

# IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG)

## Strategic Plan 2015-2016



ASG Secretariat

2015

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## 1 Executive Summary

The IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG) is a global network of amphibian scientists and other experts with an interest in amphibian conservation that strives to provide the best possible science to inform amphibian conservation. There are various components of the ASG:

**Geography and membership:** Although the ASG is global in scope, it also works at the regional/national levels, and the activities in regions/countries are led by Regional Chairs. Regional Chairs are responsible for coordinating and organizing ASG activities within their respective regions, and represent the ASG within their communities and among regional stakeholders.

**Working Groups:** ACAP-ASG Thematic Working Groups are groups of interested experts with expertise on specific topics relevant to the global Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (ACAP). Led by one or more facilitators, these working groups develop priorities for their individual remits, which are then used to advance a particular field as it pertains to amphibian conservation.

**Task Forces:** The Task Forces are smaller groups of ASG members with a specific taxonomic or thematic focus who wish to consolidate efforts and build knowledge on their respective study subjects. Similarly to Working Groups, Task Forces are coordinated by one or more coordinators, who are responsible for establishing and coordinating the Task Force's activities.

**Programs:** The ASG currently has one shared program (ASG/ASA Youth) and one stand-alone program (ASG Mentorship). These programs are intended to promote capacity building in amphibian research and conservation (ASG Mentorship), and increase awareness and interest among future generations of amphibian conservationists (ASG/ASA Youth).

In the following pages we provide an overview of the mission, goals and components of ASG for the 2015-2016 period, as well as additional information on other aspects of ASG.

## 2 Introduction

The IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG) is part of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), one of six commissions within the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The ASG is a global volunteer network of amphibian scientists and other experts with focus on amphibian conservation, and it strives to provide the best possible science to inform amphibian conservation action. The ASG, which was originally established in 2005, is reconstituted every four years to coincide with the World Conservation Congress (the current period is 2013-2016). The ASG has

several components, which are summarized in Figure 1 below. Each component and associated aspects are explained in greater detail in the pages that follow.

The [ASG Secretariat](#) comprises two Co-Chairs and four Program Officers. The two Co-Chairs and the [Amphibian Red List Authority](#) (RLA) Coordinator are directly appointed by the Chair of the SSC. The ASG's Secretariat oversees, coordinates and provides support to three sub-groups within the Specialist Group: Regional Groups, ACAP-ASG Thematic Working Groups and Task Forces. The Secretariat also represents the ASG as a whole in international fora, and directly oversees ASG Communications (via FrogLog and the joint ASG and ASA website, [amphibians.org](http://amphibians.org)). Each of the ASG's sub-groups develops one or more programs and/or activities: Regional Groups spearhead regional activities, inclusive of ASG Mentorship and ASG/ASA Youth programs; ACAP-ASG Thematic Working Groups develop the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (ACAP) into a living and informative framework; and Task Forces develop research and conservation actions for specific taxonomic groups of amphibians or thematic areas. The Amphibian RLA Coordinator oversees the Amphibian Red List Authority and manages the amphibian database on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species; the Coordinator works closely with the ASG Secretariat.

The Secretariat is hopeful that as the different ASG components are implemented and relationships are developed, ASG will begin to build a suite of products and resources, all of which will be freely available to ASG members, and will help contribute to improved collaborations and efficiency in amphibian conservation research and practice.

The components and relationships described above and in the pages that follow are bound to change as ASG evolves; as it does, the ASG Secretariat will seek to reflect these changes in [amphibians.org](http://amphibians.org), and in a new strategic plan post- 2016.

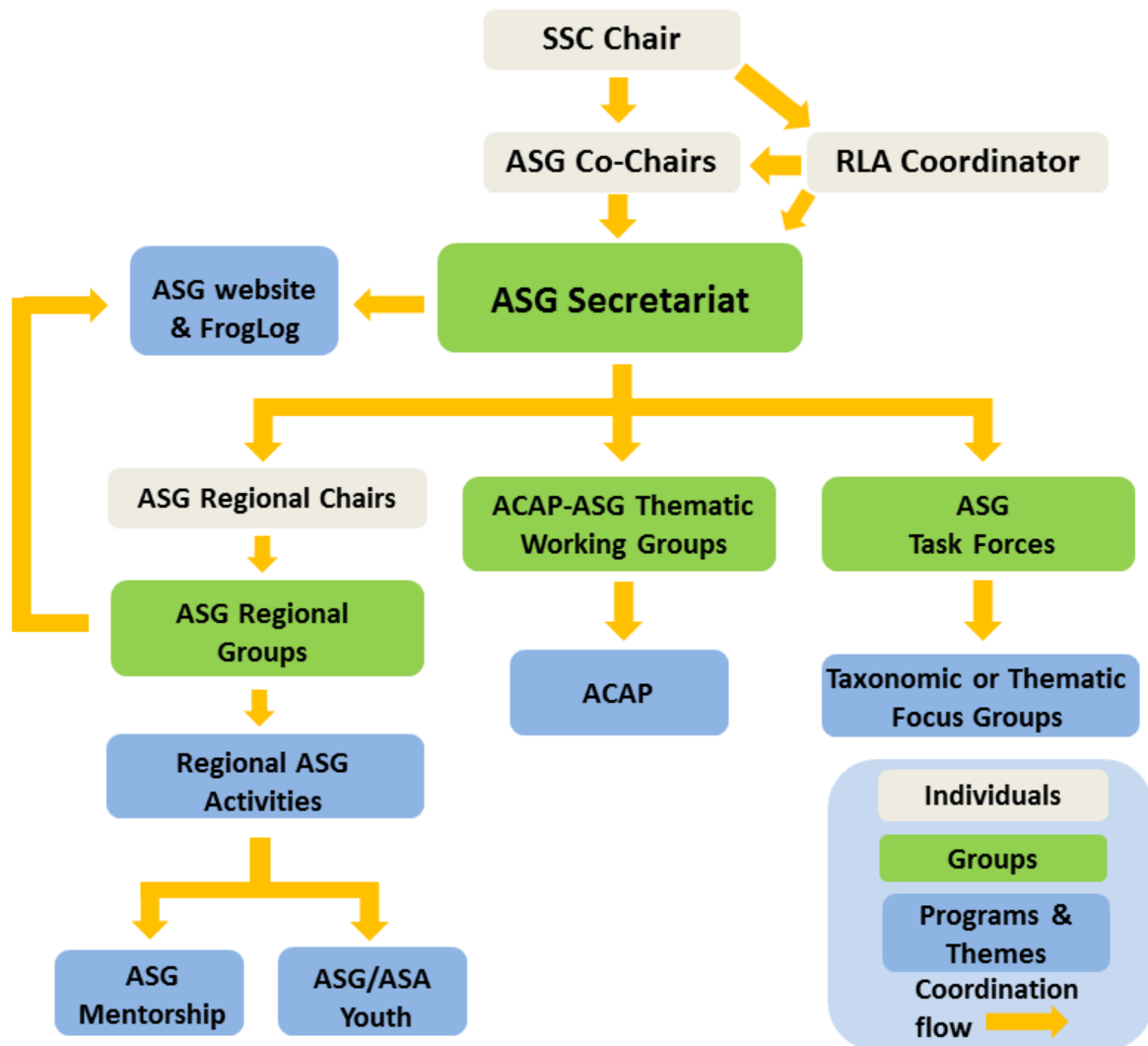


Figure 1. Schematic depicting the components of ASG, and how they relate to each other.

### 3 Mission Statement

The Amphibian Specialist Group provides the scientific foundation to inform effective amphibian conservation action around the world.

More specifically, the Amphibian Specialist Group stimulates, develops and conducts scientific research to inform the conservation of amphibians and their habitats around the world, supports the assessment of the conservation status of amphibian biodiversity, and informs the general public of amphibian conservation-related issues and priorities. This is attained by supporting and mobilizing a global network of members to develop capacity, improve coordination and integration so as to achieve shared, strategic amphibian conservation goals.

## ***Four Year Strategic Vision***

Develop a global community under the ASG that is actively engaged in amphibian research and conservation.

### **4 Global and Regional Goals**

In order to realize the vision over the next few years, the ASG aims to focus on two broad categories of goals: Regional and Global. Regional goals will be dictated largely by the needs, expertise and challenges of individual regions, and should focus on meeting these goals with the development and participation of ASG members at a regional level. However, there are some common elements in all regions, which are captured in the Regional goals below. The success of meeting Regional goals will depend almost exclusively on the actions of Regional Groups, whereas the Global Goals will be directed from the ASG Secretariat with support and contributions from all members. All Global goals can be adopted and tailored to a regional level; however, for this quadrennium (i.e. four-year term between every World Conservation Congress) we feel that the prioritization of goals as listed below is feasible.

#### *Global Goals (in order of priority)*

- a) **Membership:** Mobilize the global membership by providing clear requests and remits; develop simple criteria for membership, and new membership categories and terms of reference; bring in new members; and establish an evaluation system for the end of the IUCN four-year period (2013-2016).
- b) **Update ACAP regularly:** Establish, engage and support thematic Working Groups to update the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (ACAP) on an ongoing basis; encourage cross-collaborations.
- c) **Capacity building:** Develop and establish a Mentorship Program that can be adapted and implemented across different regions.
- d) **Support the Amphibian Red List Authority (RLA):** Increase ASG membership participation in updating amphibian Red List assessments, as the Red List data underpin most conservation actions.
- e) **Increase collaborations and alliances:** Explore partnerships with other IUCN SSC specialist groups and additional like-minded initiatives, and develop synergies where there are common conservation targets and interests (e.g. conservation of sites, water and forest resources, outreach and education, ongoing conservation programs).
- f) **Communications:** Develop a basic suite of informative awareness-raising materials (brochures, presentations, educational resources), prepared in the three official IUCN languages, that will be available to any ASG member to use in outreach efforts; update the ASG website; contribute to FrogLog.
- g) **Support small research projects:** Seek donor support for seed grants specifically available to ASG member applications.

## *Regional Goals*

- a) At least one Chair will be identified for each Regional Group (if not already appointed), and the Chair(s) will unite a group of active and responsive members.
- b) Each Regional Group will identify a set of goals until the end of 2016 (to coincide with the end of the IUCN term), and report on progress towards meeting these goals on a yearly basis.

Regional Groups are encouraged to use their IUCN SSC ASG status to develop in-region conservation efforts and to use the Secretariat as a tool towards this end. ASG actively encourages a bottom-up approach, and will support regionally-led initiatives.

## *Measurable Targets*

To assess progress, the ASG has set the following measurable targets for the end of 2016:

1. Revise and update priorities for every ACAP chapter, transforming it into a living and dynamic online document;
2. Resources permitting, assess the extinction risk of all amphibians, including new species;
3. Resources permitting, compile an open-access e-library of amphibian conservation literature that is easily accessible to all ASG Members. This may be something that Regional Chairs and their groups may support, either on their own and/or in partnership with national zoological or herpetological societies.

## **5 Regions**

ASG regions vary in geographical scope, and depending on the distribution of both amphibian species and expertise they may have either a country or regional focus. The table below summarizes the current ASG countries/regions in place (please note that the headings in bold do not have Regional Chairs, but instead indicate the current ASG regions/countries). Each country/region liaises directly with the ASG Secretariat.

### **North and Central America and the Caribbean**

Canada  
Caribbean  
Costa Rica  
El Salvador  
Guatemala and Belize  
Honduras  
Mexico  
Nicaragua

### **Europe, North Africa and West Asia**

Europe  
North Africa  
West Asia

### **Sub-Saharan Africa**

East Africa  
Madagascar

Panama  
United States

Southern Africa  
West/Central Africa

### South America

Argentina  
Bolivia  
Brazil  
Chile  
Colombia  
Ecuador  
Guiana Shield  
Paraguay  
Peru  
Uruguay  
Venezuela

### Mainland Asia

China  
Japan  
Korea  
Mainland S. East Asia  
Russia and Mongolia  
South Asia (minus Sri Lanka)  
Sri Lanka

### Maritime Southeast Asia and Oceania

Australia  
Indonesia  
Malaysia  
Melanesia  
New Zealand  
Philippines  
Singapore

Each region has one or more Regional Chairs in place.

## **6 Regional Chairs**

ASG Regional Chairs can either be appointed by ASG Co-Chairs or elected by their regional peers. The scenario followed will depend on the specific regional community to which the Regional Chair(s) belong, and the specific regional circumstances. The nature of the scenario can also change over the course of time if the current Regional Chair(s) deem it timely and adequate to do so. Any proposed changes in process occur in consultation with the ASG Secretariat prior to implementation. There can be one or two Regional Chairs per region. Regional Chairs can be based in-region or outside of the region of interest, but in this case we usually ask that at least one of two Regional Chairs is based in-region, or have a key regional member (such as a Regional Program Officer) in place in-region.

Regional Chairs:

- Act as coordinators of amphibian research and conservation activities in their respective region, constituting and organizing the ASG membership at the regional level (assigning members to appropriate membership categories and delegating activities accordingly).
- Are the focal point for all ASG activities in the region and the link with the global ASG Secretariat.



- In consultation with the ASG Secretariat, represent the ASG both in-region (e.g. with national and/or regional processes), and globally for higher-level processes (e.g. Species Survival Commission, Amphibian Survival Alliance).
- Spearhead the development of regional goals and priorities.
- Mobilize their regional membership to support assessment activities of the Amphibian Red List Authority (RLA) with regard to the amphibian biodiversity of the respective region.
- Mobilize their regional membership to support thematic working groups and task forces with regard to the amphibian biodiversity of the respective region.
- Liaise with similarly-minded groups in-region (e.g. herpetological or zoological societies, NGOs, appropriate government agencies, etc.) to explore potential collaborations and alliances.
- Organize the regional membership's participation in the ASG Mentorship Program, as either mentors or associate members.
- Certify the ASG membership status of their respective regional members.
- Identify in-country herpetological researchers, conservationists, and like-minded individuals that are both driven and committed to amphibian conservation for potential membership consideration.
- Communicate developments and activities to the ASG Secretariat and in turn communicate global opportunities to the regional membership.
- Evaluate the contributions of individual members to the regional group's activities at the end of the IUCN four year period (2013-2016).

There is considerable freedom in how a Regional Chair establishes and runs an ASG regional group. This is because regions differ widely in terms of their amphibian biodiversity, amphibian conservation community, priorities, geography, socio-political context and culture, and resources available to develop amphibian conservation activities.

The ASG Secretariat is aware that the roles of Regional Chairs could easily qualify as full-time jobs. However, as there is significant flexibility in how regional groups are organized, it is possible for Regional Chairs to identify key regional members who could take on the responsibility for certain elements of a region's ASG development. Regional Chairs are encouraged to structure their groups in such a way so as to create a division of labour and delegate activities to one or more members, so that the development of any one activity is not necessarily reliant entirely on the Chairs. As with every IUCN SSC Specialist Group, the ASG is a volunteer group, so an important consideration is aligning expectations to ensure that regional goals and priorities are realistic based on the existing membership. If Regional Chairs deem that their region's current capacity allows targeting of only certain specific activities, they can indicate this to the ASG Secretariat.

In instances where Regional Chairs are asked to officially represent ASG, we ask that they please liaise with the ASG Secretariat to ensure smooth communication and coordination.

More information on how to set up a regional group will be provided in a forthcoming document entitled “Guidelines for Regional Groups”.

## **7 Membership**

The ASG’s previous protocol for obtaining membership was that an individual needed to have an application sponsored by a Regional Chair, Working Group Facilitator, or one of the Co-Chairs of the Specialist Group. The nature of the sponsorship also dictated the member’s scope: either global (i.e. not tied to any specific region, which is the case of most of the current membership) or regional (i.e. tied to a particular Regional Group – currently, only Regional Chairs are linked to a given group). In the past, interested parties would be directed to the Regional Chairs in their home country/region and provided with the application form. There has not been a set list of qualifications for membership to the ASG because relevant experience is not equal or comparable across the world. Regional groups have also managed their membership in slightly different ways. One group, for example, has two lists of individuals: those with many years of experience and the leaders in their field (about 30 members); and everyone else (200+ members). In the past the ASG has only received the list of the 30 members, and the regional group has managed the larger subset of individuals at a local level. Once a member has achieved a level deemed appropriate by the Regional Chairs that justifies an “international membership” status, they are elevated.

For the current period and until 2016, ASG is continuing with the sponsorship protocol, i.e. applicants must have their application sponsored by a Regional Chair, Working Group Facilitator, or one of the Co-Chairs of the ASG. Ideally, applications would be sent to Regional Chairs or Working Group Facilitators first. In instances where there are no Regional Chairs, or where the applicant clearly has a global scope of action (multiple countries), then an application can be sent to ASG Co-Chairs. When applications are sent directly to Regional Chairs, we ask that the respective chairs please consult the appointments with the Co-Chairs. If there is general agreement on an appointment, we ask that the Regional Chairs please indicate their endorsement in the application form(s) and forward the application(s) to Jos Kielgast ([jkielgast@amphibians.org](mailto:jkielgast@amphibians.org)), who will then include the new member in the ASG membership database, and also forward the new member’s details to the SSC so that he/she can be added to the SSC’s database.

While the ASG is retaining the global/regional membership scopes for the purposes of database management, it is also establishing new member categories. As with the global/regional scope aspect, ASG Regional Chairs are asked to please allocate and manage these member categories for their respective regions and inform the ASG Secretariat of these so that we can update our internal database.

The member categories are:

- 1. Associate Member:** An up-and-coming amphibian conservationist, typically a high school or undergraduate student, who is keen to be involved in amphibian conservation and contributing to the ASG. The student may or may not have a publication record. The key considerations for admission to this category are: 1) interest; 2) endorsement by a professor or teacher, or another respected member of society; and 3) matching with an appropriate ASG mentor under the Mentorship Program. Upon admission to ASG, 'Associate' Members are required to complete an ASG-specific project (which could be related to Red List assessments or other projects) which will be supervised by one or more ASG mentors under the Mentorship Program. On successful completion of the project, the Associate Member can request their respective Regional Chair(s) provide a certificate of project completion. Students who are part of an established research group and who wish to apply as a group to join ASG as Associate Members (perhaps to advance a joint project) can do so. In such instances we request a letter of support from their professor for the group application in addition to the respective Regional Chair's endorsement. Interested parties should contact the respective Regional Chairs first, but if they do not hear back within a reasonable amount of time they are advised to contact a member of the ASG Secretariat who can then channel the request appropriately. Associate Members are encouraged to become involved in ASG activities and participate in their region's discussions on amphibian conservation. Associate Members are not voting members in Regional Chair elections, or in ASG-wide consultation processes.
- 2. Full Member:** A Full Member can be: 1) an established and active member of the amphibian conservation community, and/or an MSc or PhD student dedicated to amphibian research in their academic programs, and with a very strong interest in and commitment to amphibian conservation; 2) a postgraduate student with a strong interest in and commitment to amphibian conservation who is enrolled in an academic program that is not necessarily directly linked to amphibian conservation, but is nonetheless relevant and applicable; or 3) a person that may not necessarily have an academic background but who, through interest, individual experience and/or field of expertise is able to contribute to amphibian conservation. Full Members are eligible to be Regional Chairs or Co-Chairs, can vote in Regional Chair elections, and act as Mentors in the ASG Mentorship Program. In addition, Full Members can act in any official capacity at either the regional or Task Force levels. The ASG Secretariat hopes that Full Members will be committed and proactively involved and engaged in ASG activities. This involvement can take multiple forms. Although not exhaustive, examples include offering ASG community members free online webinars or workshops on key topics such as fundraising and proposal writing; data and text mining (bibliometry, meta-analysis), GIS principles and methods, mainstreaming research information for use by NGOs/governments and generally developing studies that are useful for conservation

practice, etc. We ask that Full Members interested in offering a webinar or workshop please contact their respective Regional Chair(s) to coordinate the details.

Both Associate and Full Members are considered ASG members and hence SSC members. All current members are considered Full Members within this four year IUCN period, except new members that may have very recently (within the last 1-2 years) joined ASG and/or who are clearly in the early stages of their career. In these cases, these new members would be considered as Associate Members.

## **8 ACAP-ASG Thematic Working Groups**

On request of the Amphibian Survival Alliance (ASA), a series of twelve Thematic Working Groups (WG) were established to develop priorities to inform conservation efforts, with a focus on updating the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (ACAP) and making it a living document. These priorities will provide the guidance that the ASA needs to address the most pressing and immediate issues.

WGs comprise ASG members, with one or two facilitators. WG Facilitators can organize their WGs into sub-groups, should this improve internal WG efficiency. Through these WGs, the ASG is providing a platform for discussion and cross-collaboration within the amphibian community, creating a channel that utilises the expertise of ASG members to aid amphibian conservation.

Working Groups have already developed a set of long-(>5 years), medium- (1-5 years), and short-term (6-12 month) goals. The first set of priority actions for all WGs can be accessed [here](#). The ASG Secretariat envisions yearly revisions to the WG's priority actions in order to keep the new ACAP relevant to the needs of and developments in amphibian conservation.

For enquiries about WGs in general please contact Sally Wren ([swren@amphibians.org](mailto:swren@amphibians.org)); for specific WG contacts please visit individual [WG pages](#) for details.

## **9 ASG Task Forces**

ASG Task Forces (TF) comprise groups of ASG members that have a specific taxonomic or thematic focus (different from the ACAP-focused Working Groups) and who wish to consolidate efforts and build knowledge on their respective study groups or themes. TFs are led by one or more TF Coordinators, who oversee the establishment and internal coordination of the respective group. Parties interested in establishing a TF are encouraged to liaise directly with the ASG Secretariat.

## 10 ASG and the Amphibian Red List Authority (RLA)

The amphibian database on [The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#) continues to act as a foundation for amphibian conservation. It has underpinned many global initiatives and projects at the regional level, as well as being used extensively by international funding agencies to inform their decision-making processes. Because of this, it is critical that the IUCN Red List extinction risk assessments (and their underlying data) be kept updated, because accurate and up-to-date information underpins efficient conservation action.

Red List Authorities are appointed by the Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) to ensure that all species within their jurisdiction are correctly assessed against the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria (the methodology used to assess extinction risk in the IUCN Red List) at least once every ten years (assessments that are older than ten years are flagged as requiring an update).

In this context, the [IUCN SSC Amphibian Red List Authority](#) (Amphibian RLA) is a group tasked by the IUCN SSC Chair with overseeing the process of updating, maintaining and curating amphibian assessments in the IUCN Red List. The majority of IUCN SSC Specialist Groups serve as the RLAs for their particular species, and indeed **the Amphibian RLA is established within the IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG)** (see Figure 2). Consequently, members of the Amphibian RLA are by definition also members of the ASG and IUCN SSC. The key difference between the Amphibian RLA and ASG is that the focus of the Amphibian RLA is to oversee and maintain the amphibian database in the IUCN Red List. The ASG's remit supports Amphibian RLA activities, but is more broadly defined, focusing on: promoting and developing the best science to inform conservation action; building capacity in amphibian conservation; and raising awareness of amphibian conservation issues.

The Amphibian RLA mostly comprises volunteers, with only the central coordination team being employed as staff. The main limitation for the Amphibian RLA has been access to the necessary resources to keep up with information output and update the amphibian database accordingly. As a result, greater support is needed from ASG in this regard; something that can hopefully be addressed with the new ASG membership structure and implementation of the new ASG Mentorship program (see section 6 – Membership for further details).

## 11 ASG and the Amphibian Survival Alliance (ASA)

The Amphibian Specialist Group is a network of over 500 of the world's leading amphibian experts providing scientific guidance to enable conservation actions to be prioritized and implemented by the Amphibian Survival Alliance (ASA), a partnership of over 100 organizations committed to amphibian conservation worldwide. The ASA, in turn, supports the development and some of the activities of the ASG. Figure 2 below depicts the relationship between ASG and ASA. As the scientific advisory body of the ASA, the ASG was requested to coordinate the updating of the 2007 Amphibian

Conservation Action Plan (ACAP) to better reflect the current challenges, and ASG has already produced its first version of a living ACAP document. The ASG is uniquely positioned to work with the ASA to identify the current challenges to amphibian conservation, and to recommend potential solutions, having a broad membership represented across more than 40 regions from around the world. In mid-2013 the ASG initiated establishment of the Thematic Working Groups designed to identify priority actions that would be executed primarily through the ASA, with the ASA Secretariat acting as a coordinating implementation body (see section 8. Working Groups for further details). As knowledge increases and progress is made, the priority actions will evolve, helping to redefine the new ACAP as a living document.

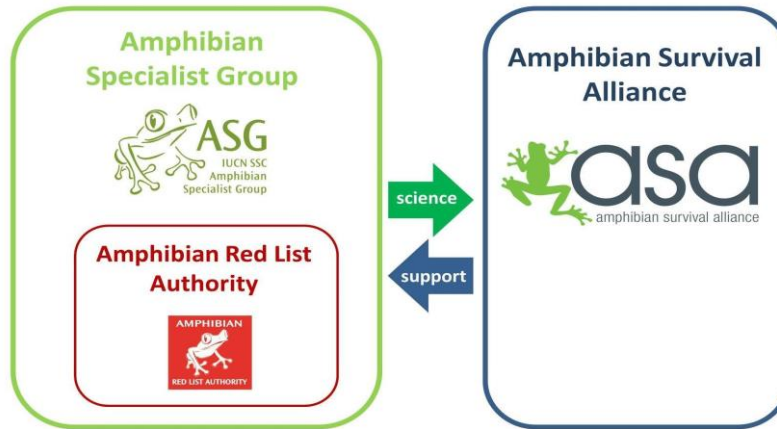


Figure 2. Simple schematic diagram depicting the relationship between the ASG and ASA. Note that the Amphibian RLA is contained within the ASG.

## 12 Other Partnerships

ASG is open to partnerships with like-minded groups where interests overlap, both at the global and regional levels. Such partnerships work to build alliances, optimize resource use and increase efficiency. At the global level, the ASG Secretariat will explore opportunities with other IUCN SSC Specialist Groups and commissions, and other internationally-scoped groups and networks. Regional ASG branches are encouraged to explore partnerships with local stakeholders, such as regional herpetological societies, municipal, regional or national governments, protected areas, local universities or research institutes, sustainable and green businesses, etc.

## 13 ASG Programs

ASG has two stand-alone programs that act to facilitate achievement of key global goals. These programs are:

### 13.1 ASG Mentorship Program

The ASG Mentorship Program seeks to provide capacity building while at the same time advancing important ASG projects by matching new Associate Members to established Full Members of the ASG who act as supervisors. The goal behind this program is to identify both information and expertise gaps, and to provide newcomers with guidance in the development of their ASG projects, while at the same time filling crucial knowledge gaps. This program is carried out at the regional level and is overseen by Regional Chairs. Examples of such projects may be:

- Compiling existing literature for a particular amphibian conservation topic, providing new members with experience in literature searches and data mining;
- Compiling existing literature and developing accounts for endemic species for a national or regional catalog, providing new members with experience in literature searches and scientific writing;
- Updating species range maps and exploring existing tools to refine and validate maps, providing training opportunities in Geographic Information Systems and/or other tools;
- Database building and development;
- Compiling information on current research and conservation actions for specific groups of species or regions, building appropriate baseline information for future projects;
- Collating, publishing and disseminating conservation evidence studies to support the practice of appropriate and effective conservation interventions for amphibians;
- Developing, publishing and disseminating effective communication tools (educational and outreach materials) in different languages;
- Developing field-based projects that unite conservation science and practice goals, promoting conservation action *in situ*.

The list above is only intended to provide some ideas and is by no means prescriptive.

Ideally, projects should lead to publications, which would provide additional incentives to both mentors and students. Regional Chairs may wish to engage their existing members in identifying important knowledge gaps, and also determine which members would be willing participate in the Mentorship Program.

### 13.2 ASG/ASA Youth Program

The ASG/ASA Youth Program's objective is to provide a focal point to help children and youth engage in amphibian conservation from an early age. Many, if not most amphibian biologists, developed a keen interest in amphibians and nature at an early age. Providing school-aged children and youth with a program that nurtures and inspires their interest and allows them to communicate with like-minded people from around the world will ensure that the next generation of amphibian biologists is both informed and engaged in amphibian conservation. This program can be carried out at the

regional/national level and is overseen by Regional Chairs. It can include elements such as the creation of educational materials, partnership development with interested schools, building resources that are integrated within the school curriculum, presentations, and outreach activities. For enquiries about the Youth Program please contact Leida Dos Santos ([ldossantos@amphibians.org](mailto:ldossantos@amphibians.org)).

## **14 Communications**

The main communication hubs of the ASG are: its website, [amphibians.org](http://amphibians.org), which is shared between ASG and ASA; FrogLog (the amphibian conservation community's newsletter); and the ASG Facebook page. The website is the ASG's home, open to ASG members and the public (as is Facebook), while FrogLog is directed to the amphibian conservation community. These media are not only ASG's resources for internal communications, but also ASG's identity to the outside world. Thus, ASG will work with ASA, with whom it shares common media platforms, to develop resources that reflect its identity in an unambiguous way.

## **15 Publications**

The ASG has been involved in various publications since its inception, and seeks not only to continue this involvement but also to augment it. Publications can comprise anything from peer-reviewed articles in scientific journals and stand-alone publications (e.g. books, global or regional action plans), to technical reports and educational materials. Publications of both global and regional scope are appreciated.

In this light, the ASG welcomes the use of the ASG brand in both scientific and non-academic publications. When a Regional Group, Thematic Working Group or Task Force wishes to use the ASG brand, the Secretariat asks that those members responsible for the respective group please contact the Secretariat to coordinate this request (please see below, under Contact Us).

The Secretariat appreciates that publishing in English or another non-native language can be challenging. To this end, we are hoping to identify members fluent in English and other languages who are willing to provide translation support to help extend the language spectrum of ASG publications.

## **Contact Us**

For enquiries and additional information on ASG, please contact Ariadne Angulo ([aangulo@amphibians.org](mailto:aangulo@amphibians.org)) and/or Phil Bishop ([pbishop@amphibians.org](mailto:pbishop@amphibians.org)).