



# MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

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**To:** AArk Steering Committee  
**From:** AArk Staff  
**Subject:** AArk monthly activity report for February 2008  
**Date:** 5 March 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

- “[Evidence for a fundamental and pervasive shift away from nature-based recreation](#)”
- Audio: [Frogs: A love story](#) from The Environment Report
- Video: [Frogs – A sticky situation](#) from Planet Bonehead

### Meetings

- Oregon Zoo to host 7 April [workshop](#) on regional amphibian declines with emphasis on habitat management.
- 6<sup>th</sup> World [Congress](#) of Herpetology in Brazil 17-22 August
- VIII Latin-American [Congress](#) of Herpetology in Cuba 24-29 November

### Funding available

- AZA announces [CEF Amphibian Fund](#), due 4 April 2008. This program is now backed by a \$250,000 donation from Disney –apply now!
- 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.
- With the extinction of Panamanian golden frogs in the wild, [Project Golden Frog](#) has created the [Atelopus Conservation Trust](#) and is offering \$5,000 grants to support conservation management and research of any species of *Atelopus*. Applications are due 1 July 2008.

### Funding needed

- For species rescues in eastern Panama ([Houston budget proposal](#))
- For species prioritization workshops in Panama, India, Sri Lanka, Peru, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Thailand.
- For workshops and facilities in [Costa Rica](#).
- AVZA (Venezuelan zoo association) seeks \$2,000 to develop amphibian-specific educational posters and coloring books for school children.
- For AArk officer support, including 25% Taxon Officer Kevin J, 50% YOTF Campaign Manager Lesley, 50% Program Director Kevin Z, and any/all of a Training Officer.

### Vacancies

- Philadelphia Zoo still seeks [Curator of Amphibians](#).
- Detroit Zoo seeks Curator of Amphibians (starting in April 2008).

*Amphibian Ark is a partnership between the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG), and IUCN/SSC Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG).*

## CURRENT

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

- Put final touches on article proof for hobbyist periodical *Reptiles Magazine* to raise awareness among that group, including their potential impact on and contributions to amphibian conservation.
- Will attend and present at regional association annual conferences for ARAZPA and SZB in March to promote YOTF.
- Collectively we are defining work list for new AArk Research Officer Robert Browne, appointed through Antwerp Zoological Society.
- Also trying to determine logistics for global distribution of free bleach – please get back to me as soon as possible with your needs: quantity and frequency!
- Vast majority of AArk coordination efforts going into enabling partners for the YOTF campaign and various capacity building efforts.

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

- Luis Carrillo led a species prioritization workshop in Mexico 18-20 February. Thanks to Africam Safari and AArk for support.
- Completed versions of the prioritization data from various workshops are available on the [Amphibian Ark portal](#).
- Richard is planning to lead a prioritization workshop in South Africa, possibly in April.
- Kevin J is planning to lead prioritization workshops in Indonesia, Thailand and Hong Kong possibly in April/May.
- Richard will be working with ASG on amphibian conservation activities at the 6<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Herpetology in Manaus.
- CBSG office putting final touches on Kihansi spray toad PHVA.

### **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 Chester are doing for others.
- On February 11, an amphibian training course for zoo educators organized by VZP took place at Cologne Zoo.
- On February 12, 63 people (including 8 lecturers) participated in an Amphibian Workshop, which took place at Monschau. The Workshop was jointly organized by DWV and DGT and with participation of WAZA, DGHT, BdZ (zoo keepers association) and VZP (zoo educators association) as a follow-up to the Chemnitz Training Course 2007.
- 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.
- Tentative plans are being made for a husbandry workshop in Johannesburg in April 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, and to Zoos Victoria and Columbus Zoo for financial sponsorship of Mr. Zhang Gaofeng, representative of the Chinese Association of Zoological Gardens (CAZG) from Beijing Zoo.
- 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.

### **Communications/Development** (compiled by YOTF Global Campaign Manager [Lesley Dickie](#))

- **The AArk 2008 YOTF campaign:**

- After Lesley gave a presentation at the Royal Veterinary College, London, UK, the student Zoological Society has set up a small grant programme for any RVC student to undertake amphibian related research as part of their degree. Lesley to liaise with new AArk Research Officer to help direct the kind of projects most suitable and useful.
- Lesley has received some updates from zoos around the world in February and will be contacting all regional coordinators to solicit feedback on the Leap Day activities – images of events and activities are always extremely helpful.
- Liaising with Frozen Ark colleagues at ZSL over possible amphibian materials for the ARK.
- The British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums, in conjunction with the All-Party Zoo and Aquarium Interest Group of the UK Parliament, had a frog conference on the 26<sup>th</sup> February at the Palace of Westminster. Lesley and Gordon Reid both gave presentations and Lesley brought a frog and toad from London Zoo for the politicians to meet. Charles Walker MP, the Chair of the All-Party Group, was very pleased with the event and also the tremendous response to the Early Day Motion, which now has 261 supporting signatures. This is the second highest EDM of the more than 1100 EDM's and EDM amendments of the 2007/08 session. Mr Walker hopes to bring the amphibian extinction crisis to full parliamentary debate in relation to the appropriate UK government response. Congratulations to Miranda Stevenson and team at BIAZA for working with Mr Walker on advancing political support in the UK for the Year of the Frog!
- Lesley gave a presentation on Amphibian Ark and the YOTF at a members event in ZSL London Zoo, distributed further information and had many willing signatories for the petition.
- Lesley met with ZSL herpetology colleagues and an events team to investigate organizing a 2008 Year of the Frog 'ball' in London in November 2008. This is progressing well.
- Possible HOPart event at zoos around the world discussed with colleagues at IUCN Asia. IUCN Asia have developed the HOPart idea and are liaising with AArk to see how this can be progressed to locations.
- Negotiations with four publishing companies over various book deals highlighting Amphibian Ark, to be sold globally with a percentage of monies donated to AArk are ongoing.
- T-shirt designs have now been supplied from Peace Frogs, a US based ethical clothing manufacturer, and hopefully will go into production very soon. Lesley is looking at a few other possible products.
- Lesley supplied Amphibian Ark updates to AZA Amphibian Newsletter.

- **The AArk website:**

- **Website languages:** [Spanish](#) and [German](#) are available with Chinese coming soon.
- **InfoPack:** [Portuguese](#), [English](#), Chinese [traditional](#), Chinese [simplified](#), [Japanese](#), [German](#) and [Spanish](#), are available with French promised soon. 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), 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.
- **Videos online:** A number of videos, including Jeff Corwin, Kevin Zippel and others are available

[online](#). Additional sound files and other videos are being added regularly.

- A new AArk Shop has been created on the web site, and it features a number of books and other products, with the associated companies donating a percentage of the profits to the AArk.
- **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 [Lesley](#). You can also send to Lesley the [names of the regional representatives](#) for the YOTF campaign if not listed on the website.
- **Visitors:** Site visitation dropped off a little last month, after a new all-time high in January.

Month	Visits	Month	Visits
Oct-06	306	Jul-07	2,420
Nov-06	331	Aug-07	4,587
Dec-06	302	Sep-07	4,754
Jan-07	336	Oct-07	6,228
Feb-07	4,122	Nov-07	9,972
Mar-07	2,574	Dec-07	10,191
Apr-07	2,763	Jan-08	31,076
May-07	2,816	Feb-08	32,636
Jun-07	3,361		

The most visted page, not surprisingly, was the Year of the Frog page, and from this, the most downloaded file was the Global Info Pack. These two pages accounted for 14% of the number of page hits during February.

- **Web site move:** All files on the AArk web site and ftp sites have been moved to a new, much cheaper internet service provider in Australia. The switch should be completely seamless and will take place after the Leap Day /weekend activities.
- **Fundraising and sponsorship**
  - 10 frog call ringtones are available for sale via the AArk web site - [http://www.amphibianark.org/ringtone\\_code.html](http://www.amphibianark.org/ringtone_code.html) . Currently, these are only available for phone carriers in the US and Canada, but it is hoped that they will be available in other countries soon.
  - **2008 Year of the Frog calendar:** 2008 YOTF calendars can be purchased [online](#) using pay-pal (only for the US). For orders to be shipped outside of the U.S. please contact [Elizabeth](#) at CBSG.
  - 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. Lesley is liaising with HOPart partners to investigate zoo involvement as auction venues worldwide.
  - Business partners selling items and donating a percentage of the profits to AArk can be found in our online shop.
  - 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.
- Some of us working with Jeff Corwin and Animal Planet on an amphibian special.
- 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.

## 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>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
22	Rosamond Gifford Zoo YOTF event	Syracuse, NY, USA	Zippel
TBD	Prioritization and husbandry workshops	Johannesburg, SOUTH AFRICA	Gibson
<b>MAY 2008</b>			
4-9	ALPZA XV Congress	Quito, ECUADOR	Sarmiento, Zippel?
TBD	Prioritization workshop	Hong Kong	Johnson
TBD	Prioritization workshop	Indonesia	Johnson
TBD	Prioritization workshop	Thailand	Johnson
<b>JUNE 2008</b>			
6-8	North American Amphibian Conference	Erving, MA, USA	Zippel
18-20	Trier University Symposium: Cryobanks	Trier, GERMANY	Reid, Ryder
18-21	International Herpetological Symposium	Nashville, TN, USA	Zippel
27-29	Amphibian training seminar	Stuttgart, GERMANY	Dollinger?
<b>JULY 2008</b>			
26-27	amphibian weekend at The Wild Center	Tupper Lake, NY, USA	Zippel
<b>AUGUST 2008</b>			
17-22	6th World Congress of Herpetology	Manaus, BRAZIL	Gibson
<b>SEPTEMBER 2008</b>			
<b>OCTOBER 2008</b>			
17	NABT National Conference	Memphis, TN, USA	
16-19	CBSG Annual Meeting	Adelaide, AUSTRALIA	Bonner, Dickie, Johnson, Zippel
19-23	WAZA Annual Conference	Adelaide, AUSTRALIA	Bonner, Dickie, Johnson, Zippel
28	Chicago Zoological Society lecture series YOTF Event	Chicago, IL, USA	Zippel
<b>NOVEMBER 2008</b>			
6	Frog Symposium Meeting, Linnean Society of London	London, ENGLAND	Gibson?
8-14	AZA Amphibian Biology & Management	Toledo, OH, USA	Gagliardo, Mendelson, Zippel
20-21	Frog symposium, Zoological Society of London	London, ENGLAND	Bonner, Dickie, Gibson, Zippel
24-29	VIII Latin-American Congress of Herpetology	Topes de Collantes, CUBA	Sarmiento
<b>DECEMBER 2008</b>			



# MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

## Acknowledgements 29 February 2008

*The work of AArk is possible due to the generous support of the following individuals and institutions:*

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

Conservation Breeding  
Specialist Group (CBSG)  
Chicago Zoological Society  
SeaWorld & Busch Gardens  
World Association of Zoos  
& Aquariums (WAZA)  
Zoological Society London

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

Allwetterzoo Münster  
James Bramsen  
Chester Zoo  
Columbus Zoo & Aquarium  
Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo  
Paignton Zoo  
Saint Louis Zoo  
The Living Desert  
Zoologischer Garten Leipzig

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

Al Ain Zoo & Aquarium  
American Frog Day 2007  
Binder Park Zoological  
Society  
Bristol Zoo Gardens  
Denver Zoo  
Disney's Animal Kingdom  
& Animal Programs  
Marwell Zoological Park  
New Mexico Bio Park  
Society, Inc.  
Nordens Ark  
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### **Up to \$1,000**

BIAZA  
Birmingham Zoo &  
Birmingham Zoo Chapter  
AAZK  
Buffalo Zoo  
Cameron Park Zoo  
Kansas City Zoo  
MARS Preservation Fund  
Minnesota Zoo  
Rosamond Gifford Zoo  
Sacramento Zoo  
San Francisco Zoological  
Society  
Staten Island Zoo  
Taipei Zoo

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

John Adams  
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Anonymous in honor of  
Winona & Rupert  
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Richard Colwin Bryarly Jr.  
Stephany Burge  
Chris & Dave Chadwick  
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Gus Kaufman  
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Jan Sealover

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

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

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