



GLOBAL LEAP FROG



Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh (WTB) initiates an international programme in Bangladesh

AMPHIBIAN ARK 2008: Year of the Frog

One Giant Leap for Mankind.....One More Step to Save Frogs

Programme of the day: Monday, December 31, 2007

Venue, date and time: Dhaka Zoo (in front of Information Centre), Dulahazra Safari Park, Chittagong and Rangpur zoos; Monday, December 31, 2007 from 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Participants: Students from different schools.

Guests: Zoo visitors, media and zoo personnel.

Activities of the day

WTB crew will conduct the Amphibian Ark Programme at Dhaka Zoo

Inaugural - Amphibian Ark 2008: Year of the Frog at the Zoo (10:00 - 10:30 am):

Programme theme and materials: The theme of the 'Amphibian Ark' will be explained to all the participants (and guests). The Curator of the Dhaka Zoo will be requested to introduce a Frog Poster, developed by WTB. The photographs of the local amphibians, their scientific names, local names and distribution in Bangladesh are depicted in the poster. This is to give an idea of the amphibian diversity of Bangladesh to the participants and guests. All the participants get an Amphibian Ark Gift Packet with a frog mask, a frog placard, a clay bell designed and developed by the Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh and Zoo Outreach Organization, India. The activities will be discussed briefly with the participants.

Status of the amphibians of Bangladesh (10:30 – 10:40 am): The objective of this activity is to attract the participants to the living world through a group of beautiful but threatened species, the amphibians. Globally this group, which indicates the health of both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, is facing different categories of threats, some are even critically endangered. The Bangladesh scenario will be explained to the participants. To make the participants understand how amphibians are ecologically and economically important, an activity will be arranged to attract the participants towards FROGS!

Frog Song (10:40 - 10:55 am): The frog songs will be sung and introduced by WTB crew and the participants will be requested to imitate. The participants will wear Amphibian Ark Masks while singing. The caption "*Save Frogs, Protect Aquatic-Terrestrial Ecosystems, and Conserve Biodiversity*" in Bangla has been inscribed on the mask.

One Giant Leap for the FROG: (at 11:00 am): The participants will be requested to form teams to leapfrog over a set-distance (croaking while doing this!). The giant leap will be initiated by a WTB crew; others will take turns to jump over the backs of others. Someone from the zoo will blow the whistle to make a start. After the leapfrog the participants will receive the Amphibian Ark Placard, which has the same message as of the mask.

Rally inside the Zoo (11:20 am - 11:30 am): All will be requested to participate in a rally where they will be requested to carry the placard, in which “*Save Frogs, Protect Aquatic-Terrestrial Ecosystems, and Conserve Biodiversity*” has been inscribed.

Amphibian Ark - Frogs in art (11:30 am - 12:00 pm): An art activities entitled “our environment, our amphibians” will be arranged. Participants will express their views through it.

Pledge through Placard (12:00 - 12:10 pm): The participants will be requested to read their pledges loudly at the time of valedictory. All the participants will be requested to ring the bell to raise an alarm for the protection of the amphibians.

Valedictory (12:10 - 12:20 pm): All the participants will get an Amphibian Ark Certificate as the recognition of their excellent performance in the Amphibian Ark 2008, a global initiative.

Amphibian Ark Signature Campaign: WTB will organize a signature campaign at the Dhaka Zoo. Someone from the zoo will be at the gate with the Amphibian Ark Petition Form. While collecting the signatures from the visitors the significance of the signature will be explained to the signatories.

Chittagong Zoo, Rangpur Zoo and Dulahazra Safari Park will arrange similar programmes and signature campaigns on their campus on the same day, at same time.

Contact persons for Amphibian Ark 2008: Year of Frog Programme, Bangladesh

For Dhaka Zoo: Gwasia Wahidunnessa Chowdhury (WTB), 01712 613759, gwasia@gmail.com; Suprio Chakma (WTB), 01819 606087, supriochakma@yahoo.com; Md. Anwarul Islam (WTB), 8801715256440, anwar1955@gmail.com

Dr. Syed Ali Ahsan, 8801715156911, ahsan67@gmail.com; Shakibul Azam (Dipto), 8801712005239, shakif78@gmail.com

For Rangpur Zoo: Dr. A.K. Saha, 01714 256434, aksaha55@yahoo.com

For Dulahazra Safari Park, Chittagong: Dr. Zahed Md. Malekur Rahman, 01815914635, drmalekvet@yahoo.com

For Chittagong Zoo: Dr. Mongur Morshed Chowdhury, mmorshed_vet@yahoo.com

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO SAVE FROGS

Frogs are dying out all over the world, including Bangladesh. It is the largest mass extinction since the disappearance of dinosaurs. It is due to habitat destruction, pollution, and disease. One third (32.5%) of 6000 global amphibian fauna are in danger of extinction. **Of the 34 known frogs of Bangladesh 8 are facing different categories of threats, and 5 are Data Deficient meaning that we do not have enough information on whether they are at the verge of extinction.** It is due to us – humankind – and if we do nothing they will disappear forever.

“Save Frogs, Protect Aquatic-Terrestrial Ecosystems, and Conserve Biodiversity”

Petition to the Politicians and Parliaments of the World

We, the undersigned, support the Amphibian Ark Project, sponsored by the zoos of the world to support public awareness, education, research, breeding and habitat protection of amphibians. We call on our leaders and governments to commit resources for urgent global action to rescue frogs and other amphibians.

PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS - ALL INFORMATION IS NEEDED FOR THE PETITION TO BE ACCEPTED- sign only one petition

Name	Address	Postcode	Nationality	E-mail	Signature



Please return completed forms to: ZOO, box 1683, Peelamedu Coimbatore 641 004