



MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

To: AArk stakeholders
From: Kevin Zippel, AArk Program Officer KevinZ@AmphibianArk.org
Subject: AArk monthly activity report for February 2007
Date: 8 March 2007

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

General updates from the amphibian community

- chytrid documented in Argentina
- [The University of Manchester announces funded Ph.D. position in amphibian *ex situ* management](#)
- [pollutants demonstrated to cause sex change in frogs](#)
- [AArk set to receive donations online](#)

CURRENT

AArk Coordination

- AArk Steering Committee organizational meeting held in Atlanta 15-16 February (summary to follow soon)
- EAZA Research Committee has proposed and is working to support an AArk Research Officer position, likely through Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp
- 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*

Taxon Survival Efforts

- ARAZPA's Kevin Johnson hired as part-time Taxon Officer
- preparing for spray toad PHVA; working with LKEMP on contract details, WCS helping with issues paper and keepers at Toledo and WCS working on husbandry manual and facility recommendations

Training & Other Capacity Building

- co-coordinated Colombian amphibian management course at Cali Zoo, 26 February - 2 March; over 100 students attended
- organizing AZA's 2007 Amphibian Biology & Management course, new instructors, monographs, etc.; interest is high enough to possibly warrant a second 2007 course (September?)
- working with Brookfield to identify 3 Latin American students to support at the ABM course
- working with CI to bring in a Colombian colleague to ABM
- planning with Roberto Elias (Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia) a future Peruvian amphibian management course; other tentative sites include Tanzania, India, Venezuela, Cuba/Dominican Republic
- WAZA announces 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

- ongoing consultations on EVACC; Edgardo will be coming to ABM in Toledo
- ongoing consultations on developing programs at Brookfield Zoo
- planning chytrid information sessions for spring JAZA meeting

Communications/Development

- AArk Officers now can be reached at KevinZ@AmphibianArk.org, KevinJ@AmphibianArk.org, Lisette@AmphibianArk.org
- Following the AArk Steering Committee, AArk website visits jump from ~50 hits/day to ~3000/day. The meeting also generated media attention around the world, e.g., [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)
- Lisette working on new AArk website and logo (see above)
- Chicago Zoological Society has agreed to cover most/all of AArk APO salary for 2007 and possibly 2008.
- note: International Coral Reef Initiative www.icriforum.org designates 2008 as the **International Year of the Reef** which conflicts with the international zoo community's 2008 **Year of the Frog** campaign
- working with Robert Browne 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
- 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
- everyone answering dozens (hundreds??) of email/phone queries regarding amphibian conservation, program development, press, proposal reviews, etc.

UPCOMING

Save the Prairie Society talk (Brookfield USA 25 March 2007)

- Bob to speak to group about amphibian extinction crisis and global response

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

- Kevin Z to 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

AArk Campaign Strategy Meeting (Karlsruhe Germany ?-? April 2007)

- develop plans for 2008 Year of the Frog publicity and capital campaigns

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

- Kevin Z to co-instruct course

AZA Amphibian TAG (Omaha USA 2 May 2007)

- Kevin Z to share updates on AArk development and progress from other regions

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

- Kevin Z and Bob to help organize and execute PHVA

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

- Kevin Z to discuss national conservation response with respect to recent arrival of chytrid

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

- Lisette to present on AArk global campaigns

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

- Kevin Z to instruct at amphibian management/conservation workshop

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

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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

