



MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

To: AArk Steering Committee, other stakeholders
From: AArk Officers
Subject: AArk monthly activity report for May 2007
Date: 6 June 2007

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

General updates from the amphibian community

- ASG is still seeking an Executive Director (see announcement in [Froglog](#)).

CURRENT

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

- Kazushi Kuwabara (Asa Zoo) appointed as JAZA representative to the AArk Steering Committee
- AArk Steering Committee nearly complete, working on Advisory Committees

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

- Kevin J developed an online form for contact information for amphibian experts, and distributed it to a large list of people. Data are being compiled into an online amphibian specialist database at <http://zims.isis.org/aark/Lists/Amphibian%20contacts%202/Summary%20view.aspx>. Amphibian experts are encouraged to add their contact details to the list by visiting <http://zims.isis.org/aark/Lists/Amphibian%20contacts%2021/Summary%20view.aspx> and then clicking “New” under the heading Amphibian Contacts.
- Kevin J completed an electronic version of the Species Prioritization Tool, based on the questions as per the report from the 2006 Panama meeting. The tool will be further modified once proposed changes to the prioritization process have been reviewed and approved (see below).
- Richard produced and distributed second and third drafts of proposed modifications to the species prioritization tool. Reviewed feedback and incorporated the proposed changes.
- Richard drafted and circulated AArk Taxon Management Plan and Husbandry Guidelines template for review.
- Kevin Z and Gerry Marantelli (AArk SC) participated in Kihansi spray toad PHVA; final report in preparation.
- Kevin Z and Gerry Marantelli (AArk SC) participated in JAZA and CBSG-Japan workshops, as well as other smaller meetings, to help develop action plan and other conservation strategies for Japan to deal with chytrid fungus.

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.
- AZA planning 2nd 2007 Amphibian Biology & Management course in Toledo 14-19 October.
- 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.
- AVZA/ALPZA planning a training course at Valencia Aquarium 24-29 September 2007.

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

1. The 2008 International Year of the Frog (YOTF) Campaign:

The second planning meeting for the “2008 International YOTF campaign” is being planned for late June (venue to be confirmed). The campaign info-pack is under preparation. Kevin Johnson is compiling all the photos for the campaign and he published them on the Amphibian Ark team portal (on-line).

Diana Sarmiento from ALPZA – Asociación Latinoamericana de Zoológicos y Acuarios - launched the 2008 International Year of the Frog Campaign in Sao Paulo during their annual meeting (26th of May). Amphibian Ark supported ALPZA with flyers and a banner for the campaign.

2. AArk Web page:

We received more pictures to use on our web site and in the Campaign. We thank Colombian biologists Francisco José López and Ivan Ramos; Peter Dollinger from WAZA; and Ronald Gagliardo from the Atlanta Botanical Garden who also sent us some beautiful pictures from photographers Ron Holt and Brad Wilson.

Kevin Johnson is helping with the menu and other improvements of the AArk web page. 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: (to date) 2161

Most visited pages in 2007:

CBSG_WAZA_AmphibianExSituConservationPlanningWorkshopFinalReport.pdf

yearofthefrog.htm

staff.htm

chytrid.htm

AZAExSitu.ppt

3. Newsletter:

We now have a format/template for the AArk Newsletter which will be distributed by e-mail on a quarterly basis and will also be available on the AArk web page. This newsletter design was a gift from Edward Roemke the president of “InsWorld”, an on-line newsletter design firm. Edward is located in Connecticut (USA).

4. Donations:



On behalf of Mary Rabb, George donated \$100,000 to AArk. Steering Committee and staff are working to determine the best use of the money in terms of advancing AArk goals and leveraging additional funds.

In celebration of “Be Kind to Animals week” Joseph Lyon Layden the author of the book “The Other Side of Yore” donated to AArk 50% of author/artist royalties from the books sold online from May 1 through 12. Joseph will try the fundraiser again on Earth Day (June 5th), and this time if people buy the book within the 24 hours of Earth Day and send in the receipt, he will donate 100% of Author Royalties to AmphibianArk.org.

Jenine Wilson will donate to Amphibian Ark \$1.00 for every copy of her book *My Familiar* (a story for teenagers) sold through the jensonbooks <http://www.jensonbooks.com> website.

Other communication activities

- Kevin J and Richard sent our requests for a variety of amphibian photos that can be used in conjunction with the 2008 Year of the Frog Campaign Pack. Approximately 230 images have been received to date, and these will be reviewed and around 12-150 images will be selected for the Campaign Pack. Renamed all received photos in a standard format, and developed a database containing image file names, photographers' names and biological information (from the GAA database), that will be included in the Campaign Pack.
- Kevin J rebuilt the menu on the AArk website to a more useable format
- Kevin Z, Jeff and Onnie are working with USFWS's Jeff Flocken about using the Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders initiative to assist with the Year of the Frog campaign development.
- Kevin Z's new [amphibian piece for ActionBioscience.org](http://ActionBioscience.org) brought \$250 to AArk.
- 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.
- Everyone is answering dozens (hundreds??) of email/phone queries regarding amphibian conservation, program development, press, proposal reviews, etc.

UPCOMING

WAZA/AArk campaign meeting (Date and location TBD)

Follow up to Rotterdam meeting to plan global corporate, foundation, and government capital campaigns.

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

Kevin Z to instruct at amphibian management/conservation workshop

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

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

Costa Rica Amphibian CAMP/Prioritization (San Jose 10-12 August 2007)

Richard to assist with species prioritization process

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

AArk updates and working group, TBD



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

Kevin Z to co-instruct course

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

Kevin Z to help coordinate



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May 2007

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

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 Arie & Ida Crown Memorial
 Defenders of Wildlife
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 Peggy & Michael Devlin
 Amy T. Dickinson
 Russell Evans
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MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

Morgan L. Fitch Jr.
 Stanley & Helen Freeman
 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
 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
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