

FROG FACILITIES - DESIGN & MAKE

Southern and Northern Corroboree Frogs are very unique Australian amphibians facing a number of pressures in the wild, causing their populations to plummet. Taronga's expert herpetofauna zookeepers work tirelessly to bring this species back from the brink of extinction.



Protecting breeding populations of Southern Corroboree Frogs in zoo-based and in situ facilities has many challenges that Taronga's team must navigate to ensure the success of this species recovery project. Designing specialist, protected breeding facilities requires a deep knowledge of the species, creative thinking, and excellent problem-solving skills. Taronga's conservation champions must consider all possible threats, both human and environmental, when designing and constructing these facilities. They take into consideration everything from biosecurity and quarantine through to natural disasters like bushfires.

Now it is your turn to work just like them and put your design and production skills to the test!

Your task is to **design a prototype for a Corroboree Frog facility** to nestle into the alpine slopes of Kosciuszko National Park, the heartland of this critically endangered species.

In situ Corroboree Frog facilities must cater for all of the survival needs of the species, including food, water and shelter, as well as keeping them safe from the range of threats they face. If a facility is able to provide all of these needs, the best marker of success is the sound of calling males and the rewarding sight of eggs!

Use the following page to help organize your ideas and research. How you design your facility is up to you. Some people prefer drawing, others work best by making a smaller physical prototype out of objects like recycled materials or Lego, or even create a digital design in a program such as TinkerCAD or SketchUp.

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SPECIES DESCRIPTION

SPECIES ADAPTATIONS THAT SUPPORT SURVIVAL

These can be physical features and behaviours

HABITAT PROFILE

THREATS IN THE WILD

DESIGN IDEAS

SOME OTHER FACTORS TO CONSIDER:

- How will you monitor the frogs?
- How will you protect them against threats?
- What will your facility be made from?
- Is your facility weatherproof?
- How will you identify individual frogs?