise the vital role of conservation efforts.

It places a particular emphasis on developing ecological comprehension, and assessing the degree of insight into the interconnectedness inherent in ecosystems. The rubric's five progressive levels of comprehension provide a flexible framework for evaluating ākonga understanding, accommodating diverse levels of engagement and depth of knowledge, and can be adapted for a range of year levels.

**Level 1: Prestructural**

* Has yet to exhibit an understanding of ecosystems, biodiversity, or conservation in the context of the field trip.
* Has yet to identify fundamental concepts linked to marine and forest ecosystems, biodiversity, or conservation endeavours.

**Level 2: Unistructural**

* Has a grasp of one or two key concepts pertaining to ecosystems, biodiversity, or conservation within the field trip.
* Can identify some basic elements but have yet to develop a profound understanding.

**Level 3: Multistructural**

* Exhibits an understanding of several key concepts related to ecosystems, biodiversity, or conservation within the field trip.
* Can describe the significance of marine and forest ecosystems, the importance of biodiversity, and the necessity for conservation. Although there is discernible understanding and connections between concepts, further development may be needed.

**Level 4: Relational**

* Displays a robust understanding of ecosystems, biodiversity, and conservation, successfully establishing connections among various concepts within the field trip.
* Can describe the interdependence between marine and forest ecosystems, articulate the critical role of biodiversity in maintaining ecosystem health, and expound on the significance of conservation efforts. Their explanations are supported by relevant examples.

**Level 5: Extended abstract**

* Demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of ecosystems, biodiversity, and conservation, progressing past the information provided in the field trip.
* Can explain concepts and also engage in critical analysis. Furthermore, they generate thought-provoking questions regarding the field trip's content, displaying a profound curiosity and an ability to apply their knowledge to real-world situations.