

# Grenada Frog

## (*Pristimantis euphronides*)

Critically Endangered (IUCN Red List)

One of Grenada's only two endemic terrestrial vertebrates, found nowhere else on Earth.



above  
~300 m



Range:  
16 km<sup>2</sup>  
or less



### DESCRIPTION & ECOLOGY

Small - males ~23 mm, females ~28 mm. A direct developer: eggs laid in moist substrate hatch straight into froglets, skipping the tadpole stage. Females alone guard the clutch until hatching, without feeding.

Restricted to cool, misty montane forest above ~300 m, sheltering by day in moss and leaf litter.

Breeding needs no stream or pond – the whole life cycle happens on land, dependent on consistently moist, undisturbed forest.

### STATUS & DISTRIBUTION

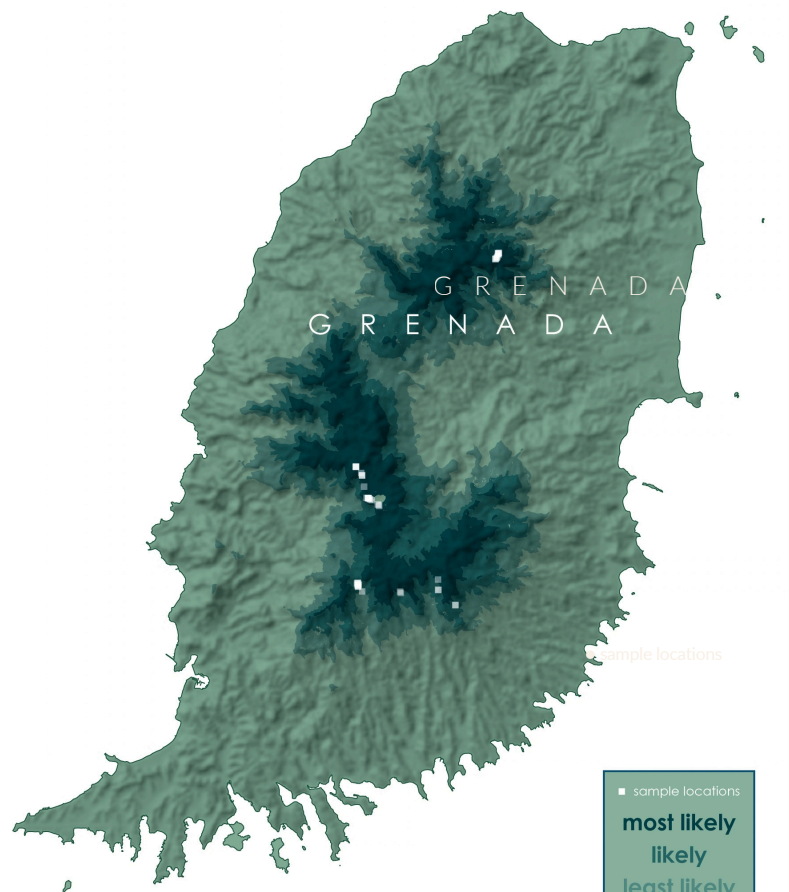
Uplisted to Critically Endangered in 2021. Current range is estimated at 16 km<sup>2</sup> or less, contracted by forest loss and by warming, drying conditions pushing habitat further upslope.

Confined to three long-term indicator sites: Grand Etang and Mount Kublal (St. Andrew), and Les Avocats (St. David).

Long-term monitoring (2004-2020) shows density varying sharply by site – 1.8 frogs/hr at Grand Etang, 2.7 at Les Avocats, 14.1 at Mount Kublal.

With its entire population confined to remnant highland patches, the species has nowhere to retreat to if conditions worsen.

### Grenada Frog Montane Habitat



■ sample locations  
most likely  
likely  
least likely

scale 1 : 165,000  
0 2 4 km  
0 2 4 m  
Cartography: Alison D. Ollivierre  
Tombolo Maps & Design

## THREATS

**Habitat loss & disturbance:** 70-85% of Grenada's native forest is already gone; storms (e.g. Hurricane Ivan, 2004) open the canopy to invasive grasses and drier conditions.

**Invasive competition:** The introduced Lesser Antillean Whistling Frog thrives in disturbed habitat and reproduces more efficiently, increasingly overlapping with the Grenada Frog.

**Climate change:** Warming and drying are shrinking the high-elevation refuges the species depends on.

**Disease:** Chytrid fungus (Bd) has not been detected in Grenada, but the island's cool, moist highlands are exactly the conditions in which it thrives elsewhere.

## CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT

Long overshadowed by the Grenada Dove, the Grenada Frog remains one of Grenada's least-known endemic species – despite being one of only two terrestrial vertebrates found nowhere else on Earth. Its stronghold at Grand Étang lies within Grenada's National Park, offering it some existing habitat protection, while other known sites, including Les Avocats, remain unprotected. Research led by Billie Harrison – mark-recapture studies, microhabitat surveys, calling-behaviour research, and long-term monitoring – has built the foundation of what is known about the species, consistently pointing to habitat quality (moisture, shade, and forest continuity) as the strongest predictor of where it can survive.

Continued research and monitoring, disease surveillance for chytrid fungus, and management of invasive competition are key priorities going forward. Equally important is raising public awareness – most Grenadians have never heard of the Grenada Frog, let alone seen one – to build the kind of recognition and support that has helped sustain conservation efforts for the Grenada Dove.

## SIMILAR SPECIES

Easily confused with the introduced Lesser Antillean Whistling Frog, which now overlaps with it at disturbed forest edges. The two are hard to tell apart visually – habitat contest is the best field cue: cool, undisturbed montane forest above 300 m (Grenada Frog) versus open or disturbed lowland habitat (Whistling Frog).

