

FACTSHEET: The current state of Australia's threatened species

Australia accounts for 5% of the world's landmass, but supports 12.5% of chordate species (including all fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals) and almost 8% of all described plant, animal and fungi species.

The majority of these species occur nowhere else on earth, with >85% of Australia's plants, mammals, reptiles and amphibians being native to Australia (endemic).



Australia is **one of 17 'megadiverse' nations**, and one of only two of these nations that is also wealthy in economic terms (the other being the United States).

More than a hundred Australian species have gone extinct since European settlement with another three going extinct in the last decade alone.



In 2022, more than **1,800 species** are recognised by the federal government as being in real danger of extinction in the near future. **Yet we still have a chance to save them.**

The biggest threat to many of these species is habitat destruction. In the last twenty years an area the size of Tasmania has been cleared of Australia's threatened species habitat¹.

This threat can be abated with political will and leadership by governments.

1. Ward, MS, Simmonds, JS, Reside, AE, et al. 2022. Lots of loss with little scrutiny: The attrition of habitat critical for threatened species in Australia. Conservation Science and Practice.

We cannot maintain the richness of Australia's biodiversity if we continue to destroy the habitat that species rely on to survive