

MAHOGANY GLIDER

Endangered

Vulnerable

Critically
Endangered

Extinct in
the Wild

Extinct



Common name

Mahogany glider

Scientific name

Petaurus gracilis

Habitat

The Mahogany glider favours habitat that is tropical lowland, open eucalypt and melaleuca woodland. They are found only in a very restricted area of coastal woodland in far north Queensland. They need open vegetation structure for gliding.

Habitat range/distribution

Mahogany gliders are restricted to the southern Wet Tropics of north Queensland, from the Hull River (east of Tully) south to Ollera Creek, south-east of Ingham, and extending inland about 100km. They are very mobile and dependent on open forest or woodland to move freely.

Sadly, over 80% of its habitat has been cleared for sugar cane, plantation pine, bananas and cattle. The mahogany glider is one of Australia's most threatened mammals, with only approximately 1,500 mahogany gliders left in the wild.

Description

Mahogany gliders are relatively large, with adults weighing up to 500g.

They have a belly that varies in colour from mahogany brown to buff to apricot. The top of the head is pale and has a dark stripe extending to the rump. The lower half of the mahogany glider's tail is black. The tail is used for stability during glides and especially during landing. The gliding membrane extends from the wrist to the ankle.

Mahogany gliders are territorial animals within their home range and will seasonally utilise between two to nine den trees within their territory.

Importance

The mahogany glider help maintain a healthy and diverse natural environment. They feed on nectar, pollen and sap, which help pollination in the area. They are culturally significant to Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Traditional Owners of the Girramay tribe call gliders 'Mungarru'.

Key threats

- Habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation.
- Feral predators such as wild cats and dogs.
- Invasive plants.
- Climate change—severe weather conditions.

What is being done to help protect and conserve this species

The combination of First Nations knowledge and modern science in management programmes are key to conserving the mahogany glider.

Conservation groups such as the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland collaborate with Powerlink, Terrain NRM and Giringun Aboriginal Rangers to monitor mahogany glider populations around Lily Creek near Cardwell.

Indigenous-guided fire-management and habitat restoration are being maintained on farms and properties.

Local schools and community groups are also actively involved in rehabilitating mahogany glider habitat and assisting land managers to better understand the glider's needs.

Become a mahogany glider champion

- Talk to your parents and guardians about having a mahogany glider friendly home—maintain wildlife corridors on your property and use fencing that won't trap or entangle gliders.
- Talk to your friends and family about threats to mahogany gliders and what they can do to help.



The scientific name *Petaurus gracilis* means slender rope dancer. They have been known to glide up to 60 metres with an average glide distance of 30 metres.

MAHOGANY GLIDER FIND-A-WORD

Find these words running horizontally or vertically

Mahogany glider

Nectar

Swamp mahogany tree

Endangered

Pollen

Territorial

Petaurus gracilis

Stability

Habitat loss

Mungarru

Q	L	V	Z	W	W	T	R	W	S	A	W	X	V	I	M	G	I	F	U
X	R	D	Q	J	V	X	V	L	H	A	B	I	T	A	T	L	O	S	S
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L	S	A	C	A	A	J	I	N	S	J	M	X	V	V	M	U	H	H	P

