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## Romeo might be one of the last members of his species. Won't you help him find a mate?



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Bolivian Amphibian Initiative is making 10 expeditions to locations where the species was once common, hoping to find Romeo the water frog a mate. (Photo: Matias Careaga/Global Wildlife Conservation)

We thought Lonesome George was a sad case. But now, there's Romeo.

Romeo is a Sehuencas water frog, and he is quite possibly the only member of his species alive today. Possibly.

Researchers haven't given up hope and are using this Valentine's Day to tug on our heartstrings to help find Romeo a lover.

In an odd-yet-perfect collaboration, Global Wildlife Conservation, Match — the world's largest relationship company — and the Bolivian Amphibian Initiative have teamed up on a fundraising campaign to find a mate for Romeo. The goal is to get researchers in the field to find out if any other Sehuencas water frogs exist, and if any do, to find a potential mate.

Romeo has his own dating profile on Match, and the campaign aims to raise \$15,000 by Valentines Day, money that will be used to fund 10 field expeditions by the Bolivian Amphibian Initiative. From basic field equipment to transportation and guides, the funds will be essential in the search for individuals and to keep this species in existence.

"When biologists collected Romeo 10 years ago, we knew the Sehuencas water frog, like other amphibians in Bolivia, was in trouble, but we had no idea we wouldn't be able to find a single other individual in all this time," said Arturo Muñoz, founder of the Bolivian Amphibian Initiative and GWC associate conservation scientist. "Romeo started to call for a mate about a year after he was brought into captivity, but those calls have slowed in the last few years. We don't want him to lose hope, and we continue to remain hopeful that others are out there so we can establish a conservation breeding program to save this species."