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World Association of Zoos and Aquariums **WAZA** | *United for Conservation*®



II

Gerald Dick

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Editorial

Dear WAZA Members!

I want to wish all WAZA members and associated friends all the best for a prosperous and happy New Year!

After a very interesting year of changes, increased outreach and intensified cooperation within the conservation community, WAZA is looking forward to increasing membership and working on sustainable animal populations in 2011. A series of workshops are planned to address the situation of animals in our institutions, their future planning and management. Additionally, this year's Annual Conference, to be held in Prague (2–6 October 2011), has the theme **Partnering for sustain**able zoos and aquariums. Sustainability of collections is in focus, as well as are the means of achieving it – such as studbooks, global species management plans, regional and interregional cooperation as these themes are widely seen as the most burning issues for our community. The future of zoos and aquariums is at stake and therefore as Jeffrey Bonner says: "We need to constantly, voluntarily work together. There is altogether too much bickering and in-fighting among the organizations that make up our community – between the family of zoos and the family of aquariums, among the regional associations, between our community and the academic community. It simply must stop."



After the 2010 Year of Biodiversity and the successful CoP 10 which was held in Nagoya, Japan, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the period from 2011 to 2020 as the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity in its Resolution 65/161. This global focus for the decade, which just started, provides a perfect framework for the 200 and aquarium community in order to contribute in terms of communication, education and conservation.

I am looking forward to another intensive and successful year!

Gerald Dick
WAZA Executive Director ■



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An Update on Recent **Amphibian Ark Activities**



During the past 12 months, Amphibian Ark staff have been involved in a variety of projects providing support and advice for the ex situ amphibian conservation community, and continuing to raise awareness of the amphibian extinction crisis. We have developed some new tools and a series of new pages on our website aimed at promoting the establishment of best practice techniques for implementing and maintaining ex situ programmes, and we are pleased to highlight those facilities around the world that follow these ideals. We have also just launched an international amphibian photography competition.

Establishing ex situ conservation programmes for amphibians

To assist those institutions that are considering implementing new amphibian conservation programmes, we have developed a series of web pages, tools and documents to provide essential background information. Our website includes links to individual pages, detailing the major steps involved in implementing and maintaining ex situ programmes, including: ensuring that you have the required resources; managing the population; collection of founders; and monitoring progress of the programme.

Two new online tools help to determine whether the required resources are in place before the new programme is implemented, and allow you to calculate the number of founders that should be collected to start the new programme, based on the biology of the species being managed. These two tools can be found on our website. To ensure the best possible outcome for the amphibian populations you are managing, we strongly encourage you to read through these pages and associated documents and make use of the new tools before implementing your new programmes.

Model ex situ amphibian facilities

Amphibian Ark considers that there are two steps that are vital in any good ex situ conservation programme, especially those that might eventually involve release back into the wild:

- the programme should be based within the range country; and
- the population being managed should be housed in isolation from other populations occurring outside its range.

Where possible, all amphibian programmes that will ultimately result in reintroduction or translocation programmes should be established and maintained within the native range of the species. Maintaining these populations within the range country generally results in lower disease risks than programmes that are located outside the native range of the species. This helps to reduce the risks of introducing non-native pathogens into the environment around the facility holding the amphibians, and the possibility of introducing novel local pathogens to amphibians that are collected and housed outside of the range country.

Amphibian Ark recommends that all ex situ breeding programmes that plan to reintroduce animals back into the wild should maintain their populations in isolation from other captive populations that do not originate from the native range of the species. To further reduce the risk of introducing non-native pathogens to these populations, best practice husbandry and biosecurity standards should always be followed. Increasing the awareness of biosecurity issues and introducing a quarantine-like approach to amphibian husbandry of enclosures and rooms will significantly reduce the risk of a potential epidemic outbreak of chytridiomycosis in captivity, or in animals destined to be released to the wild.

For more information about recommended husbandry and biosecurity standards for amphibians, please see the documents A guide to husbandry and biosecurity standards required for the safe and responsible management of ex situ populations of amphibians and A manual for control of infectious diseases in amphibian survival assurance colonies and reintroduction programs on our website.

We have compiled a list of institutions and their respective amphibian programmes that adhere to these two vital aspects of ex situ population management. Information about these institutions and their programmes can be found on our website.

To find out more: www.amphibianark.org

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Amphibian photography competition

Amphibian Ark has just launched a new international photo competition, called Just shoot me! – An Amphibian Ark photography contest. We will be producing another sensational amphibian calendar for 2012 that will feature the 12 winning photos from this competition, which will be selected by our panel of five international judges. The overall winner of the competition will feature on the front cover of the calendar.

Amongst the 12 winning entries, one photo will also be selected as the best image in each of these three categories: In the wild — photos must be of amphibians in the wild; In captivity — photos of amphibians in a captive environment; and Youth — open to photographers who are under 18 years of age.

The winning photo in each of the three competition categories will each win two beautiful amphibian books: Frogs of Panama by Douglas Woodhams, and Sapos by Santiago Ron, Martin Bustamante, Luis Coloma and Belén Mena. The 12 winning photos will each receive a copy of the 2012 Amphibian Ark calendar, a copy of Threatened amphibians of the world published by IUCN and NatureServe, and a copy of Treefrogs... prehistoric survivors with a global message by Ted Schiffman.

Amphibian Ark calendars will be available for sale around the world in August 2011 and we are very grateful to Fowler Printing and Graphics for their generous support with printing the calendars. Proceeds will be used to assist Amphibian Ark conservation programmes that are saving threatened amphibians.

For more information about the competition, or to submit your images, please visit our website. If you have not already done so, you can become a member of the Amphibian Ark and subscribe to our free quarterly online newsletter, or find out more about our activities, by visiting our website.

Markus Gusset – WAZA Executive Office

Update on International Studbooks

There are currently 121 active international studbooks (ISBs), including 159 species or subspecies (some ISBs cover more than one taxon). All previously pending issues were solved during the year 2010. The following events regarding ISBs occurred since 1 October 2010:

ISBs archived

• None

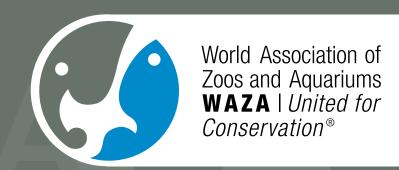
ISBs established

None

Transfer of ISBs to new keepers

- On 15 November 2010, CPM approved the transfer of the white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum*) ISB to Joe Christman (Disney's Animal Kingdom, USA).
- On 22 November 2010, CPM approved the transfer of the black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) ISB to Christian Kern (Berlin Animal Park, Germany).
- On 22 November 2010, CPM approved the transfer of the gaur (Bos gaurus) ISB to André Schüle (Berlin Zoo, Germany).





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