

CONSERVATION OF *TELMATOBIUS DANKOI*

Abstract: *Telmatobius dankoi* is a Critically Endangered species, commonly known as the Loa frog. This species has a limited distribution to Las Cascadas, located 3 km at south of Calama, in Antofagasta region, Chile. Due to this reduced distribution, the Loa frog has been defined as a micro-endemic species. Las Cascadas is a natural water shed of groundwater outcrop, that it is used to form a huge wetland in the oasis of Calama. A striking feature to see in the middle of one of the most arid regions in the world, the Atacama Desert. This water spring has been subjected to water extraction for human use (agriculture, mining and recreational activities), which has meant that its extension has been drastically reduced in recent years. Today, the habitat of *T. dankoi* has been reduced to an area of less than 1 km², surrounded by private properties without any protection. In June 2019, the spring dried up and part of the population was rescued and translocated to “Ojos de Opache”, a similar spring, but with less anthropic pressure. Since then, a team of biologists and veterinarians formed by members of GEVOL, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Chile and Andrés Bello University, have been dedicated to monitoring the status of this species, as well as conducting applied research for its conservation. All of this is possible with the support of Center of Applied Ecology and Sustainability (CAPES, <http://www.capes.cl/>), Ministry of Environment of Chile, SEREMI of Environment of Antofagasta Region and Municipality of Calama, among other organizations.