

it is changing

3. Development and implementation of long-term conservation programmes
4. Emergency responses to immediate crises

Supporting a network of amphibian experts

The ACAP cannot be implemented without a global network of scientists and conservationists who work on amphibians. To date, the IUCN Species Survival Commission (IUCN/SSC) has focused on decline-related research through the Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force (DAPTF), on promoting conservation through the Global Amphibian Specialist Group (GASG), and on monitoring and assessments through an informal network of scientists contributing data to the GAA. All three of these programmes have made significant achievements, but all of them are also struggling for resources, and are based on broadly the same network of experts. In view of the extraordinary nature of the crisis facing amphibians, the IUCN/SSC should bring these three programmes together in a single Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG) focused on

conservation, research and assessment. The ASG needs to have sufficient resources and finances to lead the implementation of the ACAP.

Conclusion

The Amphibian Conservation Action Plan is the most ambitious programme ever developed to combat the extinction of species. This response is necessary because the amphibian extinction crisis is unlike anything that the modern world has previously experienced, and a large proportion of amphibian diversity remains undocumented. The ACAP requires the international community to enter uncharted territory and to take great risks. But the risks of inaction are even greater. The Amphibian Conservation Summit calls on all governments, corporations, civil society and the scientific community to respond to this crisis. There needs to be unprecedented commitment to implementing the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan with accompanying changes in international and local environmental policies that affect this class of vertebrate animals. They are indeed canaries in the global coalmine.

Second : CBSG Chair heard presentation of Simon Stuart and an AZA meeting in May and Convened a special Conservation Breeding Specialist Group Amphibian Crisis Response Workshop, 4 May 2005

Robert Lacy, CBSG Chair, updated the workshop participants in the global amphibian crisis using Simon Stuart's PowerPoint presentation on the analysis resulting from the Global Amphibian Crisis and distributed copies of the same.

As many as 1000 species could be lost over the next handful of years because of the chytrid fungus that no one knows how to stop. Only zoos or other *ex situ* centers may be able to save many of these species. If zoos are not prepared to step up to the plate then they should be ashamed. There are real possibilities for financial support (possibly GEF funding) for zoos in the effort with zoos providing the breeding expertise.

He presented the question facing CBSG as what are the things CBSG must do to address this crisis immediately? What role can we play?

Graham Gillespie (Zoos Victoria) commented that the cry of amphibian decline that has been heard for years but the response has been mostly crisis management and opportunistic action. Opportunity for zoos to respond is minimal because many amphibian species are difficult to manage. Action planning must be strategic.

Susan Hunt (Perth Zoo) related that her zoo has a lot of expertise and experience. They want to and will help. She requested guidance about where we should focus our efforts in order to respond most effectively to the crisis.

CBSG needs to assist with identification of priority species for conservation breeding. CBSG needs to provide amphibian release and disease protocols before you can consider release. CBSG's role is to: give this crisis a platform

CBSG could convene a meeting to pull together the husbandry knowledge in a collective, strategic rather than individual approach; bring stakeholders together. Chris Banks informed that there are 3 efforts on going to collate amphibian husbandry guidelines.

CBSG has to step up to the plate and call for an emergency meeting. There is little time and it is critical to respond immediately.

Jonathan Wilken suggests that we commit the entire CBSG Annual Meeting to this issue. Brad will contact Ted Beattie to get him to chair this issue. Alex has offered to host an international zoo conference on this issue. AZA, EAZA & WAZA need to focus on this at their next meetings.

CBSG will contact the Amphibian Recovery and Conservation Coalition about how we can best serve them. We need a hotline so that individual zoos can get the information they need to obtain and keep the top priority species.

There will be an official call to action; Simon Stuart will write a letter (have Achim Steiner to write to Bob Lacy making it an official call to action for the zoo community).

