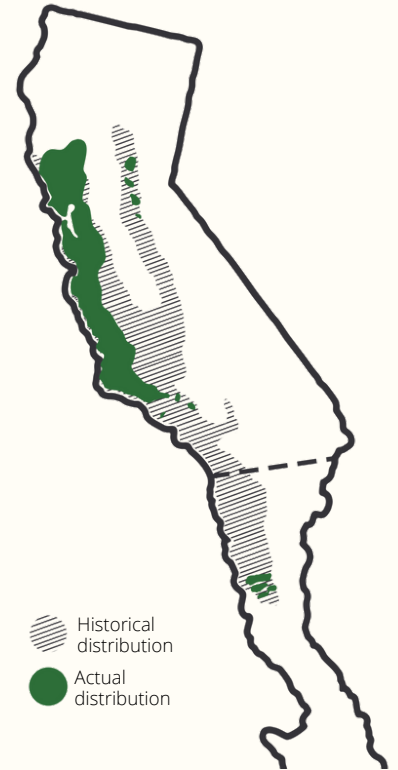


Wetlands for California Red-legged frogs

The **California Red-legged frog** (*Rana draytonii*) is the largest native frog in western North America and has **lost** over **70%** of its **range** in California. In Baja California, they are confined to 10 sites with less than 50 individuals at each location, except for one site where habitat restoration actions have been undertaken since 2018.



@Ivan Parr



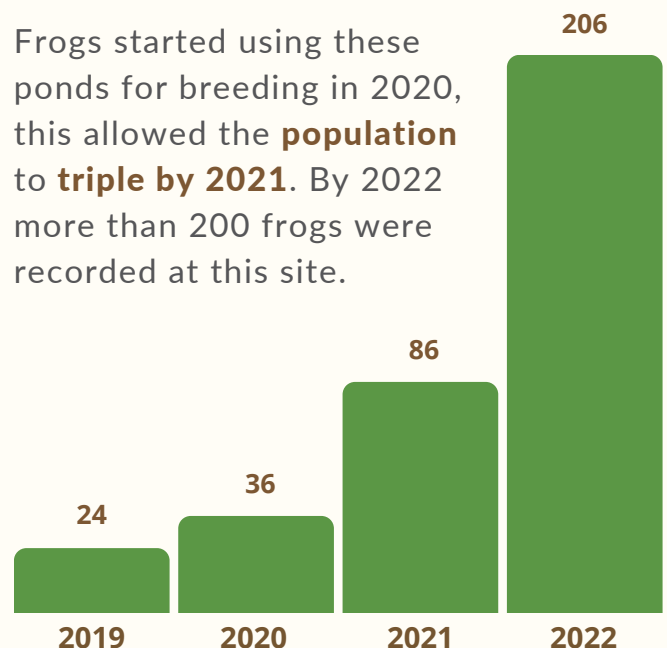
The **first step** to avoid species extirpation is habitat restoration; we do this by **building wetlands** that will provide **breeding habitat** for the species, along with other native wildlife.

In **2018** we built the **first wetlands** with the financial support of National Geographic Society; two 300 m² ponds were built, and one more was restored at a site with a frog population estimated at ~24 individuals



[watch video](#)

Frogs started using these ponds for breeding in 2020, this allowed the **population to triple by 2021**. By 2022 more than 200 frogs were recorded at this site.

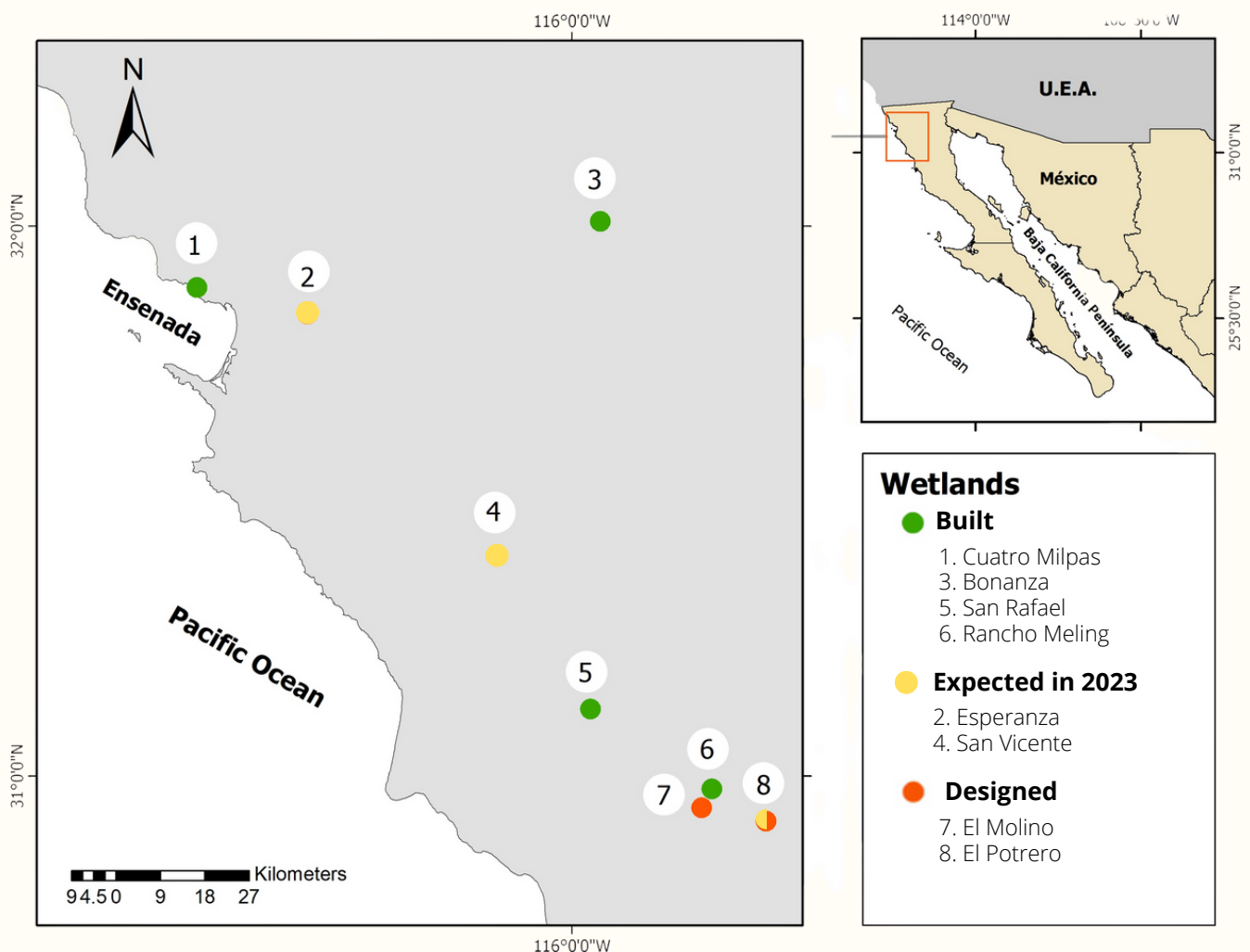


The were so many frogs, that this site is a donor population for a **reintroduction** project in southern California that allows California Red-legged frogs to **be back** again after 20 years of being extirpated.



watch video

Since 2018, two more ponds have been built for Red-legged frogs and one for local urban amphibians in the city of Ensenada. In December 2021, **nine wetlands were designed** with the support of wetland construction expert Tom Biebighauser; two of those wetlands have been built, and four are expected to be built in 2023, but **five still need supporters to build them**; and to help maintain and monitor our ponds.



Location of built and designed wetlands in Baja California.

Built ponds



Rancho Bonanza, a 250 m² pond built in 2022. Expected to be used for the species reintroduction in Mexico.



Cuatro Milpas, a 80 m² pond built in 2022. First urban amphibian refugia in Ensenada.

2

San Rafael, a 500 m² pond built in 2021. This pond will provide habitat for California Red-legged frogs and Western Pond Turtles.



Rancho Meling. Build in 2018 (pond 1: 250 m², pond 2: 300 m², restored pond: 300 m²).
Frog population at this site has recovered.

Expected and designed wetlands

Rancho Esperanza. Two small ponds are expected to be built in 2023. It will provide a habitat for local amphibians. A liner will be used for holding water.



We are requesting support for the following wetlands



Rancho Agua Caliente \$17,500 USD.

Granted: \$15,000 - Needed: \$2,500

- Wetland - 860² m (\$15,000) - granted.
Expected by be built in May 2023.
- Groundwater will supply this wetland

Future reintroduction site for California Red-legged frogs. Will also provide habitat for Western Pond Turtles.

Partially funded. \$2,500 is still needed for site monitoring.

Rancho El Potrero \$59,000 USD

Granted: \$22,000 - Needed: \$37,000

- **Wetland 1 - 1400 m² (\$15,000)**
- **Wetland 2 - 3,600 m² (\$30,000)**
- **Wetland 3 - 400 m² (\$10,000)**
- **Monitoring (\$4,000)**
- Groundwater will supply this wetland

This site holds a depauperate population of Red-legged frogs, estimated at less than 15 individuals. Actions are urgent to avoid population extirpation. It will also provide habitat for Western Pond Turtles.





Rancho El Molino \$43,000 USD
Granted: none Needed: \$43,000

- **Wetland 1- 510 m² (\$11,000)**
- **Wetland 2- 1065 m² (\$10,000)**
- **Wetland 3- 1880 m² (\$16,000)**
- **Planning and monitoring (\$6,000)**
- Groundwater will supply this wetland

This site holds an un-estimated population of Red-legged frogs, but expected to be less than 20 individuals.

Budget

SITE	PONDS	TOTAL
AGUA CALIENTE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WETLAND 1 - (15,000) • MONITORING AND MAINTENANCE (2,500) 	\$17,500
EL POTRERO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WETLAND 1 - (15,000) • WETLAND 2 - (\$30,000) • WETLAND 3 - (\$10,00) • MONITORING (\$4,000) 	\$59,000
EL MOLINO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WETLAND 1 - (\$11,000) • WETLAND 2 - (\$10,000) • WETLAND 3 - (\$16,000) • PLANNING AND MONITORING (\$6,000) 	\$43,000
SUB TOTAL		\$119,500
GRANTED		37,000
TOTAL REQUIRED TO BUILD ALL WETLANDS		\$82,500

This project has been done through the collaboration of multiple organizations and individuals, including The Wildlife Project, [SAVE THE FROGS](#), Wetland Restoration and Training, The Nature Conservancy, San Diego Natural History Museum, Bat Conservation International, Bonanza Ranch, and the Sonoma Mountain Ranch Preservation Foundation.