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Geographical range

## Amazing Species: Yellow-spotted Tree Frog

The **Yellow-spotted Tree Frog**, *Litoria castanea*, is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Previously known from two distinct populations in south-eastern Australia, separated by a distance of about 500 km, this species had not been seen since 1980 and was feared to be extinct. However, it was recently rediscovered in a remote creek in the Southern Tablelands region.

The exact causes of the disappearance of the Yellow-spotted Tree Frog are unclear, but the fungal disease chytridiomycosis, which has caused a widespread catastrophic decline in amphibians, is thought to have played a role. Habitat modification and introduced fish predators such as *Gambusia* are also likely to have affected its populations.

Following the rediscovery of this species, a sample of juvenile frogs are being raised at Taronga Zoo. The aim is to set up a long-term captive breeding programme and ultimately reintroduce this amphibian back into other parts of its former range. Scientists are also working with the landowner to conserve the species at the site of its rediscovery, while further survey work may help determine whether the Yellow-spotted Tree Frog still survives in any other locations.

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