





# ANIMALS


WEBSITE RESEARCH REPOSITORY (COPILOT TEMPLATE)


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## Zebra (Cape Mountain Zebra)

### Introduction

The Cape Mountain Zebra is a striking subspecies known for its narrow stripes and graceful build. Unlike its plains cousins, it thrives in rugged mountainous terrain.

### Habitat in Western Cape

Found in protected areas like the Mountain Zebra National Park, Gamkaberg, and Kammanassie reserves, these zebras prefer open grasslands and mountainous slopes with access to water and shelter.

### Population

Once reduced to fewer than 100 individuals in the 1950s, conservation efforts have revived the population to over 3,200 today<sup>2</sup>.

### Threats

- Habitat loss due to agriculture and urban expansion
- Hybridization with other zebra subspecies
- Genetic bottlenecks and reduced diversity

### Interesting Facts & Ecosystem Role

- First protected in 1937, the Cape Mountain Zebra has become a conservation success story.
- As grazers, they help maintain plant biodiversity and serve as prey for predators, supporting a balanced ecosystem.

### **Mission Statement**

To ensure the long-term survival of the Cape Mountain Zebra through habitat protection, genetic diversity management, and public education.

### **Closing Statement**

The Cape Mountain Zebra's comeback is a testament to what focused conservation can achieve. 🙌 Click to find out more

## **Leopard Toad (Western Leopard Toad)**

### **Introduction**

The Western Leopard Toad is a charismatic amphibian with vivid markings, found only in the Western Cape. It's a flagship species for urban wildlife conservation.

### **Habitat in Western Cape**

Semi-aquatic, it inhabits freshwater marshes, ponds, and urban gardens across Cape Town and surrounding areas<sup>4</sup>.

### **Population**

Classified as Endangered, its numbers are declining due to habitat fragmentation and urban threats.

### **Threats**

- Road mortality during breeding migrations
- Habitat loss and pollution
- Barriers like walls and canals that restrict movement

### **Interesting Facts & Ecosystem Role**

- Breeding season occurs between July and September, when volunteers help toads cross roads safely.

- Toads control insect populations and serve as indicators of ecosystem health.

### **Mission Statement**

To protect the Western Leopard Toad through community engagement, habitat restoration, and migration support.

### **Closing Statement**

Small but mighty, the Leopard Toad reminds us that conservation begins in our own backyards. 🐸 Click to find out more

## Cape Leopard

### **Introduction**

The elusive Cape Leopard is a smaller, more secretive subspecies of the African leopard, adapted to the mountainous terrain of the Western Cape.

### **Habitat in Western Cape**

Found in rugged areas like the Cederberg, Boland, and Overberg, often outside protected zones. Prefers high-elevation natural vegetation.

### **Population**

Estimated to be fewer than 1,000 individuals across fragmented habitats.

### **Threats**

- Habitat fragmentation and urban encroachment
- Livestock conflict and illegal snaring
- Prey depletion and territorial competition<sup>6</sup>

### **Interesting Facts & Ecosystem Role**

- Cape Leopards are apex predators, regulating prey populations and maintaining ecological balance.
- Rarely seen, they are known for their stealth and adaptability.

### **Mission Statement**

To secure the future of Cape Leopards through habitat connectivity, community-based conservation, and scientific research.

### **Closing Statement**

Protecting the Cape Leopard means protecting the wild heart of the Western Cape.

👉 Click to find out more

## **Elephant (Knysna Elephant)**

### **Introduction**

Once abundant across the Western Cape, elephants now survive in small numbers, mostly in sanctuaries and reserves. The Knysna Elephant is a symbol of resilience.

### **Habitat in Western Cape**

Historically roamed the forests of Knysna and Tsitsikamma. Today, found in protected areas like Knysna Elephant Park and private reserves.

### **Population**

From thousands to near extinction—only a few individuals remain in the region, with some reintroduced through conservation efforts.

### **Threats**

- Habitat destruction and fragmentation

- Historical hunting and ivory trade
- Human-wildlife conflict and climate change<sup>9</sup>

### **Interesting Facts & Ecosystem Role**

- Elephants are “ecosystem engineers,” shaping landscapes, dispersing seeds, and creating pathways for other species.
- Ancient rock art and explorer accounts document their long history in the Cape.

### **Mission Statement**

To restore elephant presence in the Western Cape through ethical tourism, habitat rehabilitation, and education.

### **Closing Statement**

The Knysna Elephant’s story is one of survival against the odds. Let’s ensure it continues. 👉 Click to find out more