



MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

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

News/Publications

- [‘Ark’ races to rescue jungle frogs: As lethal fungus spreads, captive amphibians are bred for eventual return to the wild](#)
- [Mexican and Guatemalan salamanders imperiled, disappearing](#)
- [Considerations and Recommendations for Raising Live Amphibians in Classrooms](#)
- [Alarm of amphibian loss prompts development of health screening protocol](#)

Funding available

- Ron, Jenny Pramuk, and Kevin Z designing AArk Seed Grant program, tentative launch date after AI Ain meeting
- [AZA CEF Amphibian Grant](#) deadline **1 April**
- Project Golden Frog/Atelopus Conservation Trust offers grants up to \$5,000 for *Atelopus* conservation programs, <http://www.ranadorada.org/act.html>. Deadline **1 July**.
- 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

- For species rescues in eastern Panama ([Houston budget proposal](#))
- For AArk officer support
- 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](#).

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).

Vacancies

- Zoological Society of San Diego seeks [post-doc](#) in amphibian pathology and molecular diagnostics to be filled by July 2009
- L'Université de Montréal seeks a student to realize an [M. Sc. in biology](#) dealing with the effects of an invasive plant on amphibian diversity and reproduction to start sometime in 2009
- Multiple postings here <http://parcplace.org/jobs.html>

CURRENT

AArk Coordination

- AArk strategic planning meeting set for 17 March in Al Ain, UAE; tentative agenda and 2009 AArk work plan drafted, and Kevin J has developed the documentation for a search tool that can be used to align conservation breeding priorities with a conservation breeding organization's resources. The need for this tool was raised during the CBSG meeting in Adelaide in 2008. ISIS staff have offered to help build the tool, and it is hoped that **a prototype will be demonstrated in Al Ain.**
- Kevin Z working with AZA to plan distribution of the free bleach from Clorox, which, unfortunately, it turns out can only be given out in the US.

Taxon Survival Efforts

- Taxon prioritization workshops planned for:
 - Indonesia in April 2009
 - Cameroon in April 2009
 - Brazil likely in late April 2009 (with support from ZSL, NABT)
 - Sri Lanka in August 2009
 - **Guatemala - tentative 2009**
 - **Caribbean - tentative 2009**
 - **Chile - tentative 2009**
- Completed versions of the prioritization data from various workshops are available on the [Amphibian Ark portal](#)
- **3 AArk officers joined team of amphibian experts at San Diego Zoo to draft updated standards for amphibian biosecurity practices; draft will be posted for comment as soon as editors approve.**
- **Kevin Z working very closely with Ithaca College to promote their support of an *ex situ* assurance population**

Training & Other Capacity Building

- Training courses planned for:
 - Indonesia in April/May 2009
 - **[Nordens Ark](#) in ~~March 2009~~ **POSTPONED****
 - Cameroon (tentative) in April 2009 (DWCT course)
 - Brazil likely in May 2009 (with support from WAZA)
 - **Malaysia (Pt. II: advanced husbandry) in June 2009**
 - Sri Lanka in August 2009 (DWCT course)
 - **Panama - tentative 2009**
- **Ron replaces Kevin Z as official course co-administrator for the AZA ABCM course - thanks Ron!**
- **Ron Gagliardo and Ben Eiben visited EVACC facility in Panama to help with educational exhibits and also with Brad Wilson, DVM, to consult on veterinary issues.**

Research Efforts

- The first of a series of simple experimental designs for studies in zoos is available on the Science

and Research section of the AArk website (Zoo research needs > Optimum egg temperature). This study can be conducted in any herpetarium during egg incubation and the information generated is valuable in assessing potential effects of climate variation and in providing baselines for further studies.

- Due to a broadening scope and depth the Research Survey and Research Guideline are under further development. These subjects will be discussed at the Al Ain strategy meeting.
- European zoos and universities are cooperating in studies of UV-B and Vitamin D in amphibians. These include non-invasive methods for assessing bone density and metabolic Vitamin D₃ levels. Metabolic Vitamin D₃ levels may have profound effects on amphibian health besides bone density.

Communications/Development

- **The AArk website:**
 - **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, **8,380** signatures have been received via the online petition.
 - **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 [Kevin J](#). You can also send to Kevin J the [names of the regional representatives](#) for the YOTF campaign if not listed on the website.
- **Visitors:**

Month	Visits	Month	Visits	Month	Visits
Oct-06	306	Sep-07	4,754	Jul-08	36,924
Nov-06	331	Oct-07	6,228	Aug-08	41,371
Dec-06	302	Nov-07	9,972	Sept-08	46,873
Jan-07	336	Dec-07	10,191	Oct-08	48,117
Feb-07	4,122	2007 total	54,124	Nov-08	48,080
Mar-07	2,574	Jan-08	31,076	Dec-08	39,881
Apr-07	2,763	Feb-08	32,636	2008 total	482,705
May-07	2,816	Mar-08	20,716	Jan-09	45,029
Jun-07	3,361	April 08	47,600	Feb-09	40,194
Jul-07	2,420	May-08	47,864		
Aug-07	4,587	Jun-08	41,567		

- **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!](#) Kevin Z also working with Caudata.org on a [\\$1000 grant](#) for salamander research; applications are in and a winner will be chosen by the end of March.
- **Membership/fundraising**
 - AArk is thrilled to announce the release of *Our Friends, The Frogs*, a book for kids by 12-year-old Laura Elizabeth (LE) Seydel. Full of beautiful photography, compassion, and optimism, LE's book attempts to educate readers about a broad array of interesting frogs and their conservation challenges. The book is co-authored by [AArk's Ron Gagliardo](#), and all proceeds

benefit AArk. Find out [more about the book](#), or [purchase the book](#), for US\$20.

- Ron working with Luis Coloma who has donated a number of copies of his new book *Sapos* to AArk for fundraising purposes. We have 86 copies, most will be sold at \$50 each and the others retained for donors as needed.
- AArk staff discussing ideas for becoming a membership-based organization, proposal to be put forward at Al Ain meeting
- AArk credit cards are [here](#)!
- 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*.
- 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.
- 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](#).

Travel and Workshop Schedule

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

Dates	Meeting Description	Location	AArk Staff, SC member, affiliates
March 2009			
25-3	work at EVACC	El Valle, PANAMA	Gagliardo
11-12	AZA Amphibian TAG	Baltimore, MD, USA	Gagliardo
17	strategic planning workshop	Al Ain, UAE	all staff and Exec Committee
APRIL 2009			
18-24	AZA Amphibian Biology & Management	Toledo, OH, USA	Gagliardo, Mendelson
TBD	species prioritization workshop	CAMEROON	Browne, Gibson
TBD	prioritization workshop	INDONESIA	Johnson
TBD	husbandry workshop	INDONESIA	Gagliardo
25-26?	prioritization workshop	BRAZIL	Gibson, Johnson
May 2009			
3-8	husbandry workshop	BRAZIL	Gagliardo, Odum, Zippel
June 2009			
19-22	Advanced husbandry workshop	Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA	Gagliardo
29-3	Chiapas amphibian conservation workshop	Chiapas, MEXICO	Mendelson
August 2009			
1-2	prioritization workshop	SRI LANKA	Gibson
3-11	husbandry workshop	SRI LANKA	Garcia, Gibson
August 2009			
12	Association of Zoo & Aquarium Docents	Chicago, IL, USA	Zippel



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Up to \$200,000

EAZA

Up to \$50,000

Chester Zoo
Conservation
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St. Louis Zoo
World Association of
Zoos & Aquariums
(WAZA)
Zoo Leipzig

Up to \$10,000

ARAZPA
Chicago Zoological
Society
Columbus Zoo
JAZA
Omaha's Henry
Doorly Zoo

Up to \$5,000

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National Association
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Paignton Zoo
Phoenix Chapter of
the AAZK
Rome Zoo
Ryan Stauffer
Toledo Zoo
Tremont Elementary
2nd Grade
Zoo Zurich

Up to \$1,000

Nordens Ark
Sacramento Zoo

Up to \$500

Avonworth HS
Environmental Club
Wagish Bhartiya
Bloomin' Bog Water
Gardens
Dallas Jewish
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Claire Rosser
Julia Ruys
Jodie Siu
Vancouver Aquarium

Up to \$100

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Justin Machata
Erin Kelley McLay
Teresa Barrado
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Scovill Zoo
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Up to \$50

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