

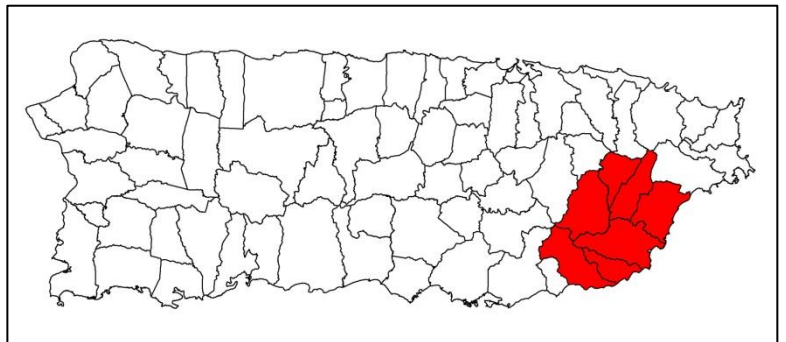


U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CARIBBEAN ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE

Conservation Measures for the Coquí Guajón (*Eleutherodactylus cooki*)

Section 7 (a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) charges Federal agencies to aid in the conservation of listed species, and section 7 (a)(2) requires the agencies, through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), to ensure their activities are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitats. Section 7 applies to the management of Federal lands as well as Federal actions that may affect listed species, such as Federal approval of private activities through the issuance of Federal funding, permits, licenses, or other actions. Any person that injures, captures, or kills a Coquí guajón destroy its eggs, and/or modify its critical habitat is subject to penalties under Federal law. If federal funds or permits are needed, the funding or permitting agency shall initiate Section 7 consultation with the Service. To initiate a consultation under the Section 7 of the ESA, you must submit a project package with the established minimum requirements. These conservation measures should be incorporated into the project plans to minimize possible impacts to the species. Download the [project evaluations fact sheet](#) to learn more about the requirements or visit our [project evaluations webpage](#).

The coquí guajón is a relatively large species within the coqui frog family, reaching approximately 3 inches in length with females being larger than males. The species is considered mostly nocturnal, but can also be heard calling during daylight hours and late afternoon. This coquí was federally listed as threatened in 1997 and is only known to occur in southeastern Puerto Rico in the Municipalities of Yabucoa, San Lorenzo, Patillas, Humacao, Las Piedras, Juncos, and Maunabo (shaded area in map below). You may find more information on this species including a recording of its call here: <http://www.proyectocoqui.com/portfolio/coqui-guajon/#.XHginIW6PIV>, and educational materials including a printable poster here: <https://www.coquiguajon.org/materiales-educativos>.



The coquí guajón utilizes large to small caves and crevices formed by different sized granite boulders within rocky streams. This type of habitat is commonly known as *guajonal*. The species also has been detected using road culverts and adjacent to Puerto Rico's sewer and aqueduct water

facilities. Projects that occur upstream or upland where the species occurs may also impact its habitat further downstream.

Critical habitat has been designated in each of the municipalities mentioned above, all within private lands. The enclosed link describes and illustrates all of the 17 designated critical habitats for this species: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2006-10-05/pdf/06-8482.pdf>. You may also download spatial data for these critical habitats by searching here: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html>.

The Service has developed the following conservation measures with the purpose of assisting others to avoid or minimize adverse effects to the coqui guajón and its habitat. These recommendations may be incorporated into new project plans and under certain circumstances into existing projects. Depending on the project, additional recommendations can be made besides the ones presented in this document.

Conservation Measures:

1. Confirm the presence/absence of the species at the project site. The most effective way to do this is to identify the guajón's call during the late afternoon or night. You may contact the Service for recommendations on how and when to do this.
2. Inform all project personnel about the potential presence of the coquí guajón in areas where the proposed work will be conducted. A pre-construction meeting should be conducted to inform all project personnel about the need to avoid harming this species. An educational poster or sign with photo or illustration of the species should be displayed at the project site.
3. Proposed activities should avoid adversely affecting any of the 17 critical habitat units or any other occupied guajón habitat.
4. Be advised that the designated critical habitat is not the entire range of the species; the species can be found in any boulder type habitat in streams, ravines or drainages within the above referenced Municipalities. If the species is detected outside of the designated critical habitat areas, it is still protected under the Endangered Species Act.
5. Prior to any construction activity, including removal of vegetation and earth movement, the boundaries of the project area, the buffer zones, and areas to be excluded and protected should be clearly marked in the project plan and in the field.
6. It is important to implement proper erosion and sedimentation control measures when working within or adjacent to coqui guajón habitat. Sediment runoff can adversely impact the species and its habitat by filling the caves and crevices where the species occurs and uses to lay its eggs. As water is a very important component of the species' habitat, any stream, creek, or similar body of water with the habitat characteristics indicated above may harbor the species, hence it should be protected to the maximum extent possible.
7. Areas that can be impacted by construction or any other activity would potentially require the relocation of frogs and consultation with the Service for such action is required. If

relocation is proposed, a capture and relocation protocol should be developed and sent to the Service for evaluation before the project starts. Capture and relocation of frogs should be conducted only by qualified personnel avoiding harming, injury or killing individuals.

8. A before and after photographic record of the project area should be established. In addition, a record of all coquí guajón detections, including date, time, location, and approximate number of individuals should be established.
9. Projects must comply with all State laws and regulations. Also, contact PRDNER for further guidance.

If you have any questions regarding the comments above, please contact the Service Monday to Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

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