



# FROG AWARENESS DAY

## WHY ARE WE CELEBRATING FROG AWARENESS DAY?

Frogs are worth celebrating for many reasons:

### BIO-INDICATORS

Frogs live both in freshwater and on land.

Frogs have an extremely permeable skin through which they absorb their moisture.

If air or water is polluted, frogs can absorb the toxins.

Frogs are “bioindicators”- living things which tell us about the state of the environment.

If frog populations are decreasing, shouldn't we be worried about the state of our environment?



### INSECT CONTROL



Frogs mostly eat insects, including those considered “pests” such as flies and mosquitoes.

They provide a free pest control service.

If we have live animals eating our insects, why should we use poisons in our homes which can be dangerous to us and our families?

### FOOD WEB

Other than being highly efficient predators of insects, frogs are also food for many animals such as birds, snakes and small mammals.

Many animals eat mostly frogs.

If we lose frogs then these predators lose an essential part of their diets.



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# FROGS ARE KEYSTONE SPECIES

A keystone species is one that is critical for an ecosystem to survive.

Frog  
eggs



Frogs are eaten by various animals at different stages of their lifecycle.

Tad-  
poles



Adult  
frogs



By  
**PROTECTING  
FROGS**

we are

**PROTECTING  
ECOSYSTEMS**

and all the animals  
that depend  
on them.



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Frogs prey  
on, and help  
control,  
populations of  
insects.



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# WHY ARE WE CONCERNED ABOUT FROGS?

Some of the major threats to frogs include:

## HABITAT DESTRUCTION

Habitat destruction includes development in a natural area; invasive alien vegetation; degradation of wetlands, and other critical habitats. **This impacts frogs directly.**

Development removes habitats for animals.

Destroying wetlands remove frogs breeding habitats.

**It also affects frogs indirectly.** Invasive alien vegetation replaces natural vegetation which is host to insects that frogs feed on. Insufficient food supply results in population declines.



## OVER HARVESTING

The trade in exotic pets is on the rise. Many frogs are removed both legally and illegally to supply the **international trade in exotic pets.**

Frogs are also harvested for food; they are a common food in some cultures and a popular French delicacy - frogs legs.



## CHEMICALS



Chemical pollution from industries and households enter waterways in which frogs live. **Frogs absorb these toxins into their bodies** causing abnormalities, illness and death.

## ROAD KILL

Our many road networks often cut through frog habitats. When frogs are crossing the road they are often killed, making them the **most killed vertebrates on roads.**

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

In other countries, **Chytrid fungus** causes chytridiomycosis in amphibians. This disease primarily affects the skin of frogs and often causes death. According to a study by the Australian National University, the fungus has caused the **decline of 501 amphibian species.** Of these, 90 species have been entirely wiped out and another 124 species have **declined by more than 90%.**



## SCARY FACTS

### Going, going, gone

Amphibians are the **MOST THREATENED** group of animals on the planet: one out of every three species is facing extinction.



In South Africa **30% of frog species** are Red Listed which means they are **TREATENED WITH EXTINCTION.**



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# WHAT CAN WE DO TO SAVE FROGS?

1.

Do not  
kill frogs.



2.

Use  
environmentally  
friendly  
cleaning products.

ECO  
Friendly

3.

Do not  
pour chemicals  
or oils down the  
drain.



4.

Save water.  
This helps to ensure  
that they have  
healthy wetlands to  
breed in.

5.

Do not  
drive  
over frogs.



6.

Create a  
frog-friendly garden  
by planting  
indigenous plants  
and not using  
harmful chemicals or  
pesticides. A frog  
friendly garden is a  
also a butterfly and  
bird friendly garden.



7.

Share what you have learned with others  
so they can protect frogs too.



## What is your **PROMISE** to the frogs?

[www.saambr.org.za](http://www.saambr.org.za)



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# FUN FROGGY FACTS



Frogs are not the only amphibians. Other amphibian groups include salamanders, newts and caecilians.



There are 6,277 known species of frogs.

The word AMPHIBIAN is derived from Greek and means "TWO LIVES" which refers to the fact that most amphibians spend their lives as aquatic, herbivorous tadpoles and their adult lives as terrestrial, carnivorous animals.



The smallest frogs in the world are found in Papua New Guinea. They only measure 9 - 11 mm.



Some frogs such as our Bush squeaker emerge as froglets from the egg, bypassing the tadpole stage.

Some frogs can jump over 20 times their own body length.



The largest frog in the world is the GOLIATH FROG which can grow to 30cm and weigh 3kg.

In South Africa the smallest species of frog is the Micro frog which only grows to 18mm.

Our largest frog is the GIANT BULLFROG which grows to 25cm and can weigh 1.4kg.



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