

In terms of amphibian species diversity, Costa Rica is 19th in the world. But considering the small size of the country, it hardly seems fair to compare it to Brazil, Colombia, etc. When the numbers are corrected to a per-square-kilometer basis, it is quickly apparent that Costa Rica is indeed the richest country in the world for amphibians. And these amphibians need help. Even without correcting for land area, Costa Rica ranks in the top 20 for countries with the most threatened species and highest percentage of threatened species.

Fortunately, there are 2 projects underway in Costa Rica, projects that desperately need outside help.

1. The Simon Bolivar Zoo in San Jose is planning a considerable facility for ex situ conservation of amphibians and looking for outside support. Their proposal can be seen here www.amphibianark.org/Kevin/6%20Costa%20Rica.doc. They are also planning a Mesoamerican workshop for husbandry training and conservation strategy planning and are seeking help with that as well; see www.amphibianark.org/Kevin/AMACZOOA%20Proposal.doc. Zoo director Yolanda Matamoros can be reached at fundazoo@ice.co.cr.

2. Brian Kubicki runs a private facility in Guayacán called the Costa Rican Amphibian Research Center (see www.cramphibian.com). There are 66 amphibian species on his site, making it the richest in Costa Rica and one of the richest in the world (see www.amphibianark.org/Kevin/Amphibians-of-Guayacan.pdf). Brian is a world authority on glass frogs (see <http://www.amphibianark.org/pdf/PORTADA-final.pdf>) and is looking for long-term support for his studies of this group (see www.amphibianark.org/Kevin/Glass_Frog_Project.pdf), which are currently funded only through 2008. He is also planning a new program for the Critically Endangered *Duellmanohyla uranochroa*, recently re-discovered near his site. He can be reached at centrolenid@yahoo.com.

Costa Rica is rich in amphibian diversity but still reeling from the wrath of Bd, and the continuing effects of habitat loss and climate change. They need considerable range-country facilities for amphibians, as EVACC is in western Panama. Who will be the next Houston Zoo and make this happen for Costa Rica?

Thanks for considering this, and for spreading the word to others who might be able to help.

Regards, Kevin

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www.AmphibianArk.org

*It seems to me that if you wait until the frogs and toads
have croaked their last to take some action,
you've missed the point. - Kermit the Frog*