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Geographical range

Species of the Day: Mountain Chicken

The **Mountain Chicken**, *Leptodactylus fallax*, is classified as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. One of the world's most threatened frogs, the oddly named Mountain Chicken is so called because its meat is said to taste like chicken. It is also one of the largest frogs in the world, with adult females growing up to remarkable lengths of 21 centimetres. It currently occurs on Dominica and Montserrat in the Eastern Caribbean.

The two remaining populations of the Mountain Chicken declined as a result of hunting, volcanic eruptions, introduced predators and habitat loss. More recently, the arrival of chytrid fungus on both islands has led to catastrophic declines and near extinction of the species.

Intensive conservation of this species began in 1999 when the first Montserratian frogs were taken into captivity at Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust for breeding. The Zoological Society of London became involved with the species in Dominica in 2004. Local wildlife agencies and other European zoos are now involved in both *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation efforts, and the first releases of captive-bred offspring are planned for the near future.

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