



# frogs

What would  
fairy tales be  
without them?

At first, scientists weren't sure what was happening. They thought perhaps the frogs they had always seen had just disappeared for a season or two. But there would be no happy ending. The frogs that had disappeared weren't coming back. In the past 20 years, more than 100 species of amphibians have become extinct. As many as half of the world's 6,000 amphibian species are threatened, a large number by a fungal disease called chytrid (KIT-rid).

In the balance of nature, frogs play a starring role. They eat insects that carry disease and help protect the fragile ecosystems of the places they call home. Right now, the only hope of saving frogs is to rescue them — to capture them in the wild and take them into protective custody. It's a pioneering undertaking by Amphibian Ark, a coalition of conservation groups.

## The Vanishing Frog

Amphibian Ark, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and other organizations have declared 2008 Year of the Frog, and now Animal Planet's Jeff Corwin will devote an entire special to the plight of the frog. "The Vanishing Frog" will premiere this fall on Animal Planet.



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