

Amphibian Conservation Needs Assessment Workshop for the Caribbean

By Kevin Johnson

In March 2011, Amphibian Ark staff facilitated two Amphibian Conservation Needs Assessment workshops in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in the Caribbean. The first workshop, which also included the updating of many Red List Assessments, focussed on species from Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica. The second workshop assessed the amphibians of Puerto Rico and Cuba, plus a few species from the Lesser Antilles.

During the nine days, sixteen field experts and observers worked with staff from the AArk, IUCN Amphibian Specialist Group and Conservation International, with various sub-groups being formed as necessary to tackle multiple assessments at the same time.

One hundred and seventy-eight amphibian species were assessed for their conservation needs of which, 54 species occur in Haiti, 44 in the Dominican Republic, 24 in Jamaica, 62 in Cuba, 22 species in Puerto Rico and 6 from the Lesser Antilles. The assessment process resulted in the following recommendations: 25 species in need of ex situ Rescue programs; 112 species could still be saved in the wild with in situ conservation action; 41 species require further in situ research to determine more about the species population status and/or the threats they face; 78 species are currently undergoing, or are proposed for specific ex situ research that contributes to the



Participants at the joint Amphibian Red List and Conservation Needs Assessment workshop, covering species from Haiti, Dominican Republic and Jamaica. Photo: Luis Diaz.

conservation of the species, or a related species; 90 species that are suitable for either in situ or ex situ conservation education programs; and 26 species recommended for cryopreservation. Only twelve species were not recommended for any conservation action. The breakdown of these species by country can be seen in table 1.

We are currently identifying additional field experts in the Lesser Antilles and Trinidad & Tobago to help complete the assessments for those islands. Data sheets will be updated as additional assessments are made.

The more detailed conservation action reports can be found on Amphibian Ark's data portal, www.amphibianark.org/assessmentresults.htm

During the workshop we reviewed the results of the species assessments for each country and discussed options for following up with various conservation actions identified during the workshop. Volunteers were identified in each country to be the focal point for continued actions, assessment updates, and to encourage amphibian conservation activities for the countries. These volunteers are: Susan Koenig and Iris Holmes for Jamaica; Rafael Joglar for Puerto Rico; Sixto Inchaustegui for the Dominican Republic; Luis Díaz and Ariel Rodriguez for Cuba and Joel Timyan for Haiti.

We also spent several hours on the last day of the workshop discussing ex situ amphibian husbandry issues, with many examples of both simple and sophisticated facilities being

	Haiti	Dominican Republic	Jamaica	Cuba	Puerto Rico	Lesser Antilles*
Rescue	10	4	1	3	7	1
In situ conservation	41	29	4	45	6	
In situ research	17	8	10	8	1	4
Ex situ research	20	17	6	41	8	2
Conservation education	20	20	6	34	22	5
Cryopreservation	10	4	1	3	7	1
No conservation action required	2	1	8	1		

Table 1. Amphibian conservation needs assessment workshop outcomes.
* (only 6 species assessed)

shown and discussed. Participants found this particularly helpful, and they gained many good ideas to put into practice at their own facilities.

Workshop participants enjoyed three trips during the workshop: a night walk around Parque Zoológico Nacional (ZooDom); a field trip to a wonderful cloud forest in the 23 km² protected area Reserva Científica de Ebano Verde; and a night trip to the Santo Domingo Botanical Gardens. Several frog, lizard and snake species were found during these trips, as well as a couple of huge tarantulas. We'd like to extend our thanks to Adrell Núñez from ZooDom and Miguel Landestoy for their hospitality in providing these trips for us, thereby allowing us all to experience a little of the local flora and fauna.

We'd also like to thank the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, which provided the funds to support this workshop.



Maquito group 2, R. Jogler - The second Amphibian Conservation Needs Assessment workshop included participants with expertise in species from Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Lesser Antilles. Photo: Rafael Joglar.

IUCN Red List Assessment workshop for Amphibians of Jamaica and Hispaniola

By Ariadne Angulo and James Lewis

Within the context of a joint workshop between Amphibian Ark and IUCN, a Red List reassessment workshop for the amphibians of Jamaica and Hispaniola (Dominican Republic and Haiti) was held in Santo Domingo in March 2011. The Red List assessment process was undertaken over the course of four days, with the participation of 12 experts and two facilitators from the IUCN Amphibian Specialist Group and Amphibian Red List Authority and two facilitators from Amphibian Ark for the Amphibian Ark Conservation Needs Assessment.

A total of 63 species were reassessed against the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria and their distribution maps were revised, with 16 reassessed species for Jamaica and 47 reassessed species for Hispaniola. Additional information resulting from the Amphibian Ark Conservation Needs Assessment was also included in the Conservation Actions field of IUCN assessments. A minimum of seven category changes have been proposed as a result of these reassessments, but they require several subsequent

review processes before they can be formalized. There was insufficient information available to assess/reassess 30 species, and these will be assessed at a later date.

All reassessments resulting from this workshop will be posted on a soon-to-be implemented online discussion forum dedicated to amphibian assessments, so that both experts present at the workshop and those who were not able to attend have a chance to make final revisions to assessments before they are sent out for review.

We wish to thank Amphibian Ark for making this joint workshop possible, and very especially Kevin Johnson, for coordinating and organizing this event. We are also grateful to Adrell Núñez (ZooDom), Cristian Marte and Eveling Gabot, for organizing a herpetological night out at the zoo for workshop participants.

Author details: Ariadne Angulo, IUCN SSC Amphibian Red List Authority Focal Point, James Lewis, IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group Coordinator

Find out more about Amphibian Ark workshops on page 58 or visit <http://www.amphibianark.org>



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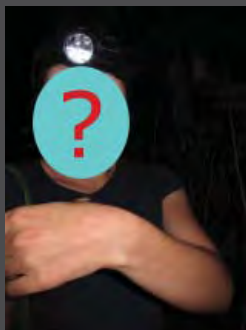
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Eleutherodactylus portoricensis. Photo: R. L. Joglar.

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