



MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

To: AArk Steering Committee
From: AArk Staff
Subject: AArk monthly activity report for December 2007
Date: 8 January 2008

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

- Hong Kong [study](#) reveals mainland Asia still chytrid-free but at severe risk.
- A peptide called magainin, first found in the skin of the African clawed frog, holds the secret to creating [bacteria-killing surfaces](#), possibly including bandages to picnic tables.
- Pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals come full circle to our [drinking water](#).
- EAZA has chosen Richard Gibson (soon to be of Chester Zoo) to chair the newly formed EAZA Amphibian TAG and oversee regional AArk activities.
- The next CBOT grant application deadline is 1 March 2008. To make sure that the best amphibian proposals are endorsed by an IUCN/SSC group, TAG, SAG, SSP etc. (a requirement), we are attempting to share and evaluate proposals among CBSG, ASG, and the AZA Amphibian TAG, making sure that the best get our endorsement and as many as possibly are covered by other thematic groups (e.g., CAPs, SAGs, etc.). Projects for amphibians seeking endorsement should submit their applications to [Kevin Z](#) by 15 February 2008.
- Philadelphia Zoo still seeks [Curator of Amphibians](#).
- IUCN/SSC Amphibian Specialist Group still seeks an Executive Director (see [announcement](#) in Froglog).

CURRENT

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

- Kevin Z working with CBSG Brazil on a Brazilian partner database, which already has over 300 contacts!
- Kevin Z is working with Ollie Ryder to put together an AArk Cryobiology Advisory Group.
- Kevin Z, Joe Mendelson (AArk Steering Committee) had manuscript [accepted](#) at *Herpetological Review* to highlight exemplary academic research programs for amphibian conservation to encourage others, and also highlight non-traditional *ex situ* programs in labs, museums, and the private sector.

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

- Kevin J and Richard attended a two-day Amphibian Population Management meeting, kindly hosted by San Diego Zoo. Fifteen participants worked through a number of issues around population management of different groups of amphibians. A draft set of population management guidelines for establishing and sustaining captive assurance populations will be developed by the end of February 2008. Many thanks to San Diego Zoo for their generous support of Amphibian Ark staff attendance at this meeting.

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

- The European and Malagasy species prioritisation lists have been converted into the same format as the American/Puerto Rican one and with the latest version of the tool.
- Completed versions of the prioritization data from various workshops are now available on the [Amphibian Ark portal](#).
- A [Malaysian prioritization workshop](#) led by Kevin J is scheduled for January 15-18, hosted by Zoo Negara.
- Richard is planning to lead a prioritization workshop in South Africa in February.
- With budgetary issues resolved, Kevin Z is again working on the final report of the Kihansi spray toad PHVA.

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. We really need an institution to donate most/all of this position, as Brookfield and London are doing for others.
- Richard is working with colleagues at ZSL to develop standard best-practice amphibian quarantine and chytrid monitoring protocols building upon our still growing understanding of epidemiology of chytridiomycosis.
- Sally Walker (AArk Steering Committee) hosted/helped coordinate Durrell [Amphibian Biodiversity Conservation](#) training course in India 10-16 December 2007.
- Kevin J is working with SEAZA on an [ex situ management workshop](#) hosted by Zoo Negara, Kuala Lumpur, in January 2008. Michael McFadden from Taronga Zoo will run this workshop in parallel to the prioritization workshop.
- Tentative plans are being made for a husbandry workshop in Johannesburg in February 2008.
- Richard is working with Durrell’s Gerardo Garcia and others to implement EAZA-wide amphibian husbandry training, designed to build capacity within the EAZA region and beyond. This [course](#) is scheduled for March 2008 (with financial support from Chester Zoo).
- Kevin Z, and Joe Mendelson and Ron Gagliardo (both AArk Steering Committee) will instruct at 6th AZA [Amphibian Biology & Management](#) course in Toledo 12-18 April 2008. Special thanks to Toledo Zoo for continuing to host this course.
- Kevin Z might lead “mini-curso” training workshop at Annual Conference of Brazilian Association of Zoos in April 2008, or possibly a full week-long course thereafter.
- Mesoamerican training course in preparation through [AMACZOOA](#); more details coming soon. **This course needs a financial sponsor.**

Communications/Development (compiled by AArk Communications & Development Officer [Lisette Pavajeau](#) and YOTF Global Campaign Manager [Lesley Dickie](#))

- We are sorry to announce that after 1 year of dedicated work, Lisette has decided to pursue other interests. We will miss her!
- **The AArk 2008 YOTF campaign:**
 - Lesley gave a presentation at the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquaria Education and Marketing conference on the 2008 Year of the Frog.
 - Lesley and Gordon Reid met with Sir David Attenborough at the Linnean Society in London to update him on the activities of Amphibian Ark in 2007 and the plans for 2008. Sir David was pleased to hear about the progress of the campaign and was positive about helping with many additional aspects of the work.
 - Sir David Attenborough unveiled a frog sculpture at the ZSL London Zoo and gave several press interviews to publicize the upcoming launch of the Year of the Frog. While at the zoo Sir David, the Patron of YOTF, visited behind the scenes with Richard and Lesley at the Reptile and

Amphibian house to see the amphibian breeding units. Whilst there he filmed an interview with Lesley and signed the petition to politicians. This will be available shortly on the website.

- Zoos around the world took part in the launch of the 2008 Year of the Frog by hosting leapfrog activities. This created global publicity and fantastic kick-start to the year. Many thanks to all who took part: Auckland Zoo, Taronga Zoo, Zoos South Australia, Perth Zoo, Asa Zoo, Central Zoo, Dulahazra Zoo, Chittagong Zoo, Dhaka Zoo, Rangpur Zoo, Sri Chamarajendra Zoo, Coimbatore Zoo, V.O.C Park Zoo, Chhatbir, Nainital Zoo, Colombo Zoo, Al Ain Zoo, Moscow Zoo, Riga Zoo, Budapest Zoo, Ushaka Aquarium, National Zoological Gardens South Africa, Norden’s Ark, Leipzig Zoo, London Zoo, Bristol Zoo, Chester Zoo, Paignton Zoo, West Midland Safari Park, Jacksonville Zoo, Cali Zoo, Tamatam Zoo, St Louis Zoo, Sedgewick County Zoo, Denver Zoo, the Living Desert and Honolulu Zoo. Lesley is receiving images, reports and press cuttings from many of these participants in the leapfrog event and these will be posted on the website.
- **The AArk website:**
 - **Website languages:** The [Spanish](#) version of the website is now available. Thanks to Jorge Rodriguez and Lissette for their help translating and reviewing the new web pages and to Kevin J for getting it online quickly. Although the website has been translated into Chinese, there are problems with making the site available in China. Kevin J is working on resolving this.
 - **InfoPack:** The InfoPack is now available in [Portuguese](#) thanks to Mathias Pires. It is also available in English, Chinese, Japanese and Spanish, with German and French promised soon. We also have a few regional InfoPacks available: EAZA and AZCARM (in Spanish); regional representatives who would like their region’s InfoPack on the web please send it to webmaster@amphibianark.org. The AArk Mask (two versions), and the AArk Banner (24x60inches) with the campaign slogan are also available for [download](#).
 - **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 currently being translated into other languages.
 - **Videos online:** A number of videos, including Jeff Corwin, Kevin Zippel and others are now available [online](#). Additional sound files and other videos will be added shortly. Our [web page on chytrid](#) fungus has also been updated including a new video about Chytrid Sampling Protocols. Thanks to Joe Mendelson and the Atlanta Botanical Garden for this video!
 - **News From the Zoos:** The new page [News From the Zoos](#) is ready for all regional associations who want to post information about their YOTF activities. Currently there are links to each region’s web page but those who want AArk to create a new page for them please send the information to [Lesley](#). You can also send to Lesley the [names of the regional representatives](#) for the YOTF campaign if not listed on the website.
 - **Staff biographies online:** Each AArk staff member now has their bio posted [online](#).
 - **Visitors:** Site visitation reached a new all-time high this month.

Month	Visits	Month	Visits
Oct-06	306	Jun-07	3,361
Nov-06	331	Jul-07	2,420
Dec-06	302	Aug-07	4,587
Jan-07	336	Sep-07	4,754
Feb-07	4,122	Oct-07	6,228
Mar-07	2,574	Nov-07	9,972
Apr-07	2,763	Dec-07	10,191

May-07 2,816

- **Fundraising and sponsorship**

- **2008 Year of the Frog calendar:** 2008 YOTF calendars can be purchased [online](#) using pay-pal (only for the US). For orders to be shipped outside of the U.S. please contact [Elizabeth](#) at CBSG, and for large orders (80+), please contact [Payal Kapoor](#) with the Amphibian Project Team. Calendar sales help support the EWCL [Amphibian Project Team](#) project to assist Africam Safari in saving the large-crested toad *Ollotis cristata*.
- **HOPart:** IUCN Asia regional office is planning at least six high-profile gala art auctions in key locations around the world in late 2008 to raise \$1-4 million for AArk and other ACAP activities.
- **Clorox partners with Amphibian Ark:** Thanks to Fleishman Hillard's team, we are pleased to announce that Clorox® Regular-Bleach has signed on as the first official corporate sponsor of Amphibian Ark's "2008 Year of the Frog". The Clorox Company will donate bleach to aid in the halt of the spread of Chytrid fungus. More info can be found through [our](#) site and [theirs](#). Kevin Z did ~10 radio interviews to promote the partnership.
- **Other Sponsors:** [Ed's Fly Meat](#) will donate \$1 to AArk for every *Drosophila* culture sold online beginning in January. AArk is exploring the idea of selling the naming rights to unnamed species with all of the money going to benefit amphibian conservation in that range country.
- **2008 IUCN Conference in Barcelona:** The Amphibian Ark proposal for a Poster (proposal No 623) has been accepted by the Forum Program Team of the IUCN World Conservation Forum which will take place in Barcelona 2008. Amphibian Ark is working with Robin Moore (from ASG and CI) to include some of Amphibian Ark activities in the video CI will be presenting at the Barcelona meeting.
- DGHT will have the tree frog (*Hyla arborea*) as the amphibian of the year in 2008, and also the CITES Animals Committee, held at Geneva and chaired by Tom Althaus, will use the tree frog as its emblem.
- Richard gave a lecture on AARK concept and remit, and subsequent tutorials, to students from three MSc courses at ZSL/Imperial College London.
- Everyone continues to answer dozens (hundreds?? many!) of email/phone queries regarding amphibian conservation, program development, press, proposal reviews, etc. including Clemson University, PLoS, Nature, NPR

Travel and Workshop Schedule

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

Dates	Meeting Description	Location	AArk Staff, SC member, affiliates
JANUARY 2008			
15-18	SEAZA Amphibian Workshop hosted by Zoo Negera	Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA	Johnson, McFadden
23	Wisconsin Public Radio spot	--	Zippel
31	Wisconsin Wetlands Association Annual Conference	Oconomowoc, WI, USA	Zippel
31	Houston Zoo YOTF fundraiser dinner/lecture	Houston, TX, USA	Gagliardo, Mendelson
FEBRUARY 2008			
?	Mexican species prioritization workshop	?	Carrillo
7-9	Trier University Symposium: Cryobanks	Trier, GERMANY	Dollinger or Althaus, Ryder
13	DWV amphibian seminar	Hellenthal, GERMANY	Dollinger
22-24	Husbandry workshop – basics	Cologne, GERMANY	Dollinger?
25-7 Mar	EAZA amphibian management course	Jersey, Channel Islands	Gibson
MARCH 2008			
TBD	Prioritization and husbandry workshops	Johannesburg, SOUTH AFRICA	Gibson
9-13	ARAZPA 2008 Conference	Sydney, NSW, AUSTRALIA	Johnson, Zippel
26	Rochester Museum Science Center YOTF Event	Rochester, NY, USA	Zippel
30-Apr 5	Annual Conference of Brazilian Association of Zoos	Sorocaba, BRAZIL	Zippel
APRIL 2008			
12-18	AZA Amphibian Biology & Management	Toledo, OH, USA	Gagliardo, Mendelson, Zippel
17	Columbus Zoo/Ohio State University YOTF Event	Columbus, OH, USA	Zippel
MAY 2008			
JUNE 2008			
JULY 2008			
AUGUST 2008			
SEPTEMBER 2008			
OCTOBER 2008			
9	CBSG Steering Committee Meeting	Adelaide, AUSTRALIA	Bonner, Johnson, Zippel
10-12	CBSG Annual Meeting	Adelaide, AUSTRALIA	Bonner, Johnson, Zippel
12-16	WAZA Annual Conference	Adelaide, AUSTRALIA	Bonner, Johnson, Zippel
28	Chicago Zoological Society lecture series YOTF Event	Chicago, IL, USA	Zippel
NOVEMBER 2008			
6	Frog Symposium Meeting, Linnean Society of London	London, ENGLAND	Gibson?
DECEMBER 2008			



amphibian ark
2008 YEAR OF THE FROG

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