



AMPHIBIAN ARK FACT SHEET

<p>Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (ACAP)</p>	<p>The Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (ACAP) aims to understand and curb the amphibian extinction crisis. It was drafted at a 2005 Amphibian Conservation Summit, which was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Conservation International (CI) • Attended by approximately 80 of the world’s top amphibian authorities from academia, zoos, government, veterinary medicine, and other diverse disciplines <p>The ACAP outlines four kinds of intervention needed to address the amphibian extinction crisis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research – expand understanding of the causes of declines and extinctions • Assessment – ongoing documentation of the diversity of amphibians and how their status is changing • Long-term programs – development and implementation of long-term conservation programs, including protection of key sites for amphibian survival, reintroductions, and control of harvesting • Short term programs – emergency responses to immediate amphibian crises, including rapid response teams, captive survival assurance programs, saving sites about to be lost, and saving harvested species about to disappear <p>The cost to implement the overall ACAP over a five year period is \$400 million (U.S.).</p>
<p>Amphibian Ark</p>	<p>The Amphibian Ark (AArk) was founded to carry out the ‘captive’ components of the ACAP. AArk’s three principal partners are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) • IUCN/SSC Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG) • World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) <p>AArk will develop, promote, and guide short term captive management of threatened amphibians, making possible the long-term survival of species for which adequate protection in the wild is not currently possible. Captive management is a vital component of ACAP’s integrated conservation effort, buying valuable time to mitigate threats for species that would otherwise go extinct.</p> <p>AArk will support the rescue priority amphibian species and bring them into “protective custody” in dedicated biosecure facilities at zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens, research centers, and other institutions around the world for safekeeping and breeding, helping to ensure the long term survival of amphibians. These rescued amphibians will be released back into the wild when the original threats have been controlled.</p>

Species to be Rescued	While there are 2,000 to 3,000 threatened amphibian species, many suffer from threats that we have the ability to mitigate in the wild, such as habitat destruction and overcollection. AArk will use a species prioritization tool and regional expertise in a series of prioritization workshops around the world to determine which species <u>require</u> our intervention. It's estimated that 500 species face threats that cannot be curbed at this time, such as disease, so will need to be part of the captive management program.
Rescue Logistics	In conjunction with governmental authorities and range-country conservation partners, rescue teams will collect the necessary founder stock to establish a secure population in captivity, for those species which have been determined to need such protection. 20-50 wild specimens per species are necessary to found viable survival assurance populations, which will be bred to establish managed captive populations of around 500 animals per species.
Host Institutions	<p>The first preference is to host each rescued species within its range country. Where this is not possible, the species may be hosted at a partner zoo, aquarium, or other institution outside the range country. Ideally each rescued species will be housed in two different locations as a precaution against catastrophic loss (e.g., fire, natural disaster).</p> <p>Participants in Amphibian Ark that will host the amphibians include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoos and aquariums that are members or affiliates of WAZA or of the regional and national zoo and aquarium associations • Amphibian Ark-approved botanical gardens, private partners, museums, universities, science centers, and wildlife agencies.
Rescue Centers	<p>Rescued amphibians will be housed in biosecure facilities that minimize the chance of diseases getting in or out. Where biosecure housing is needed quickly and cheaply, or with mobility, refrigerated shipping containers can be customized to create self-contained laboratories. All facilities will be equipped with appropriate climate control, lighting, plumbing, shelving, live food culture/storage, and other elements needed for the security of the amphibians and scientific study.</p> <p>The facilities may also serve as displays at participating institutions, with viewing windows, adjacent educational signage, and the opportunity for interactive dialogue with the scientists working inside.</p> <p>With each species maintained in at least two locations, and species from the same habitat able to be maintained in the same room, it is anticipated that AArk will require 500-1,000 total modular units (containers or isolated rooms) that will contain amphibians securely until they can be returned to their wild habitats.</p>
Funds Needed for AArk	<p>To execute the AArk portion of the ACAP, \$50 million-\$60 million is needed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritization workshops • Biosecure rescue centers and operating expenses • Staffing and training • Field surveys and rescues • Educational workshops • Awareness campaigns
U.S. Tax Benefit of Donating to AArk	Donations to AArk will be made to the Global Conservation Network, an IRS 501(c)3 that is part of CBSG, and these gifts can therefore be deducted from annual U.S. federal income tax.

What Are Amphibians?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frogs and toads • Salamanders and newts • Caecilians
Benefits of Amphibians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They play an important role in nature as both predator and prey, sustaining the delicate balance of nature. • They eat pest insects, benefiting successful agriculture around the world and minimizing the spread of disease, including malaria. • The skin of amphibians has substances that protect them from some microbes and viruses, offering possible medical cures for a variety of human diseases, including AIDS. • Frogs have had a special place in various human cultures for centuries, cherished as agents of life and good luck.
A Further Benefit	Successful collaboration to save amphibians can help mankind to more confidently face and address other major environmental challenges.