Endangered animals such as the Giant Dragonfly, Blue Mountains Water Skink and Giant Burrowing Frog occur in hanging swamps.

Rainfall and runoff complement groundwater supply to the swamps and provide an important source of water, nutrients and sediment.

Upland Hanging Swamps

e.g. Blue Mountains Swamps

1. Rain falls in high altitude areas (>500m) and percolates down through permeable sandstone layers.

2. Groundwater moves laterally through the sandstone layer until it hits impermeable claystone or cemented sandstone layers, and is directed upwards until it emerges and seeps out in depressions on steep hill sides.

3. Constant saturation leads to anaerobic conditions and acidic water, which over time leads to the accumulation of organic matter and peat.

4. Rainfall and runoff complement groundwater supply to the swamps and provide an important source of water, nutrients and sediment.

5. Vegetation in the swamp usually consists of sedges, grasses, ferns and shrubs.

6. Endangered animals such as the Giant Dragonfly, Blue Mountains Water Skink and Giant Burrowing Frog occur in hanging swamps.