



MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

To: AArk Steering Committee, other stakeholders
From: AArk Officers
Subject: AArk monthly activity report for June 2007
Date: 10 July 2007

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

General updates from the amphibian community

- [Amphibian Conservation Action Plan](#) published
- [chytrid documented in the wild in Japan](#)
- [chytrid widespread in northeast North America](#)
- 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, working on Advisory Committees

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

- Species Prioritization Working Group working out final details of decision tool
- Electronic species prioritization tool modified in line with refined (but not yet finalized) species prioritization process.

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 instructed at husbandry training course in Chemnitz 27 June - 1 July, organized by WAZA with VDZ/DGHT (Verband Deutscher Zoodirektoren and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Herpetologie und Terrarienkunde); spent 1 additional week visiting DGHT members and their facilities to evaluate potential for partnerships.
- Kevin Z working with AVZA/ALPZA to plan training course at Valencia Aquarium 24-29 September.
- Kevin Z to instruct at 2nd 2007 Amphibian Biology & Management course in Toledo 14-19 October.
- Jersey planning Amphibian Biodiversity conservation training course in India, date to be determined; likely Madagascar as well.
- EAZA is planning training course, date and venue to be determined.

Research

- Antwerp Zoo secured funds to hire an AArk Research Officer
- Chester Zoo/University of Manchester/Manchester Museum PhD frog collaboration is now active with a research student selected.

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



- AArk has retained the services of an international public relations agency, Fleishman Hillard, to serve in a coordinating role for the global Year of the Frog Campaign. Each regional association and, indeed, individual participating institution, will be free to customize their efforts as appropriate.
- Lissette updated the campaign info-pack prior to the second planning meeting for the “2008 YOTF” campaign in London on 27 June, which was attended by Jeff Bonner, Onnie Byers and Richard Gibson.
- Lissette, Gordon McGregor Reid and Kevin Zippel prepared material for David Attenborough Patron of the “2008 YOTF” campaign
- The AArk web page is updated on a regular basis, in particular the “news” and “AArk-press” pages. The page of the staff now has the curricula of Kevin Zippel and Kevin Johnson.
- Following are the statistics about the use of the page:
Monthly visitors:
Dec 2006: 302
Jan 2007: 336
Feb 2007: 4122
Mar 2007: 2574
Apr 2007: 2763
May 2007: 2800
June 2007: 2966
Total visits of the web site since December 2006: 15,879. Monthly average: 2,266
- Kevin J finished documenting database of amphibian images for the various Year of the Frog campaign packs.
- Kevin Z coauthored ‘Facilities & Associated Services’ and ‘Reproduction and Larval Rearing’ in *ILAR Journal* Volume 48 Issue Number 3: Use of Amphibians in the Research, Laboratory, or Classroom Setting - both manuscripts now published.
- Kevin Z, Jeff and Onnie 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 collectively involved with 5 manuscripts!
- Everyone is answering dozens (hundreds?!) of email/phone queries regarding amphibian conservation, program development, press, proposal reviews, etc.

UPCOMING

North American species prioritization workshop (Ft. Worth USA 30 July-1 August 2007)

Richard and Kevin J to work with AZA on prioritizing species from North America and possibly Caribbean or Mexico

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)

AArk updates and working group, TBD

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

AArk updates and working group, TBD

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)

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 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



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June 2007

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And through donations in memory of beloved conservationist Mary

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MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

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 Friday Docents of the Brookfield Zoo
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