



Biodiversity – status in the region

This information applies to Queensland section of the Murray Darling Basin encompassed in the operational area of the Queensland Murray Darling Committee and Southwest Natural Resource Management group, and includes the Border Rivers, Maranoa-Balonne, Nebine, Mungallala, Warrego, Paroo, and Bulloo catchments.

Native vegetation and regional ecosystems

The extent of remnant vegetation coverage in the Queensland Murray Darling Basin (QMDB) area varies geographically, with heavily cleared areas in the east of the region and largely intact native vegetation in western areas. More than 45% of all clearing in Queensland since 1997 has occurred in this region and it is the most extensively cleared area in the State. It now faces considerable threat from habitat fragmentation, salinity and declining water quality as land clearing and subsequent land development change ecological and landscape characteristics.

Table 1: Diversity and status of Regional Ecosystems in the QMDB

Catchment	Number of unique ecosystems	Number of Endangered ecosystems	Number of Of Concern ecosystems	Number of mapped 'communities' (different combinations of vegetation types)
Border Rivers	75	13	21	431
Maranoa-Balonne	96	14	14	601
South West	143	11	17	987

Flora and fauna in the QMDB region

The region hosts an enormous diversity of flora and fauna, including over 3000 plant species, 40% of all Australian land bird species, one-fifth of the nations reptiles and a quarter of Australia's mammals and frogs. Of the 661 native vertebrates known from the region, six are already extinct and more than 100 are of significant conservation concern.

Table 2: Diversity and status of flora and fauna in the QMDB

Group	Total No. Native Species	Extinct	Endangered	Vulnerable	Rare	Species of Concern	Number of introduced species
Mammals	97	5	1	6	6	6	12
Birds	340	1	4	8	17	19	5
Reptiles	156	0	6	10	4		0
Frogs	50	0	3	0	6	2	1
Fish	18	-	-	-	4	-	3
Butterflies	About 120	0	2	2	0	0	-
Plants	3315	1	22	53	95	-	597

Sources:

Accad, A; Neldner, V.J; Wilson, B. A; and Niehus, R.E. (2003). *Remnant Vegetation in Queensland. Analysis of remnant vegetation 1997-1999-2000-2001, including regional ecosystem information*. Environmental Protection Agency, Brisbane.

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