



Global Leapfrog in South Asia

2008 Year of the Frog YOTF – AArk

A Giant Leap for Amphi-kind.....One More Step to Save Frogs



Zoo Outreach Organisation runs education programmes and also hosts the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, South Asia. ZOO is also a member of the World Association of Zoos and Aquaria. CBSG and WAZA came together to form Amphibian Ark which brings together the zoos of the world organised by the Regional Zoo Associations. Zoo Outreach also hosts the Secretariat of the South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation SAZARC. ZOO also hosts the Amphibian Network of South Asia ANSA. For all those reasons, when AArk says "jump in", ZOO, ANSA, CBSG S. Asia, and SAZARC jump !

In early December, Dr. Lesley Dickie, marketing coordinator of the Amphibian Ark based at London Zoo had a brainstorm to combine the need to promote the Amphibian Campaign with the propitious happen-stance that YOTF 2008 is a "Leap Year". Leap Year comes but once in four years and is the year which has an extra day in February. It is also the year in which ladies can ask gentlemen to marry, instead of the other way around -- in western culture, at least.

Lesley wrote to the regional AArk Coordinators and suggested that we organise events involving the child's game of leapfrog ... it was a natural leapfrog in leapyear, the year of the frog.

ZOO had some doubts about being able to get this project on the road in such a short time, but we sent the announcement around anyway, urging zoos and our educators to collaborate and promising support of sorts. The results were far beyond expectation, thanks to email and to the cooperative spirit of our South Asian country partners.

Sri Lanka was the first to respond. Dr. Renuka Bandanayake, Curator, National Zoological Gardens, Sri Lanka, aided by Dr. Jinni Dela, an independent researcher and consultant on matters wildlife and environment stepped up to the plate. I circulated that news and a little more encouragement.

Bangladesh jumped in with Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh, Gawsia and Anwar, providing coordination and encouragement for the zoos of their country and soon they had four commitments.

We leaned on Nepal and didn't have to lean hard before Dr. Ravi Aryal of the Law Ministry in Nepal and



Sri R. K. Shreshta tackled Rachana Shah, Central Zoo Education Officer as she was stepping off a flight from the USA ! Nepal was in. As was Pakistan. Ms. Bushra Khan, Education Officer of Lahore Zoo, planned a great programme. Organising India was most the most difficult. India is such a large country with so much going on to distract one from such events ... but x zoos jumped in, one almost from every corner of India.

ZOO had run a highly successful national campaign for amphibians in October for Indian Wildlife Week and managed to distribute all of its educational packets, masks, placards, etc. Very quickly we raised some money and organised another print run for the Leapfrog activity, Animal Welfare Fortnightly (last two weeks in January organised by the Animal Welfare Board of India). We couldn't supply packets to non-Indian countries due to time and cost of postage so we designed some other material -- "I leaped for Frog" certificate, Fact Sheet, etc. and sent soft copies to our external friend in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal. Every country jumped on board.

Reports of their various leapfrog events for frog survival follow, but if you really want to get a feeling for the 2008 YOTF Leapfrog, please consult our website www.zoosprint.org and look at the reports with illustrations. GREAT pictures and AMAZING publicity for this outstanding response and event. Thanks to AArk, Lesley, our partners in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal and our sponsors, Chester Zoo and Universities Federation for Animal Welfare.

BANGLADESH LEAPED FOR FROGS - DHAKA

Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh (WTB) coordinated the Bangladesh version of an international programme associated with Amphibian Ark. Four Bangladeshi zoos participated and WTB ran the programme at Dhaka Zoo. Participants were students from different schools and guests were Zoo visitors, media and zoo personnel.

In the Inagural ceremony the theme of the 'Amphibian Ark' was explained to participants and guests. Curator, Dhaka Zoo introduced a Frog Poster developed by WTB consisting of photos of local amphibians, their scientific names, local names and distribution which gave an idea of amphibian diversity. All participants got an Amphibian Ark Gift Packet with a frog mask, a frog placard, and a clay bell developed by the Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh and Zoo Outreach Organization, India. The activities of the day were discussed briefly with the participants.

Status of amphibians activity was to attract participants to the living world through a group of beautiful but threatened species. This group, which indicates the health of both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, is facing different categories of threats globally, some are even critically endangered. Bangladesh scenario was explained to the participants.

Mr. Suprio Chakma of WTB introduced the recorded frog-call to the participants and it was sung by WTB crew then participants were requested to imitate. Participants were requested to wear the Amphibian Ark Masks while singing. The caption "Save Frogs, Protect Aquatic-Terrestrial Ecosystems, and Conserve

One Giant Leap for the FROG activity was done in which participants formed teams to leapfrog over a set-distance. The WTB crew initiated the giant leap; others took turns to jump over the backs of others. All the participants were leaping, croaking in frog mask! At the end of this activity participants received the Amphibian Ark drawing book, to express their love for frogs in arts. All zoos and safari park programme coordinators communicated with each other through sms 'WE LEAPT FOR FROGS', Bangladesh.

Amphibian Ark - Frogs in art : An art activity entitled "our environment, our amphibians" was arranged. Participants expressed their views through their wonderful drawings. Candies were given to all the participants.

Rally inside the Zoo : All the participants participated in a rally where they were requested to carry the placard "Save Frogs, Protect Aquatic-Terrestrial Ecosystems, and Conserve Biodiversity" had been inscribed. The procession attracted the zoo visitors. **Amphibian Ark Lunch:** At the end of the rally all the participants reached Dhaka Zoo, auditorium where lunch was offered to them. **Amphibian Ark Pledge:** At the time of valedictory, participants were requested to write their pledges on *Amphibian Ark Pledge Paper* prepared by WTB. Many of them made pledges to make a difference for frog conservation. **Valedictory:** All the participants were requested to ring the bell to raise an alarm for the protection of the amphibians. All the participants received an *Amphibian Ark Certificate* from the Curator, Dhaka Zoo and the Chief Executive, WTB as the recognition of their excellent performance in the Amphibian Ark 2008, a global initiative. **Amphibian Ark Signature Campaign:** WTB-Dhaka Zoo arranged the signature campaign at the Dhaka Zoo. Dr.Md.Shakif-Ul-Azam (Dipto) of Dhaka Zoo organized the Amphibian Ark Signature Campaign. A total of 300 zoo visitors have signed the Amphibian Ark Petition Form during the programme. While collecting the signatures from the visitors the significance of the signature was explained to the signatories.

BANGLADESH LEAPED FOR FROGS - DULAHAZRA Thirty school children, 21 park visitors, park staff and 4 volunteers from an NGO called Maruf Society for Development, conservation and research celebrated Year of the Frog on Monday, December 31,2007. Mozammel Hoque Shah Chowdhury, Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife management and Nature Conservation Division, Chittagong graced the occasion. A.H.Nouser Uddin, Scientist, ICDDR and singer was present as Chief Guest, and Professor Mihir Kanti Dey, Zoology Dept.Chakaria college, Professor Farid Uddin Chowdhury, Pricipal, Dulahazra College and Abdul Malek, Headmaster, Malumghat Ideal School were present as special guest.

After an introductory speech the theme of the 'Amphibian Ark' was explained to all the participants and guests by Zahed Mohammad Malekur Rahman. Then A.H. Nouser Uddin introduced a Frog Poster prepared by WTB. All the participants got an Amphibian Ark Gift Packet with a frog mask, a frog placard developed by Dulahazara Safari Park and Zoo Outreach Organization, India. Their activities discussed briefly with the participants.

Dr. Zahed Mohammad Malekur Rahman explained a bit about the group of beautiful and threatened species. Dr. Malekur also led participants in the Frog Song, the Leapfrog activity. The giant leap initiated by Dr. Zahed Mohammad Malekur Rahman;volunteers;students;others jumped. Minto Dey, park staff blew the whistle to make a start. All the participants enjoyed the program. After the leapfrog the participants received the Amphibian Ark Placard after which refreshments were served. There was also a rally in the park, a pledge and a mini-drama about amphibians. Lunch break was held with packet lunch for students. Afterwards the Chief Guest distributed "I Lept for Frogs" Certificates to all participants as the recognition of their excellent performance in the Amphibian Ark 2008, a global initiative while expressing that the program should be initiate in all educational institutions and be include in text books so as to aid wildlife conservation.

Dulahazara Safari Park also organized a signature campaign. Mito Dey, park staff was at the gate with the Amphibian Ark Petition Form and explained the significance of the campaign while collecting the signatures. The entire program was financed by Dr. Zahed Mohammad Malekur Rahman, Veterinary Surgeon, Dulahazara Safari Park. Report prepared by Mostafijur Rahman, Assist. Vety Surgeon, Dulahazara Safari Park, **Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.(www.dulahazarasafaripark.org)**

BANGLADESH LEAPED FOR FROGS - RANGPUR Rangpur Zoo Bangladesh the organization devoted for wildlife has leapt for frog in the eve of Amphibian Ark 2008 Year of the Frog and celebrated the day accordingly.

The programme was inaugurated by Deputy Curator Dr. A K Saha. A lecture on the importance of conservation of frogs as well as other wild animals was given by Zoo Officer Md. Golam Rabbani. A discussion was conducted on frog conservation by present interested guests and students. Various kinds of events were enjoyed by participants : Leap frog race, parody on frog, recitation, drawing etc. A collection of signatures was assembled for petition to parliamentarians. Raising awareness of general audience was done through a rally with banners and placards. Children received chocolates and prizes as well as certificates. Some publications were distributed in local languages before the closing ceremony. Submitted by A. K. Saha, Dy Curator, Rangpur Zoo, Bangladesh.

BANGLADESH LEAPED FOR FROGS -Chittagong

Chittagong Zoo introduced an international program at their own campus with the help of ZOO (Zoo Outreach Organization). Chittagong Zoo invited Students from Biddut Unnayan Board School as participants with the following guests Kongkon Kanti Dey, Media and zoo personnel.

At the Inaugural the programme began with the release of balloons after which the theme of the 'Amphibian Ark' and activity of the day was explained to all the participants and guests. All the participants got an 'Amphibian Ark' Gift packet. Dr. Md. Mongur Morshed Chowdhury introduced a Amphibian Booklet published by Wildlife Information Liaison Development (WILD) society and Zoo Outreach Organization (Zoo).which was discussed with the participants. Participants' understanding about 3 groups of Amphibian and their usefulness was thus enhanced. At the end of this activity participants were requested to identify Anuran, caudata & Gymnophiona and tell their usefulness.

The Honorable Guest Mr. Kongkon Kanti Dey (Zoologist) and Josna Begum (Zoologist) described the status of South Asian amphibians to the Participants. Mr. Mujibul Hoque (Supervisor,Chittagong Zoo) introduced four digitally printed board to the participants and guests,where the photographs of local Amphibians, their scientific name local name and distribution in Bangladesh are depicted,developed by Mr. Suprio Chakma(WTB). After that he discussed about their status in Bangladesh. Participants were thoughtful about the amphibian diversity in Bangladesh, throughout this activity.

At the tea break Sweets, Banana,orange and candy offered to all the participants and guests. Candy was also offered to all the visitors of this day in Chittagong Zoo.

After tea, all the participants were requested to be a frog with a frog mask and to form teams to leap frogs over a set distance. This was followed by a

rally, started in front of the Chittagong Press club. At the time of the rally, they wore the frog mask and carried a placard. All the participants and guests received an Amphibian Ark Certificate from the Veterinary officer,Chittagong Zoo. Chittagong Zoo arranged the signature campaign at their own campus. A total of 600 zoo visitors have signed the Amphibian Ark Petition Form during the programme. Participants were requested to do the same. While collecting the signatures from the visitors the significance of the signature was explained. An attractive festoon was hung in front of the petition form table, in which slogans including."Zoos around the world are conducting activities to draw attention to the fearsome fate of frogs! Zoos are joined together on an Amphibian Ark(Aark) to tell people about this problem.join us by leaping for frogs today to start your year right! Visitors and participants were enjoined to sign up on www.amphibianark.org.and jump in. Participants were directed to see www.zooreach.org or write to zooreach@zooreach.org. for more information.

Chittagong Zoo press release published in some of leading Daily and national newspapers such as Daily Purbokun (twice), Daily Azadi (twice), Shomokal & Jugantor] before and after the programme. Editor of Daily Azadi has given significance of this programme and he published it in their editorial column. Chittagong Television and Radio2day also broadcast it.

Submitted by Dr. Md .Mongur Morshed Chowdhury, Veterinary Officer, Chittagong Zoo, Bangladesh. Email: mmorshed_vet@yahoo.com.

NORTH INDIA LEAPED FOR FROGS - Chandigarh

Conservation Himalayas, a Shimla-based NGO staged a Leapfrog Programme in association with the M.C. Zoological Park, Chhatbir, Chandigarh and Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore. The programme was conducted in the M.C. Zoological Park at Chandigarh by S. K. Sahoo, Chairman, and Aruna Negi, Wild Education Officer, Conservation Himalayas. Zoo visitors were the target audience for this programme. A group of about 40 adult and children visitors volunteered to participate in the programme which was organised in the open field adjoining the MC ZOO interpretation centre. Dr. Sahoo gave a brief introduction about the 2008 Year of Frog and its significance in the context of the harmful effect of climate change, habitat fragmentation and habitat loss on frog species across the globe. Dr. Sahoo also briefed about the status of frogs in India. This brief introduction was followed by the leapfrog activity. Volunteer visitors were asked to wear the Amphibian Ark Frog Masks at 11 a.m. and leaped like frogs. This was followed by the pledge activity in which participating visitors pledged that they would not harm any frog in their court yard or any where. They also pledged that they will share the facts about frogs among friends, family members and neighbours. Since visitors

were from the rural Punjab, they pledged that they will take all care to protect the frog habitat and frog species by not creating anything that may harm frogs and other amphibians in their village ecosystem. A few participants signed the Amphibian Campaign form. At the end of this activity, the participants were given the "I LEAPED FOR FROG" certificate and frog fact sheets supplied by Zoo Outreach Organisation. Finally, Dr. Sahoo thanked every participant and the MC Zoo authority for making this event possible inside the MC Zoo premises for the Zoo visitors.

Conservation Himalayas is thankful to the ZOO Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore, and Amphibian Ark for providing "I LEAPED FOR FROG* Certificate, Amphibian Ark ZOO education kit, Frog Fact list and Amphibian Ark India Campaign petition Form for this important zoo programme. Conservation Himalayas is specially thankful to R Marimuthu, Education Officer, ZOO for providing coordination and support through prompt email advice and guidance. **Submitted by S.K. Sahoo, Chairman, Conservation Himalayas, email : chimalayas@yahoo.com**

SOUTH INDIA LEAPED FOR FROGS - Coimbatore

As a participating zoo of the global leapfrog event for the 2008 Year of the Frog, a Leapfrog on the premises of VOC Park Zoo, Coimbatore. The programme was organized by Zoo Outreach Organisation in collaboration with the Coimbatore Municipal Corporation. ZOO team met the visitors at the entrance and explained them about the Leap frog programme planned at 11 am. Our target was to involve about 50 children of age group 7-15 in the Global Leapfrog programme. The children who showed interest while explaining about the programme during their entry at the zoo were given a token number and they were asked to assemble at the designated place at 10.45 am. As instructed all invited children along with their family members gathered in front of the zoo office. Dr. Thirukumaran, the Director of the zoo welcomed the gathering and introduced the ZOO team to the visitors. The ZOO team gave a brief introduction about the programme and also explained the gathering about the status of amphibians in the wild and the need to conserve all species of this important group. It was emphasized that contribution from all the citizens of India could help amphibian survive.

After the introduction the children were asked to assemble in a line and each one was given a *rakhi* bracelet and the AArk mask for them to wear before doing the Leapfrog. They took a pledge raising their hands saying that as a citizen they will try to learn more about amphibians and extend their help to conserve them. They also chanted and sang slogans like '2008 Year of the frog', 'Save amphibians, save Frogs', and 'I leapt for frogs! 2008 Year of the Frogs'. The children were asked to leap like a frog and this was a big attraction for

the press to take photos and videos. The entire leapfrog programme was covered by 11 different press media.

After the end of the leapfrog programme the parents were asked to sign in the Signature campaign petition form and they signed with great enthusiasm. The ZOO team spent the entire forenoon to inform the visitors about the status of amphibians and about "Year of the Frog" programmes to gain public support. There is a plan to continue the signature campaign every Sunday with volunteers and zoo staff meeting visitors, explaining the amphibian crisis and collecting signatures.

We thank the Commissioner, Coimbatore Municipal Corporation for giving permission to do this programme at the Zoo. **Submitted by BA Daniel, R. Marimuthu, Pravin Kumar and Dr.Thirukumaran, email : zooreach@zooreach.com; website www.zoreach.org**

SOUTH INDIA LEAPED FOR FROGS - Mysore

Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysore, popularly known as Mysore zoo, has always played an important role in Conservation Education. Any opportunity to reach students and public is always taken and made use of. Every year Mysore zoo tries to reach as many as 30,000 students, volunteers and NGO's through its various education programmes. These are spread throughout the academic year helping the relationship develop between the zoo and educational institutions.

Mysore zoo and Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO) have a good relationship together in carrying out Zoo and environment education. When the opportunity presented itself in the form of Amphibian Ark 2008 Year of Frog, Mysore Zoo was not behind. We readily agreed.

The logistics had to be worked out. We were instructed to carry out the exercise on 31st December 2007, it was to mark year 2008 as amphibian year, but there were a few hitches. Schools re-open on 31st December, after Christmas vacations and schools would not agree to let their students out for a couple of hours as they are nearing the end of academic year and would have to completed the stipulated syllabus. The next alternative was to target the students who came to the zoo, but one of our zoo volunteers Mrs. Suma, who is also a teacher at one of the local schools Srikantha Balikay Proudha Shala, Mysore, arranged for 25 students from the her school.

As stipulated the children arrived on time. They were briefed about amphibians, their importance in ecology, and the threats amphibians are facing.

Fact sheets on Indian Amphibians were distributed and students were asked if they wanted to sign

the petition form and make a difference. The students were eager and readily signed the form.

Next they were asked to leap and croak like frogs. The students took to the game like tadpoles to water. They leaped and croaked and enjoyed the game. "I LEAPED FOR FROGS" Certificates were distributed and they all pledged to save frogs.

Later they were given educational materials from the zoo. As there were some more eager students back at the school who wanted to participate Suma took the rest of the certificates, material to the school. There she replicated the events and distributed the certificates.

Meanwhile the previous day the Youth Club members had undergone the exercise and signed the petition enthusiastically.

Submitted by Mysore Zoo, Mysore.
email : zoomysore@gmail.com

S. INDIA LEAPED FOR FROGS - Coimbatore

At the Coimbatore Zoological Park and Conservation Centre, Anaikatty, Coimbatore, India. 2008 has been declared the Year of the Frog to raise awareness of a looming, mass extinction of amphibian species – the most significant since the dinosaur. In response, Coimbatore Zoological Park and Conservation Centre (CZPCC) along with PSGR Krishnammal School and local public and children's of Aniakatty region, conducted New Year's Eve leapfrog events. Playing "leapfrog" hopping game to ring in the special year and draw attention to the conservation efforts that would avert the disaster.

Out of 5852 species amphibian throughout the World, India has 240 species of which 155 occur in India only. It was estimated the Amphibian Ark supports a campaign by zoos to protect and rescue the most endangered 500 species. . It is the most urgent component of a comprehensive effort to protect the future for amphibians, and is supported by the IUCN/Species Survival Commission (SSC) Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, IUCN/SSC Amphibian Specialist Group, and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA).

Leap Frogging activity has been organized on the 31st December 2007 at the Coimbatore Zoological Park & Conservation Centre Anaikatty. 37 participants were from the PSGR Krishnammal School, Peelamedu, Coimbatore and 18 participants were from local village consists of public and children. Student's aptitude towards amphibians was tested. Based on their knowledge we highlighted to them about the amphibians diversity, importance of conservation, threats and the extinction process. At 11.00 AM, Leaping of frog was done by students individually as well as in group. As a token of appreciation a certificate and greeting cards provided by Zoo Outreach Organization (ZOO) were offered to all the participants. In the concluding session students

were taken oath " We will actively take part in conservation of the Amphibians from 2008 onwards and spread message as far as possible.

We express our thanks to Mr. G. Rangaswamy, Secretary, Coimbatore Zoological Park & Conservation Centre, Mrs. R. Nandini, Secretary, PSGR Krishnammal School and Mrs. P.R. Kanagalakshmi, Head Mistress of PSGR Krishnammal School for encouragement and support rendered to conduct the programme successfully. **Submitted by B. Rathinasabapathy and V. Kalaiarasan, Coimbatore Zoological Park & Conservation Centre**

SRI LANKA LEAPED FOR FROGS - Dehiwala

The Global Leapfrog Programme for Sri Lanka was conducted by the Department of National Zoological Gardens, Dehiwala in Sri Lanka at 11.00 a.m. on 1 January, 2008 in the zoo which is located in Dehiwala. The zoo garden was decorated with colorful pictures and masks of frogs. Along the road and the place where the event was taken place was also decorated with colour illustrations of frogs. It was a very colorful event.

First of all, according to Sri Lankan culture, the traditional oil lamp was lighted by the Director, staff officers of the zoo, invitees and a child who wore a costume as a frog before commencing the programme. All invitees and participants were welcomed and an introduction to the programme was done by Mrs. Renuka Bandaranayake, Assistant Director (Aquarium & Research).

The importance of the amphibians, their status in globally and Sri Lanka, why we conserve amphibians and importance of the Year of the Frog, 2008 were explained by the Director of Zoological Gardens, Mr. Duminda Jayarathna. Information was taken from the draft report of the Global Amphibian Assessment held in Coimbatore, India in 2004 in which Sri Lankan Field Biologists participated and contributed information about amphibians of Sri Lanka.

The participants enjoyed along with the children drama activities, the frog dance and frog talks. Children leapt like frogs at about 11.00 a.m. as scheduled according to the global campaign of the year of the frog.

Certificates and souvenir packs for the participants were awarded by the Director of zoo. Snacks and drinks will be served. Young Zoologists Association YZA juniors collaborated. Also media people came and gave full coverage over three tv lines and telecasted a programme about the event. Contributed by Renuka Bandaranayake, Asst. Director, Aquarium & Research

NEPAL LEAPED FOR FROGS - KATHMANDU

The National Trust for Nature Conservation and its

partner, the Central Zoo, Nepal conducted a global leapfrog programme at the zoo on 31 December 07 from 10am-1pm. Zoo visitors, school students and zoo staff participated in the programme.

Make your own mask: On the arrival of students the program was briefed to them by explaining why the eve was celebrated in such a way. Then the students were given the mask of Frog to color after coloring they wore the mask and were taken to the shore of zoo pond where they leaped and croaked like a frog. The activities were very much liked by the children where they got the chance not only to learn about the importance of frogs but at the same time to have fun.

A Giant Leap for Frog: The participants were requested to form teams to leapfrog over a set-distance (simultaneously croaking!). The education staff initiated the giant leap; others took turns to jump over the backs of others. All the participants were leaping, croaking so they were in frog mode and frog mask! At the end of this activity participants received the "I Leaped for Frogs" certificate designed by the Zoo Outreach Org.

Rakhi bracelet tying: The students tied the rakhi (wrist band) to each other and vowed to make efforts to protect frogs and save amphibians from extinction.

Amphibians status of Nepal: After the leap and rakhi activities the students were shown the presentation on Amphibians which was mainly highlighted on the facts of amphibians found in Nepal, the world and its status and the threats and need of conservation.

Amphibian Ark & Signature Campaign: Two days prior to the eve the Central Zoo celebrated its 12th anniversary under NTNC management the grand book fair was organized which was cashed by putting up an stall with an information on amphibians and the signature campaign. The FOZ volunteers and the education staff briefed every individual before requesting them to sign an Amphibian Ark form which recorded their support for action from governors in aid of amphibian survival. This helped visitors to the book fair understand the importance of amphibians and the issues concerning them.

The Amphibian Ark AArk signature form was signed by the chief guest Mr. Tirtha Raj Sharma, Secretary Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation along with other dignitaries which included Member secretary of NTNC, Central Director MR. R.K. Shrestha and others. The event was telecasted by National Radio Channel "Radio Nepal" and the news was published in a National Daily "GorkhaPatra". Programme conducted by Rachana Shah, Conservation Education Officer; Binab Karmacharya, Veterinary Officer; Arun Rana,

Conservation Education Assistant; Ramita Rai, Conservation Education Assistant; Saunak Shah, Conservation Education Assistant; and Anjana Shrestha, Friends of Zoo Volunteer

PAKISTAN LEAPING FOR FROGS ON 22 January - LAHORE

Zoos around the world, led by their professional associations such as the World Association of Zoos and Aquaria and South Asian Zoo Association for Regional Cooperation as well as related NGOs such as the IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group as such and the South Asian Network, IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group and its South Asian counterpart ANSA have come together in a network called **AArk Amphibian Ark**. AArk has declared 2008 as the **Year of the Frog YOTF**. This programme intends to raise awareness of the looming mass extinction of amphibian specie. Many zoos of the South Asian countries which have zoos -- Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India, and Nepal conducted programmes along with the global programme on 31 December.

Lahore Zoo, Pakistan will conduct their programme on 22 January. The Venue will be Lahore Zoo. WWF Pakistan will sponsor the function which has been themed as Amphibians as Environmental Indicators. There will be poster competitions on this theme, model making on Species of Pakistan. There will be a "giant leap" an announced time of the day led off by a celebrity perhaps and a zoo staff blowing a whistle. Many schools will participate in this frog leap conservation activity. Judges will evaluate the work and declare the positions of participants. Zoo will also offer trophies and participation certificate to schools. **Submitted by Bushra Khan, Education Officer, Lahore Zoo, Pakistan.**

