



MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

To: AArk Steering Committee, other stakeholders
From: AArk Officers
Subject: AArk monthly activity report for July 2007
Date: 1 August 2007

Note: these reports document efforts that are underway; people seeking additional information should contact [kcz](#).

General updates from the amphibian community

- ARAZPA produced an [Amphibian Action Plan](#).
- US government published a [5-Year Report on Amphibian Research & Monitoring Initiative](#).
- “The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) are organizing an international symposium on *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*. The purpose of the symposium will be to bring together researchers and managers to discuss our current knowledge of this organism and its impacts on worldwide amphibian populations and to strategize ways to prevent its spread and manage effected populations. The symposium is going to be held November 5-7, 2007.” (see announcement in [Froglog](#)).
- 1st [International Wildlife Reintroduction Conference](#) (April 15-16, 2008) announced
- ASG is still seeking an Executive Director (see announcement in [Froglog](#)).

CURRENT

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

- AArk Steering Committee nearly complete, Kevin Z is working on Advisory Committees.

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

- Kevin J and Richard were polishing the prioritization tool, then helping to apply it in Ft. Worth with AZA working on species from North America, Puerto Rico and Mexico.
- Yolanda Matamoros (AArk SC) and team released [final report](#) on Costa Rican Amphibian Conservation Strategy.
- Kevin Z is working on Kihansi spray toad PHVA final report.
- Richard working in the field on mountain chicken (*Leptodactylus fallax*) Ark recovery program

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.
- Kevin Z is working with AVZA/ALPZA to plan training course at Valencia Aquarium 24-29 September.
- Kevin Z, and Joe Mendelson and Ron Gagliardo (both AArk SC) will instruct at 2nd 2007 Amphibian Biology & Management course in Toledo 14-19 October.
- Sally Walker (AArk SC) will host/help coordinate Jersey [Amphibian Biodiversity Conservation](#) training course in India 10-16 December 2007.

Communications/Development (compiled by AArk Communications & Development Officer [Lisette Pavajeau](#))

- **The AArk 2008 YOTF campaign:** The global communications agency Fleishman Hillard has been preparing the global campaign, its time-frame and style. Jeff Bonner met with Fleishman



Hillard on 27 July in St. Louis (Onnie and Kevin Z teleconferenced in) regarding YOTF campaign development. Jeff is working with AZA amphibian campaign committee on presentations/workshops at AZA annual meeting in Philadelphia.

- **Support of the YOTF campaign by other institutions:** Ben Baker from Reaseheath College (UK) will begin a one-year fund-raising campaign in September to coincide with the unveiling of the college's veterinary building. All funds raised are expected to support the YOTF campaign. A whole range of materials are being developed for sale on campus as well as through the internet. The college is also planning an amphibian awareness week for students featuring talks, displays and interactive sessions and various fund-raising events culminating in a college open day and a Guinness Book of Records attempt at can recycling. Plans are also in the pipeline for two "Introduction to Amphibian Husbandry" courses, one to last for a whole week and the second as lectures. Profits from these courses will also be donated to the campaign.
- **AArk's Quarterly Newsletter:** The Newsletter is almost ready. It was delayed for a few final editing/new logo/images adjustments. We hope it will circulate during the first week of August.
- **AArk Web page:** The web page has been redesigned. The index page has a new picture and new colors. All AArk monthly reports are now available [online](#). Peter Janzen from Germany volunteered to translate the web page to German. We are looking for volunteers to translate it to other languages.
- **2008 IUCN Conference in Barcelona:** We need creative ideas to take to the Barcelona meeting in 2008. A movie about Amphibian Ark is one of these ideas but we are still looking for the funds.
- Kevin Z, Jeff Bonner and Onnie Byers are working with USFWS's Jeff Flocken on the Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders initiative to assist with the Year of the Frog campaign.
- Kevin Z is working with Gordon Reid to co-edit an amphibian section in volume 42 of *International Zoo Yearbook* for early 2008.
 - AArk staff and Steering Committee members are collectively involved in 4 IZY manuscripts!
 - Gagliardo, Crump, Griffith, Mendelson, Ross, & Zippel - The principles of rapid response for amphibian conservation, using the programmes in Panama as an example.
 - Odum & Zippel - Amphibian water quality – modern approaches to an essential environmental parameter.
 - Pavajeau, Zippel, Gibson, & Johnson - Amphibian Ark and the 2008 Year of the Frog campaign.
 - Reid & Zippel - Can zoos and aquariums ensure the survival of amphibians in the 21st century?
- Lissette working with Richard Griffiths on the paper *Captive breeding, reintroduction and the conservation of amphibians* for *Conservation Biology*.
- Everyone is answering dozens (hundreds?!) of email/phone queries regarding amphibian conservation, program development, press, proposal reviews, etc.

UPCOMING

CBSG Facilitation course (Omaha USA 1-4 August 2007)

Kevin J to learn facilitation skills CBSG-style

CBSG Annual Meeting (Budapest Hungary 23-26 August 2007)

Kevin Z to provide general AArk updates, Jeff Bonner to give YOTF campaign presentation; plus working group, subject to be determined

WAZA Annual Conference (Budapest Hungary 26-30 August 2007)



Jeff Bonner to give YOTF campaign presentation

Asian Society of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine Workshop (Taipei Republic of China (Taiwan) 30 August - 1 September 2007)

Gerry to lead discussions of chytrid risk in Asia

SEAZA Annual Meeting (Kuala Lumpur Malaysia 2-6 September 2007)

Possibly attended by Australasian AArk contingent to lead workshops on species prioritization (Kevin J) and risk assessment and minimization (Gerry Marantelli)

Venezuelan Amphibian Management course (Valencia Venezuela 24-29 September 2007)

Kevin Z working with ALPZA and AVZA partners to help coordinate

6th International Zoo & Wildlife Research Conference (Berlin Germany 7-10 October 2007)

Kevin Z or Joe Mendelson possibly a plenary speaker

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

Kevin Z to co-instruct course

Costa Rica species prioritization workshop (San Jose ?? October 2007)

Richard and/or Kevin J to assist with species prioritization process



Acknowledgements
July 2007

The work of AArk is possible due to the generous support of:

Al Ain Zoo & Aquarium
 Albright Middle School 5th Grade
 Allwetterzoo Münster
 Anonymous
 Anonymous in honor of Winona & Rupert
 Kade Ariani
 Barcelona Zoo
 Scott Barolo
 Binder Park Zoological Society
 Birmingham Zoo & Birmingham Zoo Chapter AAZK
 Bettina Brinkley
 Bristol Zoo Gardens
 Jessica Bryan
 Buffalo Zoo
 Cameron Park Zoo
 Chester Zoo
 Chicago Zoological Society
 Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
 Columbus Zoo & Aquarium
 Denver Zoo
 Disney's Animal Kingdom & Animal Programs
 John Dubin
 Robert & Sue Dupré
 Edward Flanagan
 Charles Hall
 Terri Harmon
 Molly Hilton
 Ben A. Hrach
 Kirstin Hunter
 Johannesburg Zoo
 Kansas City Zoo
 Adam Kennedy
 Kitten Kephart
 Anne King
 Gary Kirkland
 Kathy M. Krizek
 Queenie Law
 The Living Desert
 Ruben Lopez
 Sally Mahoney
 MARS Preservation Fund
 Marwell Zoological Park
 New Mexico Bio Park Society, Inc.
 Norden's Ark
 Ocean Park Conservation Foundation
 Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo
 Paignton Zoo

Steven Andrew Painter
 Rosamond Gifford Zoo
 SAAMBR
 Saint Louis Zoo
 San Francisco Zoological Society
 Save the Prairie Society
 SeaWorld & Busch Gardens
 Sedgwick County Zoo
 Sharon Silverman
 Singapore Zoo
 Sonya Sobieski
 Taipei Zoo
 Tokyo Zoo Conservation Fund
 Toledo Zoo
 Toronto Zoo
 Twycross Zoo
 Alex Vactor
 William Valencia
 Deborah Wallwork
 Kaye Ward
 Laura Wessels
 Wildlife Conservation Society
 Jenine Wilson
 World Association of Zoos & Aquariums (WAZA)
 Zoo New England
 Zoological Society London
 Zoologischer Garten Leipzig
 Zoologischer Garten Zürich
 Zoos South Australia (Adelaide)

And through donations in memory of beloved conservationist Mary

Sughrue Rabb:
 Gerald Adelman
 Jill Allread & Pamela Freese
 Anonymous
 Terry & Sharon Anthony
 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



**MONTHLY
 ACTIVITY
 REPORT**

Friday Docents of the Brookfield Zoo
 Richard Fuchs
 Ronald Gagliardo & Paul Huggett
 P.A. Galloway
 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
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 The Philadelphia Zoo
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 San Diego Zoo
 Carol D. Saunders & Amy B. Bodwell
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 Miguel Vallejo & Michelle Uting
 Cynthia Vernon & Monta Potter
 Mark Warneke
 Lynn Weis
 Michael D. Wiant & Grace Eckert
 Karen & Randall Witter
 Kevin Zippel & Lynn Kirkland