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**To:** AArk Steering Committee and colleagues  
**From:** AArk Staff  
**Subject:** AArk monthly activity report for January 2009  
**Date:** 6 February 2008

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*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

- [Addition of antifungal skin bacteria to salamanders ameliorates the effects of chytridiomycosis](#)
- [Second occurrence of Bd in Asia: Indonesia](#)
- [Chytrid not found in Cameroon survey](#)
- [One billion frogs harvested as food per year](#)
- [Froglog 90 available for download](#)
- [Profile of amphibian toxicologist Rick Relyea](#)

### Funding available

- The next CBOT grant application deadline is 12 March 2009. 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 19 February 2009.
- [Caudata.org grant](#) deadline 1 March 2009
- 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 2009
- 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 [Latin America](#) and [Asia](#).

### 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

- 2009 AArk work plan drafted
- AArk strategic planning meeting set for 17 March in Al Ain, UAE; tentative [agenda](#) drafted
- 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 a prototype version should be available by the middle of February.
- 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 early 2009
  - Cameroon in April 2009
  - Brazil likely in [late April](#) 2009 (with support from ZSL, NABT)
  - Sri Lanka in August 2009
- Completed versions of the prioritization data from various workshops are available on the [Amphibian Ark portal](#)
- AArk staff are commenting on CITES changes proposed by DOW to limit trade in imperiled amphibians.
- Kevin Z is working with ASG/CI to identify amphibian species needing rescue on lands they have protected in an effort to better pair *in situ* and *ex situ* efforts under the ACAP.
- Zoological Society of San Diego Zoo is planning biosecurity meeting 16-18 Feb 2009.
- The EAZA region has established its first two AARK Taxon Management Officers, each responsible for developing a Taxon Management Plan and Husbandry Guidelines for the species in question. Robert Browne (Antwerp Zoo and AARK) has taken up the reigns for the Critically Endangered Lake Oku clawed frog *Xenopus longipes* and Helena Olsson from Parken Zoo Sweden for the Critically Endangered Luristan newt *Neurergus kaiseri*.

### Training & Other Capacity Building

- Training courses planned for:
  - Indonesia in early 2009
  - [Nordens Ark](#) in March 2009
  - Malaysia (Pt. II: advanced husbandry) in April 2009

- Cameroon (tentative) in April 2009 (DWCT course)
- Brazil likely in **May** 2009 (with support from WAZA)
- Sri Lanka in August 2009 (DWCT course)
- **EAZA regional husbandry training continues apace with spin-offs from the initial February '08 ACH course in Jersey. Courses in Latvia/Russia, Netherlands/Belgium and Germany were all well attended and well received in the latter quarter of the year. Norden's Ark in Sweden will host a week-long course in March with an international line up of contributors, including AARK staff, and the BIAZA Reptile and Amphibian Working Group with run a UK course in early summer.**

### Research Efforts

- The 'Amphibian Ark 'Research Guide' has been drafted.
- A group of European zoos is conducting research to elucidate the role of Vitamin D<sub>3</sub> and UV-B in amphibian health. Vitamin D<sub>3</sub> deficiency is characterised by bone disease but may impact other health aspects including reproduction.
- Recent studies have not revealed chytrid in Cameroon. However, the discovery of chytrid in Nigeria has provided impetus for further surveys in Cameroon.

### 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:** Site visitation has increased this month.

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	<b>2007 total</b>	<b>54,124</b>	Nov-08	48,080
Mar-07	2,574	Jan-08	31,076	Dec-08	39,881
Apr-07	2,763	Feb-08	32,636	<b>2008 total</b>	<b>482,705</b>
May-07	2,816	Mar-08	20,716	<b>Jan-09</b>	<b>45,029</b>
Jun-07	3,361	April 08	47,600		
Jul-07	2,420	May-08	47,864		
Aug-07	4,587	Jun-08	41,567		

- **Network sites:** AArk has finally taken leadership of our network sites (Facebook, Myspace) from Fleishman-Hillard...thanks to them for carrying the torch! We are working now to consolidate accounts and update/polish the information available there. **Please join our [Group](#) and [Cause](#).** One new initiative here includes working with Frog Friendly Consulting to have the 1<sup>st</sup>

ever Facebook campaign to save an entire species from extinction. Kevin Z also working with Caudata.org for an end of YOTF fundraiser to benefit AArk activities.

- **Membership/fundraising**

- 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](http://www.froguts.com), and request your copy from David Hughes, Co-Founder Froguts Inc. [david@froguts.com](mailto: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.

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Meeting Description</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>AArk Staff, SC member, affiliates</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 2009</b>			
16-18	IMLS meeting	San Diego, CA, USA	Gagliardo, Gibson, Mendelson, Zippel
<b>March 2009</b>			
11-12	AZA Amphibian Tag	Baltimore, MD, USA	Gagliardo
17	strategic planning workshop	Al Ain, UAE	all staff and Exec Committee
22-29	training course at Nordens Ark	SWEDEN	Gagliardo, Garcia, Gibson, Linden, Zippel
<b>APRIL 2009</b>			
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
<b>May 2009</b>			
3-8	husbandry workshop	BRAZIL	Gagliardo, Odum, Zippel
<b>June 2009</b>			
22-25	Advanced husbandry workshop	Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA	Gagliardo
<b>August 2009</b>			
1-2	prioritization workshop	SRI LANKA	Gibson
3-11	husbandry workshop	SRI LANKA	Garcia, Gibson
<b>August 2009</b>			
12	Association of Zoo & Aquarium Docents	Chicago, IL, USA	Zippel



# MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

## Acknowledgements 31 January 2009

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### **Up to \$200,000**

EAZA

### **Up to \$50,000**

Conservation Breeding Specialist  
Group (CBSG)  
World Association of Zoos &  
Aquariums (WAZA)  
Zoo Leipzig

### **Up to \$10,000**

ARAZPA  
JAZA  
Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo

### **Up to \$5,000**

Samantha Attwood  
Brevard Zoo  
Caudata.org Donations Drive  
John Clare  
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Christine Dazley  
Coen Deurloo  
Cory Emerson  
Marco Ferrigno  
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Paignton Zoo  
Phoenix Chapter of the AAZK  
Rome Zoo  
Tremont Elementary 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
Zoo Zurich

### **Up to \$1,000**

Nordens Ark  
Sacramento Zoo

### **Up to \$500**

Avonworth HS Environmental  
Club  
Wagish Bhartiya  
Heribert Hofer  
Jon Coe Design  
Vivian Kesterson  
Lion Country Safari AAZK  
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### **Up to \$100**

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### **Up to \$10**

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Meredith Mahoney  
Bonnie Styles  
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