



<p>WORKING PROJECT TITLE</p>	<p>Impact of invasive trout on South Africa's ghost frogs</p>
<p>CORE TEAM MEMBER</p>	<p>Olaf Weyl & John Measey</p>
<p>ACADEMIC LEVEL OF THE PROJECT</p>	<p>MSc</p>
<p>PROJECT BACKGROUND</p>	<p>Invasive fish have resulted in severe impacts of South Africa's fresh water ecosystems, including local extirpations of indigenous fish and invertebrates (Ellender & Weyl 2014). Impact on stream dwelling tadpoles is implicit, but very little is known of the interactions between invasive trout and tadpoles of ghost frogs.</p> <p>The family Heleophrynidae contains two genera and seven species, and is indigenous to South Africa. The most speciose part of their distribution are the montane streams of the Cape folds. Their tadpoles are constrained to perennial fast flowing streams as they take more than one year to metamorphosis. Existing studies suggest that they are negatively impacted by trout (Karssing et al 2012).</p> <p>This study asks: (1) How do trout affect the distribution of ghost frog tadpoles within a stream? (2) Have trout changed the distribution of ghost frogs at a landscape level across the Cape fold mountains?</p>



	<p>This project requires a student who can work conduct rigorous and extensive fieldwork in remote areas, has good analytical skills, and has enthusiasm for working with invasive species.</p>
<p>FURTHER READING</p>	<p>Ellender BR, Weyl OLF. 2014. A review of current knowledge, risk and ecological impacts associated with non-native freshwater fish introductions in South Africa. <i>Aquatic Invasions</i> 9(2): 117-132. http://dx.doi.org/10.3391/ai.2014.9.2.01</p> <p>Karssing, R.J., Rivers-Moore, N.A. and Slater, K., 2012. Influence of waterfalls on patterns of association between trout and Natal cascade frog <i>Hadromophryne natalensis</i> tadpoles in two headwater streams in the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site, South Africa. <i>African Journal of Aquatic Science</i>, 37(1), 107-112.</p>
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