Amphibian Rescue Initiated in Panama

Eight institutions announced their joint venture to save amphibians from the brink of extinction in Panama—an area rich with diverse amphibian species. Experts from Smithsonian’s National Zoological Park, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, African Safari (Mexico), Cheyenne Mountain Zoo (Colorado), Defenders of Wildlife (Washington, D.C.), Houston Zoo (Texas), Summit Municipal Park (Panama), and Zoo New England (Massachusetts) have pooled their energy and resources to form the Panama Amphibian Rescue and Conservation Project to protect a number of species from extinction.

According to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a systematic global assessment of all 5,743 known amphibian species has found that one-third of them are in danger of being eliminated at an alarming rate by a pathogen known as the chytrid fungus.

The institutions involved in the project have collectively pledged more than $750,000 in cash and in-kind donations during the next three years. The project will consist of three complementary parts: the ongoing operation of El Valle Amphibian Conservation Center run by the Houston Zoo; the amphibian chytrid cure research program to be initiated at the National Zoo in collaboration with Vanderbilt University; and the construction and operation of the new Summit Park Amphibian Rescue Center in Panama. The project will be launched in Panama later this year in close coordination with Panamanian authorities.

Job Opportunity

The Wilderness Society seeks a forest ecologist with experience in natural resource issues and an interest in restoration to join its Ecology & Economics Research Department as part of an interdisciplinary regional conservation team working to protect Montana’s wildlands. TWS seeks an applied ecologist to synthesize and analyze existing scientific information, develop new information, and translate these ideas into a format that will influence federal land management decisions in Montana and federal policies. See <http://wilderness.org/content/forest-ecologist> for more information. This position is available 1 July 2009, and is located in the Bozeman office. To apply please submit a cover letter explaining your qualifications for this position, resume, samples of both technical and popular writing in relevant fields, and names, addresses, phone numbers of three references to research_jobs@tws.org. The Wilderness Society is an EEO employer.

Current Literature


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