

Zoos Victoria's Fighting Extinction Species

STUTTERING FROG

Mixophyes balbus

Vulnerable



Photo: Damian Goodall

With a call like a Kookaburra's and distinctive stripes on its arms and legs, the Stuttering Barred Frog is an extraordinary amphibian. Found at a range of altitudes, it has only been located in Victoria on three occasions. Unfortunately, the Stuttering

Barred Frog has not been sighted in our state since 1983 and may well already be extinct here. We will work with partners to survey possible new habitat and investigate the feasibility of utilising new survey techniques such as eDNA.

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.



The Stuttering Frog's historic distribution is from far north-eastern coastal NSW in Clarence River catchment to the Cann River catchment in far Gippsland, Victoria. The picture is bleak in the southern sections of its range, where significant declines have occurred. The species may already be extinct in Victoria, with the last confirmed sighting in 1983. Despite this fear Zoos Victoria will work with partners to survey newly identified habitat and investigate the use of new survey techniques such as detection of environmental DNA in hope of finding this seemingly lost amphibian.

KEY PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Status of the southern clade determined and effective protection and management in place.
- Survey of newly identified habitat.
- Feasibility of using new survey techniques.
- Resolve the taxonomy and genetic structuring of Stuttering Frog populations.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- Small population of Stuttering Barred frog at Melbourne Zoo and detailed captive husbandry established.

THE SPECIES

The Stuttering Barred Frog is a relatively large ground dwelling species measuring up to 80mm in length. They have distinctive banding on their legs and can have a long larval period of over 12 months. Like many amphibians in Australia the major threats to Stuttering Barred Frog populations include infection from chytridiomycosis, habitat destruction as a result of forestry activities, wildfire, introduced pests and 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:

Survey newly identified habitat.	\$160,000
Conduct eDNA survey of historically occupied streams.	\$90,000
Total cost over five years	\$250,000

How can I help?

We are currently developing new survey techniques in hope of finding this lost amphibian. You can support our Wildlife Conservation Master Plan 2019-2024 by donating at: zoo.org.au/donate

PROGRAM PARTNERS

Arthur Rylah Institute
ari.vic.gov.au

Department of Environment,
Land, Water and Planning
delwp.vic.gov.au

NSW OEH
environment.nsw.gov.au

South Australian Museum
samuseum.sa.gov.au

University of Melbourne
unimelb.edu.au

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newcastle.edu.au

Wildlife Unlimited
wildlifeunlimited.net.au