

Species die out at a rapid rate



Fact file

- The current rate of species extinction is 100 to 1000 times higher than the expected natural rate.
- There are more than 30 extinction hot spots around the world, including two in Australia, and the prediction is that as many as five million species may be lost this century.
- The latest update of the IUCN Red List shows 21 per cent of all known mammals, 30 per cent of all known amphibians, 12 per cent of all known birds, 28 per cent of reptiles, 37 per cent of freshwater fish, 70 per cent of plants, and 35 per cent of invertebrates assessed so far are under threat.
- The Red List shows that 1895 of the planet's 6285 amphibians are in danger of extinction, making them the most threatened group of species. Of these, 39 are already extinct, 484 are critically endangered, 754 are endangered and 675 are vulnerable.
- Australia already has the worst rate of mammal extinction in the world. Almost 40 per cent of mammal extinctions globally in the past 200 years have occurred in Australia.
- 1667 species are listed as threatened under Australian Government legislation. An additional 103 are listed as extinct.
- In Queensland, 287 animals are classed as endangered, vulnerable or near-threatened.
- The earliest known formal animal conservation society in Australia was Birds Australia, formed in 1901.