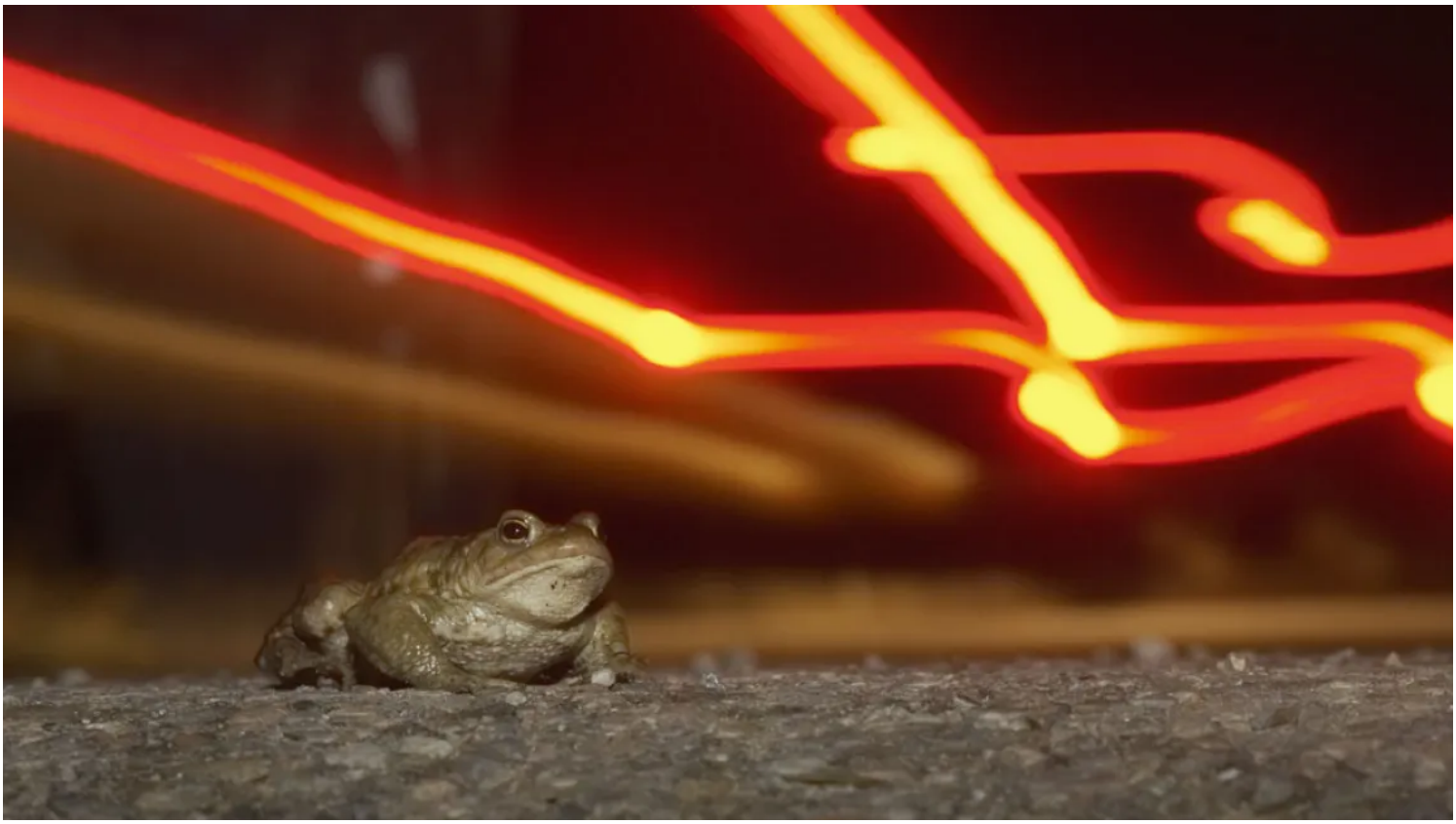


A toad in the headlights. Tom Langton

Common toads are getting rarer but volunteers can help them as part of a National Lottery-funded initiative.

Numbers of common toads have fallen by 68% in the last 30 years, according to the Toads on Roads study, with the species particularly affected in London and the South East.

Suitable habitats and breeding ponds are being lost, with roads also a danger as toads try to cross them on their migratory routes.

Stuart Hobley, Head of HLF London, said: “They are an important part of our natural heritage but the common toad is becoming much less common and action needs to be taken to help them.”

Take action for toads

Froglife has launched a major project to help toads in the capital supported by £464,000 from the National Lottery. It will improve habitats and natural corridors to make it easier for toads to move around, collect vital data on the species and teach people of all ages how to help toads.

[quote= Kathy Wormald, Froglife CEO] "This project will make a massive difference to toads." [/quote]

Anyone can get involved – citizen scientists, landowners, garden owners, allotment holders, schools and anyone with a smartphone!

Here's how you can help:

- **Improve habitats large and small** – volunteer for large-scale conservation at major wildlife sites or make your own gardens or allotments toad friendly
- **Help toads cross roads** – join a toad patrol set up through the project or volunteer at an existing crossing
- **Download the Dragon Finder app** – become a citizen scientist and add details of your toad and other amphibian sightings via the app to help build a better picture of how the species are faring
- **Learn to love toads, warts and all** – take part in an upcoming workshops or event where you can learn about toads. The project will be visiting schools and community groups too. You can also see the world through a toad's eyes using Froglife's virtual reality app
- **Volunteer or join a traineeship** – get in touch with the project leader Emily Millhouse to find out how you can get involved

Kathy Wormald, CEO of Froglife, said: "We are delighted that National Lottery players have helped fund the London T.O.A.D. project. It will make a massive difference to toads - by creating wonderful new ponds and other habitats in parks and green spaces across London and there will be loads of opportunities for Londoners to get involved."

Visit the Froglife website to discover more about common toads and their future.

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