

Pantanal wetland

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In news— A team of scientists have warned that **Pantanal wetland is at the risk of collapse** due to a series of local and seemingly minor decisions that have failed to account for their cumulative impact on one of Earth's most biodiverse ecosystems.

About the wetland-

- The Pantanal is a natural region encompassing the **world's largest tropical freshwater wetland area**, and the **world's largest flooded grasslands**.
- It is **located mostly within the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso do Sul**, but it extends into Mato Grosso and portions of Bolivia and Paraguay.
- The **formation of the wetland is a result of the large, concave pre-Andean depression of the earth's crust, related to the Andean orogeny of the Tertiary.**



- The Pantanal is **bounded by the Chiquitano dry forests to the west and northwest, by the Arid Chaco dry forests to the southwest, and the Humid Chaco to the south.**
- The **Pantanal is a tropical wet and dry region** with an average annual temperature of 21.5 °C and rainfall at 1,320 mm (52 cm in) a year.
- It **spans over 179,000 sq km in Brazil**, Paraguay and

Bolivia and boasts one of the highest concentration of flora and fauna in South America.

- **Roughly 80% of the Pantanal floodplains are submerged during the rainy seasons.**
- It receives runoff from the upland areas (the Planalto highlands) and slowly releases the water through the Paraguay River and tributaries.
- **The vegetation of the Pantanal**, often referred to as the “Pantanal complex”, is a mixture of plant communities typical of a variety of surrounding biome regions: these include moist tropical Amazonian rainforest plants, semiarid woodland plants typical of northeast Brazil, Brazilian cerrado savanna plants and plants of the Chaco savannas of Bolivia and Paraguay
- **The Pantanal ecosystem** is also thought to be home to 463 bird species, 269 fish species, more than 236 mammalian species, 141 reptile and amphibian species, and over 9,000 subspecies of invertebrates.
- **The apple snail is a keystone species in Pantanal’s ecosystem.**