

Guttural Toad vs. Western Leopard Toad

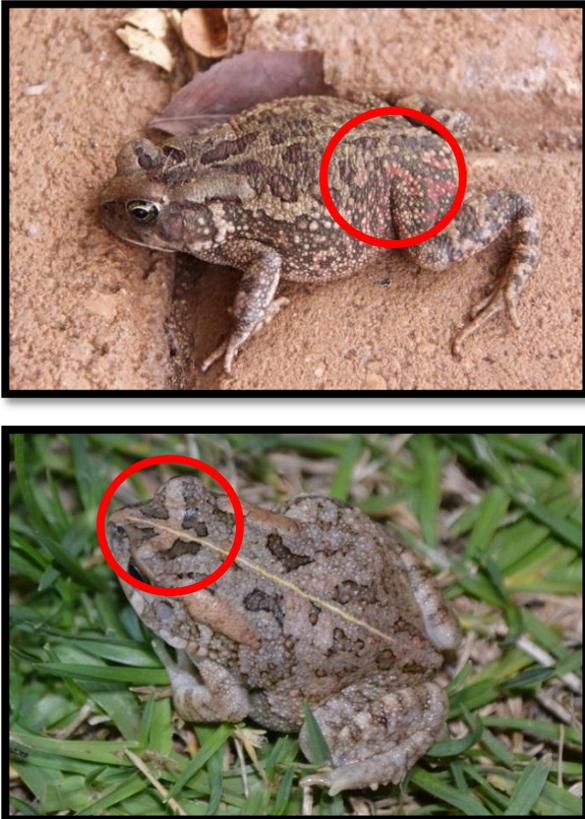
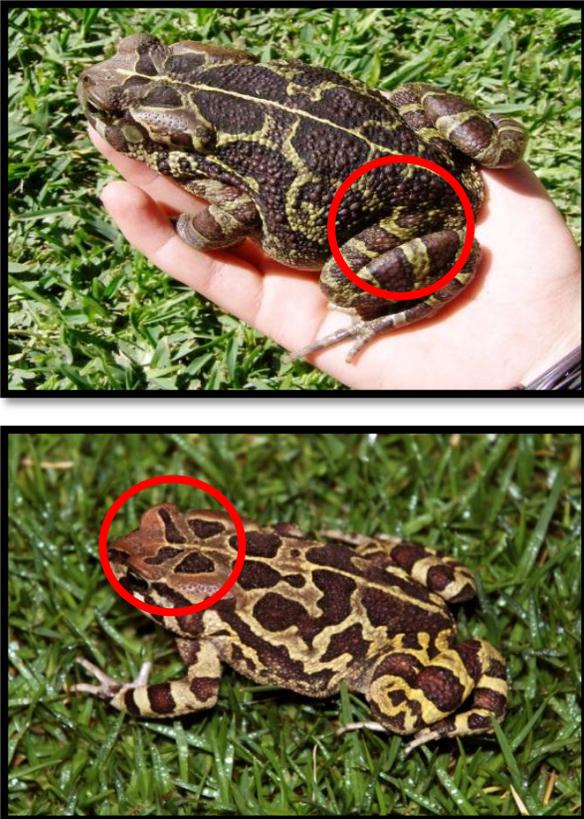
The City of Cape Town, in partnership with CapeNature, the Centre of Excellence for Invasion Biology and the Natural Resources Management Program embarked on a project to protect our indigenous toads and frogs. An alien toad species, **the Guttural Toad**, is rapidly establishing and spreading and **we need your help!**

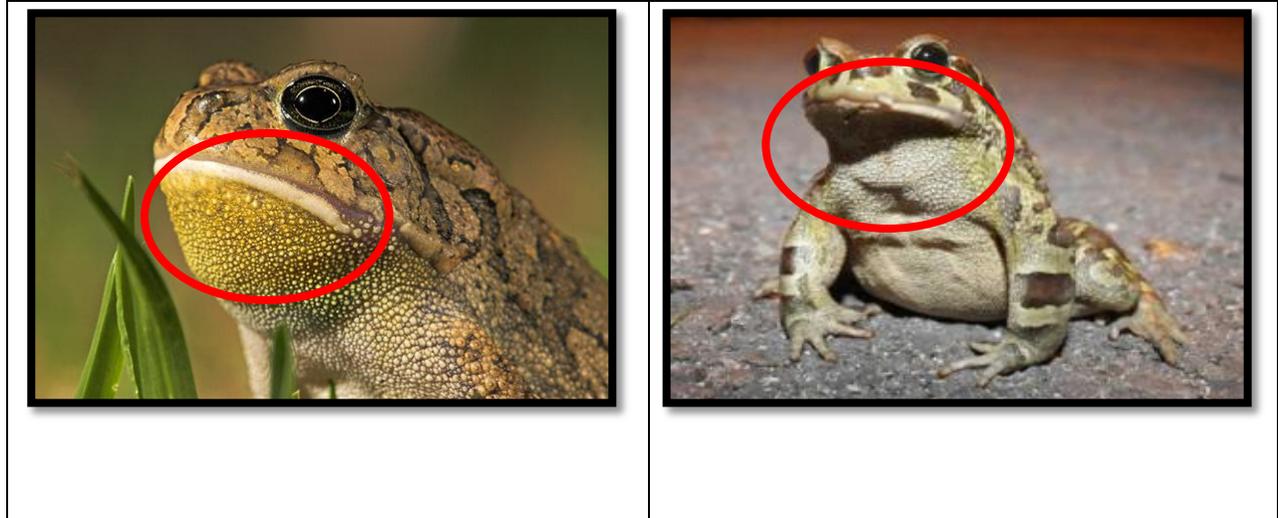
Guttural toads pose a serious threat to the survival of our indigenous frog and toad species, especially the endangered **Western leopard toad** as they compete for habitat, resources and breeding grounds.

The introduced Guttural Toad is an alien invasive species. They occur in a 5km range in the **Constantia Valley** area (north of Constantia Main Road) and are known to breed in garden ponds. However the invaded area is increasing year after year and it is now possible to find this species outside Constantia. At the beginning of 2014 some individuals were detected for the first time also in Bishopscourt. If this population is allowed to continue to spread there is a very real threat of them colonizing a much wider area in the City of Cape Town.

It is **essential** to capture every guttural toad sighted, because a single female can produce **20,000 eggs** per season. The **protocol below** can assist you to distinguish easily the Guttural Toad from the Western Leopard Toad and help us to look for this species. If you see any guttural toads on your **property** (especially if you live around Constantia, please follow carefully the protocol steps down here.

Your Help is Essential!

Guttural Toad	Western Leopard Toad
<p>By Call Deep, guttural, pulsed snore. Resemble the bounces of a dropped Ping-Pong ball. During breeding season, usually Sep-Feb.</p>	<p>By Call Long drawn-out snore on overcast days. During breeding season in spring, usually Aug-Oct.</p>
<p>By Sight Above Colour: Light to dark brown with pairs of darker brown patches, smaller scattered spots sometimes occur between the larger patches; Brown line down the back: sometimes Between the eyes: Pale prominent cross formed by two sets of dark brown patches.</p>	<p>By Sight Above Colour: striking symmetrical dark red-brown markings, edged in black & yellow. Yellow line down the back: Usually Between the eyes: Dark patch, not forming a cross.</p>
<p>Underside: Dirty white colour.</p>	<p>Underside: Whitish colour.</p>
<p>Thighs: Red infusion.</p>	<p>Thighs: No red infusion.</p>
	



Report the presence of a guttural toad

If you find a guttural toad please:

- Put it gently into a bucket or any other similar container (**note** that the guttural toad container should have a lid, to prevent escape, and it should be kept in a cool, darkish place).
- Write down where you found it.
 - Contact: C) **Nicholas Hosking** at **071 873 2340** or **Graca De Abreu** at **073 651 5456**,
 - E) gutturaltoads@ncc-group.co.za
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We will pick up the toad from you as soon as possible!!!

Be aware! If you are not sure about species identification, take a photo of the toad in your container and send it to gutturaltoads@ncc-group.co.za