



# MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

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**To:** AArk Steering Committee  
**From:** AArk Staff  
**Subject:** AArk monthly activity report for November 2007  
**Date:** 10 December 2007

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*Note: these reports document efforts that are underway; people seeking additional information should contact [kcز](mailto:kcز). These monthly reports are now archived online at <http://amphibianark.org/monthlyreports.htm>*

## General updates from the amphibian community

- [Study](#) shows that sub-lethal concentrations of Roundup affect tadpole heart function
- Philadelphia Zoo still seeks [Curator of Amphibians](#)
- ASG still seeks an Executive Director (see announcement in [Froglog](#)).

## CURRENT

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

- Kevin Z working with CBSG Brazil on a Brazilian partner database, which already has over 300 contacts!
- Kevin Z is working with Ollie Ryder to put together an AArk Cryobiology Advisory Group.
- Kevin Z, Joe Mendelson (AArk Steering Committee) and others working again on manuscript for *Herpetological Review* to highlight exemplary academic research programs for amphibian conservation to encourage others, and also highlight non-traditional *ex situ* programs in labs, museums, and the private sector.

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

- Kevin J facilitated a three-day prioritization workshop in Costa Rica, hosted by Fundacion Pro Zoologicos and Simon Bolivar Zoo in San Jose. Approximately 20 participants worked through the prioritization of 188 species, and attempted to answer the questions for many taxa in Section 3 of the prioritization tool. Ron Gagliardo (AArk Steering Committee) also participated.
- Prioritization workshops in Colombia and Venezuela were facilitated by Luis Carrillo (Africam Safari/AZCARM) and Diana Sarmiento (ALPZA). In Colombia, ACOPAZOA (the Colombian Zoo and Aquarium Association) and ALPZA coordinated the workshop and in Venezuela it was AVZA (The Venezuelan Zoo and Aquarium Association) and ALPZA.
- Richard and Kevin J are working with colleagues to convert the European and Malagasy species prioritisation lists into the same format as the American/Puerto Rican one and with the latest version of the tool.
- A [Malaysian prioritization workshop](#) led by Kevin J is scheduled for January, and Richard will lead a prioritization workshop in South Africa in February.
- Both Taxon Officers will participate in an upcoming workshop to (1) Develop a set of population management guidelines for establishing and then sustaining captive assurance populations, and (2) Identify what research is needed to deal with unresolved issues surrounding population management of

AArk populations. This workshop is kindly hosted by San Diego Zoo, and we very much appreciate the support from San Diego Zoo assisting with accommodation and air travel costs.

### **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. We really need an institution to donate most/all of this position, as Brookfield and London are doing for others.
- Kevin Z helped coordinate/teach at 4<sup>th</sup> Latin American husbandry workshop in Venezuela for 73 participants. Thanks to AVZA and ALPZA (particularly Diana Darmiento, AArk Steering Committee) for helping to coordinate, Valencia Aquarium staff for hosting, the institutions that sent instructors from afar (Durrell, Africam, Cali, ALPZA), and **thanks to WAZA and SeaWorld for funding!**
- Richard is working with colleagues at ZSL to develop standard best-practice amphibian quarantine and chytrid monitoring protocols building upon our still growing understanding of epidemiology of chytridiomycosis.
- Sally Walker (AArk Steering Committee) will host/help coordinate Durrell [Amphibian Biodiversity Conservation](#) training course in India 10-16 December 2007.
- Kevin J is working with SEAZA on a [husbandry workshop](#) at Zoo Negara, Kuala Lumpur in January 2008.
- Tentative plans are being made for a husbandry workshop in Johannesburg in February 2008.
- Richard is working with Durrell’s Gerardo Garcia and others to implement EAZA-wide amphibian husbandry training, designed to build capacity within the EAZA region and beyond. This [course](#) is scheduled for March 2008 (with financial support from Chester Zoo).
- Kevin Z, and Joe Mendelson and Ron Gagliardo (both AArk Steering Committee) will instruct at 6<sup>th</sup> AZA [Amphibian Biology & Management](#) course in Toledo 12-18 April 2008. Special thanks to Toledo Zoo for continuing to host this course.
- Kevin Z might lead “mini-curso” training workshop at Annual Conference of Brazilian Association of Zoos in April 2008, or possibly a full week-long course thereafter.
- Mesoamerican training course in preparation through [AMACZOOA](#); more details coming soon. **This course needs a financial sponsor.**

### **Communications/Development** (compiled by AArk Communications & Development Officer [Lisette Pavajeau](#) and YOTF Global Campaign Manager [Lesley Dickie](#))

- **The AArk 2008 YOTF campaign:** Ron Gagliardo presented at National Association of Biology Teachers Association conference to promote that partnership; Jeff Corwin recorded a [promotional video clip](#) for his event, and did a [general AArk promo](#) on the Ellen show. Peter Dollinger attended a coordination meeting of the German Zoo Associations, which dealt primarily with Year of the Frog / amphibian training issues; he developed a short [PowerPoint presentation](#) which should encourage the VDZ, DWV and DTG zoos to get involved in amphibian conservation activities.
- **New Year’s Eve events:** Lesley is working with Jörg Junhold and Fleishman Hillard to coordinate a series of events, based around the children’s game of Leapfrog, on New Year’s Eve at zoos and aquariums around the world to mark the beginning of the 2008 Year of the Frog. More information will be available shortly and interested zoos should contact Lesley at [Lesley@AmphibianArk.org](mailto:Lesley@AmphibianArk.org).
- **The year of the frog web page [www.2008yearofthefrog.org](http://www.2008yearofthefrog.org):** Many updates have been made to the campaign’s website. Now you can download the [InfoPack](#) in several languages (English, Chinese, Japanese, Spanish, and Portuguese very soon and the campaign media kit. We also have a few regional InfoPacks available: EAZA and AZCARM (in Spanish), regional representatives who would like their region’s InfoPack on the web please send it to [webmaster@amphibianark.org](mailto:webmaster@amphibianark.org). You can also see the [names of the regional representatives](#), [letters from supporters](#), you can purchase the AArk YOTF

calendar and much more to come. Reminder to Steering Committee representatives: please send to Lissette the names of your regional representative for the YOTF campaign if not listed on the website.

- **Translation of the web site and InfoPack:** The German version of the web site is now available. Thanks to Peter Janzen for his help translating and reviewing the new web pages. We are hoping to have the Spanish translation very soon: we are very thankful with Jorge Rodriguez from CBSG Mesoamerica who did the translation. Although the web site has been translated into Chinese, there are problems with making the site available in China. Kevin J is working on resolving this.
- **2008 IUCN Conference in Barcelona:** The Amphibian Ark proposal for a Poster (No 623) has been accepted by the Forum Programme Team of the IUCN World Conservation Forum which will take place in Barcelona 2008.
- **Media Coverage month of November:** National Association of Biology Teachers Hops Into Froggy Cause. NABT's 70th Anniversary in 2008 to Include Partnership with Amphibian Ark Group; The Goal: Avert Mass Extinction of Amphibian Species Press Release by Fleishman Hillard, November 28th, 2007 available at [www.amphibianark.org/finalhome.html](http://www.amphibianark.org/finalhome.html) . An Amphibian ark AMPHIBIAN ARK FACT SHEET also prepared by Fleishman Hillard is available at [www.amphibianark.org/finalhome.html](http://www.amphibianark.org/finalhome.html).
- **Sponsors:** Kevin Z and FH planning media events on 12-13 December to announce AArk's first corporate sponsor! Details to follow. Ed's Fly Meat will donate \$1 to AArk for every *Drosophila* culture sold online [www.edsflymeat.com](http://www.edsflymeat.com) beginning in January. AArk is exploring the idea of selling the naming rights to unnamed species with all of the money going to benefit amphibian conservation in that range country.
- **HOPart:** IUCN Asia regional office is planning at least six high-profile gala art auctions in key locations around the world in late 2008 to raise \$1-4 million for AArk and other ACAP activities.
- **Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders:** The EWCL Amphibian Project Team and AArk chose to direct their support to Africam Safari's efforts to save the large-crested toad *Ollotis cristata*. The team has produced an AArk 2008 [Year of the Frog calendar](http://www.amphibianark.org) as one of their fundraising tools, available now at [www.amphibianark.org](http://www.amphibianark.org) where you can buy your calendar using pay-pal (only for the US) If you are interested in ordering more than one calendar or you want to place an international order , please contact Payal Kapoor [p.kapoor@conservation.org](mailto:p.kapoor@conservation.org). The Team has developed a wonderful website [www.helpafrog.org](http://www.helpafrog.org).
- **Web page:** Visitors to [www.amphibianark.org](http://www.amphibianark.org) during November reached its highest peak! We had 9,970 visits to, this is the highest number of visitors we've had since the creation of the site.. See the chart below.

Month	visits
Oct-06	306
Nov-06	331
Dec-06	302
Jan-07	336
Feb-07	4,122
Mar-07	2,574
Apr-07	2,763
May-07	2,816
Jun-07	3,361
Jul-07	2,420
Aug-07	4,587

Sept-07	4,754
Oct-07	6,228
Nov-07	9,972

- DGHT will have the tree frog (*Hyla arborea*) as the amphibian of the year in 2008, and also the CITES Animals Committee, held at Geneva and chaired by Tom Althaus, will use the tree frog as its emblem.
- Everyone continues to answer dozens (hundreds?? many!) of email/phone queries regarding amphibian conservation, program development, press, proposal reviews, etc. Various AArk people and partners talking to media including NPR, PLOS, PBS, SCETV, St. Petersburg Times, Big Ideas for a Small Planet, Imageworks, Boston University journalist, and W wie Wissen.

## Travel and Workshop Schedule

This schedule changes frequently; contact the AARK Staff for further details.

Dates	Meeting Description	Location	AArk Staff, SC member, affiliates
<b>DECEMBER 2007</b>			
10-11	AArk Population Management Advisory Group Meeting	San Diego, CA, USA	Gibson, Johnson
10-16	ABC India course	Kerala, INDIA	Walker/Molur
12-13	Amphibian Ark media tour for corporate sponsor #1	Bronx, NY, USA	Zippel
?	Mexican species prioritization workshop	?	Carrillo
<b>JANUARY 2008</b>			
3-6?	India species prioritization workshop	Bhubaneswar, INDIA	Molur
7	press conference for corporate sponsor #2	Las Vegas, NV, USA	
15-18	SEAZA Amphibian Workshop hosted by Zoo Negera	Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA	Johnson
31	Wisconsin Wetlands Association Annual Conference	Oconomowoc, WI, USA	Zippel
31	Houston Zoo YOTF fundraiser dinner/lecture	Houston, TX, USA	Gagliardo, Mendelson
<b>FEBRUARY 2008</b>			
7-9	Trier University Symposium: Cryobanks	Trier, GERMANY	Dollinger or Althaus
13	DWV amphibian seminar	Hellenthal, GERMANY	Dollinger or Althaus
22-24	Husbandry workshop – basics	Cologne, GERMANY	
TBD	Prioritization and husbandry workshops	Johannesburg, SOUTH AFRICA	Gibson
25-7 Mar	EAZA amphibian management course	Jersey, Channel Islands	Gibson
<b>MARCH 2008</b>			
9-13	ARAZPA 2008 Conference	Sydney, NSW, AUSTRALIA	Johnson, Zippel
26	Rochester Museum Science Center YOTF Event	Rochester, NY, USA	Zippel
30-Apr 5	Annual Conference of Brazilian Association of Zoos	Sorocaba, BRAZIL	Zippel
<b>APRIL 2008</b>			
12-18	AZA Amphibian Biology & Management	Toledo, OH, USA	Gagliardo, Mendelson, Zippel
17	Columbus Zoo/Ohio State University YOTF Event	Columbus, OH, USA	Zippel
<b>MAY 2008</b>			
<b>JUNE 2008</b>			
<b>JULY 2008</b>			
<b>AUGUST 2008</b>			
<b>SEPTEMBER 2008</b>			
<b>OCTOBER 2008</b>			
9	CBSG Steering Committee Meeting	Adelaide, AUSTRALIA	Bonner, Johnson, Zippel
10-12	CBSG Annual Meeting	Adelaide, AUSTRALIA	Bonner, Johnson, Zippel
12-16	WAZA Annual Conference	Adelaide, AUSTRALIA	Bonner, Johnson, Zippel
28	CZS lecture series YOTF Event	Chiacago, IL, USA	Zippel
<b>NOVEMBER 2008</b>			
6	Frog Symposium Meeting, Linnean Society of London	London, ENGLAND	Gibson?
<b>DECEMBER 2008</b>			



**amphibian ark**  
2008 YEAR OF THE FROG

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## Acknowledgements November 2007

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