

AArk — Amphibian Ark Activities round the world



**CBSG, Conservation
Breeding Specialist
Group IUCN SSC**



**WAZA, World
Association of Zoos and
Aquaria**



After clearing initial worries that AArk was going to require member Zoo Associations and zoos to breed amphibians, ANSA, CBSG, South Asia, SAZARC, SANIZE and of course ZOO & WILD have jumped aboard the ark with both feet and are hot into the planning of a South Asian education programme (announced in October ZOOS' PRINT - AArk EPSA), a training with DICE & DWPT cum network activity planning workshop for December sometime, and the release of the finalised South Asia CAMP Workshop information soon. The South Asia Amphibian CAMP was conducted in 2002 in association with the IUCN SSC global assessment programme for amphibians GAA. In rationalising the data and assessment style / standardisation between the two exercises and organisations, and taking on board a whole new taxonomic nomenclature, the final product has been delayed. The final Report would be so large as to diminish too many trees so it will appear in bits, first the Taxon Data Sheets uploaded on to the Threatened Taxa Monitoring System TTMS <www.southasiantaxa.org> and analysis coming later. A Summary of the information and some analysis will be brought out in connection with the education programme. CBSG, WAZA and ASG ran a pre-Steering Committee meeting 15-16 Feb in Atlanta, Ga. to discuss various issues with the zoo regional associations. South Asia was represented by SAZARC Director although Sanjay Molur, Convenor of ANSA and a SAZARC technical advisor is actually the Steering Committee representative due to economic considerations.

The following are reports of activities from CBSG and WAZA. A report of the AArk Steering Committee will be published in a subsequent issue.

Report to the AARK Steering Committee on WAZA Executive Office Activities



WAZA Branding of Amphibian-related Projects

Since the New York Annual Meeting, October 2005) the WAZA Executive Office tried to actively recruit amphibian-related conservation projects for WAZA-branding with the result that the number of such projects increased from only one to nine:

- 05001 – Hellbender Conservation Center, USA (R Goellner, St. Louis Zoo)
- 05031 – Perth Zoo Frog Breeding and Research: A Safety Net for WA Frogs (Susan Hunt, Perth Zoo)
- 6001 – Research on the Tomato Frog in Madagascar (Franco Andreone, Torino University)
- 6002 – The Puerto Rican Crested Toad Species Survival Plan (Jeff Ettling, St. Louis Zoo)
- 06005 – Golden Frog Project (Alberto Mendoza, Houston Zoo)
- 06008 – Reproductive Variation in Common Southeast Asian frogs (Charlene Yeong, Singapore Zoo)
- 06017 – Conservation of Amphibians in Valle de Cauca, South-west Colombia (Sam Furrer, Zoo Zürich)
- 06019 – Green Toad Project (Christer Larsson, Nordens Ark)
- 06027 – Conservation of Endangered Taipei Frog (Hwa-Ching Lin, Taipei Zoo)

In addition, there are some area-related projects, which are of interest in the amphibian context:

- 04018 – The Bosawas MesoAmerican Conservation Center (Cheryl Asa, St. Louis Zoo)
- 05012 – The Masoala Project (Alex Rübel, Zurich Zoo/WCS)
- 05015 – Protection and Management of Betampona Reserve (Alex Rübel, Zurich Zoo/MFG)

All these projects are presented on the WAZA website. Short articles appeared in the WAZA News 1/2006 on projects 06001, 06002 and 06005, and in the WAZA News 3/2006 on 06019. Project Nr. 06001 was financially

supported with CHF 3,152 (=2,600 USD). Project 06005 received 2,484 CHF (=2,000 USD).

Funding was made available by Chester Zoo for subsidising an Amphibian issue of the WAZA Magazine, which hopefully will appear in 2007.

Amphibian Ark Page on www.waza.org

Amphibian Ark pages were created in the Conservation Campaigns Section (in English and German), containing an article calling for action, links to press releases, branded projects, and the amphibian section of the Virtual Zoo, and the download of an article in WAZA's journal *Der Zoologische Garten* (pdf).

End September, a direct link from the homepage to the Conservation Campaigns Section was made (through a *Litoria* picture). The difference in visitation was striking, although overall numbers are low in comparison to the Virtual Zoo, Zoos and Aquariums of the World, Conservation Projects, or WZACS.

Amphibians on Virtual Zoo - www.waza.org

Virtual Zoo was opened in June 2006 with 265 species, of which only 8 were amphibians. In September, we started preparing the second phase, which originally was intended to comprise 190 species including 17 amphibians, bringing the total of amphibian species to 25. As a matter of fact, the second phase will become larger. In particular we expect the amphibian collection to grow to about 40 species. In addition we have photographic material on another ca. 50 species although not enough for presenting these species in the zoo. As of January 10, the following species data sheets were online:

1. *Ambystoma mexicanum* (Axolotl)
2. *Ambystoma tigrinum* (Tiger salamander)
3. *Atelopus zeteki* (Golden Frog)
4. *Bufo alvarius* (Colorado River Toad)
5. *Bufo bufo* (Common Toad)
6. *Bufo calamita* (Natterjack Toad)
7. *Bufo marinus* (Cane Toad)
8. *Bufo viridis* (Green Toad)
9. *Cryptobranchus alleganiensis* (Hellbender)
10. *Dendrobates auratus* (Green Poison Frog)
11. *Dendrobates azureus* (Blue Poison frog)
12. *Dendrobates pumilio* (Strawberry Poison Frog)
13. *Dyscophus antongilii* (Tomato Frog)
14. *Peltophryne lemur* (Puerto Rican Crested Toad)
15. *Rana taipehensis* (Taipei Frog)
16. *Salamandra atra* (Alpine salamander)
17. *Salamandra salamandra* (Fire salamander)
18. *Triturus alpestris* (Alpine newt)
19. *Typhlonectes natans* (Rio Cauca caecilian)

For species in bold fonts, there is a WAZA-branded project, which is linked to the species sheet and vice versa. In the case of nine species, there are also links to exhibits presented at www.zoolex.org.

AMPHIBIAN ARK ACTIVITY REPORT from the CBSG office

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February Report



General updates from the amphibian community

- chytrid arrived in Japan and Cuba
- Amphibian Research Centre posts info on containers <http://frogs.org.au/arc/container.php>
- ASG launches new website <http://www.amphibians.org/>
- Sabin Award for Amphibian Conservation http://www.amphibians.org/latest_news.php

CURRENT

AArk Coordination

- planning AArk pre-Steering Committee organizational meeting in Atlanta 15-16 February (agenda, draft plans for conservation, publicity, fundraising, and press release)
- reviewing 50 applications for new AArk officer positions, talking to referees, etc.; Communications & Development Officer hired (see below), Taxon Officer still under discussion, and Training Officer delayed ~1 month until remaining pledges are collected
- working with Treewalkers International to help organize US private sector, planning to bring in diverse representation from global private sector; trying to bring in TSA to advise
- talking to Bill Zeigler (TSA, IUCN TFWTSG & CSG) on organizational strategies
- 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 the American Public Garden Association's *The Public Garden*, with Joe Mendelson targeting academic labs through SSAR's *Herp Review*

Taxon Survival Efforts

- preparing for spray toad PHVA; working with LKEMP on contract and issues paper; keepers at Toledo and Bronx working on husbandry manual and facility recommendations
- working with Don Church & Mike Hoffman (CI/IUCN) to filter GAA data and allow *ex situ* community to determine which of the 443 EW/CR taxa really require *ex situ* intervention; this list should be available within days
- discussing with Houston Zoo possibility for a national recovery strategy meeting in Panama
- Project Golden Frog reinventing itself now that our focal species is going extinct; future funds will likely be offered as grants to other investigators working with other *Atelopus* species