

# Amphibian Conservation Husbandry (ACH) 2008

## Training the trainers

A course for amphibian keepers and captive population managers

### DATES



### What is ACH Training the Trainers?

**Amphibian Conservation Husbandry (ACH)** is a 12 day course designed for individuals concerned with amphibian conservation. The aim is to expose participants to the latest theory and practice of amphibian conservation husbandry and equip them with the skills necessary to manage their own populations to the highest standards. This first course is tailored to develop participant's own training skills so they can run training courses/seminars on their return home. The course is designed to support the Global and European Amphibian ARK initiatives aimed at realising the conservation role of zoos and aquaria.

### Why is it needed?

Captive breeding facilities are being called upon to play a vital role in current amphibian conservation efforts. To meet this challenge, high standards of care, reproductive management and strong biosecurity protocols will be needed.



This experience does exist but must be disseminated if the critical mass required to contend with the global amphibian crisis is to be achieved. Participants in **ACH Training the Trainers** will develop new skills and understanding placing them in an ideal position to develop their own and neighbouring institution's contribution to global amphibian conservation initiatives.

### Who is it for?

**ACH Training the Trainers** is designed for curators, keepers and veterinarians involved in the captive management of amphibian populations. This first course is for those individuals able to disseminate the knowledge gained to others by running their own versions of the course or shorter seminars on relevant topics.

Trained individuals can make a difference but only with the support of their organisations. Participants on **ACH Training the Trainers** will be required to demonstrate that their own institutions will support them in running training courses/seminars locally on completion of the **ACH** course.

Participants from European Zoos & Aquaria will be encouraged to attend this course, both



to learn and to contribute their own experience of the realities of captive amphibian population management.

Applicants from beyond Europe will also be welcomed, particularly when there is a clear link with the amphibian conservation work being conducted within the region.

### **Where is ACH being run?**

**ACH Training the Trainers** will be launched at The Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Jersey, British Channel Islands. Based at Durrell's International Training Centre (ITC) the course will be run in collaboration with the Herpetological and Veterinary Departments where some of the practical sessions will be taught.



The ITC has trained over 1500 conservationists in endangered species management and conservation from 119 countries over the last 20 years. For the **ACH** course the ITC will draw on Durrell Wildlife's extensive in-house experience in managing amphibian species from islands such as Montserrat and Mallorca, as well as on the island of Jersey itself, both *in-situ* and *ex-situ* at our world-famous headquarters.



### **Who will you learn from?**

The course will be facilitated by Durrell's staff with lectures and practical sessions run by senior animal staff. Guest lecturers will be given by world class amphibian



experts from the fields of disease management, captive breeding and re-introduction.

Most valuably, participants will learn from each other.



### **What topics will be covered?**

The course is divided into seven modules with associated themes:

- 1: *Amphibian natural history & threat*
- 2: *Captive facility design and construction*
- 3: *Keeping captive colonies*
- 4: *Breeding captive colonies*
- 5: *Managing captive populations*
- 6: *Amphibian medicine & diagnosis*
- 7: *Supporting populations in the wild*

Participants own training skills will be developed through practical activities, participant-led discussions and dedicated training skills development workshops.

### **How much does it cost?**

The course will cost £1900 (provisional); this will include course fee & accommodation (full-board for 14 nights). Organising travel is the responsibility of the participant. We are currently pursuing funding opportunities to reduce this cost to participants. If we are successful then this saving will be passed on to selected participants.

NB: the course will be run subject to level of interest. Spaces on the course will be limited.



### **What should I do next?**

- Send your contact details at [gerardo.garcia@durrell.org](mailto:gerardo.garcia@durrell.org)
- Follow the updates of the course at [www.durrellwildlife.org](http://www.durrellwildlife.org)
- Or contact the ITC by:

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