



AMPHIBIAN ARK ACTIVITY REPORT

To: AArk stakeholders
From: Kevin Zippel, CBSG/WAZA Amphibian Program Officer Kevin@AmphibianArk.org
Subject: Monthly performance report for November 2006
Date: 29 November 2006

Note: these reports document efforts that are underway; people seeking additional information should contact kez.

CURRENT

AArk Coordination

- planned AArk pre-Steering Committee organizational meeting in Atlanta 15-16 February
- new AArk officers' position descriptions posted, applications trickling in
- working with Treewalkers International to help organize US private sector, planning to bring in diverse representation from global private sector
- working on articles geared toward other specific communities to increase capacity: with Max Nickerson targeting natural history museums through The Natural Science Collections Alliance's *Alliance Gazette*, with Ron Gagliardo targeting botanical gardens through the American Public Garden Association's *The Public Garden*, with Joe Mendelson targeting academic labs through SSAR's *Herp Review*

Taxon Survival Efforts

- spray toad PHVA postponed pending budgetary negotiations between the government of Tanzania and the World Bank
- working with Don Church & Mike Hoffman (CI/ASG) to establish means to filter GAA accounts and allow *ex situ* community to determine which of the 443 EW/CR taxa really require *ex situ* intervention, and where ranching/farming might help alleviate collection pressures
- planning with Houston Zoo and STRI for a national recovery strategy meeting in Panama
- possibly collaborating on 'ACAP' for *Atelopus* in Peru and Bolivia, at least looking for US zoo partners
- planning final PGF collecting trip early 2007

Training & Other Capacity Building

- compiling course descriptions from different organizations to create *ala carte* menu of topics for future training courses
- traveling to Ecuador 30 November - 5 December to help teach amphibian management course
- working with Cali Zoo staff on agenda for their Colombian amphibian management course
- organizing ABM 2007, new instructors, monographs, etc.
- planning with Roberto Elias (Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia) a future Peruvian amphibian management course
- talking with Jamie Copsey (Durrell) about possibility of collaborative amphibian management course in India

- ongoing consultations on EVACC
- Perry Center concept as large *ex-situ* facility run by US zoo consortium dissolved; possibility of nearby Clemson University taking lead to develop a research and training center on the site

Communications/Development

- answering dozens of email/phone queries regarding amphibian conservation, program development, press, proposal reviews, etc.
- working with Robert Browne (Perth Zoo affiliate) 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
- presented to Cornell Herpetological Society on amphibian extinction crisis and global response
- working with Gordon Reid to co-edit an amphibian section in volume 42 of *International Zoo Yearbook* for early 2008
- submitted final edits on '*ex situ* management' chapter for *Threatened Amphibians of the World*
- reviewing larger conservation chapter for *Threatened Amphibians of the World*
- wrote ABM promotional piece for February 2007 *Connect* dedicated to amphibians
- working on amphibian piece for WCS's *State of the Wild*
- Sir David Attenborough has agreed to be patron of the AArk publicity campaign
- working with ZCOG on funding for Ecuador course

UPCOMING

Ecuador amphibian husbandry workshop (Quito 2-4 December)

- help Coloma lab lead workshop similar to AZA ABM course

Brookfield Zoo Amphibian Planning Session (Chicago 10-13 December)

- help with short and long term plans for CZS amphibian strategies, speak to local school group

Zoos and Aquariums Committing to Conservation (Houston 26-31 January 2007)

- present on AArk & role of *ex situ* community in amphibian conservation

AArk pre-Steering Committee meeting (Atlanta 15-16 February 2007)

- review bylaws, staffing plan, conservation plan; establish financial plan; develop publicity and capital campaign plans

Colombian Amphibian Biology & Management workshop (Cali 26 February - 3 March 2007)

- help Cali Zoo staff lead workshop similar to AZA ABM course

Save the Prairie Society talk (Brookfield 25 March 2007)

- speak to group about amphibian extinction crisis and global response

AZA Western Regional Meeting (Denver 26-31 March 2007)

- speak on facilitatory role of AArk

Nordens Ark Conservation Workshop (Hunnebostrand 26 March - 4 April 2007)

- assist with 2-day amphibian portion of 5-6 day Research School in Conservation Biology for Ph.D. students on the role zoos can play in practical conservation

Kihansi Spray Toad PHVA (March/April 2007?)

- help organize and execute PHVA