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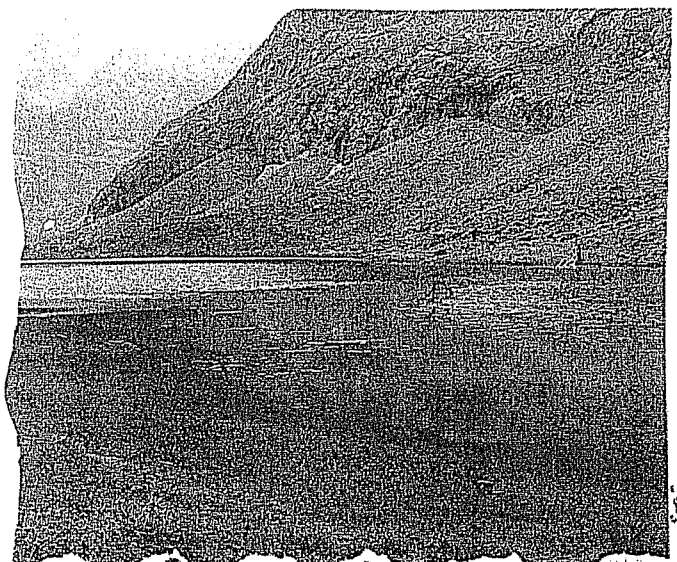


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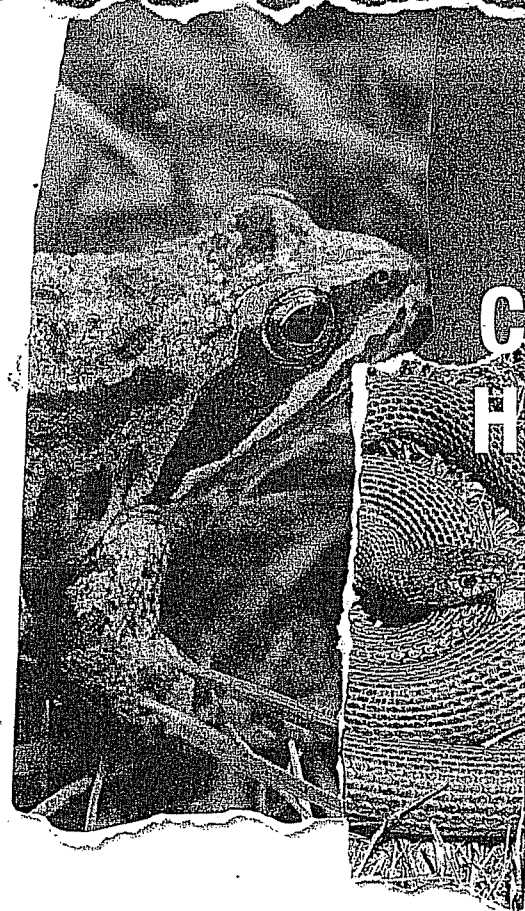
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KUŞADASI/AYDIN/TURKEY



Threatened amphibians of Turkey: listing categories, monitoring studies, and conservation status

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The native amphibian fauna of Turkey consists of 14 urodeles and 15 anuran species including nine national endemics. The conservation status of these twenty nine species was recently regionally assessed against the IUCN Red List threats categories, with 12 (41%) species -10 urodeles and 2 anurans- meeting the criteria for threatened species. Habitat loss and degradation are by far the greatest threat to world amphibians at present, affecting nearly two thirds of described species, and the disease chytridiomycosis is seriously affecting an increasing number of species. Ongoing amphibian monitoring studies in Turkey have recorded a continuing decline in the extent and quality of amphibian habitat. Other important threats in Turkey are unsustainable commercial harvesting of frogs for food (especially for ranids such as *Pelophylax ridibundus* and *Pelophylax caralitanus*); extensive industrial pollution of key habitats; and predation by introduced fish species. There have been no reports of chytridiomycosis in Turkey to date. Monitoring studies for more than 3 years in the western part of the Aegean Region of Turkey have revealed serious declines in some urodeles and anuran populations. There is a need to prevent further population declines, and potential extinctions, within Turkey through enforcement of conservation legislation and sustainable harvesting; protection of key habitats/areas for amphibians; better regulation of pollution and the transfer of non-native plants and animals.