

Chile celebrates successful breeding of endangered frog

22 October 2020



Only 14 specimens of the Loa frog were left when the species was rescued by scientists from a canal in northern Chile

A critically endangered species of frog seems to have a bright future after conservationists in Chile launched a rescue campaign that has produced 200 offspring.

When the Loa frog was rescued from its [natural habitat](#) in northern Chile, there were only 14 individuals left.

Considered the most [endangered species](#) in Chile, they were taken to the zoo in the capital Santiago in August last year suffering from dehydration and on the brink of death.

Scientists had rescued them from a small canal in the northern city of Calama that had almost entirely dried up and where 600 frogs had already died.

"Today we have great news for the world's ecosystem," Housing and Urbanism Minister Felipe Ward said on Wednesday. © 2020 AFP

"We had to replicate the exact water conditions

there are in the north of our country to keep them alive," added Alejandra Montalba, the director of the national zoo.

Measuring just six centimeters (2.3 inches) and with webbed [hind legs](#), the Loa frog (*Telmatobius dankoi*) is a microendemic species that originates from wetlands close to the Loa River, which is the longest in Chile.

Located in the Atacama desert—the most arid in the world—the frog's natural habitat has suffered from human over-exploitation and more than a decade of drought in northern Chile.

The frog's plight is symptomatic of the environmental crisis facing the world with the loss of a million species, Chilean authorities warned last year.



Loa frog larvae under observation in a laboratory in the Chilean capital Santiago

APA citation: Chile celebrates successful breeding of endangered frog (2020, October 22) retrieved 21 January 2022 from <https://phys.org/news/2020-10-chile-celebrates-successful-endangered-frog.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.