
To: AArk Steering Committee
From: AArk Staff
Subject: AArk monthly activity report for January 2008
Date: 7 February 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

- **Amphibian chytrid has jumped the canal and is heading into eastern Panama.** All expectations are that it will do there what it did to the west, ripping through the mountains and eliminating 80% of individuals and 50% of species. Despite the fact that we knew this was coming and have been calling for action east of the canal for years, there is still zero capacity in place to save anything. Thankfully, *Bd* seems to only move at ~30km/year, and eastern Panama is maybe 300km long, so in theory it will be 10 years before the last of the species disappear (unless it also comes up from Colombia - very possible). But, the samples I heard about are already a year old (~30km). And species are not evenly distributed in the east, so some will go extinct much sooner. **There is no more time to delay, we need our partners to invest resources in eastern Panama now.**
- Amphibian chytrid has been confirmed at a 2nd site in Asia (Java).
- “[Amphibian chytridiomycosis: strategies for captive management and conservation.](#)”
- “[Riders of a Modern-Day Ark](#)”
- The Zoological Society of London launched its Amphibian [EDGE](#) program highlighting evolutionary distinct and globally endangered amphibians. In 2008 they hope to source funds to support a number of Amphibian EDGE Fellows. See the website for further information.
- Human impact on the planet so severe, call issued for end of Eocene epoch and beginning of [Anthropocene](#).

Meetings

- Oregon Zoo to host 7 April [workshop](#) on regional amphibian declines with emphasis on habitat management.
- 6th World [Congress](#) of Herpetology in Brazil 17-22 August
- VIII Latin-American [Congress](#) of Herpetology in Cuba 24-29 November

Funding available

- 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 possible 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.
- European Union of Aquarium Curators invites members to apply for funding for in and ex situ amphibian conservation projects. Please mail applications to euac@oceanomc before 5 March 2008.

- AZA announces [CEF Amphibian Fund](#), due 4 April 2008.

Funding needed

- For species prioritization workshops in Mexico, Panama, India, Sri Lanka, Peru, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Thailand.
- For Caribbean husbandry workshop and regional conservation strategy meeting.
- For AArk officer support, including 25% Taxon Officer Kevin J, 50% YOTF Campaign Manager Lesley, 50% Program Director Kevin Z, and any/all of a Training Officer.

Vacancies

- Philadelphia Zoo still seeks [Curator of Amphibians](#).

CURRENT

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

- Kevin Z wrote article for hobbyist periodical *Reptiles Magazine* to raise awareness among that group, including their potential impact on and contributions to amphibian conservation.
- Working with small group on article, likely for Scientific American, on why amphibians are important, significance of their loss, etc.
- Also trying to determine logistics for global distribution of free bleach – please get back to me as soon as possible with your needs: quantity and frequency!
- Vast majority of AArk coordination efforts going into enabling partners for the YOTF campaign and various capacity building efforts.

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

- Kristin Leus (CBSG Europe) and Kristine Schad (Lincoln Park Zoo) have agreed to co-chair the AArk Population Management Advisory Group.
- Completed versions of the prioritization data from various workshops are available on the [Amphibian Ark portal](#).
- A Malaysian prioritization workshop hosted by Zoo Negara was led by Kevin J 15-18 January. 165 taxa were prioritized, with a further 46 requiring additional input from local amphibian experts. Analogue taxa for the “top ten” on the priority list were suggested to gain initial *ex situ* management expertise.
- Richard is planning to lead a prioritization workshop in South Africa possibly in April.
- Kevin J is planning to lead prioritization workshops in Indonesia, Thailand and Hong Kong possibly in April/May.
- Richard will be working with ASG on amphibian conservation activities at the 6th World Congress of Herpetology in Manaus.
- CBSG office putting final touches on 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 Chester are doing for others.
- Michael McFadden from Taronga Zoo in Sydney led an *ex situ* management workshop 15-18 January in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia, with participants from 11 South East Asian countries present. A more advanced, “hands-on” workshop has been suggested as a follow-up to this workshop, later in the year.
- 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.
- Tentative plans are being made for a husbandry workshop in Johannesburg in April 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, and to Zoos Victoria and Columbus Zoo for financial sponsorship of Mr. Zhang Gaofeng, representative of the Chinese Association of Zoological Gardens (CAZG) from Beijing Zoo.
- 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.

Communications/Development (compiled by YOTF Global Campaign Manager [Lesley Dickie](#))

- **The AArk 2008 YOTF campaign:**
 - Lesley gave a presentation at the Royal Veterinary College in London on the amphibian crisis, Amphibian Ark and the Year of the Frog campaign
 - The launch of the 2008 Year of the Frog campaign generated significant media attention. Lesley gave five radio interviews, including the news hour of the BBC World Service. Sir David Attenborough, AArk Patron, also gave interviews to numerous organizations on radio and in print. Lesley is still receiving print, radio and television requests for Sir David to speak on AArks behalf and is liaising with Sir David.
 - Lesley sent out updates to all regional YOTF coordinators to encourage them to liaise with their local zoos to organize activities and events in February.
 - The British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums, in conjunction with the All-Party Zoo and Aquarium Interest Group of the UK Parliament, has organized a meeting on February 26th at Parliament to make Members of Parliament aware of the amphibian crisis and of how they can help. Lesley and Richard G will be giving presentations at this event
 - Lesley will be giving a presentation on Amphibian Ark and the YOTF at a members event in ZSL London Zoo
 - Lesley is meeting with ZSL herpetology colleagues and an events team to investigate organizing a 2008 Year of the Frog ‘ball’ in London in November 2008.
 - Lesley is negotiating with a large publishing company over a possible photographic book deal highlighting Amphibian Ark, to be sold globally with a percentage of monies donated to AArk .
 - A possible campaign merchandise agreement is being investigated to sell Amphibian Ark logo T-shirts. If successful further merchandise options will discussed.
 - Lesley supplied Amphibian Ark updates to AZA Amphibian Newsletter
 - On 31 January, Joe and Ron gave a YOTF talk at Houston Zoo while Kevin Z did the same for the Wisconsin Wetlands Association.
- **The AArk website:**
 - **Website languages:** [Spanish](#) and [German](#) are available with Chinese coming soon.
 - **InfoPack:** [Portuguese](#), [English](#), Chinese [traditional](#), Chinese [simplified](#), [Japanese](#), [German](#) and [Spanish](#), are available with 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 [Kevin J](#). 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 available in English and German, and is currently being translated into Spanish.
 - **Videos online:** A number of videos, including Jeff Corwin, Kevin Zippel and others are available

[online](#). Additional sound files and other videos are being added regularly.

- **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.

- **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	Jan-08	31,076

•

• **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.
- 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. Lesley is liaising with HOPart partners to investigate zoo involvement as auction venues worldwide.

• **Other Sponsors:**

- [Ed's Fly Meat](#) will donate \$1 to AArk for every *Drosophila* culture sold online beginning in January.

- Ann Lewis is an artist and printmaker based in Wales, who specializes in linocutting to create exquisite pieces inspired by the surrounding landscape and her love of nature. She has produced a series of frog and gecko linocuts that can be viewed and purchased at her online gallery (www.annlewis.co.uk). Ann has always been fascinated by frogs and is supporting the work of Amphibian Ark by generously donating 10% of the total of all frog series sales. If you are looking for that special frog gift or a truly original piece of art visit Ann's gallery to view the frog and gecko series. Amphibian Ark thanks Ann for this generous support of our work.



- 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.
- Sponsorship proposals are being discussed with dozens of companies.

- **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.

- Kevin and Joe working with AZA on Ripley's amphibian fact book.
- Everyone continues to answer dozens (hundreds?? many!) of email/phone queries regarding amphibian conservation, program development, press, proposal reviews, etc. including: media such as Wisconsin Public Radio, Michigan Public Radio, Mythix, <http://www.wildlifestillphotos.com>, <http://www.wildlifestillphotos.com>, Aquaristik-Fachmagazin, woman writing a kids' book about Tyrone Hayes, Planet Bonehead, Imageworks, Radio Children, Partisan Pictures, Wired Magazine, Radio City/BBC Ecuador, Amana Academy, Grow Your Own Magazine, <http://nature.lohudblogs.com/>, Ensemble Theatre in Sydney, Aurora Central Library, The Land Steward, and others seeking guidance on programs and campaigns: Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Boston Museum of Science, Rosamond Gifford Zoo, Columbus Zoo, Houston Zoo, the Wild Center, Australian Rainforest Foundation, Defenders of Wildlife, Vancouver Aquarium, Brookfield Zoo, Taman Safari, Detroit Zoo, Nashville Zoo, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, Wildlife Areas Development and Welfare Trust, Tokyo Zoological Park Society, San Diego Zoo, Consortium for Conservation Medicine, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, CI, San Jose Zoo, Wisconsin Wetlands Association, Beijing Zoo, Africam Safari, Edinburgh Zoo, schools in the US, Reptiland, Rotterdam Zoo, John Ball Zoo, Cynrig Fish Culture Unit, WCS, www.lilypadlist.com, ARAZPA, der Saxonian State Collections of Natural History in Dresden, www.telegraph.co.uk/earth, Zoos Victoria, Critter Ridder LLC, Animal Interaction Design Group, USFWS, ANNLEWIS.CO.UK, Cali Zoo.

Travel and Workshop Schedule

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

Dates	Meeting Description	Location	AArk Staff, SC member, affiliates
FEBRUARY 2008			
13	DWV amphibian seminar	Hellenthal, GERMANY	Dollinger
18-20	Mexican species prioritization workshop	Sonora, MEXICO	Carrillo, Mendelson
22-24	Husbandry workshop – basics	Cologne, GERMANY	Dollinger?
25-7 Mar	EAZA amphibian management course	Jersey, Channel Islands	Gibson
?	Panamanian species prioritization workshop	?	Carrillo
MARCH 2008			
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
TBD	Prioritization and husbandry workshops	Johannesburg, SOUTH AFRICA	Gibson
MAY 2008			
4-9	ALPZA XV Congress	Quito, ECUADOR	Sarmiento, Zippel?
TBD	Prioritization workshop	Hong Kong	Johnson
TBD	Prioritization workshop	Indonesia	Johnson
TBD	Prioritization workshop	Thailand	Johnson
JUNE 2008			
6-8	North American Amphibian Conference	Erving, MA, USA	Zippel
18-20	Trier University Symposium: Cryobanks	Trier, GERMANY	Reid, Ryder
18-21	International Herpetological Symposium	Nashville, TN, USA	Zippel
JULY 2008			
26-27	amphibian weekend at The Wild Center	Tupper Lake, NY, USA	Zippel
AUGUST 2008			
17-22	6th World Congress of Herpetology	Manaus, BRAZIL	Gibson
SEPTEMBER 2008			
OCTOBER 2008			
17	NABT National Conference	Memphis, TN, USA	
16-19	CBSG Annual Meeting	Adelaide, AUSTRALIA	Bonner, Johnson, Zippel
19-23	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?
24-29	VIII Latin-American Congress of Herpetology	Topes de Collantes, CUBA	Sarmiento
DECEMBER 2008			



amphibian ark
2008 YEAR OF THE FROG

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

Acknowledgements 31 January 2008

The work of AArk is possible due to the generous support of the following individuals and institutions:

Up to \$50,000

Conservation Breeding
Specialist Group (CBSG)
Chicago Zoological Society
SeaWorld & Busch Gardens
World Association of Zoos
& Aquariums (WAZA)
Zoological Society London

Up to \$10,000

Allwetterzoo Münster
James Bramsen
Chester Zoo
Columbus Zoo & Aquarium
Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo
Paignton Zoo
Saint Louis Zoo
The Living Desert
Zoologischer Garten
Leipzig

Up to \$5,000

Al Ain Zoo & Aquarium
American Frog Day 2007
Binder Park Zoological
Society
Bristol Zoo Gardens
Denver Zoo
Disney's Animal Kingdom
& Animal Programs
Marwell Zoological Park
New Mexico Bio Park
Society, Inc.
Nordens Ark
Ocean Park Conservation
Foundation
Sedgwick County Zoo
Singapore Zoo
Tokyo Zoo Conservation
Fund
Toledo Zoo
Toronto Zoo
Wildlife Conservation
Society
Zoos South Australia

Up to \$1,000

BIAZA
Birmingham Zoo &
Birmingham Zoo Chapter
AAZK

Buffalo Zoo
Cameron Park Zoo
Kansas City Zoo
MARS Preservation Fund
Rosamond Gifford Zoo
Sacramento Zoo
San Francisco Zoological
Society
Staten Island Zoo
Taipei Zoo

Up to \$500

John Adams
Susan Anderson
Anonymous
Anonymous in honor of
Winona & Rupert
Barcelona Zoo
Richard Colwin Bryarly
Jr.
Stephany Burge
Chris & Dave Chadwick
Stuart Haber in memory
of Gus Kaufman
M. Buffy Hodgetts
Kirstin Hunter
Johannesburg Zoo
Gary & Roberta Kirkland
Lake Forest Academy-*The
Spectator*
Janie & Rick Levis
JoAn & Ian MacBryde
Thomas Martin
Laura & Paul Miller
Marianne & Mike Murphy
Lisette Pavajeau
SAAMBR
Heather St. Louis
Jan Sealover
Zoo New England

Up to \$100

Charlotte Connor
David Corsini
Janet Corson
Robert & Sue Dupré
Jonathan Foise
Judi Goldfader
Lee & Shirley Griffey
Terri Harmon
Jennifer Hunter

Steven Andrew Painter
Linda Pather
Cynthia Petrella
Save the Prairie Society
Susan Schroeder
South View High School
Douglas Sovonick
Michael Traynor
Marion Van Eyk McCain
Deborah Wallwork
Kaye Ward
Laura Wessels

Up to \$50

Albright Middle School
5th Grade
Deborah Baker
Anna Barbosa
Scott Barolo
Rose Lee Benson
Marcus Bingham
Cecelia Bland
Bettina Brinkley
Jack & Margaret
Broxholme
Alison Burt
Wallace Chin
Kayla Cruz
Ian & Ray Cummings
Naomi Doak
Kimberly Egan
Kendra Felisky-Watson
James Frank
Charles Hall
Lars Gerner Jensen
Kitten Kephart
Ron & Kathleen Kornak
Jeff Kwoikoski
Nathaniel Lachenmeyer
Ruben Lopez
Nori Maki
Kathy Mathis
Marsha J. Moore
John Muller
Michelle Paul
Andrea Peck
L. Keith Pflum
Donna Savage
Mark Schiano
Sharon Silverman
Sarah Sokolowski

Deborah Swain
Georgette Taylor
Valdosta Jr. Woman's
Club
Karen Valley & Meghan
Namaste
Gwendolyn Weeks &
Michael Steenbakkers
Elissa Wells
Jenine Wilson
Diana & Thomas Woods

Up to \$25

Kade Ariani
Stephen Bowater
Jessica Bryan
Dorothy Clark
Shelley Comella
Michelle Contillo
Deborah Daniels
Drue Danz
Rebecca Davy
Jennifer Day
Candis Ellis
Edward Flanagan
Wendy Free
Melissa Graham
Martijn ter Haar
Jennifer Hagstrom
Lee Hall
Susan Handa
Ben A. Hrach
Lauren Hruska
Sylvia Hurdle
Hazel Jones
Adamandia Kapsalis
Adam Kennedy
Christina Kennedy
Anne King
Kathy Kirkland-Cady in
honor of Kevin Zippel
Kathy M. Krizek
Amber, Angus, & Noah
Landry
Nicholas Leonetti
Sally Mahoney
Angelica Martinez
Darla Michaliecek
Lisa Miller
Joseph Miscimarra
Alissa Mudd

Thibault Normand
Jean Novotny
Linda Pellegrino
Lindsey Pierce
Andrea Polanowski
Patrice Powers
Harry Richards
Donald & Anette
Sadenwater
Mike Shelton
Melanie Shurgalla
Sonya Sobieski
Stephen J. Spill
Walter Staude
Charles Thompson
Alex Vactor
William Valencia
The Whites Family
Deborah Zeitman
Scott Zippel
Peter Zrinski

Up to \$10

Erin Baldwin
Christina Blankenship
Debora Borba
Blanca Cohen
Matt Croskey
Charlotte Cullen
John Dubin
Tracy Emmanuel
Steven Errick
Sharon Ferrell
Barbara Finch
Stephen Furgang
James Gibbens
Shlomi Harif
Arlen Heeren
Molly Hilton
Io Entertainment
Marcella Klein
Collette Lash
Queenie Law
Phoebe Lenhart
Stephanie Liao
Victoria Mendez
Amanda Richardson
Ross Secord
Eric Troidahl
Ekaterina Varlamov
Wes Wahlin
Tami Wester



MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

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

Gerald Adelman
Jill Allread & Pamela Freese
Anonymous
Terry & Sharon Anthoney
Kathryn Appelbaum
Anne Baker
James Ballowe & Ruth Ganchiff
R. Lou Barker
Jill Bhatia
William & Patricia Braker
Marilyn Catalanello
Diane Cavalieri & Peter Patton
Arie & Ida Crown Memorial
Defenders of Wildlife
Lawrence & Vicki DeMar
Peggy & Michael Devlin
Amy T. Dickinson
Russell Evans
Conrad & Carol Fialkowski
Morgan L. Fitch Jr.
Stanley & Helen Freeman
Friday Docents of the Brookfield Zoo
Richard Fuchs
Ronald Gagliardo & Paul Huggett
P.A. Galloway
Aiden Gonzalez
R.P. Gwinn
Corwith Hamill
Margaret & Julian Harrison
Paul & Lynne Harvey
Loline Hathaway
Charles & Marilyn Hoessle
Lucy Hutcherson & Jeffrey Skibins
Illinois State Museum Society
Illinois State Museum Staff Association
L. Jessica Jagielnik
Arthur Janura
Dale & Davida Kalina
Ken Kawata
Lillian Kowalski & Wendy P. Hopkins
Robert Lacy
Aaron J. Lebovitz & Donna T. Myers
Mary C. Leisner
Joan D. Levin
Thomas Lovejoy
Peter & Susan Margulis

Nancy & Ed Maruska
R. Bruce & Virginia McMillan
L. David Mech
Thomas Jr. & Nancy Merritt
Thomas & Adelle Miller
Oliver Pergams & Valerie Morrow
The Philadelphia Zoo
George Rabb
Tom & Sue Rice
James & Phyllis Ritt
James & Andrea Ross
San Diego Zoo
Carol D. Saunders & Amy B. Bodwell
Karen Sausman
Louis F. Schauer
James & Kathryn Slivovsky
Betsy Snyder
Mardi Solomon & Gene Myers Jr.
Kenneth & Valerie Spale
Harold & Laura Stover
Bonnie & Thomas Styles
Guerry & Michelle Suggs
Robert & Joan Tantillo
Joe & Caroline Tecson
Jacquelyn Toscas
Miguel Vallejo & Michelle Uting
Nicholas Vega
Cynthia Vernon & Monta Potter
David & Marvalee Wake
Mark Warneke
Lynn Weis
Michael D. Wiant & Grace Eckert
Karen & Randall Witter
Kevin Zippel & Lynn Kirkland

