



SAVING OUR SPECIES

Stuttering Frog

2022-2023 annual report card

Summary

Management sites	Dorrigo and New England National Parks; Watagans, Blue Mountains and Kanangra-Boyd National Parks; Werrikimbe and Barrington Tops National Parks and Copeland Tops State Conservation Area
Action implementation	10 (of 10) management actions were fully or partially implemented as planned for the financial year.
Total expenditure	\$0 (\$0 cash; \$0 in-kind)
Partners	Environment and Heritage Group; University of Newcastle



Scientific name: Mixophyes balbus

NSW status: Endangered

Commonwealth status: Vulnerable

Management stream: Landscape species

Photo: Peter Richards

Priority management site: Dorrigo and New England National Parks



Monitoring

Species population monitoring by one or more methods indicates response to management over time and provides an outcome measure.

Monitoring metric	Species abundance
Annual target	Collect baseline data to inform plan
Long term target	To be determined.
Monitoring result	Decline in New England but stable in Dorrigo
Scientific rigour of monitoring method	Moderate
Conducted by	University of Newcastle

Management actions

The following actions are those identified as being required in financial year 2022-2023 to secure the species in the wild.

Threat	Management action	Implemented as planned?
Changes to natural water flows and water quality.	Collect water quality and macroinvertebrate data	Yes

Threat outcome

Assessment on the status of critical threats at this site.

Threat	Annual target	Threat status
Changes to natural water flows and water quality.	Collect water quality data	Baseline data collection

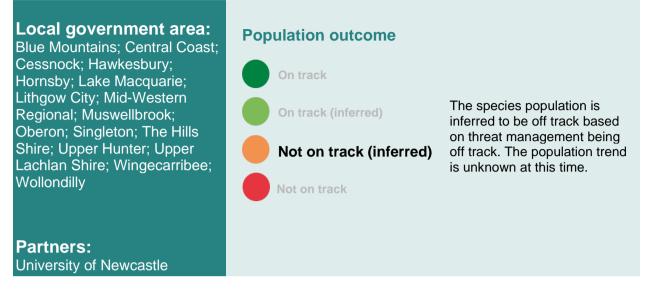
Site summary

This site is part of a grant project administered by the NSW Environmental Trust and led by University of Newcastle.

Individuals of the species are regularly detected at New England and Dorrigo sites. Chytrid is prevalent.

Tadpoles are also present.

Priority management site: Watagans, Blue Mountains and Kanangra-Boyd National Parks



Monitoring

Species population monitoring by one or more methods indicates response to management over time and provides an outcome measure.

Baseline monitoring conducted.

Monitoring metric	Species abundance
Monitoring result	Occupancy = 0%
Scientific rigour of monitoring method	Moderate
Conducted by	University of Newcastle

Management actions

The following actions are those identified as being required in financial year 2022-2023 to secure the species in the wild.

Threat	Management action	Implemented as planned?
Disease - chytrid fungus.	Swab frogs and determine infection load. Five locations across the sites, minimum once per annum	Yes
Poor knowledge of the species' distribution, taxonomy and history of local extinction.	Promote FrogID app	Partial implementation - Focus has been on citizen science awareness via Zooniverse (as a result of 2 years of covid lockdowns).
Damage to habitat and impacts on water quality from forestry activities.	Collect baseline data	Yes
Predation of eggs and tadpoles by introduced fish.	Collect baseline data	Yes

Threat outcome

Assessment on the status of critical threats at this site.

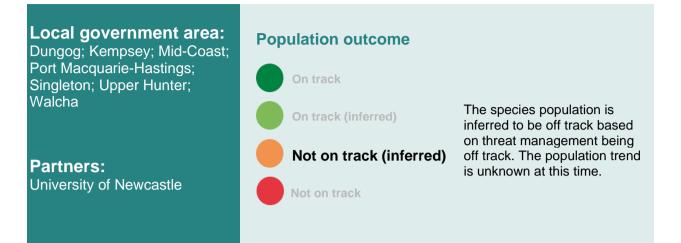
Threat	Annual target	Threat status
Disease - chytrid fungus.	Swab frogs and determine infection load. Determine chytrid prevalence and susceptibility of target species.	Baseline data collection
Damage to habitat and impacts on water quality from forestry activities.	Undertaken monitoring for baseline data collection	On track
Damage to habitat and impacts on water quality from forestry activities.	Undertake water quality monitoring	Baseline data collection
Predation of eggs and tadpoles by introduced fish.	Undertake aquatic surveys	Baseline data collection
Poor knowledge of the species' distribution, taxonomy and history of local extinction.	Collect baseline data on threats	Not assessed

Site summary

This site is part of a grant project administered by the NSW Environmental Trust and led by University of Newcastle.

Target species was not detected in acoustic monitoring or as tadpoles in streams at any survey sites. Chytrid is present in all sites surveyed. Water quality is reasonable but has elevated levels of phosphorous and aluminium.

Priority management site: Werrikimbe and Barrington Tops National Parks and Copeland Tops State Conservation Area



Monitoring

Species population monitoring by one or more methods indicates response to management over time and provides an outcome measure.

Baseline monitoring conducted.

Monitoring metric	Species abundance
Monitoring result	No individuals detected in surveys at the Watagans (will bring more sites online). Copeland Tops State Conservation Area and Werrikimbe National Park were not visited
Scientific rigour of monitoring method	Moderate
Conducted by	University of Newcastle

Management actions

The following actions are those identified as being required in financial year 2022-2023 to secure the species in the wild.

Threat	Management action	Implemented as planned?
Disease - chytrid fungus.	Swab frogs and determine infection load. Five locations across the sites, minimum once per annum	Partial implementation - logistical delays
Damage to habitat and impacts on water quality from forestry activities.	Conduct monitoring	Partial implementation - logistical delays
Predation of eggs and tadpoles by introduced fish.	Conduct monitoring	Partial implementation - logistical delays
Poor knowledge of the species' distribution, taxonomy and history of local extinction.	Conduct target surveys	Partial implementation - logistical delays
Poor knowledge of the species' distribution, taxonomy and history of local extinction.	Collect genetic material	Partial implementation - logistical delays

Threat outcome

Assessment on the status of critical threats at this site.

Threat	Annual target	Threat status
Disease - chytrid fungus.	Swab frogs and determine infection load. Determine chytrid prevalence and susceptibility of target species.	Baseline data collection
Damage to habitat and impacts on water quality from forestry activities.	Conduct monitoring	Baseline data collection
Damage to habitat and impacts on water quality from forestry activities.	Conduct monitoring	Baseline data collection
Predation of eggs and tadpoles by introduced fish.	Conduct surveys	Baseline data collection
Poor knowledge of the species' distribution, taxonomy and history of local extinction.	Collect baseline data to determine threat status	On track

Site summary

This site is part of a grant project administered by the NSW Environmental Trust and led by University of Newcastle.

Site visits occurred to Barrington Tops National Park, but not to Copeland Tops State Conservation Area and Werrikimbe National Park this year. Infection remains prevalent in general frog populations at visited sites. Physico-chemical parameters of water quality at these sites indicate moderate condition. None of the target species was detected.