



## MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

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**To:** AArk stakeholders  
**From:** AArk Officers  
**Subject:** AArk monthly activity report for April 2007  
**Date:** 5 May 2007

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*Note: these reports document efforts that are underway; people seeking additional information should contact [kcz](#).*

### General updates from the amphibian community

- ASG is still seeking Executive Director (see announcement in [Froglog](#)).
- “[Spread of Chytridiomycosis Has Caused the Rapid Global Decline and Extinction of Frogs](#)”
- “[Ghosts in Our Midst: Coming to Terms with Amphibian Extinctions](#)”
- “[Amphibian and reptile declines over 35 years at La Selva, Costa Rica](#)”

### CURRENT

#### AArk Coordination (compiled by AArk Program Officer [Kevin Zippel](#)).

- AArk Steering Committee nearly complete, working on Advisory Committees
- Kevin Z is working with ALPZA’s Diana Sarmiento to form a database of potential partners, i.e., Latin American zoos, universities, NGOs, anyone working with amphibians who is interested in forming partnerships with AZA or other outside institutions.
- Kevin Z is working on articles geared toward other specific communities to increase capacity and participation, starting with Joe Mendelson targeting academic labs through SSAR’s *Herp Review*, but planning with Max Nickerson targeting natural history museums through The Natural Science Collections Alliance’s *Alliance Gazette*, and with Ron Gagliardo targeting botanical gardens through the American Public Garden Association’s *The Public Garden*.

#### Taxon Survival Efforts (compiled by AArk Taxon Officers [Kevin Johnson](#) and [Richard Gibson](#))

- Kevin J developed an online amphibian contact database which will contain searchable details for amphibian experts (<http://zims.isis.org/aark/Lists/Amphibian%20contacts%202/Summary%20view.aspx>). Emails requesting addition and updating of data will be distributed soon.
- Kevin J developed online calendar for sharing staff AArk staff schedules and meetings (<http://zims.isis.org/aark>)
- Kevin Z, Kevin J and Richard met to discuss proposed modifications to the species prioritization tool. Richard will work with colleagues from the Panama workshop to make adjustments and distribute for review.
- Kevin J began development of an electronic data entry database for gathering species prioritization data. This will be refined after changes to the prioritization process have been reviewed and confirmed. The tool includes all pertinent help, and can be distributed for global use.
- Kevin J obtained an extract of the GAA database from Don Church. Data from this will be “pre-loaded” into the electronic species prioritization tool before it is sent out to countries or regions.
- Kevin Z is preparing for spray toad PHVA; draft briefing book completed.



- Richard participated in Swedish post-graduate conservation symposium at Norden's Ark, giving presentations on the background of the amphibian crisis, the development of the AARK and its intended implementation.
- Richard also initiated preliminary discussions with Norden's Ark with respect to the possibility of hosting EAZA region, theoretical and practical training workshops utilizing their facilities – which include an intended laboratory-conversion amphibian facility.
- Richard co-facilitated an amphibian husbandry workshop for EAZA Amphibian and Reptile TAG in Plock, Poland. The focus of this workshop was an understanding and implementation of quarantine and biosecurity measures in existing as well as future facilities with respect to minimizing disease-transfer risk.

### **Training & Other Capacity Building** (compiled by AArk staff)

- Everyone is looking for “creative solutions” to fill the last AArk vacancy - Training Officer - and not break the AArk budget.
- Kevin Z and Joe Mendelson consulting with Smithsonian on shaping their amphibian conservation programs.
- Kevin Z helped organize AZA's 2007 Amphibian Biology & Management course; a 2<sup>nd</sup> course is planned for October 2007.
- WAZA is planning joint effort with VDZ/DGHT (Verband Deutscher Zoodirektoren and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Herpetologie und Terrarienkunde) to hold amphibian management course in Germany this summer.
- EAZA is planning a similar training course, date and venue to be determined.
- Kevin Z is planning chytrid information sessions for spring JAZA meeting.
- Onnie wrote letter of support to fund planned training course in Madagascar

### **Communications/Development** (compiled by AArk Communications & Development Officer [Lisette Pavajeau](#))

#### 1. The 2008 International Year of the Frog Campaign

The first planning meeting for the 2008 International YOTF Campaign took place in Rotterdam April 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. The Amphibian Ark prepared a draft of the information pack before the meeting, this info-pack was reviewed by Lesley Dickey (from ZSL) and Bengt Holst (from the Copenhagen Zoo) before the meeting. The first part of the meeting was chaired by Bengt Holst and Quentin Bloxam from EAZA, and the second day was chaired by Jörg Hunhold from WAZA. During the first day we reviewed the EAZA info-pack and made some decisions relevant also to the Global campaign info-pack. During the second day we discussed the Global info-pack, in particular goals, fundraising, marketing, future activities and we planned the next meeting to take place in Leipzig Germany on June 26, 2007.

Some outcomes of the meeting were:

- During the meeting we set up a total campaign goal of \$8,002,008 USD.
- We also agreed in that 60% of the money raised during the campaign will stay in the regional associations while 40% will go to the global activities of the Amphibian Ark.
- The Chair of the Campaign Jörg Junhold, from WAZA, is going to look for a Public Relations and Marketing company to guide the organization of the campaign.
- We agreed on a global info-pack which will be distributed among the regional associations. Regions can make their own adaptations, add their own regional touch, but



by registering to the campaign they have to commit to follow some guidelines such as the use of logos, photographs, and distribution of money raised.

2. AArk Web page

The web page has improved since it was launched. We got very nice pictures from Gerry Marantelli to use in our web page, we thank him very much. Gerry also will re-write for AArk the chytrid fungus section.

3. Newsletter

We are almost ready to launch the AArk newsletter. Edward Roemke the owner of “InsWorld” a company that designs on-line newsletters based in Connecticut (USA) volunteered to create an online newsletter for AArk. There are still some formatting problems that they are trying to solve so that it may be seen around the world. We hope it will be ready to be launched by the end of May. This newsletter will be distributed by e-mail on a quarterly basis and will also be available on the AArk web page.

4. Donations

In celebration of “Be Kind to Animals week” Joseph Lyon Layden the author of the book “The Other Side of Yore” will be donating to AArk 50% of author/artist royalties from the book books sold online from May 1 through 12. This 156 page book, is about a heroic amphibian named Frawg who saves his fellow animals from a mysterious illness that is affecting the land. To find out more about "The Other Side of Yore," please visit [www.theothersideofyore.com](http://www.theothersideofyore.com).

**Other communication activities**

- Kevin Z and Onnie are working with USFWS Jeff Flocken about using Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders program to assist with Year of the Frog campaign development.
- Kevin Z did final submission of new amphibian piece for ActionBioscience.org.
- Kevin Z is working with Gordon Reid to co-edit an amphibian section in volume 42 of *International Zoo Yearbook* for early 2008 - invitations to authors now sent out.
- Everyone is answering dozens (hundreds??) of email/phone queries regarding amphibian conservation, program development, press, proposal reviews, etc.

**UPCOMING**

**Kihansi Spray Toad PHVA (Bagamoyo Tanzania 10-17 May 2007)**

Yolan Friedmann to facilitate, Andy Odum and Kerryn Morrison to model, Kevin Z to help organize PHVA.

**JAZA meeting (Osaka/Tokyo Japan 20-26 May 2007)**

Kevin Z to discuss national conservation response with respect to recent arrival of chytrid, Gerry Marantelli to help develop national strategy.

**ALPZA Congress (Sao Paulo Brazil 27 May - 1 June 2007)**

Diana Sarmiento to present on AArk global campaigns

**WAZA/AArk campaign meeting (Leipzig Germany 26 June 2007)**

Follow up to Rotterdam meeting to plan global corporate, foundation, and government capital campaigns.

**WAZA/VDZ/DGHT amphibian management course (Chemnitz Germany 27 June - 1 July 2007)**

Kevin Z to instruct at amphibian management/conservation workshop

**North American species prioritization workshop (Ft. Worth USA late July 2007)**



Richard and Kevin Z to work with AZA on prioritizing species from North America and possibly Caribbean or Mexico

**CBSG Facilitation course (Omaha USA 1-4 August 2007)**

Kevin Z and Kevin J to learn facilitation skills CBSG-style

**CBSG Annual Meeting (Budapest Hungary 23-26 August 2007)**

AArk updates and working group, TBD

**AZA Amphibian Biology & Management (Toledo USA 14-19 October 2007)**

Kevin Z to co-instruct course

**Venezuelan Amphibian Management course (Valencia Venezuela 24-29 September 2007)**

Kevin Z to help coordinate



## Acknowledgements

April 2007

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*And through donations in memory of beloved conservationist Mary*

***Sughrue Rabb:***

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## MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

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 Friday Docents of the Brookfield Zoo  
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