



MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

To: AArk Steering Committee
From: AArk Officers
Subject: AArk monthly activity report for August 2007
Date: 10 September 2007

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

General updates from the amphibian community

- Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp seeking [amphibian ex situ conservation post doc](#) to operate as AArk Research Officer.
- Laboratory Animal Science Association to host [1-day meeting](#) 22 November including lectures on lab amphibian management, genetics, and health issues.
- CBSG-Mesoamerica completed CAMP workshop 10-12 August and updated IUCN category of 35 Costa Rican amphibian species.
- [Mites identified as a dietary source of alkaloids for dendrobatids.](#)
- [Sexual reproduction, and by extrapolation resistant environmental spore stage, identified in amphibian chytrid.](#) Resistant spores would greatly increase the likelihood of spread and persistence.
- “The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) are organizing an international symposium on *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*. The purpose of the symposium will be to bring together researchers and managers to discuss our current knowledge of this organism and its impacts on worldwide amphibian populations and to strategize ways to prevent its spread and manage effected populations. The symposium is going to be held November 5-7, 2007.” (see announcement in [Froglog](#)).
- ASG is still seeking an Executive Director (see announcement in [Froglog](#)).

CURRENT

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

- Kevin Z is working on Advisory Committees. Valuable suggestions and assistance are coming from the working groups at the Budapest meetings.
- Kevin Z is working on partner database of Asian amphibian contacts to complement online Latin American version.

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

- Kevin J and Richard led utilization of the species prioritization tool at the AZA meeting in Ft. Worth, covering North America, Puerto Rico and (preliminarily) Mexico.
- AArk officers working with [ALPZA](#)'s Diana Sarmiento (AArk Steering Committee) to develop a plan for prioritization workshops in Latin American countries with greatest numbers of threatened species. Plans are developing rapidly for prioritization workshops in Costa Rica, Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama.
- Kevin Z working on final draft of Kihansi spray toad PHVA workshop final report.

Amphibian Ark is a partnership between the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, and IUCN/SSC Amphibian Specialist Group.

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.
- Richard ran a 1-day theoretical and practical workshop at Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Jersey UK, with Durrell’s Gerardo Garcia on amphibian disease, biosecurity and field/lab handling and swabbing protocols for UK zoo and aquarium staff.
- Kevin Z is working with AVZA/ALPZA to plan training course at Valencia Aquarium later this fall.
- Kevin Z, and Joe Mendelson and Ron Gagliardo (both AArk Steering Committee) will instruct at 2nd 2007 [Amphibian Biology & Management](#) course in Toledo 14-19 October.
- Sally Walker (AArk Steering Committee) will host/help coordinate Durrell [Amphibian Biodiversity Conservation](#) training course in India 10-16 December 2007.
- Mesoamerican training course in preparation through [AMACZOOA](#); more details coming soon.

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

- **The AArk 2008 YOTF campaign:** The campaign was launched in Budapest internally to the zoo community at CBSG and WAZA meetings. The Global Infopack and Media Kit are now available online www.2008yearofthefrog.org or amphibianark.org/yearofthefrog.htm. Individual zoo associations will be introducing the campaign to their members at different times (mostly at upcoming meetings), and the global launch will be 31 December 2007.
- **2008 Year of the frog domain:**
We secured the www.2008yearofthefrog.org and www.2008yearofthefrog.com domains. Both are going to be redirected to <http://www.amphibianark.org/yearofthefrog.htm>
- **Saint Louis YOTF meeting:** Jeff Bonner, George Rabb, Lisette Pavajeau and Kevin Zippel (Kevin by conference call) met with Jo Ann Miles and Daniel A. Kimack from Fleishman Hillard, the communications agency which is assisting Amphibian Ark during the 2008 Year of the Frog Campaign. We went through the communications and fundraising plan prepared by FH, and also decided which materials were going to be prepared for the Budapest meeting.
- **AArk’s Quarterly Newsletter:** The first edition of the Amphibian Ark newsletter was sent out to an initial mailing list of 269 subscribers. We received many emails of congratulations for this effort.
- **2008 IUCN Conference in Barcelona:** The deadline for the second round for submitting proposals for participating in the 2008 IUCN conference is September 30th. We are preparing two proposals: one for a short movie and a second one for a poster. Any ideas are very welcome.
- **Amphibian Ark new logo:** Amphibian Ark adopted a new logo presented by the communications agency Fleishman Hillard. It is already posted on the web and newsletter and all future materials will have it.



- **Press releases:** Two press releases were sent out to the media by FH: *World’s amphibian crisis could lead to largest mass extinction since dinosaurs, August 26, 2007* and *Zoos and aquariums around the world sign petition calling on all governments to preserve amphibian life, August 31st, 2007*. You can download both press releases at www.amphibianark.org. The Associated Press, FOX News and USA Today published the first press release. <http://www.foxnews.com/wires/2007Aug23/0,4670,SavingFrogs,00.html>. The second press release was sent out the same day this monthly report was made (we are waiting for the results). The first press release brought a lot of attention from the public and in particular many offers from potential corporate and individual donors. Most of these offers want to share revenues from products sold with AArk’s logo and the company’s logo, FH will review each offer, contact them and take a decision.

- **Web page:** Visitors to www.amphibianark.org increased to 4,342 visits during the month of August from an average of 2,791 from March to July. February was also a month with a high number of visits (4,122) as a result of the media’s coverage from the Steering Committee Meeting in Atlanta. See below the list of visits per month since the creation of the amphibianark.org site.

Month	visits
Oct-06	306
Nov-06	331
Dec-06	302
Jan-07	336
Feb-07	4,122
Mar-07	2,574
Apr-07	2,763
May-07	2,816
Jun-07	3,361
Jul-07	2,440
Aug-07	4,342

Translation of the web site: We received the translation of the Amphibian Ark web page from volunteer Peter Janzen to German language. We are still looking for volunteers to translate it to other languages.

- **Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders:** Kevin Z, Jeff Bonner and Onnie Byers are working with Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders team, ALPZA, and AMACZOOA on model program to raise awareness and funds to help 1 Latin American zoo to build capacity to save 1 priority species from extinction.
- **Gerry Marantelli visit to Colombia:** Gerry Marantelli (AArk Steering committee) went to Pasto, Leticia (in the Colombian Amazon) Cali and Bogota. He gave several talks to students and many field trips.
- **IZY 42:** Kevin Z is working with Gordon Reid to co-edit an amphibian section in volume 42 of *International Zoo Yearbook* for early 2008.
 - AArk staff and Steering Committee members are collectively involved in 4 IZY manuscripts!
 - Gagliardo, Crump, Griffith, Mendelson, Ross, & Zippel - The principles of rapid response for amphibian conservation, using the programmes in Panama as an example.
 - Odum & Zippel - Amphibian water quality – modern approaches to an essential environmental parameter.
 - Pavajeau, Zippel, Gibson, & Johnson - Amphibian Ark and the 2008 Year of the Frog campaign.
 - Reid & Zippel - Can zoos and aquariums ensure the survival of amphibians in the 21st century?
- Kevin J gave presentations at the ARAZPA Amphibian TAG meeting about the AArk and the global and ARAZPA YOTF campaigns.
- High resolution version of the YOTF campaign pack photos have been uploaded to the AArk portal. These will be available via <http://zims.isis.org/aark/Hi%20res%20YOTF%20images/Forms/AllItems.aspx>
- Everyone continues to answer dozens (hundreds??) of email/phone queries regarding amphibian conservation, program development, press, proposal reviews, etc.

UPCOMING

Asian Society of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine Workshop (Taipei Republic of China (Taiwan) 30 August - 1 September 2007)

Gerry Marantelli (AArk Steering Committee) to lead discussions of chytrid risk in Asia

SEAZA Annual Meeting (Kuala Lumpur Malaysia 2-6 September 2007)

Attended by Australasian AArk contingent to lead workshops on species prioritization (Kevin J) and risk assessment and minimization (Gerry Marantelli). Kevin and Gerry are also both preparing papers for the plenary session on the AArk and species prioritization.

ARAZPA Education Specialist Advisory Group (Dubbo Australia 8-9 September 2007)

Kevin J to give a presentation on the YOTF Campaign.

Venezuelan Amphibian Management course (Valencia Venezuela fall 2007)

Kevin Z working with ALPZA and AVZA partners to help coordinate

6th International Zoo & Wildlife Research Conference (Berlin Germany 7-10 October 2007)

Joe Mendelson (AArk Steering Committee) plenary speaker

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

Kevin Z and Ron Gagliardo & Jo Mendelson (both AArk Steering Committee) to co-instruct course

Costa Rica species prioritization workshop (San Jose Costa Rica 31 October-3 November 2007)

Richard and Kevin J to assist with species prioritization process

AZA Amphibian Biology & Management (Toledo USA 12-18 April 2008)

Kevin Z and Ron Gagliardo & Jo Mendelson (both AArk Steering Committee) to co-instruct course

Columbus Zoo/Ohio State University YOTF publicity event (Columbus USA 17 April 2008)

Kevin Z to do OH-NPR radio interview and evening lecture for 400-500 on OSU campus



amphibian ark
2008 YEAR OF THE FROG

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