



AMPHIBIAN ARK ACTIVITY REPORT

To: AArk stakeholders
From: Kevin Zippel, CBSG/WAZA Amphibian Program Officer Kevin@AmphibianArk.org
Subject: Monthly performance report for October 2006
Date: 31 October 2006

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

CURRENT

AArk Coordination

- AArk Bylaws and Protocol of Collaboration drafted
- Joe Mendelson agreed to be ASG representative on AArk Executive Committee
- reviewed another round of position descriptions for new AArk officers
- 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 industry newsletters, with Joe Mendelson targeting academic labs through SSAR's *Herp Review*

Taxon Survival Efforts

- planning spray toad PHVA in Tanzania; working on invitation letter, invite list, agenda, briefing book
- 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

Training & Other Capacity Building

- starting to compile course descriptions from different organizations to create *ala carte* menu of topics for future training courses
- possibly traveling to Ecuador 2-4 December to help teach amphibian management course
- working with Cali Zoo staff on agenda for their Colombian amphibian management course
- beginning to organize for 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
- working with Roberto Aguilar (Phoenix Zoo) and Alejandro Grajal (Brookfield Zoo) on national organization in Colombia and Venezuela

- talking to World Land Trust about their potential contributions to range-country capacity building

Communications/Development

- answering dozens of email/phone queries regarding amphibian conservation, program development, press, etc.
- talking with Peter Alexander (Biodiversity Project) about publicity campaigns
- wrote AArk summary for SSC Species 46
- submitted abstract for Zoos and Aquariums Committing to Conservation (ZACC) conference
- compiled info on AArk activities in Latin America for Yolanda Matamoros's article in *Pilares* for IUCN Mesoamerica
- reviewed article on amphibian declines for WCS magazine
- working with ZCOG on funding for Ecuador course
- wrote letter of support for amphibian grant application (applicant requested confidentiality)
- wrote letter to Newsweek editor regarding article on amphibians.
- 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

UPCOMING

Cornell Herpetological Society (Ithaca 6 November)

- present on amphibian extinction crisis and global response

Ecuador amphibian husbandry workshop (Quito 2-4 December)

- help Coloma lab lead workshop similar to AZA ABM course

Brookfield Zoo Amphibian Planning Session (Chicago 11 December?)

- help with short and long term plans for CZS amphibian strategies

Kihansi Spray Toad PHVA (Bagamoyo 8-11 January 2007?)

- help organize and execute PHVA

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

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

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

Nordens Ark Conservation Workshop (Hunnebostrand late March 2007)

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