
To: AArk Steering Committee and colleagues
From: AArk Staff
Subject: AArk monthly activity report for April 2009
Date: 6 May 2009

Note: these reports document efforts that are underway; people seeking additional information should contact [Kevin Z.](#) These monthly reports are now archived [online](#).

General updates from the amphibian community

News/Publications

- The PBS documentary [The Thin Green Line](#) was FANTASTIC! Watch it [online](#) now!
- [Time For Kids](#) features EVACC and AArk
- [Bait shops spread amphibian disease](#)
- [Caribbean frogs sent to Europe to avoid chytridiomycosis die-off](#)
- [EPA Will Mandate Tests On Pesticide Chemicals](#)
- [Inauguran en Panamá un área de exhibición de anfibios en peligro de extinción](#)
- [ASG and partners preserve habitat for 11 threatened amphibians in Sri Lanka](#)
- [About 200 New Species Of Amphibians Discovered In Madagascar 2](#)
- [Prince of Wales, other stars use frog to call for rainforest conservation](#)



Funding available

- Project Golden Frog/Atelopus Conservation Trust offers [grants](#) up to \$5,000 for *Atelopus* conservation programs. Deadline **1 July**.
- The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund provides targeted \$5000-25,000 grants to individual species conservation initiatives and they have expressed an interest in seeing amphibian proposals.
- ASG calls for [proposals](#) for up to \$30,000 matching funds for critical habitat protection, no deadline
- Columbus Zoo continuously accepts applications for grants and emergency grants and has a strong record of supporting amphibian conservation work. For more information, contact [Rebecca Rose](#), Field Conservation Coordinator.
- Emergency funds are also available through [Memphis Zoo](#) and [Disney](#).
- Other grant opportunities are described in Appendix 3 of [AZA Amphibian Resource Manual](#).

Funding needed

- ~\$23,000 for AArk Biobanking Advisory Committee secretary Dr. Rhiannon Lloyd to continue her research post at ZSL where, in addition to helping coordinate the biobanking group for AArk, she is working on developing biobanking methods and humane approaches for increasing the breeding efficiency of threatened amphibians in captivity
- For species rescues in eastern Panama ([Houston budget proposal](#))
- For AArk officer support (institutions can also donate staff time)

- For species prioritization workshops in China, Indonesia, India, PNG, Sri Lanka, Guatemala, Cuba, Philippines, Cameroon, Honduras, Tanzania, Haiti, D.R. Congo, Jamaica, Chile, Japan, Bolivia, Argentina.
- For husbandry workshops in Peru, China, Indonesia, Chile.
- Other partnership opportunities are available in our online [database](#).

Vacancies

- Zoological Society of San Diego seeks [post-doc](#) in amphibian pathology and molecular diagnostics to be filled by July 2009
- Multiple postings here <http://parcplace.org/jobs.html>

CURRENT

AArk Coordination

- AArk strategic planning meeting held on 17 March in Al Ain, UAE; recommendations coming out of that meeting [submitted to Steering Committee for consideration](#).
- Working with AZA and now US private sector and field biologists to plan distribution of the free bleach from Clorox, which, unfortunately, it turns out can only be given out in the US. [However, new relationship forged with Clorox-Central America to get free bleach to partners at least in Panama and Costa Rica; please contact KevinZ if interested.](#)
- Working with the SSC to encourage and support *ex situ* conservation efforts in Queensland.
- Working on summary of existing/developing rescue programs for ASG 'mini-summit' this fall

Taxon Survival Efforts

- [EVACC \(Panama\) opens to the public!](#) Thanks to El Nispero Zoo, Paul Crump and the Houston Zoo, countless other zoo supporters and volunteers from around the world, Clorox, Continental, and mostly EVACC directors Edgardo and Heidi!
- Taxon prioritization workshops planned for:
 - Indonesia in July 2009
 - Sri Lanka in ~~August~~ 2009 **POSTPONED**
 - Brazil likely in fall 2009 (with support from ZSL, NABT)
 - tentative 2009: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Guatemala
- Completed versions of the prioritization data from various workshops are available on the [Amphibian Ark portal](#)
- Taxon Management Group being formed for Darwin's frog *Rhinoderma darwinii*; [Rhinoderma portal](#) set up to help coordination of conservation efforts



Training & Other Capacity Building

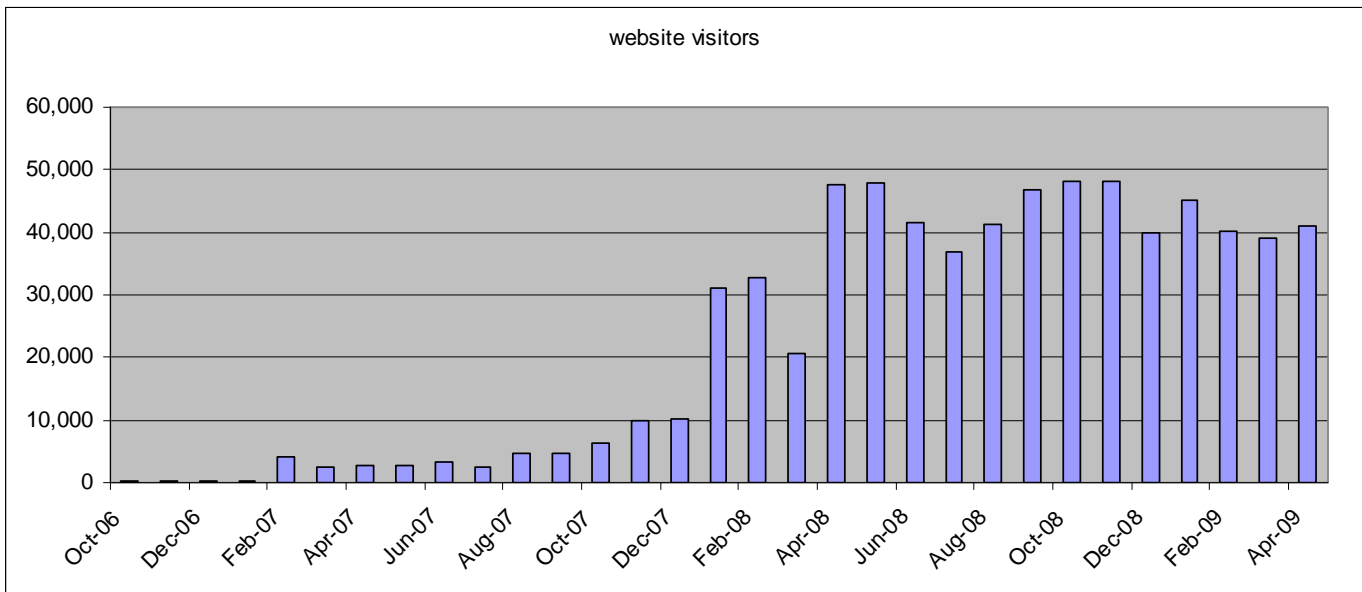
- Ron and Joe taught at the 8th AZA Amphibian Biology, Conservation, & Management course in Toledo (thanks to hosts Anne, Andy, and staff!) with 23 new students including 5 from Latin America (thanks to Toledo, AZA/ZCOG, Ron Gagliardo for financial support of students)
- Training courses planned for:
 - Cuba in ~~June~~ 2009 (CAZA course) **POSTPONED**
 - [Malaysia \(Pt. II: advanced husbandry\) in June 2009](#)
 - Indonesia in July 2009
 - Sri Lanka in ~~August~~ 2009 (DWCT course) **POSTPONED**
 - Brazil likely in fall (September?) 2009 (with support from WAZA)
 - tentative 2009: Panama

Research Efforts

- AArk Research Guidelines drafted and under review.

Communications

- The AArk website:



- 2006 hits: 939 (3 months)
- 2007 hits: 54,124
- 2008 hits: 482,705
- 2009 hits: 165,371 (4 months)
- **Online Petition:** An online petition urging politicians and parliaments of the world to commit resources for urgent global action is now available [online](#). The petition is available in English and German, and is currently being translated into Spanish. It is also available in [French](#) on the WAZA website. So far, **9584** signatures have been received via the online petition.
- **Network sites:** Please pass the word to your contacts to join AArk in our Facebook [Group](#) and [Cause](#) as well as on [MySpace](#). One new initiative here includes working with Frog Friendly Consulting to have the 1st ever Facebook campaign to save an entire species from extinction!
- Our wonderful friends at Froguts Inc. have very generously offered to give a free copy of their virtual dissection software to any interested AArk partner institutions. You can review the product at www.froguts.com, and request your copy from David Hughes, Co-Founder Froguts Inc. david@froguts.com.
- **Other**
 - Article on AArk written for US private sector partners at Treewalkers (thanks Ron!)
 - Year of the Frog campaign materials being relocated to [AArk portal](#).
 - working with Everett AquaSox (minor league baseball team in Washington State with frog mascot) on amphibian conservation promotional messages
 - article on Amphibian Ark and global response published in [ICRF's Conservation and Natural History of Reptiles](#)

Membership/fundraising

- The concept of formalizing AArk as a membership-based organization was supported at the AI Ain meeting and staff **have submitted** a proposal of for the Steering Committee's consideration.

- Luis Coloma has donated a number of copies of his new book *Sapos* to AArk for fundraising purposes; see [the post in our shop](#).
- AArk credit cards are [here!](#) 10 new applications received in March
- The Amphibian Project is selling a number of items on [their site](#) to raise money for Africam Safari and their program to save the large-crested toad *Ollotis crisata*.
- Business partners selling items and donating a percentage of the profits to AArk can be found in our online [shop](#). AArk now has an [account with MissionFish](#) to accept donations from eBay sellers, and also with [Network For Good](#) and [Just Give](#). [Check out one of our new artist partners on eBay](#).
- We are receiving and reviewing applications to the AArk Seed Grant Program.

Travel and Workshop Schedule

This schedule changes frequently; contact the AARK Staff for further details.

Dates	Meeting Description	Location	AArk Staff, SC member, affiliates
May 2009			
June 2009			
19-22	Advanced husbandry workshop	Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA	Gagliardo
29-3	Chiapas amphibian conservation workshop	Chiapas, MEXICO	Mendelson
July 2009			
27-29	prioritization workshop	INDONESIA	Johnson
27-29	husbandry workshop	INDONESIA	Gagliardo
August 2009			
5-7?	prioritization workshop	BRAZIL	Gibson, Johnson
20-21	mini-summit	London, ENGLAND	Lacy, Mendelson, Reid, Zippel
September 2009			
13-18?	husbandry workshop	BRAZIL	Gagliardo, Odum, Zippel
October 2009			
1-8	CBSG/WAZA annual meetings	St. Louis, MO, USA	Gagliardo, Zippel
August 2010			
12	Association of Zoo & Aquarium Docents	Chicago, IL, USA	Zippel



MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

Acknowledgements 30 April 2009

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Up to \$200,000

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Up to \$50,000

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Conservation Breeding
Specialist Group (CBSG)
Philadelphia Zoo
Royal Zoological Society of
Antwerp
St. Louis Zoo
World Association of Zoos
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Zoo Leipzig

Up to \$10,000

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JAZA
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Up to \$25

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amphibian ark
2008 YEAR OF THE FROG

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Meredith Mahoney
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Guerry & Michelle Suggs
Sarah Surroz
Karen A. Witter



***And in memory of pioneering
biochemist and amphibian
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Vicky Poole
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