

# Arid Zone Monitoring Species Profile

## Frogs

Frogs are not recorded often during track-based surveys. A few different species of frogs live in desert country. They only come out in good rain, and for the rest of the time the burrow underground. Sometimes people record desert spadefoot toads when they see their burrows, so this profile has some information about desert frogs, especially desert spadefoot toads.



Image: Chris Watson

Desert spadefoot toad.



Image: David Nelson

Desert spadefoot toad.



Image: David Nelson

Desert spadefoot toads coming out from their burrows after rain.



Image: R. Pedler

Frog tracks (arrow shows direction of travel).



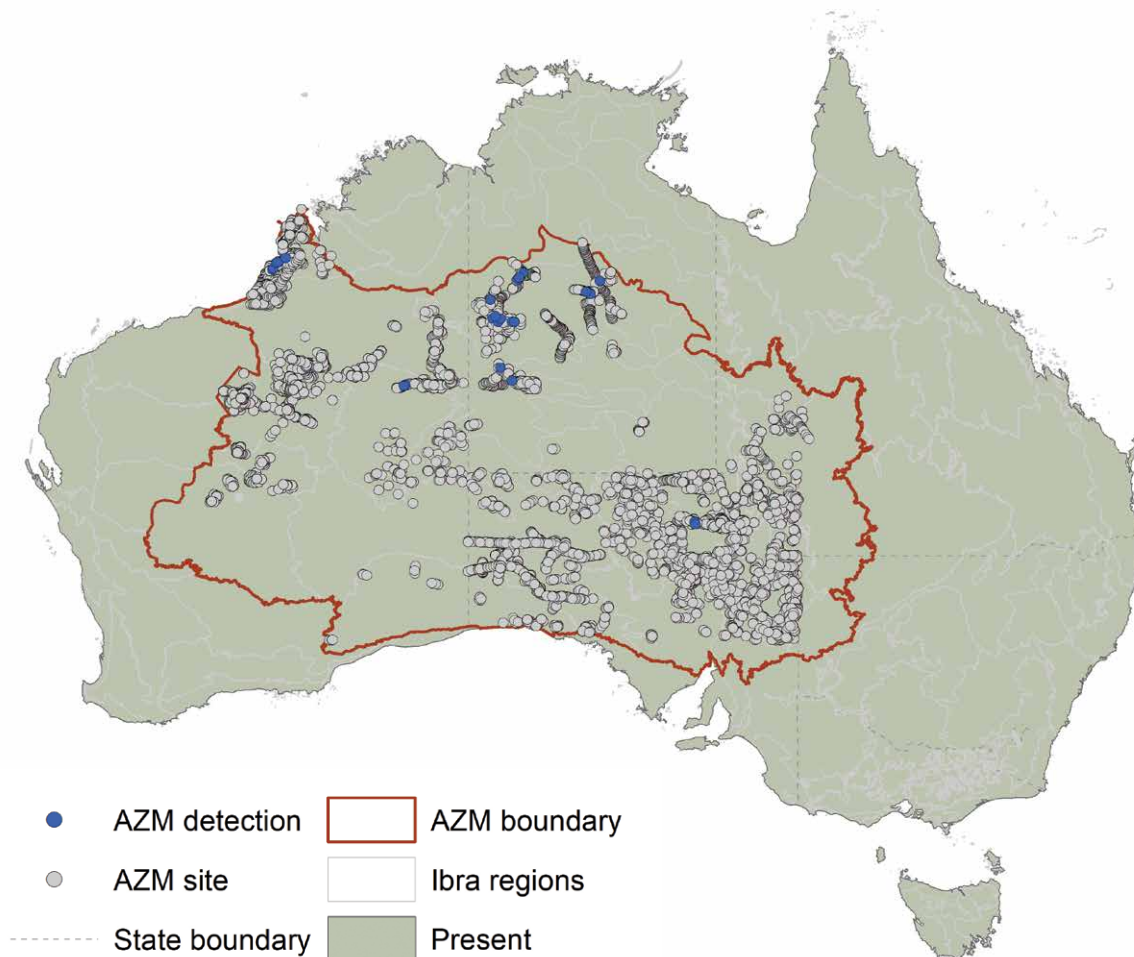
Image: R. Southgate

Sand patch where desert spadefoot toads have emerged from their burrows after good rain.

## Arid Zone Monitoring project findings

### Frog detections

Each blue dot shows a survey site where frogs were recorded. The grey dots show all the other sites that were surveyed, but where frogs were not recorded. Frogs were detected at less than 1% of all surveys in the AZM database. These records were made by Indigenous Ranger groups, land councils, NGOs, government agencies and university researchers.



The maps above show data shared by data providers with the AZM project. The data are from track and sign surveys. This method is great for detecting species that live in sandy deserts, but not as good for species that prefer rocky habitats, or species with distributions that are mostly outside the central deserts. The method also works best for larger-bodied animals with tracks that are easily identified.

It is possible that extra surveys have been carried out that have not yet been shared. If you see 'gaps' in the maps that you could fill by sharing your data, let us know.

### Further information

Arid Zone Monitoring project:

<https://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/projects/arid-zone-monitoring-surveys-for-vertebrates-across-arid-and-semi-arid-zones>



National Environmental Science Programme

This project received support from the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program.

The Arid Zone Monitoring project is a collaboration between the NESP TSR Hub and over 30 Indigenous ranger groups and Indigenous organisations, 8 NGOs and NRM groups, 5 government agencies institutions, and many individual researchers and consultants. The project has gathered track and sign data from across Australia's deserts, using it to map the distributions of desert species and their threats. The national database includes almost 50,000 species presence records from over 5300 unique sites and almost 15,000 site visits, over the period from 1982 to 2020. The project area was defined by using IBRA subregional boundaries - the project boundary captures Australia's desert subregions where track and sign-based surveys are commonly used. The project showcases the collective work carried out by all groups working across the arid zone, and lays the groundwork for creating ongoing, national-scale monitoring for desert wildlife.

Cite this publication as NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub, 2021. Arid Zone Monitoring Species Profile: Frogs, Project 3.2.5 findings factsheet.