

## **Monsoon Croaks Bioblitz**

## **Source: TH**

Recently, the Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI) is organising Monsoon Croaks Bioblitz 2024.

- The "Monsoon Croaks Bioblitz" is a four-month-long public participation science project aimed at documenting the frogs of Kerala during the monsoon season, running from June to September.
- The scientific observations will be part of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility
  (GBIF) database, which can be used for biodiversity awareness, habitat conservation, species
  conservation etc.
- The project aims to identify key habitats to protect frogs, which serve as indicators of the ecosystem's health.
- Factors such as climate change, untimely rainfall patterns, habitat loss, and water pollution are challenging the survival of frogs, leading to 41% of the world's frogs being on the <u>IUCN Red</u> List of endangered species.
- Kerala alone has more than 200 frog species, emphasising the importance of conservation efforts.
  - The topmost observed species is the Wayanad Bush Frog (Pseudophilautus wynaadensis) followed by the Asian Common Toad (Duttaphrynus melanostictus).
  - The important amphibian species recorded includes <u>Critically Endangered</u> Resplendent Shrub frog (*Raorchestes resplendens*), Endangered Malabar Torrent Toad (*Blaira ornata*), <u>Vulnerable</u> Anaimalai Flying Frog (*Rhacophorus pseudomalabaricus*) and the <u>Near Threatened</u> Purple Frog (*Nasikabatrachus sahyadrensis*).

## Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF):

 It is an international open data infrastructure, funded by governments. It allows anyone, anywhere to access data about all types of life on Earth.

Read more: Biodiversity Management in India

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