

# Indian Zoo Educators leaping for Amphibian Conservation at Bhopal Workshop

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The Second "National Workshop for Zoo Educators on Conservation Education" was held at Bhopal from 27 Feb-1 March 2012. Twenty-four participants from 22 Indian zoos participated in the training workshop. Most of them were education staff and a few other staff holding education subject as well.

Since 29 February fell in between the workshop dates, we arranged a Leap Day 2012 to promote successes in the conservation of amphibians *in situ* and *ex situ* entitled "Leaping Ahead of Extinction". AArk is the joint effort of World Association of Zoos and Aquariums WAZA, Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, SSC/IUCN CBSG and Amphibian Specialist Group ASG, SSC/IUCN. Zoo Outreach Organization has strong links with all.

Though South Asian Zoos in general don't keep amphibians in captivity for conservation breeding, ZOO promoted this activity in South Asian region to create awareness among public why we have to conserve amphibians by publishing and supplying education materials. Materials demonstrated at the CZA training were AArk leap day poster, South Asian Amphibian poster, colouring book, amphibian packets and masks to the organizers of the programme in this region. Among ZOO's educator contacts, sixteen institutions/persons conducted programmes for large groups of visitors in order to create awareness on amphibian conservation.

In the CZA Educators workshop, ZOO Education Officer gave a presentation on amphibians. It included kinds of amphibians, their habitats, their importance to ecosystems. He also included the global amphibian crisis, the chytrid fungus, and Global Amphibian Assessments using the Red List. In 2008 a leap day activity was organised and again this leap year which he used as a platform for demonstrating how to capture the interest of children.

ZOO's various amphibian education materials and activities since 2007 were demonstrated, e.g., how to use these materials at their own zoo to teach about amphibian conservation in a variety of audiences. Subsequently they participated in amphibian exercises and learned new techniques, including how to be part of international environmental activities.



ZOO's amphibian education materials explained to the participants



Indian Zoo Educators leaping ahead for saving amphibians



Participants with AArk logo mask

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