

# FOREST FROG RESCUE

**A deadly fungus threatens Panama's forest frogs. But scientists are fighting to save their future...**

El Valle is home to many rare species of amphibian, including this Rabb's fringe-limbed tree frog



On the 6km-wide floor of the world's largest inhabited volcanic crater, El Valle in Panama, Central America, Edgardo Griffith's office is a landscape of mountains, cloaked in tropical cloud forest. Sparkling with rivers and streams, it seems to be bursting with life and health. But Edgardo, a biologist and amphibian expert, sees it very differently.

## Fighting for frogs

Edgardo came to El Valle – one of the richest places on the planet in amphibian diversity – 11 years ago. He was working on a project to save the golden frog, whose numbers in the wild had become alarmingly low, because of poaching and habitat loss. But it soon became clear that a much bigger problem was on its way.

"Seven years ago, you could walk in the forest and see many different kinds of brilliantly coloured frogs hopping from rock to rock," he tells NG Kids. "The air was full of their incredibly loud calls, and the pools and creeks swarmed with tadpoles. But now the frogs have gone from most places, and the forest feels eerily empty."

What could have caused this mysterious loss of the area's amazing amphibians...?



Edgardo is helping to keep many frog species safe and happy



Edgardo in his office



These frogs need a helping hand

Main frog: Bill Konstant / Houghton Zoo.  
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