



## MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

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**To:** AArk stakeholders  
**From:** Kevin Zippel, AArk Program Officer [KevinZ@AmphibianArk.org](mailto:KevinZ@AmphibianArk.org)  
**Subject:** AArk monthly activity report for March 2007  
**Date:** 1 April 2007

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

### General updates from the amphibian community

- ASG is still seeking Executive Director (see announcement in [Froglog](#)).
- CBSG carbon offset funds are now going to [Fundacion Jocotoco's](#) reserves in Ecuador, known for their rich amphibian fauna.
- AZA hired a dedicated amphibian coordinator for their regional response.

### CURRENT

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

- Jeff Bonner (CBSG Steering Committee member, WAZA Council member, board member of AZA, past chair of the International Species Information System, Director of the St. Louis Zoo, and lover of amphibians!) replaces Bob Lacy as the CBSG representative on the AArk Executive Committee.
- The [final report](#) from last month's Steering Committee meeting is now available online.
- Kevin Z is working with ALPZA's Diana Sarmiento to form a database of potential partners, i.e., Latin American zoos, universities, NGOs, anyone working with amphibians who is interested in forming partnerships with AZA or other outside institutions.
- Kevin Z is working on articles geared toward other specific communities to increase capacity and participation, starting with Joe Mendelson targeting academic labs through SSAR's *Herp Review*, but planning with Max Nickerson targeting natural history museums through The Natural Science Collections Alliance's *Alliance Gazette*, and with Ron Gagliardo targeting botanical gardens through the American Public Garden Association's *The Public Garden*.

#### Taxon Survival Efforts (compiled by AArk staff)

- The Zoological Society of London donated 50% of herp curator Richard Gibson's time to fill the other half of AArk Taxon Officer position, complementing ARAZPA's Kevin Johnson who was hired part-time last month. Both officially start in April.
- Bob is in discussions with colleagues in the population management community about the needs to provide guidance to the AArk on breeding programs, develop better protocols for managing programs for highly fecund species, and deal with unintentional or desired selection. Colleagues in Antwerp and London are considering partnering to convene a workshop of population biologists to address some of these issues.
- Kevin Z will speak at AZA amphibian Taxon Advisory Group meeting about the implementation of the Panama species prioritization tool (per EAZA's work in Europe and Madagascar) with the plan to get AArk Taxon Officers to the US in a couple months to begin the process in North America and maybe the Caribbean and/or Mexico, with subsequent workshops to continue into Meso- and South America.



- Kevin Z is in discussion with Nate at ISIS and some US private sector folks about how the private sector can join ISIS and share data. They “are getting very close to having a draft of our Amphibian Steward Network Handbook ready for review.”
- Kevin Z is preparing for spray toad PHVA; working with LKEMP on contract details, WCS’ Jenny Pramuk helping with issues paper and keepers at Toledo and WCS working on husbandry manual and facility recommendations.

### **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.
- Richard is at Nordens Ark *Research School in Conservation Biology* for Ph.D. students to assist with 2-day amphibian section, including covering roles of AArk
- Kevin Z and Joe consulting with Smithsonian on shaping their amphibian conservation programs.
- Kevin Z is helping organize AZA’s 2007 Amphibian Biology & Management course, new instructors, monographs, etc.; interest is high enough to possibly warrant a second 2007 course (September?).
- Kevin Z is working with Brookfield to get 2 Latin American students to the ABM course: Roberto Elias (Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia) who wants to run an amphibian management course in Peru, and Erika Servín Zamora (Chapultepec Zoo, Mexico).
- WAZA is planning joint effort with VDZ/DGHT (Verband Deutscher Zoodirektoren and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Herpetologie und Terrarienkunde) to hold amphibian management course in Germany this summer.
- EAZA is planning a similar training course, date and venue to be determined.
- Kevin Z is in ongoing consultations on EVACC; Edgardo will be coming to ABM in Toledo.
- Kevin Z is planning chytrid information sessions for spring JAZA meeting.

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

- **New AArk Logo.** One of the main achievements for this month is our new logo made by a designer/architect from Colombia, [German Romero](#). German presented 3 models, with several variations, for a total of 7 designs from which to choose. The AArk Executive Committee and the AArk Officers selected the design displayed below. We will use a reduced variation of the same logo when necessary (#2).



- **AArk web page.** We have been working full speed towards designing a web page that can meet the need to better inform the general public about AArk. In the February report we announced that AArk website visits jumped from ~50 hits/day to ~3000/day after the Steering Committee meeting in Atlanta. We are also getting e-mail queries from several sources; therefore a nice, well organized and informative web page is one of our priorities. We have already posted on the web a draft of the new page now being revised by AArk Executive Committee and AArk Officers [www.amphibianark.org](http://www.amphibianark.org). We have received four offers for free web design from people very enthusiastic about conserving amphibians.



- **AArk Global Amphibian Campaign.** The 2008 Year of the Frog Campaign (2008 YOTF Campaign) is a reality. The preparatory meeting scheduled for March 13-14 at Chester, U.K, was postponed due to difficulties to get everyone's agenda agreed. It has now been re-scheduled for April 26-27 at Rotterdam (The Netherlands). The meeting will take place together with the EAZA Conservation Campaign meeting. It is an excellent opportunity for AArk to learn from EAZA's experience. Jörg Junhold, WAZA Marketing Committee Chairman, will coordinate the 2008 YOTF campaign at the global level. Being a preparatory meeting, we expect to gather mainly communications and fund-raising experts at this time to help with campaign planning. Lisette, Kevin and Onnie have been preparing a draft of the Campaign Info-Pack to have ready for discussion at Rotterdam. A Graphic Designer from Tennessee, Kimberly Hansing volunteered to design a logo for the campaign, she will have some samples ready by mid April. Also, Regional Associations are currently asking members to pledge their support for the 2008 Year of the Frog public awareness campaign; EAZA and ALPZA have already released their sign-up forms, AZA will be discussing at the Denver AZA board meeting, Chris West will be circulating forms for ARAZPA.
- **International Zoo Yearbook.** AArk was invited by Managing Editor, Fiona Fisker, of the International Zoo Yearbook to write an article on Amphibian Ark and the 2008 Year of the Frog Campaign. Lisette and Kevin will work on this. It will be published in Section 1: Amphibian Conservation. (Vol 42).
- **Field Trip Earth website.** An invitation was received to feature the Amphibian Ark on this conservation education web site. It has an audience of children from K-12 classrooms from all fifty states in the United States and 130 countries world-wide. It is managed by Mark MacAllister, Coordinator of On-line Learning Projects at the North Carolina Zoological Society.
- **Donations. THANK YOU!**
  1. We received a donation from the writer and journalist [Joseph Lyon Layden](#). He is going to contribute a portion of the online sales of his book "[The Other Side of Yore](#)" to AArk. Joseph has also set up a link to AArk on [his web page](#) and promotes conservation of amphibians.
  2. We received a pledge from Richard Lee Altman, project leader at GlaxoSmithKline. He also offered his free services to our web page. We also received pledges from Joseph Nahorodny and Daniel Rosenthal.
- **E-mail messages.** We have been receiving many e-mail messages offering donations and suggestions, and volunteering services.
- **AArk Newsletter.** We received a free offer from Edward Roemke owner of a web based publishing software firm, to design an on-line Newsletter for AArk. He will have ready some samples to choose from by mid April.

#### **Other communication activities**

- AArk folk are talking to AZA folk about joint workshop at Annual Conference in September to announce Year of the Frog Campaign to AZA community.
- Kevin Z and Onnie are working with USFWS Jeff Flocken about using Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders program to assist with Year of the Frog campaign development.
- Bob spoke to Brookfield's Save the Prairie Society about amphibian extinction crisis and global response.
- Kevin Z did an hour spot on [Minnesota Public Radio](#)
- Kevin Z is working on new amphibian piece for ActionBioscience.org.
- Kevin Z submitted piece to CAZA membership newsletter.
- Kevin Z submitted piece to EAZA News 58.



- Kevin Z to contribute paper to AZA *Declining Amphibian Resource Manual*.
- Kevin Z is talking to Kevin Wright about contributing paper(s) to a companion volume to his first book, *Amphibian Medicine and Captive Husbandry*.
- Kevin Z is working with Robert Browne to contribute chapters on 'Facilities & Associated Services' and 'Reproduction and Larval Rearing' to *ILAR Journal* Volume 48 Issue Number 3: Use of Amphibians in the Research, Laboratory, or Classroom Setting - both manuscripts accepted in final form!
- Kevin Z is working on final edits of amphibian piece for WCS's *State of the Wild*
- Kevin Z is working with Gordon Reid to co-edit an amphibian section in volume 42 of *International Zoo Yearbook* for early 2008 - invitations to authors now sent out.
- Kevin Z working with Jenny Pramuk to co-edit an amphibian section in upcoming volume of *Zoo Biology* for early 2008; timeline to be determined.
- Everyone is answering dozens (hundreds??) of email/phone queries regarding amphibian conservation, program development, press, proposal reviews, etc.

#### **UPCOMING**

##### **AZA Amphibian Biology & Management (Toledo USA 14-19 April 2007)**

Kevin Z to co-instruct course

##### **EAZA/Global AArk Campaign Strategy Meeting (Rotterdam The Netherlands 26-27 April 2007)**

AArk staff and some Steering Committee members to join EAZA and WAZA campaign staff and further develop plans for Year of the Frog publicity and capital campaigns

##### **AZA Amphibian TAG (Omaha USA 2 May 2007)**

Kevin Z to share updates on AArk development and progress from other regions

##### **Kihansi Spray Toad PHVA (Bagamoyo Tanzania 10-17 May 2007)**

Yolan Friedmann/Onnie Byers to facilitate, Andy Odum and Kerryn Morrison to model, Kevin Z to help organize PHVA

##### **JAZA meeting (Osaka/Tokyo Japan 20-26 May 2007)**

Kevin Z to discuss national conservation response with respect to recent arrival of chytrid

##### **ALPZA Congress (Sao Paulo Brazil 27 May - 1 June 2007)**

Lisette to present on AArk global campaigns

##### **WAZA/VDZ/DGHT amphibian management course (Chemnitz Germany 27 June - 1 July 2007)**

Kevin Z to instruct at amphibian management/conservation workshop

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

Kevin Z and Kevin J to learn facilitation skills CBSG-style

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

AArk updates and working group, TBD



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**Mary Sughrue Rabb**  
May 1, 1929 - November 9, 2006



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