

Role of MINERA PANAMA conserving Panamanian Amphibians



The Panama Amphibian Rescue and Conservation Project, created in 2009, builds captive populations of species at risk from the amphibian chytrid fungus.

Several species from the Donoso area have been found to be shared conservation priorities for both the mine and the rescue project. In August 2012 Minera Panama signed a 2-year agreement with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute to create ex-situ assurance colonies of amphibians from the Donoso area of Panama.

→ **MINERA PANAMA** has subsequently been our largest corporate contributor, providing approximately **\$450K** per year with a **total investment of \$2.3m** in the project that **leveraged additional support from \$3.7m** in grants from:



Other private donors



Smithsonian
Tropical Research Institute



MILESTONES 2012-2017



ENDANGERED FROGS

Establishing founding populations of 12 species of Panama's most endangered frogs, including five species of conservation concern from the Donoso region, and Panama's iconic Panamanian Golden Frog. Reproduced all five species from the Donoso region in captivity including two species bred for the first-time ever.



CAPACITY-BUILDING

Constructing the Gamboa Amphibian Rescue and Conservation Center, now the largest amphibian conservation breeding center in the world, and training a professional cadre of conservation staff to care for the animals.



RESEARCH

Establishing a world-class research program investigating the frog-killing chytrid fungus and searching for a cure for the disease. Conducting hormone stimulation research to improve captive reproduction. Continuing publications of veterinary care, nutrition and husbandry of amphibians to improve knowledge to sustain captive amphibians.



REINTRODUCTIONS

Conducting the first-ever reintroduction trials of amphibians to learn about the limiting factors how captive frogs transition back into the wild. This data will be used to inform future release strategies using adaptive management principles.



EDUCATION

Annual coordination of 'Festival Rana Dorada' activities in Panama City, and continued operation of fabulous frogs of Panama exhibition and the integrated informal schools' curriculum.

VISION for the FUTURE

We need to continue to grow the captive amphibian populations to about 300 animals per species with even representation of founder animal genes as the primary assurance colony. This core captive population will safeguard against species' extinction, and biological banking of gametes will help to ensure against unintended genetic bottlenecks in captivity.

Surplus-bred animals will be used for further basic reintroduction research, breeding for disease-resistance, finding a cure for the amphibian chytrid fungus, and basic research that will ultimately be used to reestablish viable wild populations of these species.

