



**Czech Republic:  
report on  
national  
activities in  
conservation of  
amphibians and  
reptiles**

**2021**

The country is inhabited by 21 amphibian species (13 anurans, 8 caudates) and 12 reptile species, which represents a relatively high diversity given the size of the country. However, many of the species are in decline. The main factors are linked to habitat loss, such as intense changes in landscape use, over-use of pesticides and herbicides, inappropriate use of water bodies or lack of biology-wise habitat management.

Long-term monitoring of distribution and population dynamics of species is predominantly carried out by Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic; significant contribution is also provided by volunteers. The factors directly linked to population changes are assessed as a part of monitoring and mapping programmes.

In 2019, biogeographical assessments of conservation status of species and habitats under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive were carried out and also Red Lists of threatened species were updated.

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There is a country-wide programme for conservation of viable population of a specific species, Aesculapian Snake, *Zamenis longissimus*, and another programme is under preparation, for the natterjack toad, *Epidalea calamita*.

Other species are protected under legislative tools such as the Special Areas of Conservation, national parks, protected landscape areas and nature reserves.

Despite some positive results in previous years and legal protection of all species, more active conservation efforts are needed to halt the on-going decline of amphibians and reptiles and their habitats in the Czech Republic.

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**Conservation of amphibian biodiversity when emerging infectious diseases spread**

The main aim of this project is to establish complex guidelines on prevention and mitigation of invasive pathogens of amphibians. Further, actually used detection methods will be improved and new methods will be developed for faster and more effective amphibian protection.

Project schedule: 1. 3. 2020 – 31. 12. 2022

Project coordinator: Czech University of life sciences Prague - Faculty of environmental sciences

Project partners: University of veterinary and pharmaceutical sciences Brno – Faculty of Veterinary hygiene and ecology; State veterinary institute Prague