

# Saving the Critically Endangered Kroombit Tinkerfrog



“Being involved in this crucial conservation work has been a career highlight and something I will forever be proud to have been a part of.”

FBA Project Officer,  
Bethlea Bell



144 captive-bred frogs



24 frogs released to boost population numbers



Another 29 frogs are planned for release when conditions are right



Over 24,000ha of significant species habitat have been improved

## AIM

Increase the population size of the Kroombit tinkerfrog (*Taudactylus Pleione*) and build an insurance population to prevent the extinction of the species. This project is one of many focused on ensuring the survival of this species. Work will continue after the completion of this project.

This important project was carried out by Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) partnered with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships (QPWS&P) and Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS) and QLD Frog Society Volunteers.

## OVERVIEW

The Kroombit tinkerfrog (*Taudactylus Pleione*) is a highly elusive and critically endangered frog, only found in very small rainforest areas of Kroombit Tops National Park. The Kroombit tinkerfrog was scientifically recorded in 1983 and is believed to have been in decline since due to threats such as feral pigs and a frog-specific fungal disease (*amphibian chytridiomycosis*).

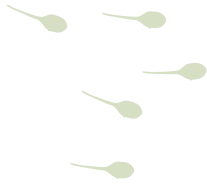
The current population is believed to be as low as a few hundred mature frogs.

The project focused on the release of genetically diverse, captive-bred frogs into the wild to supplement existing populations and repopulate sites where Kroombit tinkerfrogs have gone locally extinct. There was also a strong focus on habitat and genetic improvement to increase the frogs' survival odds upon release and protect existing frogs at Kroombit Tops.

## PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS:

- All frogs bred and released have been tested for a range of pathogens and parasites including chytrid fungus
- Around 24,000 hectares of significant species habitat was improved through the control of feral pigs, one of the biggest threats to the Kroombit tinkerfrog
- Population monitoring through 60 automated acoustic recorders across numerous sites (the frogs make a 'tink,tink,tink' sound that makes them easy to identify)

This project is funded by the Australian Government.



*Project Achievements, cont.*

- Captive breeding and species research at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary which will provide an insurance population that will reduce the risk of extinction from catastrophic events such as bushfires
- Successful Collaboration between QPWS&P, CWS, FBA and a project advisory group with Traditional Owners

**LOOKING FORWARD:**

While this project has come to an end the work to protect and enhance this species is not over.

Frogs will continue to be monitored at Kroombit Tops via acoustic monitoring, pest animals will be monitored and managed and the population of Kroombit tinkerfrogs living at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary will continue to provide vital information on this highly elusive species.



Kroombit Tops National Park