Elsewhere, over-harvest of frogs is prevented by indigenous folklore or beliefs. In Nepal, the usage of frogs for medicine is widespread, as some species produce compounds in their skin which are useful poisons, painkillers or anaesthetics. Local taboos, however, prevent their capture on all days of the week except Saturdays and Tuesdays.

Aside from their perceived ecological or medicinal functions, wild amphibians are often respected for their traditional, cultural and spiritual roles, which may be the basis of local conservation programmes. The Lepchas of Sikkim prohibit hunting or collecting of rare plants and animals, which are regarded sacred, and also recognize biologically unique microclimatic zones. Frog worship itself has been reported from many eastern cultures, where human beliefs, myths and representation in art appear to stem from the association of the humble frog with rainfall and fertility and its role as a predator of crop pests, and therefore with the prosperity of early societies.

For Prof. Das the way to help frog conservation in future is by getting people interested in the weird and wonderful world of frogs. He explains that there is still so much to discover. Fortunately, many of his students gain employment in the local forestry department where they work to set up ecotourism, for example, and he is hopeful about the future of herpetology. After all, he says, “It is second nature for humans to be interested about nature”.

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One of the world’s most wanted lost frogs has been sighted for the first time in over 80 years by researchers at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak’s Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation.

*Ansonia latidisca* is one of the world’s rarest tropical frogs. Only three specimens have ever been collected, and none have been sighted since the 1920s. The species is listed as one of the world’s top 10 most wanted lost frogs by the IUCN Global Amphibian Specialist Group.

Now, thanks to scientists from UNIMAS, *A. latidisca* has been rediscovered in the northwest corner of Borneo. Three individual frogs were spotted living in trees on the slopes of Mount Penrissen, which lies on the border between the Malaysian state of Sarawak and Indonesia’s Kalimantan Barat Province. Researchers even managed to capture one of them on camera in the first ever photo of live *A. latidisca*, which shows its beautiful bright colours.

Scientists are heartened that both male and female frogs have been spotted; noting that one of the females was carrying eggs. It is hoped the small population will grow and flourish – although Mount Penrissen lies outside protected areas and in recent years there have been several major development projects in the vicinity. A close eye will be kept on these elusive amphibians in future, to make sure *A. latidisca* stays well and truly on the radar.