Frogwatch Field Data Sheet

Please complete Field Data Sheet for each survey, for instructions, refer to the back of this page

Site Code:		Date:		Time:	
Observers:					

WEATHER (Please tick the appropriate box that best describes the current conditions)

SKY CONDITION	☐ Clear or a few clouds ☐ Partly cloudy or variable ☐ Cloudy (broken) or overcast ☐ Fog ☐ Drizzle ☐ Showers
WIND	☐ Still= smoke rises vertically ☐ Light breeze= wind direction shown by smoke drift ☐ Light wind= wind felt on face, leaves rustle ☐ Windy= leaves and branches in constant motion
AIR TEMP:	**°C** **WATER TEMP:** **°C**

HABITAT-

WATER DEPTH:	☐ < 30 cm ☐ > 30 cm ☐ unknown ☐ dry
POND IS:	☐ FULL ☐ NEARLY FULL ☐ Bank VERY EXPOSED ☐ NEARLY DRY ☐ DRY
WATER FLOW:	☐ Still ☐ Slow ☐ Moderate ☐ Fast
VERTICAL WATER LEVEL DROP to nearest 25 cm	_____ cm
AREA OF EXPOSED SOIL (High water mark (HWM)to water's edge)	Min:_____ meter Max:_____ meter

VEGETATION

EMERGENT AQUATIC VEGETATION COVER OF POND	☐ none ☐ just localized ☐ <25% ☐ <50% ☐ <75% ☐ <100% ☐ entire pond
FRINGE/EDGE VEGETATION COVER (along the highwater mark)	☐ none ☐ just localized ☐ <10% of edge ☐ <25% of edge ☐ <50% of edge ☐ <75% of edge ☐ <100% of edge ☐ entire edge
POND AREA SHADED BY TREES (AT LEAST PART OF THE DAY)	☐ none ☐ <10% ☐ <25% ☐ <50% ☐ <75% ☐ <100%
EVIDENCE OF MOWING:	☐ yes ☐ no
WIDTH OF UNMOWN BUFFER FROM HWM AROUND POND:	☐ <1m ☐ 1-5m ☐ >5m

INVENTORY OF SPECIES: Estimates of numbers: 1 – 5   6 – 20   21 – 50   51 – 99   >100

Species Detected	Number	Comment
Crinia parinsignifera (Plains froglet)		
Crinia signifera (Common eastern froglet)		
Limnodynastes dumerilii (Eastern banjo frog)		
Limnodynastes peronii (Brown-striped frog)		
Limnodynastes tasmaniensis (Spotted grass frog)		
Litoria peronii (Peron's treefrog)		
Litoria verreauxii (Whistling treefrog)		
Neobatrachus sudelli (Spotted burrowing frog)		
Uperoleia laevigata (Smooth toadlet)		
Other species??		

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Please take this sheet with you and fill in all the survey details. Submit the data and recording online. Contact us for assistance: P: 6278 3309, 0429066046, frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au, PO Box 446, Holt, ACT 2615

Further details about collecting data: A survey will take approximately 15 mins.

To do a survey at your chosen Frogwatch site(s) you need a
- Field data sheet
- Torch
- Recording device (e.g. phone, mp3 recorder)
- Thermometer (provided by FW)
- Watch, a ruler or marked stick until you get used to estimating distances

During a survey you need to collect all requested parameters AND a 3min recording (even if no frogs are calling). State all observations, the time, date and site code at the beginning of the recording- then start the 3mins.

1. How to determine the pond level (depth of pond):
This will provide important information about the holding capacity of the water body. Simply guess if the pond level is **<30cm or >30cm**, then decide which of the below describes the pond best:
POND NEARLY FULL = distance to plant cover less than 25cm
POND BANK VERY EXPOSED = large area of exposed mud, gravel etc.
POND NEARLY DRY = just a muddy puddle left in a large area of dry or damp clay, silt etc.
POND DRY = dry cracked clay, no water

2. Waterflow
Is the water flowing- if yes then how fast?? Ponds are generally STILL

3. How to measure the exposed soil between high water mark (HWM) and current water's edge:
Cast your eye along the edge of the water, all the way around the pond. Find the spot with the largest and with the shortest distance between the highwater mark and the water's edge. Measure the distance and enter your results onto the field data sheet. If a pond has fringe vegetation that covers the distance between edge of the pond and the highwater mark your measurement will for the shortest distance will be 0m. All measurements should be in meters.

4. Vertical water level drop
Instructions for determining how much a pond water level has dropped:
Go right to the edge of the water and look back towards the bank. Find the highwater mark and squat down so that your eyes are in line with it. Now estimate the vertical difference between the highwater level/your eye level (pond full) and the current level (where your feet are) by 'eye-balling' it to the nearest 25cm.
How to train yourself to get it right:
You can train yourself by taking along a 1m ruler (or a piece of wood 1m long) and standing it at the water's edge (you can tape the ruler onto a sharpened stake that can be pushed into the mud/clay without it covering up part of the ruler - alternatively you can just take a stake and mark the 20 cm increments on it but leave some of the stake so it can be pushed into the clay. Then squat down behind or beside the ruler so your line of vision is about level with the highwater mark to make the visual estimate.
Then tie a string at the sighted level, run it across to the nearby highwater mark, level it (with a line-spirit level, $5 at the hardware store) and read the measurement- this will be a good practise to find out if your estimates are good enough. It doesn't need to be too accurate – just to the nearest 25cm.
1: Full; 2: 1 to 25 cm down; 3: 26-50 cm down; 4: 50 - 75 cm down; 5: 76-100 cm down; 6: greater than 1 metre down).

5. How to determine the effect of mowing:
Can you see if there is any evidence of recent/regular mowing within 10m of the pond? Answer
No   or   **yes**. If yes then go into a bit more detail about the width of unmown buffer around the pond? Is it
        <1m   **1-5m**   **>5m**?

6. How to determine the amount of emergent aquatic vegetation:
This will describe the percentage of current pond surface area that is covered by vegetation above the water. Your estimate will have to fit into one of the following categories:

NONE	JUST LOCALIZED	COVERS <25% of pond	COVERS <50% of pond
	COVERS <75% of pond	COVERS <100% of pond	COVERS the entire pond

7. a) How to determine the amount of fringe/edge vegetation and b) the amount of shading by trees:
a) This will describe the percentage of vegetated pond edge, i.e. how much of your pond edge is covered with vegetation? If the pond is less than full you will still need to look at the **fringe vegetation at the HIGH-WATER MARK**- NOT next to the current water level!! Your estimate will have to fit into one of the following categories:

NONE	JUST LOCALIZED	COVERS <10% of edge	COVERS <25% of edge
COVERS <50% of edge	COVERS <75% of edge	COVERS <100% of edge	ENTIRE edge vegetated

b) This describes the percentage of pond surface that receives shade from surrounding trees/bushes for at least part of the day. No trees close to the pond will mean no shade. Naturally, trees on the northern edge of a pond will provide good shade, whereas trees on the southern side will not. Tall trees provide more shade than small trees or bushes.

8. Weather conditions
Observe the sky and wind conditions as described, measure the air temperature first. The water temperature is measured at the side of the pond, at an arm's length and 5-10cm below the water surface.

9. Inventory of species
Give it a go!! Try to identify the species you might have heard, and their abundance.