



AMPHIBIAN ARK ACTIVITY REPORT

To: AArk stakeholders
From: Kevin Zippel, CBSG/WAZA Amphibian Program Officer Kevin@AmphibianArk.org
Subject: Monthly AArk activity report for December 2006
Date: 3 January 2007

Note: these reports document efforts that are underway; people seeking additional information should contact kez.

CURRENT

AArk Coordination

- planning AArk pre-Steering Committee organizational meeting in Atlanta 15-16 February
- new AArk officers' position descriptions posted, ~50 applications received/processed
- working with Treewalkers International to help organize US private sector, planning to bring in diverse representation from global private sector; trying to bring in TSA to advise
- working on articles geared toward other specific communities to increase capacity: with Max Nickerson targeting natural history museums through The Natural Science Collections Alliance's *Alliance Gazette*, with Ron Gagliardo targeting botanical gardens through the American Public Garden Association's *The Public Garden*, with Joe Mendelson targeting academic labs through SSAR's *Herp Review*
- Joe and Gordon guiding initial workings of a Gene Banking advisory group

Taxon Survival Efforts

- spray toad PHVA back in discussion; budgetary negotiations between the government of Tanzania and the World Bank complete and contracts extended for another 6 months, but CBSG needs written agreement with TZ prior to further planning
- working with Don Church & Mike Hoffman (CI/ASG) to establish means to filter GAA accounts and allow *ex situ* community to determine which of the 443 EW/CR taxa really require *ex situ* intervention, and where ranching/farming might help alleviate collection pressures
- discussing with Houston Zoo possibility for a national recovery strategy meeting in Panama
- planning final PGF collecting trip early 2007

Training & Other Capacity Building

- compiling course descriptions from different organizations to create *ala carte* menu of topics for future training courses
- traveled to Ecuador to help teach amphibian management course; arranged meeting among PUCE, Amaru Zoo, and Cleveland Zoo to discuss logistics of *ex situ* conservation program in southern Ecuador; trying to get population-management programmer to Quito
- working with Cali Zoo staff on agenda for their Colombian amphibian management course
- organizing ABM 2007, new instructors, monographs, etc.; working with Brookfield to identify 3 Latin American students to support at the ABM course
- planning with Roberto Elias (Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia) a future Peruvian amphibian management course
- ongoing consultations on EVACC; trying to get Edgardo to Quito and/or Toledo for training

- ongoing consultations on developing programs at Brookfield Zoo

Communications/Development

- answering dozens of email/phone queries regarding amphibian conservation, program development, press, proposal reviews, etc.
- working with Robert Browne (Perth Zoo affiliate) to contribute chapters on ‘Facilities & Associated Services’ and ‘Reproduction and Larval Rearing’ to *ILAR Journal* Volume 48 Issue Number 3: Use of Amphibians in the Research, Laboratory, or Classroom Setting
- presented to Brookfield (IL) middle school and Southern Cayuga (NY) elementary school on amphibians, extinction crisis, and global response
- created automated PPT presentation on amphibians, extinction crisis, and global response available for download and free use at <ftp://ftp.amphibianark.org/new.amphib.show.ppt>
- working with Gordon Reid to co-edit an amphibian section in volume 42 of *International Zoo Yearbook* for early 2008
- working with Jenny Pramuk to co-edit an amphibian section in upcoming volume of *Zoo Biology* for early 2008
- compiling photos for essay ‘On the Role of *Ex-Situ* Management in the Conservation of Amphibians’ in *Threatened Amphibians of the World*
- reviewing essay ‘Amphibian Conservation – How should we respond?’ in *Threatened Amphibians of the World*
- working on amphibian piece for WCS’s *State of the Wild*
- calculating AArk funding needs/options with Bill Konstant for possible Moore Foundation support and Nate Flesness/ISIS for possible joint support (with ZIMS) through local MN funding sources

UPCOMING

Zoos and Aquariums Committing to Conservation (Houston 26-31 January 2007)

- present on AArk & role of *ex situ* community in amphibian conservation

AArk pre-Steering Committee meeting (Atlanta 15-16 February 2007)

- review bylaws, staffing plan, conservation plan; establish financial plan; develop publicity and capital campaign plans

Colombian Amphibian Biology & Management workshop (Cali 26 February - 3 March 2007)

- help Cali Zoo staff lead workshop similar to AZA ABM course

Save the Prairie Society talk (Brookfield 25 March 2007)

- speak to group about amphibian extinction crisis and global response

Nordens Ark Conservation Workshop (Hunnebostrand 26 March - 4 April 2007)

- assist with 2-day amphibian portion of 5-6 day Research School in Conservation Biology for Ph.D. students on the role zoos can play in practical conservation

Kihansi Spray Toad PHVA (March/April 2007?)

- help organize and execute PHVA

Amphibian Biology & Management (Toledo 14-19 April 2007)

- co-instruct course

JAZA meeting (Osaka & Tokyo 20-26 May 2007)

- present on AArk & role of *ex situ* community in amphibian conservation

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And through donations in memory of beloved conservationist Mary Sughrue Rabb:

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Mary Sughrue Rabb

May 1, 1929 - November 9, 2006

