

International Symposium

Amphibian Population Declines

2001 SSAR/HL Annual Meeting, Indianapolis

30–31 July 2001

Organized by **David M. Green¹** and **Karen R. Lips²**

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From a worrisome notion ten years ago, it is now abundantly recognized that amphibian populations are in worldwide decline. There are numerous causes, some hitherto unsuspected, for both the decline of numbers of individuals and the losses of populations. The imminent loss of the species they work on is the single greatest problem for amphibian biologists today.

Since the problem of amphibian declines was first raised, an enormous and productive international research effort has ensued, mobilized to a considerable extent around the world by the IUCN/SSC Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force (DAPTF) and its network of national and regional Working Groups. On July 30-31, 2001, an international symposium will bring together what we have learned and discuss that new knowledge.

The symposium will span two days. The first day will be devoted to reviewing the evidence for declines and the status of amphibian populations around the world. Speakers will offer first-hand accounts of recent discoveries. While providing a truly global overview, the day will emphasize the Americas, including many Latin American speakers. The second day will address major themes relating to amphibian conservation biology and population declines, including discussion of identified causes and the prospects of remedial efforts.

The symposium will be a singular and seminal event and a springboard to further understanding. It will be a significant coming-together of information on declining amphibian populations, with implications for the conservation biology of herpetofauna in general.

Sponsors

Herpetologists' League
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Chicago Zoological Society (The Brookfield Zoo), USA
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Columbus Zoo, USA
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Rotterdam Zoo, The Netherlands
Saint Louis Zoo, USA
National Aquarium, Baltimore, USA
American Airlines
U.S. Forest Service
Institute for Herpetological Research

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Day 1. What have we seen? The Working Groups

8:00 Introduction: the discovery of the problem and the history of DAPTF — David Wake

THE AMERICAS

8:30 Canada — Christine Bishop

9:00 Eastern USA — Mike Lannoo

9:30 Western USA — Steve Corn

10:00 break

10:30 Mexico — Antonio Muñoz

11:00 Western Central America — Jack Meyer

11:30 Eastern Central America — Federico Bolaños

12:00 lunch

1:00 South America: the Andes — Santiago Ron

1:30 South America: Amazonia — Antonio Salas

2:00 South America: the rest of it — Celio Haddad

2:30 Caribbean — Raphael Joglar and Patricia Burrowes

3:00 break

THE OLD WORLD

3:30 Western and Central Europe — Tim Halliday

4:00 Russia — Sergius Kuzmin

4:30 Asia — Bob Inger

5:00 Australia, New Guinea and New Zealand — Ross Alford

5:30 Africa — Alan Channing

Day 2. What have we learned? Problems and solutions.

8:00 Amphibian population biology and declines — David M. Green

8:30 Are the tropics different? — Marty Crump

9:00 Population monitoring — Joe Pechmann

9:30 Habitat change — Steve Hecnar

10:00 break

10:30 Alien species — David Bradford and Roland Knapp

11:00 Ultraviolet radiation — Andy Blaustein

11:30 Climate Change — Cindy Carey

12:00 lunch

1:00 Diseases — Rick Speare

1:30 Deformities — Martin Ouellet

2:00 Contaminants and toxins — Christina Bridges

2:30 Endocrine disruptors — Tyrone Hayes

3:00 break

3:30 The global view: analysis of the DAPTF data — John Wilkinson.

4:00 Education — Karen Graham

4:30 The role of zoos and aquaria — Kevin Zippel

5:00 International Collaboration — Bruce Young and Karen Lips

5:30 Summing up and on to the future — David M. Green and Karen Lips