

Freshwater Systems Facts



- Water covers 70% of our planet, only 3% of this is fresh water, and two-thirds of that is tucked away in frozen glaciers or otherwise unavailable for our use.
- Freshwater ecosystems account for less than 0.01% of the planet's total surface area but they support more than 100,000 species.
- Freshwater systems include rivers, lakes, ponds, streams and groundwater.

Freshwater System Threats:

Freshwater systems are now among the most endangered habitats in the world, due to human development, pollution and climate change. More than half of the world's wetlands have disappeared since 1900.

Some reasons for this are:

- Development
- Logging
- Pollution
- Agriculture
- Poor management

What species are found in Freshwater Systems?

- Species found in freshwater habitats include **crocodiles, fish, worms, molluscs, crayfish** and **insect larvae**.
- Reeds and rushes along the shores shelter **snakes, lizards, frogs** and **newts**.
- **Birds** and **mammals** nest and feed in wetland vegetation.
- Cave systems can be full of unique life, including **blind fish** and **amphibians**.