

# Endangered Wildlife

## Southern Corroboree Frog (*Pseudophryne corroboree*)



- At just 2.5 - 3.0 cm in length, this small, brightly coloured amphibian is one of the world's rarest frogs.
- The frog was named because its striped appearance was thought to resemble the ceremonial markings Indigenous Australians paint on their bodies in preparation for a corroboree (ceremony).
- The striking black and bright yellow stripes warn predators that this frog is poisonous to eat. The Southern Corroboree Frog is only found in a small area in the sub-alpine region (around 1300 to 1760m above sea level) of Mt Kosciuszko National Park in the southern part of New South Wales.
- Numbers of the Southern Corroboree Frog have declined dramatically – by more than 99 per cent since the 1980s.
- The Chytrid fungus (a deadly fungus to this species), which was probably introduced into the Australian environment sometime during the early 1970s, is the cause of rapidly declining numbers.
- Without human intervention, the deadly fungus will undoubtedly cause the complete extinction of the Southern Corroboree Frog within the next 10 years.
- The Southern Corroboree Frog is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List (international) and under the EPBC Act List of Threatened Species (Australia).



Southern Corroboree Frog range



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### What is being done?

Although this frog is seriously close to extinction in the wild, captive breeding colonies are being successfully maintained at the Amphibian Research Centre, Taronga Zoo, Melbourne Zoo and Healesville Sanctuary.

A program to maintain wild populations of the species is being undertaken by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. Since 2010, hundreds of captive bred eggs and frogs have been released back to the wild in Kosciuszko National Park, in both natural wetlands and disease free enclosures. This program will ensure that the Southern Corroboree Frog population is adequately maintained long enough for scientists to develop a cure for the deadly fungus.

