



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD

Western Leopard Toad

(*Sclerophrys pantherina*)



INTRODUCTION

- Conservation status:** Endangered
- Native range:** Endemic to the Western Cape
- Diet:** Carnivorous, feeding on insects and other invertebrates
- Behaviour:** Primarily nocturnal, predominantly seen during the breeding season from July to September
- Predators:** Birds of prey, non-native fish, cats, and dogs
- Threats:** Habitat loss, cars, pollution



COMMON ISSUES IN URBAN AREAS

- Western Leopard Toads are negatively impacted by urbanisation and the resulting habitat loss.
- They are particularly vulnerable during their breeding season, when many are killed trying to cross roads to reach their breeding sites in wetlands and other water bodies.
- These toads are also susceptible to pollution, litter and other impacts on water quality.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

There are a number of measures that can be taken to help prevent the loss of this endangered species:

- Look out for permanent and temporary signage indicating Western Leopard Toad breeding areas or hotspots.
- Take extra care when driving at night (from around 18:30) in areas where they are known to migrate. Drive slowly and allow them to pass.
- If necessary to prevent injury to the toads, you can assist by picking them up carefully and placing them on the side of the road they were attempting to cross, taking care to keep them pointed in the direction they were travelling.
- Do not move toads far from where you find them, and do not transport them to a water body, even if it seems helpful – this will disorient them, hindering their ability to breed. Moving wildlife around in general is prohibited as it can often have negative effects.
- Do not dump litter or foreign substances into waterways.
- Do not keep any toads as pets.



Look out for signage showing breeding hotspots between July and October, and drive cautiously.



Toad tunnels are being trialed adjacent to False Bay Nature Reserve to assist toads to reach their breeding sites safely.

Urbanisation and development have resulted in habitat loss and/or fragmentation for wildlife. Many species now find themselves living on the urban edge, and often enter urban areas.

Western Leopard Toads are dependent on healthy wetland habitats, as well as safe corridors for them to access these habitats. Known for gracing our sandy coastal lowlands, they occur in very limited and specific areas. We can do our part by being aware of their breeding migrations, and conserving the habitats they depend on by reducing litter and pollution in waterways.

You can also help by raising awareness around Western Leopard Toads, reminding friends and family to drive with caution at night, avoiding hotspot areas where possible, or even helping out where you see local residents and conservation staff working to assist toad migrations. Be mindful of road users and take care to avoid blocking or impeding traffic.

Western Leopard Toads, along with many other indigenous species, are protected in the Western Cape. This means that to capture and/or remove a toad you require a [CapeNature](#) permit along with the relevant landowner's permission if required. If you are aware of toads being captured or hunted without a permit, contact [CapeNature](#), and the Cape of Good Hope SPCA's [Wildlife Unit](#) if there are welfare concerns. You can contact the Western Leopard Toad hotline for queries on 082 516 3602.

RESOURCES/FURTHER INFORMATION

[Importance of the Western Leopard Toad](#) | [Full list of NEMBA-regulated species](#) | [More information](#) | [IUCN listing](#)

CONTACTS

CCT animal-keeping permit applications:

[CapeNature hunting permits](#) | [CCT Environmental Health](#)

Injured wild animals/welfare concerns: [SPCA Wildlife Unit](#) | [Urban wildlife contact list](#)