Xenopus	s laevis		Region: 10				
Taxonomic /	Authority:	(Daudin, 1802)					
Synonyms:			Common Names:				
			African Clawed Frog	English			
			Common Platanna	English			
Order:	Anura		Family: Pipidae				
Notes on taxonomy:		This species appears to be a complex of several different species, many of which already have subspecific status. Xenopus I. sudanensis and X.I. victorianus in particular might deserve specific status.					

# **General Information**

Biome I errestrial V Freshwater Marine	Biome	<ul> <li>Terrestrial</li> </ul>	✓ Freshwater	Marine
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#### Geographic Range of species:

This species ranges from extreme southern Angola, Namibia and the Cape Region of South Africa north-westward to Kenya, Uganda and northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo, then westward north of the forest zone through Central African Republic to Cameroon and central Nigeria. It is introduced in several places outside its native range, including the USA where it was first introduced in the 1930s and 1940s for laboratory use and later as an aquarium pet. It was introduced and established locally in California (San Diego, Orange, Riverside, Los Angeles, Ventura, and Imperial counties) and Arizona (Tucson area) (Stebbins 1985, Lafferty ad Page 1997). It has been recorded from, but it is not established in Colorado. It has also been introduced to Chile (introduced in the 1970s to central Chile, Valparaiso to Concepción Provinces), parts of the United Kingdom (extant in south Wales and presumed extirpated from the Isle of Wight [not mapped here], and a number of occasional records from other locations [not mapped], the Departments of Deux-Sèvres and Maine et Loire in France and Java (Indonesia) [not mapped here]. It is presumed to occur in southwestern Sudan, but there do not appear to be confirmed records from this country. Records from Congo refer to Xenopus petersii. Its range is also extending in parts of Africa, often by introduction because it is used for live bait, and it has spread extensively in South Africa. It occurs up to 3,000m asl.

#### **Conservation Measures:**

It occurs in many protected areas.

# Habitat and Ecology Information:

It is a water-dependent species occurring in a very wide range of habitats, including heavily modified anthropogenic habitats. It lives in all sorts of waterbodies, including streams, but tends to avoid large rivers, and waterbodies with predatory fish. It reaches its highest densities in eutrophic water. It breeds in water; there are no records of it breeding in flowing water. It has very high reproductive potential. It is a highly opportunistic species, and colonizes newly recreated, apparently isolated, waterbodies with ease. It can migrate in large numbers when breeding ponds start to dry up, and the weather is wet.

### Threats:

It is very successful and adaptable, and is an invasive species in many areas. Recent studies show that it is not impacted by the herbicide atrazine. Chytridiomycosis was detected in museum specimens of this species dating back to 1938, and it is hypothesised that the international trade in this species may have introduced this fungal disease to other regions of the world. The disease does not appear to have any detrimental affect on populations of this species.

#### Species population information:

It is an extremely abundant, and often increasing, species.

Country Distribution	Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced	Vagrant
Angola	$\checkmark$					
Botswana	$\checkmark$					
Burundi	$\checkmark$					
Cameroon	$\checkmark$					
Central African Republic	$\checkmark$					
Chile					$\checkmark$	
Congo, The Democratic Republic of the	$\checkmark$					
France					$\checkmark$	
Indonesia					$\checkmark$	
Kenya	$\checkmark$					
Lesotho	$\checkmark$					
Malawi	$\checkmark$					
Mexico					$\checkmark$	
Mozambique	$\checkmark$					
Namibia	$\checkmark$					
Nigeria	$\checkmark$					
Rwanda	$\checkmark$					
South Africa	$\checkmark$					

	Native -	Native -			
Zimbabwe	$\checkmark$				
Zambia	$\checkmark$				
United States of America				$\checkmark$	
United Kingdom				$\checkmark$	
Uganda	$\checkmark$				
Tanzania	$\checkmark$				
Swaziland	$\checkmark$				

Presence

Possible

Extinct Reintroduced Introduced

Presence

Confirmed

## FAO Marine Habitats

### Major Lakes

### Major Rivers

Upper Level Habitat Preferences		Score	Lower Level Habitat Preferences	Score
1.6	Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Lowland	1	Broadleaf Crops	1
1.9	Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Montane	1	Cool Fields and Woods	1
2.1	Savanna - Dry	1	Corn and Beans Cropland	1
2.2	Savanna - Moist	1	Crop and Water Mixtures	1
3.4	Shrubland - Temperate	1	Crops and Towns	1
3.5	Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	1	Crops, Grass, Shrubs	1
3.6	Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Moist	1	Deciduous Tree Crops	1
3.7	Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical High Altitude	1	Dry Tropical Woods	1
3.8	Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	1	Dry Woody Scrub	1
4.4	Grassland - Temperate	1	Evergreen Tree Crops	1
4.5	Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	1	Fields and Woody Savanna	1
4.6	Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical Seasonally Wet/Flooded	1	Forest and Field	1
4.7	Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical High Altitude	1	Grass Crops	1
5.1	Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks	2	Hot and Mild Grasses and Shrubs	1
	(includes waterfalls)		Irrigated Grassland	1
5.2	Wetlands (inland) - Seasonal/Intermittent/Irregular Rivers/Streams/Creeks	1	Marsh Wetland	1
5.4	Wetlands (inland) - Bogs, Marshes, Swamps, Fens, Peatla	nds 1	Savanna (Woods)	1
5.5	Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Lakes (over 8ha	a) 1	Seasonal Tropical Forest	1
5.6	Wetlands (inland) - Seasonal/Intermittent Freshwater Lakes	s 1	Succulent and Thorn Scrub Tropical Rainforest	1
5.7	Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Marshes/Pools	1	Urban	1
5.8	Wetlands (inland) - Seasonal/Intermittent Freshwater Marshes/Pools (under 8ha)	1	woody Savanna	, T
5.9	Wetlands (inland) - Freshwater Springs and Oases	1		
8.4	Desert - Semi-Desert (no trees present)	1		
11.1	Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	1		
11.2	Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland	1		
11.3	3 Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations	1		
11.4	Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens	1		
11.5	Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas	1		
11.6	Artificial/Terrestrial - Subtropical/Tropical Heavily Degraded Former Forest	1 1		
12.1	Artificial/Aquatic - Water Storage Areas (over 8ha)	1		
12.2	2 Artificial/Aquatic - Ponds (below 8ha)	1		
12.3	B Artificial/Aquatic - Aquaculture Ponds	1		
12.5	Artificial/Aquatic - Excavations (open)	1		
12.7	Artificial/Aquatic - Irrigated Land (includes irrigation channe	els) 1		
12.8	Artificial/Aquatic - Seasonally Flooded Agricultural Land	1		
12.9	Artificial/Aquatic - Canals and Drainage Channels, Ditches	1		

### Major threats

# Conservation Measures

13 None	<b>&gt;</b>			3 3.1 3.2 3.3 3.4 3.9 4 4.1 4.4 4.4.2 4.4.3	Research Taxonom Populatio Biology a Habitat si Trends/M Habitat a Maintena Protected Establish Managen	n actions ny nd Ecolog tatus lonitoring nd site-ba nce/Cons d areas ment nent	rs and range ay used actions ervation	
Utilisation of Species								
Purpose/Type of Use 1. Food - human	Sub	sistence	e N	ational	Interna	ational	Other purpose:	
14. Research								
Primary forms removed from the wild 1. Whole animal/plant	100%	>75%	51-7	75%	26-50%	<25%	Other forms removed from	n the wild:
Source of specimens in commercial trade Wild	100%	>75%	51- V	75% 1	26-50%	<25%	Other source of specimer	is:
Captive breeding/farming				]				
Trend in wild offtake/harvest in relation to tot	al wild p	opulatior	n numb	ers ove	er last five	e years:	Unknown	
Trend in offtake/harvest produced through do CITES: Not listed	omesticat	tion/culti	vation	over la	st five ye	ars:	Unknown	
Red List Criteria: Rationale for the Red List Assessment: List hat qua Current Population Trend: Increasing Assessor(s): Richard Tinsley, Leslie Minter, C Notes on Red listing:	ted as Lea bitats, its j alify for lis John Mea	ast Conce presumec ting in a r sey, Kim	ern in vi l large p more th Howell	ew of it populati reatene <b>Date o</b> , Alberte	s very wic ion, and b ed categor <b>f Assessi</b> o Veloso,	de distribu ecause it y. <b>ment:</b> Herman N	tion, its tolerance of a broad is unlikely to be declining fas 5/15/2004 Núñez	range of t enough to
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