

SO BEAUTIFUL!



A salamander in your pond, a farmer's ditch full of frogs, hundreds of toads migrating to the same pool.

These (of: those) are amphibians in the Netherlands.

The olm lives in the darkest of caves in Slovenia. In China, the Giant Salamander inhabits cold mountain creeks.

In Central and South America live numerous species of brightly coloured Poison Arrow Frogs. In the deserts of North America one finds the Colorado River Toad, and in South African waters the African Clawed Frog. A great diversity of amphibians inhabit the earth: until several years ago a total of 5743 species. 122 species have already gone extinct between 1980 and 2007.

Entire animal group under threat

'Amphibians' form a similar zoological unit as 'birds' or 'mammals'. In recent decades, one species after another has disappeared. In first instance this was due to the decline of their natural habitat. But recently, the cause of extinction is primarily an aggressive skin fungus. This fungus can take a hold due to climate change. In tropical regions it can kill a frog within a day. Within weeks an entire forest can be depleted of frogs, toads and salamanders. The fungus has been found to occur on a large scale throughout the Americas and Australia, and is expanding towards Europe, Africa and Asia.



**Amphibians
ALARM!**

BAD?

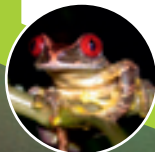


That an entire animal group may go extinct is in an ecological sense a bad thing. The diversity of species would drastically decrease. Amphibians have inhabited the Earth for some 300 million years; should we be the cause of their extinction?

Poisons found in the skins of frogs have provided medical science with diverse new medicines (of: treatments). Water depleted of frogs quickly becomes murky because the algae growing in it are no longer eaten away. And mosquitoes (e.g. the Malaria - inducing Anopheles) are hardly eaten and can easily spread.

How do zoos help?

Zoos around the globe try to save little of what is left to save. On the short term, numerous breeding programmes are being established in order to secure a viable population should wild counterparts become extinct. To this end, many zoos have established an amphibian breeding centre based on a standard concept. We are trying to save amphibians from extinction with all our might.



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ACTION!



The European zoos are unified in EAZA. EAZA has established – together with other zoo organisations and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – the Amphibian Ark (AArk) with the aim of campaigning.

Visitors need to be informed. Hundreds of species of frog and salamander need to be bred in sterile environments.

To this end, hundreds of people need to be trained and numerous laboratories need to be established.

European zoos have made it their goal to collect 500,000 Euro to save the amphibians of the world.



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