

# Amphibian Conservation Husbandry (ACH) 2008

## “Training the trainers”

A course for amphibian keepers and captive population managers

25<sup>th</sup> Feb- 7<sup>th</sup> March 2008



### What is ACH?

Amphibian Conservation Husbandry (ACH) is a 12 day course designed by Durrell and Chester Zoo staff for keepers/animal managers concerned with amphibian conservation. The aim is to expose participants to the latest theory and practice of amphibian conservation husbandry and equip them with the skills necessary to manage their own populations to the highest standards. This first iteration is designed to also equip participants with the skills and material to be able to run further training courses/seminars on their return home.

### Why is it needed?

Several amphibians have been saved from the brink of extinction with the support of captive populations; but much more work needs to be done. Captive facilities are being called upon to play a vital role in current amphibian conservation efforts. To meet this challenge, high standards of care, reproductive management and strong biosecurity protocols will be needed.



This experience does exist but must be disseminated if the critical mass required to contend with the

global amphibian crisis is to be achieved. By bringing together both participants from within the zoo community and captive amphibian husbandry and conservation experts the ACH course will help to meet this objective.

Participants will develop new skills and understanding placing them in an ideal position to develop their institution's contribution to global amphibian conservation initiatives.

### Who is it for?

ACH is designed primarily for curators, keepers and veterinarians involved in the captive management of amphibian populations within European zoological institutions. Educators concerned with raising awareness and understanding of amphibian conservation issues will also be welcome.

Trained individuals can make a difference but only with the support of their organisations; this course is for staff working for institutions that can demonstrate how the skills acquired by the participants will further their conservation work.

Participants on ACH “Training the trainers” will be expected to run their own training events within their region after the course to ensure that the learning is disseminated



Europe-wide. All course materials will be made available for this purpose as well as advice from experienced training staff on how to structure such courses/seminars.

Applicants from beyond Europe will be welcomed, particularly when there is a clear link with the amphibian conservation work being conducted within the region.

### **Where is ACH being run?**

The ACH course will be launched at The Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Jersey, British Channel Islands. Based at Durrell's International Training Centre (ITC) the course will be run in conjunction with the Herpetological and Veterinary Departments where some of the practical sessions will be taught.



The ITC has trained over 1500 conservationists in endangered species management and conservation from 119 countries over the last 20 years. For the ACH course the ITC will draw on Durrell Wildlife's extensive in-house experience in managing amphibian species from the Caribbean, Mediterranean, Indian Ocean and Australia, as well as on the island of Jersey itself, both *in-situ* and *ex-situ* at our world-famous headquarters.



Chester Zoo staff have recent field experience working on amphibian projects in Europe, the Caribbean and the Americas with the emphasis of linking *ex-situ* and *in-situ* conservation expertise.

### **Who will you learn from?**

The course will be facilitated by Durrell and Chester Zoo staff with lectures and practical sessions run by senior animal personnel and experienced trainers. Guest lectures will be given by world class amphibian experts from the fields of disease management, captive breeding and re-introduction.



Most valuably, participants will learn from each other.



### **What topics will be covered?**

The course is divided into seven modules with associated themes. Each will also include sessions on developing participants' training/facilitation skills:

- 1: *Amphibian natural history & threat*
- 2: *Captive facility design and construction*
- 3: *Keeping captive colonies*
- 4: *Breeding captive colonies*
- 5: *Managing captive populations*
- 6: *Amphibian medicine & diagnosis*
- 7: *Supporting populations in the wild*

### **How much does it cost?**

Due to generous financial support from Chester Zoo the course will cost participants £1000; this will include course fee & accommodation (full-board for 14 nights). Organising travel is the responsibility of the participant.

NB: the course will be run subject to level of interest. Spaces on the course will be limited.



### **What should I do next?**

Download application form & deadline details at [www.durrellwildlife.org](http://www.durrellwildlife.org). Or contact the ITC by:

**Phone:** 44-1534 860037

**Fax:** 44-1534 860002

**E-mail:** [itc@durrell.org](mailto:itc@durrell.org)

**Post:** ACH Course 2008, ITC  
Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust  
Les Augres Manor, Trinity,  
Jersey JE3 5BP, British Channel Isles