

2008

YEAR OF THE

FROG

GET INVOLVED!
AMPHIBIAN
CONSERVATION
PROJECTS NEED
YOUR HELP



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Amphibian conservation projects across the U.S. and around the world need support. AZA's Amphibian Conservation Monthly Reports (www.aza.org/ConScience/Amphibians_Intro/) feature "Calls to Action" from projects seeking assistance. Requests range from time-sensitive opportunities, such as seasonal surveying positions and requests for comments on regulatory issues, to on-going needs. Browse the list below and get involved!

SUPPORT THE AXOLOTL'S RECOVERY

The axolotl salamander (*Ambystoma mexicanum*) is a critically endangered salamander found only in Lake Xochimilco in Mexico City, Mexico. A multi-disciplinary, stakeholder-driven conservation plan with an itemized budget and input from the Toronto Zoo was developed in January 2007. You can support this plan by funding any of its components, such as: a project coordinator (\$22,000/year), long-term monitoring stations (\$20,000), in-country captive breeding research (\$3,000), genetic variability research (\$2,500), water quality analyses (\$15,000), environmental education workshops (\$2,800), curriculum development (\$4,500), educational opportunities for fishermen and boat operators (\$3,000), or other projects. For more information or to pledge your support, contact Bob Johnson (bjohnson@torontozoo.ca).

PANAMANIAN AMPHIBIAN RESCUE CENTERS

The quarantine, treatment and captive breeding portion of the El Valle Amphibian Conservation Center (EVACC) is up and running in Panama. The goal now is threefold: to complete collection efforts and monitor the advance of chytrid in the El Valle region, to extend collection east of the Panama Canal, and to complete construction of the public exhibit area before year's end. Estimated costs for the exhibits' electrical, plumbing, and graphics are approximately \$25,000. As construction in El Valle de Anton comes to a close, the Houston Zoo and the Summit Nature Park will collaborate on a satellite facility at the park outside Panama City. Plans are to build enclosures within a fully-outfitted, 40-foot shipping container, as has been done by Australian herpetologists. In addition to holding anticipated surplus animals from the EVACC, this facility will also hold amphibian species that will be collected from east of the Panama Canal. It is estimated that this unit will cost \$25,000 to complete.

Institutions or individuals interested in supporting these initiatives can log on to www.houstonzoo.org/en/cms/?2149 or contact Peter Riger, Manager of Field Conservation Programs at the Houston Zoo (priger@houstonzoo.org).



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SALAMANDER CONSERVATION WITH AZA-ACCREDITED MEXICAN PARTNER

With 362 recognized species, 62 percent of which are endemic, Mexico is rich in amphibian diversity. This gift poses a conservation challenge: two-thirds of Mexico's 135 salamanders are threatened with extinction.

Africam Safari's salamander project will focus on 10 species from the Mexican central plateau that are either endangered or classified as data deficient by the IUCN. The objective is to bring them into captive breeding programs while carrying out field research and conservation. In order to accomplish this, we need to procure and equip biosecure containers to be used as breeding units, develop sound education and conservation programs, as well as support projects in the field. For more information contact Luis Carrillo, curator of reptiles and amphibians at Africam Safari (lcarrillo@africamsafari.com.mx).

AMPHIBIAN CONSERVATION COURSE IN INDIA

A seven-day *Amphibian Biodiversity Course (ABC) India* will be held in the Periyar Tiger Reserve, Kerala State, South India 10-16 December 2007. The course is geared toward amphibian biologists working in the field, managers working in captive breeding centers (curators and keepers), and university lecturers. The Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust's International Training Centre will lead the course and is seeking donations of equipment that can be left at the Reserve for ongoing research in the region after they leave. Equipment needs include: a digital camera, binocular microscope, kits of visual implant elastomers (VIE), kits of implanting microchips, temperature dataloggers, an infrared reader of temperature, and dissection kits for post-mortem. They would like to have 6-8 of each kit to be shared among 20-25 students. For more information or to make a donation, contact Jamie Copesey at Jamie.Copesey@durrell.org.