Amphibian Ark is pleased to announce the 11th annual call for proposals for its grants program, and from this year we are including a wider range of programs types that are eligible for funding, as well as some new guidelines and requirements for grant recipients. We are now accepting funding applications for the following types of grants:

- **Start-up grants** – initial funding to help newly-launched projects get started at the very beginning of their life, to help them attract larger and/or long-term funding for the duration of the program. We will not fund projects that are already well-established or have significant funding, although we will consider projects with funding in place for complementary components (such as fieldwork or education). One-time grants of up to US$5,000 are available. Recipients are able to apply for second and third year extension grants.

- **Start-up grant extensions** – additional funds are available to provide continued support for AArk seed or start-up grant projects that a) have met their stated objectives for previous years, and b) can demonstrate that additional supplemental funds have been secured since the original AArk grant was provided. All past recipients of AArk seed or start-up grants are eligible to apply for these extensions however it is expected that husbandry guidelines and a species action plan have been completed. Second-year grants of up to US$4,000 and third-year grants of up to US$3,000 are available.

- **Workshop attendance** – partial funding to assist attendance at *ex situ* amphibian conservation-related workshops, especially those which focus on amphibian husbandry, planning and reintroduction. Applicants must have already secured partial funding to attend the workshop. You must already be actively involved in an amphibian conservation project or have well-developed plans and funding in place to implement a new program Grants of up to US$750 are available.

- **Mentorship grants** - support for organizations which have previously received an AArk seed or start-up grant, to bring in a designated outside expert to assist with an aspect of their amphibian conservation efforts (e.g. veterinary training, environmental control etc.). Grants up to US$1,500 are available.

- **Emergency grants** – limited funding is available for past recipients of AArk grants throughout the year for emergency situations such as unanticipated major equipment failure in existing *ex situ* programs. These grants are also available for the emergency rescue of wild populations facing imminent threat of extinction. Please contact grants@amphibianark.org at any time to discuss an emergency grant.

All applicants are required to submit a brief Project Outline, prior to submitting a full application. Your Project Outline should be less than 200 words in length and should contain information under the following headings: Species, Organization, Project Manager, Goals, Proposed Outcomes and Other funding Sources (both requested and received). Project Outlines will be reviewed, and successful applicants will then be invited to submit a full application. **Full applications will not be accepted without a Project Outline having been submitted and approved by the review committee.**
Our grants are intended to support conservation projects for amphibian species that cannot currently be saved in the wild, with a focus on *ex situ* actions, and in partnership with appropriate field activities. Preference will be given to projects for species which have been assessed as in need of *ex situ* rescue or research work, either as a recommendation from a Conservation Needs Assessment (www.conservationneeds.org) or a similar, national assessment process.

Start-up grants and start-up extension grants are **not** intended to fund:

- Workshops
- Educational exhibits
- Project overhead or indirect costs
- Field projects without a strong *ex situ* component

**Guidelines and requirements**

All applications must reflect AArk values. **Please pay careful attention to the grant guidelines, and address all of the appropriate items:**

**All grant applications must include:**

1. Project title.
2. Names, institutional affiliations, and email addresses of project leaders.
3. Total funding amount requested from Amphibian Ark in USD$.
4. Executive summary (300 words or less), including brief background, experience with *ex situ* amphibian husbandry, methods, and anticipated outcomes, with emphasis on actions utilizing AArk funds. Please stress the conservation significance of the work, including the specific conservation need of all species involved (e.g., AArk priority, IUCN threatened or DD, national priority, etc.) and how the work will help address the threats to the species.
5. Budget with distinction between funds requested from AArk and those from other sources, with the latter specified as ‘requested’ or ‘received’ and from where. Clearly identify the role of AArk funding as a proportion of overall project cost. All costs should be in USD$. Budget should be less than one page. See sample below.
6. Timeline of work and intended dissemination of results over the proposed lifetime of the project (i.e., beyond the granting period). See sample below.
7. Scientific citations are not necessary but limited to half page if included.
8. We require two types of supporting letter:
   - All applicants - whether applying as individuals or as employees representing their organizations - must include at least one (preferably two) **letter of endorsement** from someone at an unrelated organization. That person should be a recognized leader in the field or at least from an internationally known organization.
   - Employees representing their organizations must also submit a **letter of institutional support** from their employer. This letter is to verify that the employer (1) is aware that the applicant is proposing the project and (2) will provide the necessary resources, time and space to complete the proposed work for the duration of the project. Please address these points, with details of how this will be achieved. One such letter is required for each project leader on the application who has a different employer. See sample below.

**Start-up grants**

- **The project must include an *ex situ* component.** While we highly value *in situ* conservation, research, assessment, and education, our funds are extremely limited and so we must insist that all proposals include an *ex situ* component. Note that *in situ* conservation, research, assessment, and education can be included as valuable components of any good proposal that otherwise focuses on rescuing species *ex situ*. **Priority will be given to projects for species that have been recommended for *ex situ* rescue during a Conservation Needs Assessment.** Check the Species Recommended for *Ex Situ* Rescue report at [http://conservationneeds.org/SpeciesRecommendRescue.aspx](http://conservationneeds.org/SpeciesRecommendRescue.aspx) for a list of priority species in your country. **If a Conservation Needs Assessment has not yet been completed for the species in your country, please contact AArk staff for information about completing an assessment.**
Field work. As long as your proposal details the ex situ components that are already in place, up to 20% of the funds applied for can be used to support the acquisition of founder animals, however priority will go to proposals in which 100% of the funds are directed to the ex situ facility. Ideally, our support of your ex situ component will help you secure funds for these other components as we tend not to fund components for which other funding could be found. For projects that do not relate to ex situ rescues, consider contacting the Amphibian Survival Alliance (www.amphibians.org/contact/).

Include information about major threats to the species, how threats will be mitigated, the species action plan, partnerships with relevant stakeholders, biosecurity, habitat protection, plans for reintroduction of animals back to the wild, post-release monitoring and program exit strategy.

Linking with in situ partners – all ex situ conservation programs should be planned in conjunction with appropriate actions in the field to mitigate threats, rehabilitate suitable habitat for reintroductions or translocations, and protect the habitat into the future. Include information about in situ partnerships and conservation actions being planned or underway.

A copy of a Species Action Plan for the species, or other planning document which includes reference to the project, specific objectives and timelines for meeting those objectives. The plan should have been developed in conjunction with all relevant stakeholders, including those working with the species and/or it’s habitat in the wild. Inadequate planning is one of the biggest causes for the failure of amphibian conservation programs, and we expect to see appropriate planning in place prior to a program being implemented. A Species Action Plan template is available on the AArk website, as are existing species-specific action plans for reference.

If your proposed program is to work with an analog species prior to working with a related but more threatened species, your proposal should be for the threatened species, and include details about the selected analog.

Working with amphibian species that need to be rescued. Proposals must relate to rescuing species whose threats cannot be mitigated in nature in time to prevent their extinction and which therefore require urgent ex situ intervention to persist. This status should be determined by relevant field experts, e.g., the IUCN/SSC Amphibian Specialist Group field experts through AArk Conservation Needs Assessment Workshops, or similar national processes. If a Conservation Needs Assessment has not been completed for the species in the country where the program will be based, the applicant should register as an assessor at www.ConservationNeeds.org, and complete an assessment. The IUCN Red List can also be used to verify the threatened status. While we appreciate efforts to keep regionally threatened but globally stable species common, our limited funds are restricted to projects involving species that need help at a global level.

Working with species within their native range country. Unless capacity absolutely cannot be built in the range country in time to prevent imminent extinction, the AArk will not fund projects that remove animals from their range country. In addition, every effort should be made to enable national biologists to lead the program.

Ensuring institution is properly prepared. All start-up grant applications must include a complete copy of the Program Implementation Tool (www.amphibianark.org/tools/Institutional-program-implementation-tool.xlsm) for the target species. The application should address any shortfalls highlighted within the tool.

Adhering to recommended biosecurity standards. Regardless of where the rescue population is held, measures must be taken to isolate it from allopatric (non-overlapping) species that might be in the collection as well as from the original threat (e.g., chytrid), except where a valid scientific argument can be made to the contrary. Please refer to our recommended biosecurity standards.

Introduction, identifying the main conservation problem, the proposed corrective actions, the anticipated outcomes, and how these relate to the AArk values. Include information about recommendations arising from a Conservation Needs Assessment (or other national assessment), mitigation of threats in the wild, habitat protection and eventual reintroduction and monitoring activities.

Methodology, including a succinct description of the proposed work with enough technical detail for evaluation by experienced reviewers.

Start-up grant extensions

• Applicants need not submit a full grant proposal – please include a short summary of progress during the previous year, with a clear statement of how objectives from your previous grant
application have been met, any updates to the species action plan, and letters of support from additional funders indicating the level of funding obtained within the last twelve months. To receive a third year of funding applicants should follow the same procedure as for year two.

- Outline methodology, including a succinct description of the proposed work with enough technical detail for evaluation by experienced reviewers.
- Include a letter of support from a recognized leader in the field who has visited the project within the past six months (AArk staff may be able to help arrange this – please contact us for advice, if needed).

**Workshop attendance**

- Include the name, dates and location of the workshop.
- Outline the funding received or committed to date to attend the workshop.
- Include a summary of the amphibian conservation project you are currently working with, including the species, progress to date, and future plans for the project.
- Describe the benefit of attending the workshop, and how the knowledge gained will be used.

**Mentorship grants**

- Include the name(s) of the proposed mentor(s), the institution(s) they are from, the expertise they will bring to your project and the length of time of their visit. If you need help to find a suitable mentor, please contact grants@amphibianark.org.
- Outline the support provided to the mentor by the host institution (e.g. provision of accommodation, food, supporting travel costs etc.).
- Methodology, including a succinct description of the proposed work with enough technical detail for evaluation by experienced reviewers.
- Information about the species being managed, and whether it is native to the country the program is based in.

**Format Guidelines**

- Proposals should be submitted in English.
- The body of the proposal (including content points 1-6 above) must not exceed three pages, excluding budget (≤1 page) and literature cited (≤½ page). Proposals longer than five pages in body length will not be reviewed.
- All materials should be submitted together, as .doc or .pdf files attached to a single e-mail. **File titles should include the name of the grant’s principal researcher.** The two supporting letters should be sent as separate files.
- Only e-mailed proposals will be accepted. Submit proposals to: Kevin Johnson, Taxon Officer grants@amphibianark.org. All correspondence should have “AArk Conservation Grant Proposal/principal researcher’s name” in the subject line.

**Requirements from grant recipients**

Recipients of AArk grants are required to:

- Bank account details for the institution to be provided to the AArk within two weeks of being notified of grant approval.
- Signed Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) between the director of the recipient institution and the AArk within two weeks of being notified of grant approval. A copy of the MOU can be seen here.
- Supply 3-4 photos of species and/or facilities for announcement of grant winners
- Send a brief progress report (e.g. newsletter article) and photos six months after funding received.
- Produce husbandry guidelines within six months of acquiring animals (using the Amphibian Husbandry Guidelines template). Existing examples are available on the AArk web site for reference.
- Submit a draft (or complete) action plan six months after funding received.
- Send a final progress report twelve months after funding received.
Application submissions
Ideally, grants should be submitted at least one week before the deadline, so they can be reviewed, and returned for alterations if needed. Grants submitted on the due date cannot be modified and will be accepted as is. Applications and inquiries should be directed to grants@amphibianark.org.

Need some help?
AArk staff are available if you need assistance in formulating your proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions. Each year several proposals have been rejected due to issues that could have been prevented with a little extra guidance! We also have several past seed grant recipients who are willing to act as mentors, to help with your application - please let us know if you would like us to put you in contact with one of them. Email us at grants@amphibianark.org.

Important dates
- Deadline for Project Outlines: 12 April 2021
- Applicants notified about review of Project Outlines: 26 April 2021
- Grant application deadline: 17 May 2021
- Grant decision/notification date: 31 May 2021
- Successful applicants must provide bank account details, signed MOU and 3-4 photos of species and/or facilities by: 14 June 2021
- Grant payment date: 21 June 2021
- Initial progress report and species action plan provided by 1 December 2021
- Final progress report, species action plan and husbandry guidelines due 1 June 2022

We would like to acknowledge the generous support of AArk funders and donors who have helped to establish and support these grants.

Example budget

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<th>Budget category</th>
<th>Item/amount (Examples)</th>
<th>Requested from AArk</th>
<th>Other sources/status</th>
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<td>lodging: 5 people, $50/day, 2 days</td>
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Example timeline

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Example institutional letter of support (should be on institutional letterhead)

[Date]

To the Amphibian Ark grants review committee,

I, [insert Director’s name and title here] verify that I have read the application from [insert grant applicant’s name and title here] for an Amphibian Ark conservation grant to support [insert project title here].

[Include a paragraph about the support already provided by the institution to the project, and how long the applicant has been working at the institution].

As a senior manager of [insert organization’s name here], I fully endorse this project, and agree that our institution will support the project over the coming years in the following ways: [briefly outline how the institution will support this project over the next 2-3 years, including funding, space, staff time etc.].

Yours sincerely,

[Name]
[Title]
About the Amphibian Ark
Amphibians are an important component of the global ecosystem, as indicators of environmental health and contributors to human health. They watched the dinosaurs come and go, but today almost half of them are themselves threatened with extinction. Addressing the amphibian extinction crisis represents one of the greatest species conservation challenges in the history of humanity. The global conservation community has formulated a response in the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan, and an integral part of that response is the Amphibian Ark (AArk), in which select species that would otherwise go extinct will be maintained in captivity until they can be secured in the wild. Without immediate captive management as a stopgap component of an integrated conservation effort, hundreds of species could become extinct. The AArk is a joint effort of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), the IUCN SSC’s Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG), and the IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG). The AArk’s mission is ensuring the survival and diversity of amphibian species focusing on those that cannot currently be safe-guarded in their natural environments. The AArk facilitates ex situ programs implemented by members around the world through workshops, publicity, and building partnerships to save species.