

Threats to Frogs



Loss of Habitat

A frog's habitat is the environment in which it feeds, shelters and breeds. If it cannot find suitable habitat, it will die.

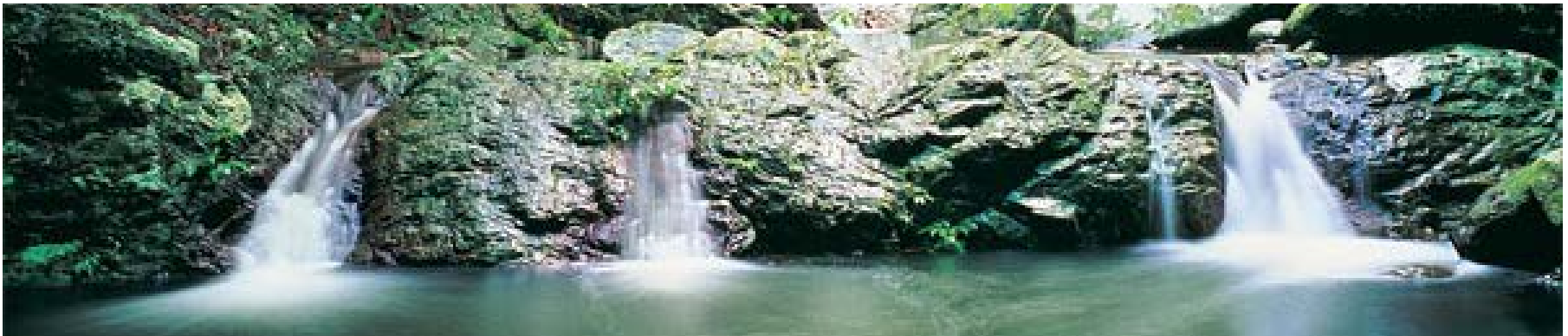
Humans can damage frog habitat in many ways. For example, people:

- Clear large areas of native vegetation for housing and agriculture.
- Drain wetlands or allow cattle to graze in them
- Alter the flow of creeks with dams, road crossings etc
- reduce the quality of wildlife corridors, which connect areas of frog habitat.



Solutions

- Restore stream-bank vegetation
- Build fish and frog friendly crossings and cattle water stations
- Make your garden frog friendly!
 - Install a frog pond
 - Plant plenty of low-growing plants
 - Be careful with disposal of chemicals



Climate Change

Frogs live in very particular places, and are unable to cope with big changes in temperature or moisture levels.

Climate Change affects frogs in the following ways:

- less moisture in the environment, making habitats less suitable
- increased temperatures make some places too hot for frogs
- changes in the timing of wet periods affects frog breeding



Solutions

- Protect, restore and rebuild frog habitat

Combat Climate change by:

- Switch to Clean Energy
- Use Less Energy
- Travel Green
- Watch Your Water Use
- Reduce Waste



Pollution

- Most frogs rely on water for at least part of their life cycle. They breathe through their skin, so are very sensitive to pollution.
- Pollutants in frog habitats include:
 - Chemicals from urban area e.g. detergents, cleaning products, oil
 - Agricultural chemicals e.g.. Fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides
 - Sediments from upstream
 - Personal products e.g. sunscreen, insect repellent, soap



Solutions

- Dispose of household chemicals and rubbish responsibly
- Plant buffer strips of log-growing vegetation along streams to stop sediments and pollutants
- Install sediment traps near waterways
- When you go swimming in frog habitat, wash off personal products away from the waterway
- Don't touch frogs with your bare hands- use a clean, wet cloth or glove.



Chytrid Fungus

- Frog populations across the world are affected by disease caused by Chytrid Fungus.
- This fungus attacks the frogs skin, causing it to thicken and peel off. Frogs breathe and drink through their skin, so Chytrid fungus can be devastating for frog populations.
- Frogs do not die instantly when they get infected with the fungus, so the disease is spread throughout the environment as the sick frog moves around.
- Humans can also spread the fungus spores on vehicles, clothes and shoes.



Solutions

- If you are going into frog habitats, you can take the following precautions to stop the spread of Chytrid Fungus:
 - Only touch frogs when absolutely necessary. Remember to use disposable gloves if you have to.
 - Clean and dry all equipment and wet or muddy footwear before and between visiting frog sites. This may include cleaning the tyres of your vehicle before visiting known high-risk sites where threatened frog species may live.
 - Never move a frog from one area to another.



How do Councils & NPWS Help?

- Retain and protect areas of important frog habitat
- Encourage landholders to maintain vegetation and deep leaf litter around streamside habitats, minimise changes to water quality and flow, reduce chemical use, minimise stock access to streams, and exclude logging in and around frog breeding habitat.
- Manage invasive species such as Cane Toads and Carp
- Councils and NPWS develop planning documents to ensure all the above mentioned solutions are implemented e.g Giant Barred Frog Threatened Species listing, Threatened Species Management Plans, Threat Abatement Plans
- http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=1944



How do community organisations help?

- If people are concerned they can join a group that takes action e.g Frog Watch, Toad Busters, or the Amphibian Research Centre.

<http://frogs.org.au/>



- The Community Environment Network runs a program called 'Land for Wildlife' that encourages land holders and schools etc to preserve their natural bushland for animals.

<http://www.cen.org.au/landforwildlife/>

