

2013 State Report Card

Are the extent and condition of our mangroves improving?

The marine environment provides valuable resources for regional economies, supporting tourism, commercial and recreational fishing, aquaculture, shipping and mining. Most South Australians live near the coast, and many coastal and marine systems are under pressure from human impacts.

Mangrove areas, where mangrove trees grow in dense thickets, are located in tidal estuaries, saltmarshes and on muddy coasts, and form a transition zone between land and marine ecosystems.

Mangroves trap sediment and prevent coastal erosion. They also maintain coastal water quality, cycle nutrients, store carbon and provide food and shelter for marine animals, including commercial fish in their juvenile stages.

Mangroves are threatened by clearance, coastal development, construction of tidal barriers and drains, and changes in freshwater inputs that decrease salinity and increase nutrients, pollutants and sediments.

The health of mangrove ecosystems relies on the management of coastal development and water quality within catchments.



Regional trends in the extent and condition of mangroves



State target

Improve condition of coastal and marine ecosystems

Trend in extent and condition

Unknown

Ongoing efforts will be needed to monitor and protect our mangroves

Mangroves are present in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges, Northern and Yorke and Eyre Peninsula NRM regions.

In the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM region, mangroves cover 80 per cent of their former extent. Changes in the extent of mangroves in the Eyre Peninsula and Northern and Yorke NRM regions are unknown (map above).

Trends in the condition of mangroves across South Australia are unknown.

Where we are at (2007)

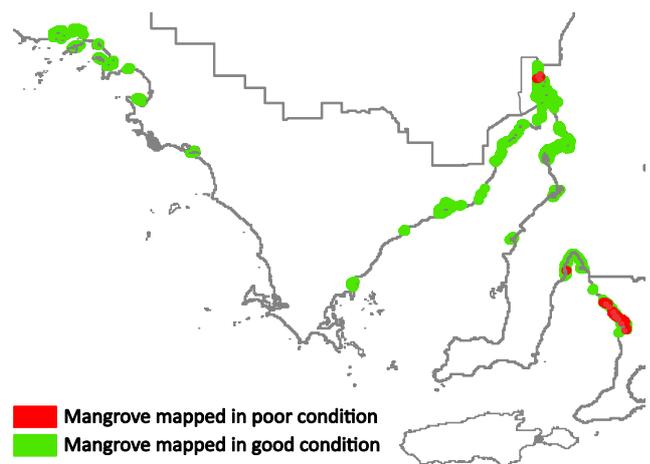
Good

Over 95 per cent of mangroves are in 'good' condition

Approximately 80 per cent of the mangroves in South Australia are in the Northern and Yorke (52 per cent) and Eyre Peninsula (28 per cent) NRM regions.

Broad-scale mapping across South Australia by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources between 1997 and 2007 classed most mangroves in 'good' condition.

Field surveys across the Eyre Peninsula NRM region in 2012 assessed the mangroves as being in good condition with a score of 71 out of 100 (where 100 represents pristine, undisturbed condition). Detailed field surveys of mangrove condition have not been undertaken in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges or Northern and Yorke NRM regions.



Reliability of information



Good

Further information:

[Technical information for this report card](#), [Coast Protection Board](#)

