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**To:** AArk Steering Committee and colleagues  
**From:** AArk Staff  
**Subject:** AArk monthly activity report for November 2008  
**Date:** 10 December 2008

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*Note: these reports document efforts that are underway; people seeking additional information should contact [Kevin Z](#).  
These monthly reports are now archived [online](#).*

## General updates from the amphibian community

### News/Publications

- [First record of amphibian chytrid in Asia published](#)
- [Low concentrations of pesticides can become toxic mixture for amphibians](#)
- [Global warming link to amphibian declines in doubt](#)
- [Amphibian extinctions: is global warming off the hook?](#)
- [Panama prioritizes species](#)
- London symposium, opened by YOTF patron [Sir David Attenborough](#), focuses on [threats](#) to amphibians, ACAP, and conservation efforts including ex situ management, [cryobiology](#), and [in situ](#) treatments.
- Corwin's "The Vanishing Frog" premiers [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#)
- [Scientists grow new frog eyes from stem cells](#)

### Funding available

- ASG calls for [proposals](#) for up to \$30,000 matching funds for critical habitat protection, no deadline
- Columbus Zoo continuously accepts applications for grants and emergency grants and has a strong record of supporting amphibian conservation work. For more information, contact [Rebecca Rose](#), Field Conservation Coordinator.
- Emergency funds are also available through [Memphis Zoo](#) and [Disney](#).
- Other grant opportunities are described in Appendix 3 of [AZA Amphibian Resource Manual](#).

### Funding needed

- For species rescues in eastern Panama ([Houston budget proposal](#))
- [Funding and volunteers needed for expeditions to assess sites of past decline in Costa Rica and Panama](#)
- For species prioritization workshops in China, Indonesia, India, PNG, Sri Lanka, Guatemala, Cuba, Philippines, Cameroon, Honduras, Tanzania, Haiti, D.R. Congo, Jamaica, Chile, Japan, Bolivia, Argentina.
- For husbandry workshops in Peru, China, Indonesia, Chile.
- Other partnership opportunities are available in [Latin America](#) and [Asia](#).
- For AArk officer support, including 50% Taxon Officer Kevin J, 100% Program Director Kevin Z, and any/all of a YOTF Campaign Manager.

## Vacancies

- Zoological Society of San Diego seeks [post-doc](#) in amphibian pathology and molecular diagnostics
- L'Université de Montréal seeks a student to realize an [M. Sc. in biology](#) dealing with the effects of an invasive plant on amphibian diversity and reproduction
- Cornell seeks [post-doc](#) in evolution of amphibian immunity

## CURRENT

### AArk Coordination

- Kevin Z met with *in situ* and *ex situ* partners in Brazil to further capacity building efforts there.
- Kevin Z will be doing the same in India in January.
- Kevin Z, Ron, Joe, George, other associates to attend NCSE meeting in Washington DC to help organize request for government funding.
- AArk strategic planning meeting tentatively set for March in Al Ain.

### Taxon Survival Efforts

- Paul Crump conducted a [Panamanian species prioritization workshop](#) with support from New Mexico Bio Park Society/Rio Grande Zoo and US-AID. 203 species were prioritized, and as expected, a large number of these were recommended for an ark or rescue/supplementation conservation programs.
- Arrangements are continuing for a prioritization workshop in Indonesia in early 2009.
- The stage appears to be set for a prioritization workshop in Brazil in March 2009, with support from ZSL.
- Robert and Richard are in the early stages of planning a prioritization workshop for Central African species in Cameroon next year, probably April 2009.
- A Sri Lanka prioritization workshop is tentatively set for 1-2 August 2009.
- Completed versions of the prioritization data from various workshops are available on the [Amphibian Ark portal](#)
- On behalf of the AArk Cryobiology Advisory Committee, San Diego Zoo is accepting amphibian tissue samples for cell culture. The [protocol](#) is available online. These cell lines will provide valuable material for research and preserving genetic diversity. If an invaluable animal dies in captivity, or you encounter a freshly dead specimen of a rare species in the field, please consider utilizing this free service. Biopsy kits are available through the contact information in the online protocol.
- Washington State University offers services including DNA extraction from swabs or tissue samples and real-time PCR quantification of chytrid fungus and ranavirus with each sample run in triplicate. Sample processing will be \$10 per sample for Federally-funded projects or \$11 for non-federally projects. For more information, please contact Andrew Storfer ([astorfer@wsu.edu](mailto:astorfer@wsu.edu)).
- An informal '*Neurergus* interest group' has been established. This group of mainly European zoos and private enthusiasts communicates by email and is developing a programme of conservation measures for the *Neurergus* species newts from Iran and Turkey. Hopefully the first official AArk Taxon Coordinator and Taxon Management Plan will not be far away. [A sub-web has been established to assist with collaboration amongst the members of the group.](#)

### Training & Other Capacity Building

- Kevin Z and Ron taught at the AZA [Amphibian Biology, Conservation & Management](#) course in Toledo 8-14 November 2008. Special thanks to Toledo Zoo for continuing to host this course, and Melbourne Zoo for providing partial support for Brazilian student Dra. Catia Dejuste de Paula, who

will be organizing a similar course in Brazil likely in March 2009 (now with funding from WAZA!).

- Richard gave a presentation on biosecurity in amphibian collections to the British Veterinary Zoological Society at their annual conference.
- Durrell's course in Bolivia is apparently postponed until January 2009.
- Husbandry course planned for Indonesia in early 2009.
- Norden's Ark course planned for March 2009.
- Advanced husbandry course planned for Malaysia delayed until April 2009.
- Durrell Amphibian Conservation and Husbandry (ACH) course planned for Cameroon in April 2009 to be run by Gerardo Garcia (Durrell) and Richard.
- Durrell ACH course planned for Sri Lanka 3-11 August 2009 to run by Gerardo and Jamie Copsey (Durrell) and Richard.
- Plans for regional EAZA amphibian husbandry courses all over Europe are well developed. Those in Latvia/Russia, Netherlands/Belgium and Germany will take place before the end of the year while Scandinavian, Spanish and French courses are timetabled before the spring of 2009.

### Research Efforts

- Thomas-Doherty Bone (British Museum of Natural History, part sponsored by Zoological Society of London) has continued work on the presence of chytrid in Cameroon and a targeted program for the study and conservation of the frogs of Mt Oku and particularly the Critically Endangered Lake Oku clawed frog (*Xenopus longipes*). Due to the imminent threat of the introduction of fish to Lake Oku, the only habitat of the *X. longipes*, fully quarantined rescue populations representing the genome of *X. longipes* have been established at London Zoo and Antwerp Zoo and these will be the subject of extensive conservation breeding research programs, including gene banking. Extensive field work was also completed by a British Museum of Natural History team on the caecilians of Cameroon.

### Communications/Development

- **The AArk 2008 YOTF campaign:**
  - A Linnean Society symposium on amphibians included talks on AArk by Gordon and Richard
  - The London Zoological Society symposium "Halting the Global Decline in Amphibians" was well attended with nearly 200 AArk partners from around the world. The keynote was delivered by YOTF patron [Sir David Attenborough](#), and presentation focused on both [threats](#) and solutions. Although a primary focus was obviously *ex situ* management, the press seemed particularly attracted to work specifically on [cryobiology](#), and *in situ* treatments. Most AArk staff, the entire Executive Committee, and several Steering Committee members were in attendance.
  - Jeff Corwin's "The Vanishing Frog" premiered on Animal Planet and featured AArk and our partners around the world, with some media coverage ([1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#)).
- **The AArk website:**
  - The site is now available to visitors in China (the previous server was banned by China), and work has begun on the Chinese versions of the web site. Two versions are being developed in parallel, one in Simplified Chinese and one in Traditional Chinese.
  - **Research pages:** We have started building a number of research pages on the [AArk portal](#), and these will grow over the coming weeks. Thanks to Robert Browne for compiling the data for these pages.
  - **Website languages:** [Spanish](#) and [German](#) are available with Chinese coming soon.
  - **InfoPack:** [Portuguese](#), [English](#), Chinese [traditional](#), Chinese [simplified](#), [Japanese](#), [German](#), [French](#), and [Spanish](#), are available. 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 [Kevin J](#). The AArk Mask (two versions in English and one in Japanese), and the AArk Banner (24x60inches) with the campaign slogan are also available for [download](#).

- **Online Petition:** An online petition urging politicians and parliaments of the world to commit resources for urgent global action is now available [online](#). The petition is available in English and German, and is currently being translated into Spanish. It is also available in [French](#) on the WAZA website. So far, **7,965** signatures have been received via the online petition.
- **Videos online:** A number of videos, including Jeff Corwin, Kevin Zippel and others are available [online](#). Sir David Attenborough records [interview](#) for YouTube. Jean-Michel Cousteau records [PSA](#) for YouTube.
- **News From the Zoos:** The new page [News From the Zoos](#) is ready for all regional associations who want to post information about their YOTF activities. Currently there are links to each region's web page but those who want AArk to create a new page for them please send the information to [Kevin J](#). You can also send to Kevin J the [names of the regional representatives](#) for the YOTF campaign if not listed on the website.
- **Visitors:** Site visitation has decreased just a wee bit this month.

Month	Visits	Month	Visits		
Oct-06	306	Jul-07	2,420	Jun-08	41,567
Nov-06	331	Sep-07	4,754	Jul-08	36,924
Dec-06	302	Oct-07	6,228	Aug-08	41,371
Jan-07	336	Nov-07	9,972	Sept-08	46,873
Feb-07	4,122	Dec-07	10,191	Oct-08	48,117
Mar-07	2,574	Jan-08	31,076	<b>Nov-08</b>	<b>48,080</b>
Apr-07	2,763	Feb-08	32,636		
May-07	2,816	Mar-08	20,716		
Jun-07	3,361	April 08	47,600		
Aug-07	4,587	May-08	47,864		

- **Fundraising and sponsorship**

- **NABT auction/dinner with Jean-Michel Cousteau raised \$5000 for AArk**
- The Amphibian Project is selling a number of items on [their site](#) to raise money for Africam Safari and their program to save the large-crested toad *Ollotis crisata*.
- Our wonderful friends at Froguts Inc. have very generously offered to give a free copy of their virtual dissection software to any interested AArk partner institutions. You can review the product at [www.froguts.com](#), and request your copy from David Hughes, Co-Founder Froguts Inc. [david@froguts.com](mailto:david@froguts.com).
- Business partners selling items and donating a percentage of the profits to AArk can be found in our online [shop](#). AArk now has an [account with MissionFish](#) to accept donations from eBay sellers, and also with [Network For Good](#) and [Just Give](#). [Check out one of our new artist partners on eBay](#).

- **From WAZA**

- Global Petition: As of 30 November a total of 46,126 signatures had been received by WAZA.
- The following amphibian-related projects did receive the WAZA Brand in November:
  - 08025 - Recreation of spawning ponds for amphibians in the Biosphere Reserve "Oberlausitzer Heath and Pond Area" (Axel Gebauer, Naturschutz-Tierpark Görlitz, Germany)
  - 08026 – *Ex situ*-breeding and reintroduction of native amphibians (Helmut Mägdefrau, Tiergarten Nürnberg, Germany)
  - 08027 – Management of amphibian habitats at Vechteae (Ina Brockmann, Tierpark Nordhorn, Germany)

- Projects 08020, 08021, 08022, 08025 and 08026 are on [www.waza.org](http://www.waza.org) since November.
- Guidelines for the keeping and breeding of *Tylototriton shanjing* have been prepared by Detlef Karbe of Cologne Zoo and are available on [www.zoodirektoren.de](http://www.zoodirektoren.de) (in German, with illustrations)
- The following WAZA-branded *in situ* projects in Germany and Switzerland are now presented on [www.zoodirektoren.de](http://www.zoodirektoren.de): 07007, 08002, 08007, 08014, 08016, 08020, 08022

## Travel and Workshop Schedule

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

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Meeting Description</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>AArk Staff, SC member, affiliates</b>
<b>DECEMBER 2008</b>			
8-9	Nat'l Council on Science and the Environment conference	Washington, DC, USA	Gagliardo, Mendelson, Rabb, Zippel
<b>January 2009</b>			
7-8	Indian conservation action plan	Mysore, INDIA	Molur, Zippel
TBD	husbandry workshop	BOLIVIA	Garcia
<b>FEBRUARY 2009</b>			
16-18	IMLS meeting	San Diego, CA, USA	TBD
TBD	prioritization workshop	INDONESIA	Johnson
TBD	husbandry workshop	INDONESIA	McFadden
<b>March 2009</b>			
22-29	Conservation training course at Nordens Ark	SWEDEN	Garcia, Gibson, Linden, Zippel
TBD	prioritization workshop	BRAZIL	Gibson, Johnson
TBD	husbandry workshop	BRAZIL	TBD
TBD	strategic planning workshop	Al Ain, UAE	TBD
<b>APRIL 2009</b>			
18-24	AZA Amphibian Biology & Management	Toledo, OH, USA	Gagliardo, Mendelson
TBD	species prioritization workshop	CAMEROON	Browne, Gibson
TBD	Advanced husbandry workshop	Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA	TBD
<b>August 2009</b>			
1-2	prioritization workshop	SRI LANKA	Gibson
3-11	husbandry workshop	SRI LANKA	Garcia, Gibson

## Acknowledgements 30 November 2008

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### **Up to \$50,000**

Chester Zoo  
Chicago Zoological Society  
The Clorox Company  
Columbus Zoo & Aquarium  
Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG)  
Saint Louis Zoo  
SeaWorld & Busch Gardens  
World Association of Zoos & Aquariums (WAZA)  
Zoological Society London

### **Up to \$10,000**

Allwetterzoo Münster  
ARAZPA  
James Bramsen  
Denver Zoo  
Fowler Printing & Graphics  
JAZA  
Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo  
Paignton Zoo  
The Living Desert  
Zoologischer Garten Leipzig  
Zoos South Australia

### **Up to \$5,000**

Al Ain Zoo & Aquarium  
American Frog Day 2007  
BIAZA  
Binder Park Zoological Society  
Blue Planet Aquarium  
Bristol Zoo Gardens  
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo & Cleveland Zoological Society  
Como Zoo  
Disney's Animal Kingdom & Animal Programs  
Galveston Chapter of the AAZK  
International Herpetological Symposium  
Marwell Zoological Park  
Nordens Ark  
North American Amphibian Conference  
Ocean Park Conservation Foundation  
Philadelphia Zoo  
Nick & Sue Pinder  
Rosamond Gifford Zoo  
Sedgwick County Zoo  
Singapore Zoo  
Tokyo Zoo Conservation Fund  
Toledo Zoo  
Toronto Zoo

Wildlife Conservation Society  
ZooAmerica & Ripley Entertainment  
Zoo Zurich

### **Up to \$1,000**

Barcelona Zoo  
Birmingham Zoo & Birmingham Zoo Chapter AAZK  
Brookfield Zoo AAZK  
Buffalo Zoo  
Cameron Park Zoo  
Digital Frog International  
EAZA  
Kansas City Zoo  
MARS Preservation Fund  
Minnesota Zoo  
Nashville Zoo  
New Mexico Bio Park Society  
Publishing Concepts, LLC- Missouri Meetings & Events  
Ryan & Christiana Reed  
Rochester Museum & Science Center  
Royal Veterinary College  
Zoological Society-London  
Sacramento Zoo  
San Francisco Zoological Society  
Staten Island Zoo  
Taipei Zoo  
Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo  
Universeum Gothenburg

### **Up to \$500**

John Adams  
Susan Anderson  
Anonymous  
Nicolas, Augie, & Aida Arms  
Dr. Andy Beckenbach  
Kara Blakeslee  
Darlene & Troy Bohanon  
Quinn & Tate Boyd-Mullineaux  
Richard Colwin Bryarly Jr.  
Stephany Burge  
Sky Button  
AJ Cann  
Chris & Dave Chadwick  
Chattanooga Zoo  
Chesapeake Chapter AAZK  
The Students at Child Craft Schools  
Clyde Peeling's Reptiland  
Coram Elementary School  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Meghan de Souza  
Detroit Zoo  
Nicole Duncan  
ED's Fly Meat  
Joseph Geever  
Stuart Haber in memory of Gus Kaufman  
M. Buffy Hodgetts  
Heribert Hofer  
Kirstin Hunter  
Johannesburg Zoo  
Jon Coe Design  
Vivian Kesterson  
Gary & Roberta Kirkland  
Frank Kling  
Lake Forest Academy-*The Spectator*  
Leon Zoo  
Janie & Rick Levis  
Luke, Mona, Heidi, & Meisha Lorge  
JoAn & Ian MacBryde  
Thomas Martin  
Marian Van Eyk McCain  
Miami Metrozoo's Volunteer's & Docents  
Laura & Paul Miller  
Joseph Miscimarra  
Geneve Monnes  
Marianne & Mike Murphy  
Natuurpunt Neerpelt  
Mariann Pancoe  
Lisette Pavajeau  
Donald Popham  
Pueblo Zoological Society  
Sage Rentfrow  
Roots & Shoots Club of Portland, OR  
Rosamond Gifford Zoo in honor of Kevin Zippel  
Claire Rosser  
SAAMBR  
St. John's College School & Ros Wombwell  
Heather St. Louis  
Noriaki Santo  
Scovill Zoo AAZK  
Jan Sealover  
Kelly Seals  
Remembering Nicole Seaman  
Sequoia Park Zoo Foundation  
Henry Siu  
Eliza Steffen

Diane Sutherland & Rodger Latch  
Gloria Svampa  
Jason Titus  
Tremont Elementary School  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
Univ. of Chicago Laboratory Schools-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Frog Club  
Remco van Poeke & Jetske de Boer  
Alistair Ward  
Douglas Widener  
In honor of Winona & Rupert Wisconsin Wetlands Association  
Jimmy Womack  
Katherine Wright  
Zoo New England  
Zoo Salzburg

### **Up to \$100**

Alta Vista Elementary  
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Mark Cain  
Robert & Monique Canonico  
William Chambley  
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Amy, Alyssa, & Matthew Paul  
Amanda Pekin  
Cynthia Petrella  
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Ashlynn Smart & Friends  
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Javier Williams  
Jenine Wilson  
Rosalind Wombwell  
Diana & Thomas Woods  
Gregory L. Wojtowicz  
Melissa Wojtylak in honor of  
Grace Anne  
Zachary Wright  
Dustin Wyant  
Scott Zippel

### **Up to \$25**

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Nicolas Barbieri  
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Patience Barney  
True Barney  
Trust Barney

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Lailah Estelle Battles  
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Sandra Maler	S.M. Vasich	James Gibbens	Samantha Rowland
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Linda Pellegrino	Erin Baldwin	Marcella Klein	Tami Wester
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Patrice Powers	Hayley Bault	Queenie Law	

***And through contributions  
in memory of beloved  
conservationist  
Mary Sughrue Rabb:***

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***And contributions in honor of  
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Illinois State Museum Staff Association  
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Liberty Prairie Conservancy  
Meredith Mahoney  
Bonnie Styles  
Guerry & Michelle Suggs  
Karen A. Witter



***And in memory of pioneering  
biochemist and amphibian biologist  
John Daly***

Ronald Gagliardo & Paul Huggett  
Vicky Poole  
Kevin Zippel & Lynn Kirkland

