

Rana shqiperica

Region: 10

Taxonomic Authority: Hotz, Uzzell, Guenther, Tunner and Heppich, 1987

Synonyms:

Common Names:

Albanian Water Frog English

Order: Anura

Family: Ranidae

Notes on taxonomy: Although Schneider and Haxhiu (1994) had difficulty distinguishing the voice of Rana shqiperica from that of Rana lessonae, morphology, allozymes, mtDNA sequences, and crossing experiments all indicate that Rana shqiperica is very distinct from Rana lessonae. Its relationships with other western Palearctic water frogs is less clear (T. Uzzell pers. comm.). This species does not make hybridogenetic hybrids (Guerrini et al. 1997).

General Information

Biome Terrestrial Freshwater Marine

Geographic Range of species:

This species is restricted to western Albania and southern Montenegro. It is a lowland species that probably does not reach 500m asl.

Habitat and Ecology Information:

It has been reported from heavily vegetated aquatic habitats including ditches, swamps, marshes, the edges of slow-flowing rivers and the shoreline of Lake Skadar. It breeds, and the larvae develop, in these wetland habitats. It is not known if the species can successfully adapt to habitat modification.

Conservation Measures:

It is listed on Appendix III of the Berne Convention. 'Green frogs', including Rana shqiperica, are not protected by law in Yugoslavia (Kalezic and Dzukic, 2001; Ljubisavljevic et al. 2003). The species is present in the Lake Skadar protected area, on the border of Montenegro and Albania.

Threats:

It is threatened by the drainage of wetland habitats and aquatic pollution of many waterways caused by agrochemical and industrial (including mining) contaminants. In northern parts of its range (eg. Lake Skadar) it is significantly threatened by over collection for commercial purposes. It is additionally threatened by accidental introductions of commercially transported non-native water frogs.

Species population information:

The general abundance of this species is not known.

Country Distribution

	Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced	Vagrant
Albania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Serbia and Montenegro	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

FAO Marine Habitats

Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced
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Major Lakes

Major Rivers

Upper Level Habitat Preferences

Score

5.1	Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls)	1
5.4	Wetlands (inland) - Bogs, Marshes, Swamps, Fens, Peatlands	1
5.5	Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Lakes (over 8ha)	1
5.7	Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Marshes/Pools (under 8ha)	1

Lower Level Habitat Preferences

Score

Marsh Wetland	2
Mire, Bog, Fen	2

Major threats

Code	Description of threat	Past	Present	Future
1	Habitat Loss/Degradation (human induced)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.1	Agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.1.1	Crops	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.1.1.3	Agro-industry farming	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.1.4	Livestock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.1.4.3	Agro-industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.3	Extraction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.3.1	Mining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Invasive alien species (directly affecting the species)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Conservation Measures

Code	Conservation measures	In place	Needed
1	Policy-based actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2	Legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.1	Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.1.1	International level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.2	Implementation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.2.1	International level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Research actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.1	Taxonomy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.2	Population numbers and range	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2.1	Competitors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.3	Biology and Ecology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.3	Hybridizers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.4	Habitat status	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Harvesting (hunting/gathering)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.5	Threats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.1	Food	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.6	Uses and harvest levels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.1.2	Sub-national/national trade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.8	Conservation measures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.1.3	Regional/international trade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.9	Trends/Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Pollution (affecting habitat and/or species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	Habitat and site-based actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.3	Water pollution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.1	Maintenance/Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.3.1	Agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.4	Protected areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.3.2	Domestic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.4.2	Establishment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.3.3	Commercial/Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.4.3	Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					5	Species-based actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					5.3	Sustainable use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					5.3.1	Harvest management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					5.3.2	Trade management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Utilisation of Species

Purpose/Type of Use		Subsistence	National	International	Other purpose:	
1. Food - human		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Primary forms removed from the wild	100%	>75%	51-75%	26-50%	<25%	Other forms removed from the wild:
1. Whole animal/plant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Source of specimens in commercial trade	100%	>75%	51-75%	26-50%	<25%	Other source of specimens:
Wild	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Trend in wild offtake/harvest in relation to total wild population numbers over last five years:	Unknown					
Trend in offtake/harvest produced through domestication/cultivation over last five years:						
CITES:	Not listed					

Red Listing

Red List Assessment: Endangered (EN)

Possibly Extinct

Red List Criteria: B1ab(iii)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment: Listed as Endangered because its Extent of Occurrence is less than 5,000 km², its distribution is severely fragmented, and there is continuing decline in the extent and quality of its habitat.

Current Population Trend: Decreasing

Date of Assessment: 4/5/2004

Assessor(s): Thomas Uzzell

Notes on Red listing:

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