

Zoos Victoria's Fighting Extinction Species

SOUTHERN CORROBOREE FROG

Pseudophryne corroboree

Critically Endangered

This striking little frog is under serious threat of extinction. There are now thought to be less than 50 Southern Corroboree Frogs in the wild. Zoos Victoria is dedicated to creating a brighter future for this alpine amphibian. Having been involved in the recovery of this species since 2001, Zoos Victoria maintains a captive insurance

population with increasing breeding success. We breed animals for release to supplement wild populations, conduct research into the impact of the infectious chytrid fungus disease, reproduction and diet, and are working to raise the public profile of this Critically Endangered species.

ZOOS
VICTORIA
Fighting Extinction

Zoos Victoria is committed to Fighting Extinction

We are focused on working with partners to secure the survival of our priority species before it is too late.

Southern Corroboree Frogs are only found in the sub-alpine regions of Mt Kosciuszko National Park. Despite the fact that they are one of Australia's best known amphibians, this species unique life cycle and habitat requirements make it particularly vulnerable to chytrid fungus and climate change. Zoos Victoria along with program partners have been making an important contribution to the survival of the Southern Corroboree Frog since 2001.

KEY PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Maintain a genetically-diverse captive breeding population.
- Supplement wild populations with captive-bred individuals.
- Monitor and assess the ongoing status of wild populations and evaluate the success of the egg release program.
- Monitor breeding habitats to determine the likely influence of climate change.
- Conduct ongoing research to determine the ecological interactions between the Amphibian Chytrid Fungus and the Southern Corroboree Frog.
- Increase community awareness and support for the Southern Corroboree Frog.
- Trial raising frogs in outdoor enclosures at Melbourne Zoo.
- Support research into assisted reproductive techniques and immune response to chytrid fungus.
- Support and maintain the construction of disease free field enclosures in Mt Kosciuszko National Park.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- Consistent and increasing captive breeding success for supplementation of wild populations.
- Comprehensive understanding of captive husbandry.
- Trial re-introductions to determine the most effective technique to maintain this species in the wild.
- Establishment of genetically managed regional population.
- Consistently producing over 2,000 eggs annually for release.

THE SPECIES

Southern Corroboree Frogs are slow growing and rely on two distinct habitat types for the breeding and non-breeding portions of their life-cycle. The breeding season occurs in January and February when each male will situate himself in a sphagnum moss nest and call for females. Once they select a mate, females can lay between 10-40 eggs for the male to fertilise. The young take 10-11 months to metamorphose into frogs, and become sexually mature at around 4 years of age.

Primary threats to Southern Corroboree Frogs are:

- Chytridiomycosis; a disease caused by infection with Amphibian Chytrid Fungus.
- Climate events such as drought and fire which can cause breeding pools to disappear or become overgrown with vegetation.
- Climate change.

THE PLAN

The following critical next steps will enable Zoos Victoria, along with our partners to move forward knowing that we are doing everything we can to prevent the extinction of this species:

Creating an environmental refuge for SCF in Mt Kosciuszko National Park.	\$400,000
Constructing additional disease-free field enclosures within Mt Kosciuszko National Park.	\$200,000
Continuing Zoos Victoria's captive breeding efforts for SCFs.	\$621,000
Activations at our zoos and online that aim to increase community care and knowledge of the species and generate support for the conservation projects.	\$20,000
Total cost over five years	\$1,241,000

How can I help?

We are working on developing our captive breeding techniques, improved husbandry and release programs, but we still need all the support we can get. You can support our Wildlife Conservation Master Plan 2019-2024 by donating at: zoo.org.au/donate

PROGRAM PARTNERS

Amphibian Research Centre
frogs.org.au/arc

Murray Catchment Management Authority
murray.cma.nsw.gov.au

Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW)
environment.nsw.gov.au

Taronga Conservation Society Australia
taronga.org.au

Wollongong University
uow.edu.au