
To: AArk Steering Committee
From: AArk Officers
Subject: AArk monthly activity report for September 2007
Date: 12 October 2007

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

General updates from the amphibian community

- Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp seeking [amphibian ex situ conservation post doc](#) to operate as AArk Research Officer.
- Laboratory Animal Science Association to host [1-day meeting](#) 22 November including lectures on lab amphibian management, genetics, and health issues.
- “Amphibian Declines and Chytridiomycosis: Translating Science into Urgent Action” conference to be held 5-7 November 2007 in Tempe, Arizona. [announcement](#) [invitation](#)
- ASG is still seeking an Executive Director (see announcement in [Froglog](#)).
- AZA releases [amphibian resource manual](#)

CURRENT

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

- Paul Van den Sande (AArk Steering Committee) and Sam Furrer are planning talks/activities at the European Union of Aquarium Curators to promote AArk/YOTF participation in that community.
- Ron Gagliardo (AArk Steering Committee) is drafting notices for BGCI listeserves and newsletters to promote AArk/YOTF participation in the Botanical Garden community.
- Kevin Z is working with appropriate regional representatives on partner database of Asian amphibian contacts to complement online Latin American version.
- Gerry Marantelli (AArk Steering Committee) traveled to Asian Society of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine Workshop in Taipei 30 August - 1 September to lead discussions of chytrid risk in Asia and help motivate and shape a regional response. Gerry and Kevin J did the same at the SEAZA Annual Meeting in Kuala Lumpur 2-6 September.

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

- Richard met with Graeme Gillespie and with subsequent email discussion among other members of the original team from Panama, agreed a ‘final’ format for the prioritisation tool with upgraded assessments of emerging threats.
- Richard and Kevin J 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.
- Richard and Durrell’s Gerardo Garcia have co-written the chapter on *ex situ* conservation for the Malagasy Amphibian Conservation Action Plan.

- Kevin J at the SEAZA Annual Meeting in Kuala Lumpur 2-6 September to encourage the South East Asian region to become more involved in amphibian conservation and to introduce species prioritization.
- Jorge Matamoros kindly translated the species prioritization tool into Spanish for us. The Spanish version will be used for the forthcoming Costa Rican, Venezuelan and Colombian prioritization meetings.
- AArk officers developing a plan for prioritization of workshops in Latin American countries with greatest numbers of threatened species. Plans are developing rapidly for prioritization workshops in Costa Rica, Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama.
- One or 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.
- Kevin Z working on final draft of Kihansi spray toad PHVA workshop final report.

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.
- Richard ran a 1-day theoretical and practical workshop at Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Jersey UK, with Durrell’s Gerardo Garcia on amphibian disease, biosecurity and field/lab handling and swabbing protocols for UK zoo and aquarium staff.
- Richard working with Durrell’s Gerardo Garcia and others to implement EAZA-wide amphibian husbandry training, designed to build capacity with EAZA institutions and beyond.
- Kevin Z is working with AVZA/ALPZA to plan training course at Valencia Aquarium.
- Kevin Z, and Joe Mendelson and Ron Gagliardo (both AArk Steering Committee) will instruct at 2nd 2007 AZA [Amphibian Biology & Management](#) course in Toledo 14-19 October.
- Sally Walker (AArk Steering Committee) will host/help coordinate Durrell [Amphibian Biodiversity Conservation](#) training course in India 10-16 December 2007.
- Mesoamerican training course in preparation through [AMACZOOA](#); more details coming soon.

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

- **The AArk 2008 YOTF campaign:** The campaign was launched internally to EAZA (Warsaw) and AZA (Philadelphia). The global launch will be 31 December 2007. Kevin J gave a presentation on YOTF at ARAZPA Education Specialist Advisory Group. Kevin Z gave presentations on AArk/YOTF at the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival to organizations including Animal Planet, Discovery Channel, National Geographic, and the Smithsonian. **Reminder to Steering Committee representatives:** please send Lisette the names of your regional representative for the YOTF campaign.
- **2008 IUCN Conference in Barcelona:** The deadline for the second round for submitting proposals for participating in the 2008 IUCN conference was September 30th. We sent two proposals: one for a short movie and a second one for a poster. We are waiting for an answer from the organizers.
- **Media Coverage month of September:** “*Amphibian Ark Project launched*” At the Japan Times Online Sept 12, 07. “*Scientists are trying to save amphibians by bringing them into captivity*” Kevin Zippel’s interview by the on-line magazine Plenty http://www.plentymag.com/features/2007/09/amphibian_ark.php
- **Give with Liberty:** Amphibian Ark has been added to the organizations eligible for donations under Liberty Mutual's employee’s campaign. Christiana Loew, a frog lover currently working for the insurance company signed up for a pledge, which Liberty Mutual will pay at the end of 2008, and will match \$0.50 per dollar donated. Thanks to Christiana!.



Translation of the web site and infopack: We received the German translation of the Amphibian Ark web site from volunteer Peter Janzen and it is almost ready <http://www.amphibianark.org/German/index.htm>. We already have volunteers to translate it to Spanish, Dutch, Chinese and Bahasa Malaysia. The Info Pack is already posted in Chinese on the web site and it is almost ready in Spanish and Japanese. Thank you for the volunteers!

- **Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders:** Kevin Zippel and Lissette Pavajeau are working with Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders team reviewing 12 applications on model program to raise awareness and funds to help 1 Latin American zoo to build capacity to save 1 priority species from extinction. The team is planning an AArk calendar as one of their fundraising tools.
- **IZY 42:** Kevin Z is working with Gordon Reid to co-edit an amphibian section in volume 42 of *International Zoo Yearbook* for early 2008.
 - AArk staff and Steering Committee members are collectively involved in 4 IZY manuscripts!
 - Gagliardo, Crump, Griffith, Mendelson, Ross, & Zippel - The principles of rapid response for amphibian conservation, using the programmes in Panama as an example.
 - Odum & Zippel - Amphibian water quality – modern approaches to an essential environmental parameter.
 - Pavajeau, Zippel, Gibson, & Johnson - Amphibian Ark and the 2008 Year of the Frog campaign.
 - Reid & Zippel - Can zoos and aquariums ensure the survival of amphibians in the 21st century?
- These monthly reports are now archived online at <http://amphibianark.org/monthlyreports.htm>
- Richard edited and updated the chytrid and chytridiomycosis ‘chapter’ for the AARK website.
- Kevin Z did [KQED Public Radio show interview](#)
- Everyone continues to answer dozens (hundreds?? many!) of email/phone queries regarding amphibian conservation, program development, press, proposal reviews, etc.

Travel and Workshop Schedule

Updated 11 October 2007

This schedule changes frequently; contact the [AARK Staff](#) for further details.

| Travel | Dates | Meeting Description | Location | CBSG Staff |
|-----------------------|----------|--|------------------------|------------------------------|
| OCTOBER 2007 | | | | |
| | 1-4 | European Union of Aquarium Curators Conference | Salzburg, AUSTRIA | Van den Sande |
| | 1-6 | Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival | Jackson Hole, WY, USA | Zippel |
| | 7-10 | 6 th International Zoo and Wildlife Research Conference | Berlin, GERMANY | Mendelson |
| | 14-19 | AZA Amphibian Biology and Management Course | Toledo, OH, USA | Zippel, Gagliardo, Mendelson |
| | 31-3 Nov | Costa Rica Species Prioritization Workshop | San Jose, COSTA RICA | Johnson |
| NOVEMBER 2007 | | | | |
| | 5-7 | PARC Chytrid Conference | Tempe, AZ, USA | Mendelson |
| | 19-25 | Venezuelan Amphibian Management Course | Valencia, VENEZUELA | Zippel |
| DECEMBER 2007 | | | | |
| | 10-11 | AArk Population Management Advisory Group Meeting | San Diego, CA, USA | Johnson and/or Gibson |
| JANUARY 2008 | | | | |
| | 16-18 | SEAZA Amphibian Workshop hosted by Zoo Negera | Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA | Johnson |
| | 31 | Wisconsin Wetlands Association Annual Conference | Oconomowoc, WI, USA | Zippel |
| FEBRUARY 2008 | | | | |
| MARCH 2008 | | | | |
| APRIL 2008 | | | | |
| | 12-18 | AZA Amphibian Biology & Management | Toledo, OH, USA | Zippel, Gagliardo, Mendelson |
| | 17 | Columbus Zoo/Ohio State University YOTF Event | Columbus, OH, USA | Zippel |
| MAY 2008 | | | | |
| JUNE 2008 | | | | |
| JULY 2008 | | | | |
| AUGUST 2008 | | | | |
| SEPTEMBER 2008 | | | | |
| OCTOBER 2008 | | | | |
| | 9 | CBSG Steering Committee Meeting | Adelaide, AUSTRALIA | |
| | 10-12 | CBSG Annual Meeting | Adelaide, AUSTRALIA | |
| | 12-16 | WAZA Annual Conference | Adelaide, AUSTRALIA | |
| NOVEMBER 2008 | | | | |
| DECEMBER 2008 | | | | |



amphibian ark
2008 YEAR OF THE FROG

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

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memory of beloved
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