

Zoos Victoria's Fighting Extinction Species

# NORTHERN CORROBOREE FROG

*Pseudophryne pengilleyi*

*Endangered*



Differing from its southern counterpart, the Northern Corroboree Frog has a greenish tinge to its vibrant colouration. Zoos Victoria is working with the national Recovery Team to breed Northern Corroboree Frogs for release to support wild populations and protect this species against extinction.

**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.

Only 2.5-3cm in length, Northern Corroboree Frogs are found in both the Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales. They live in forests, sub-alpine woodlands and tall heathlands. Although their habitat and range may seem considerable, like many other amphibians, populations of this species are in rapid decline. Zoos Victoria is working closely with other organisations to maintain a viable captive insurance population and improve breeding success on site. This will allow us to release individuals to supplement declining wild populations.

## KEY PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Improve captive husbandry techniques.
- Investigate the differences in the captive husbandry of the Northern Corroboree Frog and its southern counterpart.
- Maintain a genetically-diverse captive breeding population.
- Supplement wild populations with captive-bred individuals.
- Monitor and assess the ongoing status of wild populations.

## PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- Consistently producing over 500 eggs for annual release.
- Establishment of genetically managed regional population.

## THE SPECIES AT RISK

During summer, the male frogs seek out water-logged areas in which they build small mossy nests. From January to March, the males 'squelch' in an attempt to attract egg laying females to these nests. Between 16-38 fertilised eggs will then remain in the nest until heavy autumn/winter rains stimulate hatching. Like many alpine-adapted animals, Northern Corroboree Frogs have a relatively slow life cycle – they do not reach sexual maturity until three or four years of age. Although not as rare as Southern Corroboree Frogs, Northern Corroboree Frog populations have suffered significant and ongoing declines in both range and abundance and are affected by many of the same threatening processes including:

- Infection by Chytrid Fungus which causes the fatal amphibian disease chytridiomycosis.
- Damage to breeding sites by feral pigs and horses, fire, drought, weeds and forestry operations.
- Climate events- drought and fire; which may lead to drying and the loss of breeding pools.
- Climate change.

By maintaining a healthy captive population, we are also helping insure this species against possible extinction in the wild.

By monitoring our captive populations of Northern and Southern Corroboree Frogs, we aim to better understand their behaviour and the differences between these two species.

## 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:

Continuing captive breeding efforts for the NCF.	\$264,000
Conducting thermal development research on NCF from high and low elevation populations.	\$300,000
Reviewing and analysing genetics of captive breeding program.	\$100,000
<b>Total cost over five years</b>	<b>\$664,000</b>

## How can I help?

We are working on developing husbandry techniques, 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](https://zoo.org.au/donate)

## PROGRAM PARTNERS

ACT Government  
[act.gov.au](https://act.gov.au)

Amphibian Research Centre  
[frogs.org.au/arc](https://frogs.org.au/arc)

Australian Nation University  
[anu.edu.au](https://anu.edu.au)

Forestry Corporation of NSW  
[forestrycorporation.com.au](https://forestrycorporation.com.au)

Murray Catchment Management Authority  
[murray.cma.nsw.gov.au](https://murray.cma.nsw.gov.au)

Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW)  
[environment.nsw.gov.au](https://environment.nsw.gov.au)

Taronga Conservation Society Australia  
[taronga.org.au](https://taronga.org.au)

Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve  
[tidbinbilla.act.gov.au](https://tidbinbilla.act.gov.au)

University of Wollongong  
[uow.edu.au](https://uow.edu.au)