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Workshop

AT THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON & EUROPEAN XENOPUS RESOURCE CENTRE | UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH

6-8 September 2010

TOWARDS A BIOBANKING STRATEGY FOR AMPHIBIAN CONSERVATION

organised by Rhiannon Lloyd, Matt Guille, Kevin Zippel, Oliver Ryder, Dominik Lermen & Andy Kouba

Approximately one-third of the 6,260 amphibian species assessed to date are described as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable. **Biobanking** is one of the key interventions highlighted in the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (2007), formulated in order to help abate the Amphibian Extinction Crisis. The **Amphibian Ark Biobanking Advisory Committee (ABAC)** was formed in 2008. This group, consisting of individuals actively engaged, or with a strong interest, in amphibian biobanking has since expanded and now includes over 30 members worldwide.

The purpose of this workshop is to bring ABAC-members; biobanking practitioners from traditionally separate disciplines of *Xenopus*, fish and conservation research; and stewards of endangered amphibian populations (both *in situ* and *ex situ*) together for the first time for a series of presentations, discussions and demonstrations. Together, these will provide the most up-to-date information on, as well as hands-on experience in, existing and emerging biobanking methodologies and will also highlight promising techniques not yet applied to amphibians. Furthermore, an inventory of existing amphibian biobanks, samples and facilities; a biobanking protocol handbook, and a strategy for expanding the number of amphibian biobanks/biobankers worldwide will be formulated.



Image credits: Richard Gibson, Rhiannon Lloyd & Andy Kouba

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