

# Fighting Extinction



Welcome to the Anthropocene!

Humans are causing a global extinction crisis. But there is still a chance to turn things around. Building up healthy captive populations of endangered animals is one way to prevent species from disappearing.

## Captive breeding to fight extinction

### Building up reserves

Under controlled and humane conditions, endangered species can survive and multiply. These populations can serve as a backup in case wild populations are wiped out.

### Building up knowledge

Learning more about the animals' biology is the key to better understanding ecosystems and finding effective ways to protect a species.

### Building up capacity

Many zoos and other institutions have already developed successful breeding programs. But they have neither the room nor the personnel to house and breed all the species that need help.

We need a capacity-building initiative to slow the 21st century extinction crisis.



# Welcome to

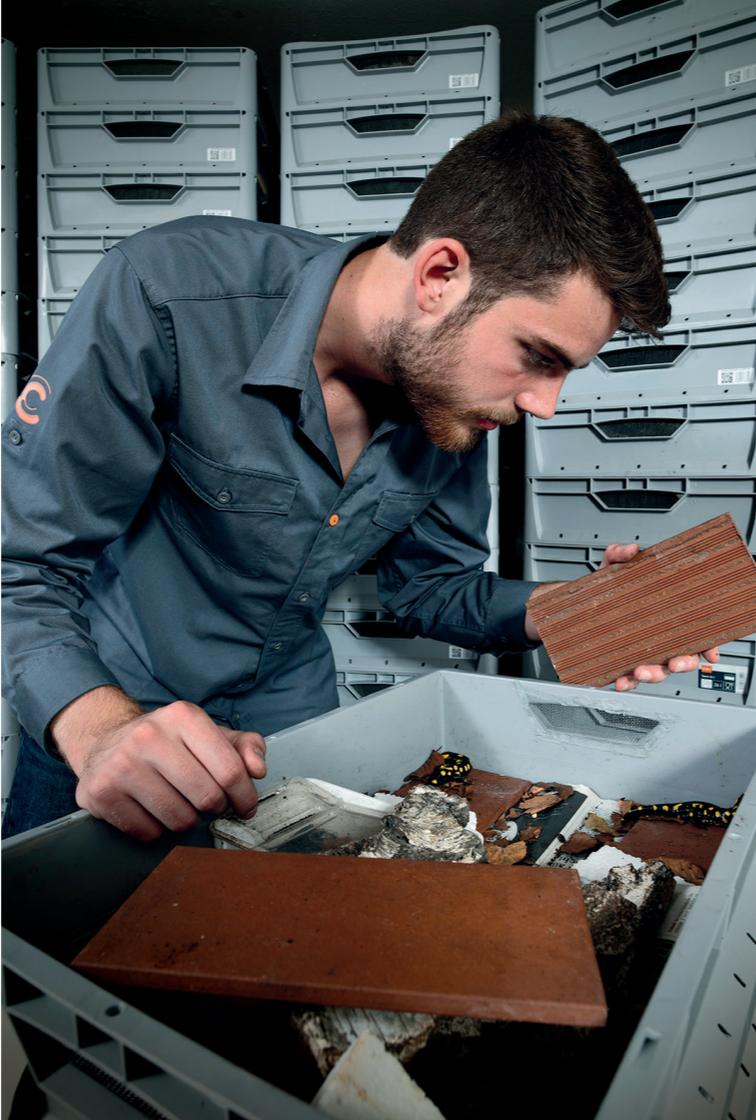


Citizen Conservation is a network of professional and private animal breeders and caretakers. It allows scientifically based breeding programs to join forces with people who are eager to help protect biodiversity – up close and personal. CC turns citizens into active conservationists, leading, inspiring, and encouraging others to join the fight against extinction.

Citizen Conservation means taking action – with tangible results.

Expanding the capacity for breeding programs allows CC to:

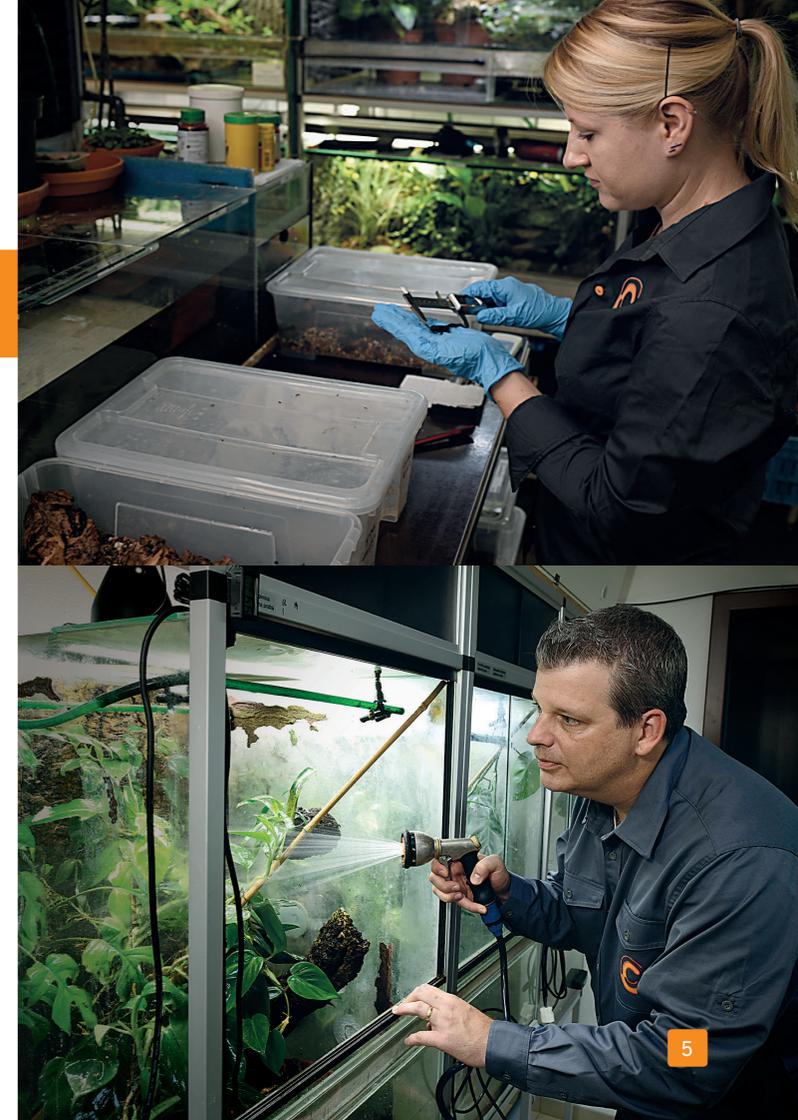
- build up crucial backup populations
- react swiftly in a crisis
- have a positive influence on the animal trade
- increase awareness of and interest in the plight of endangered species



To truly make a difference, we need a movement.

CC wants to spark that movement – and everyone is welcome to participate. Experienced keepers can support programs for acutely endangered and rare species. But there's room for beginners, too, who can take part by breeding less demanding animals.

All can help to spread the word about the serious threats to biodiversity, with the best ambassadors possible – themselves.



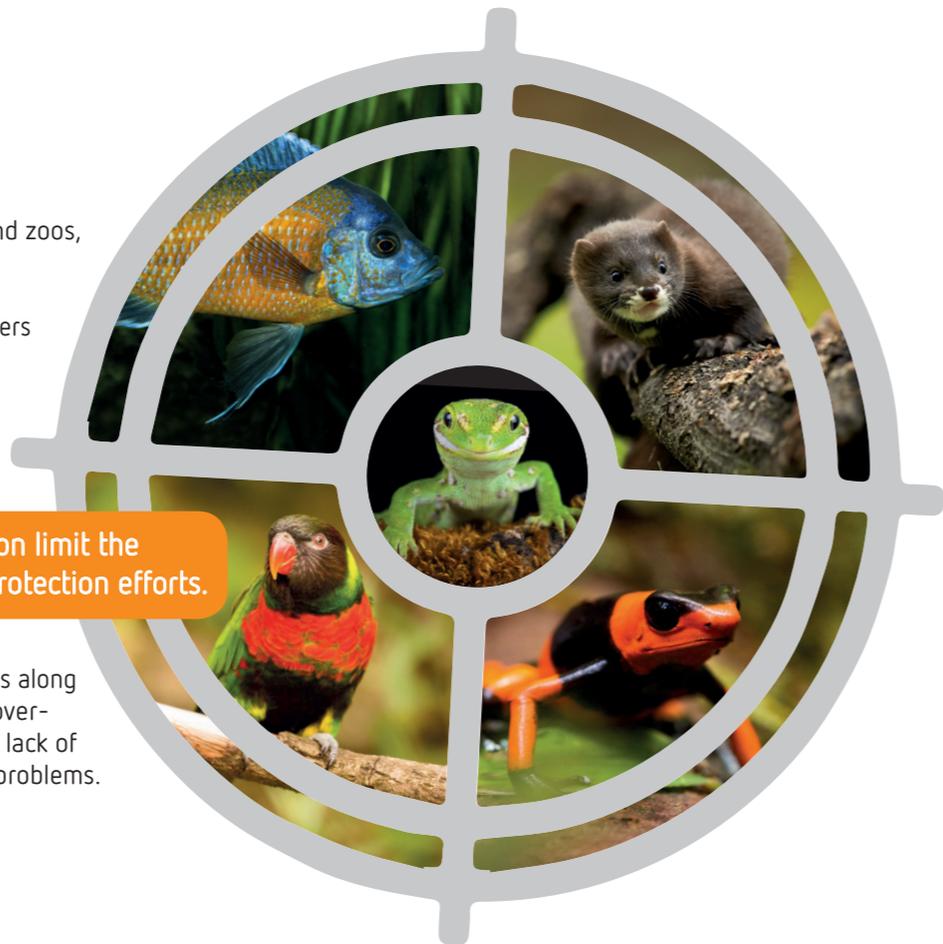
# Scientific challenges

There are thousands of endangered species, and zoos, by themselves, cannot save all of them.

The potential of many successful amateur breeders has long been ignored. Their knowledge and practical experience is rarely evaluated or published, and their engagement hasn't been used to build up existing programs.

**Inadequate transparency and coordination limit the effectiveness and efficiency of species protection efforts.**

In a globalised world transport of animals carries along the risk of spreading disease. Smuggling and over-harvesting can endanger wild populations, and lack of knowledge can lead to serious animal welfare problems.



# Citizen Conservation offers

a professionally coordinated breeding program and systematic capacity building.

The goal is to establish a captive breeding program that has broad public participation and support. We welcome anyone who agrees to the CC guidelines and can demonstrate the necessary skills.



## Contributing to research

CC generates, evaluates, and publishes new findings about species in the program and cooperates with external partners to further both research and education.

## Supporting young talent

Through its partner network, CC can offer information and courses about the latest standards for animal care, attracting and educating new participants.

## Influencing markets

Allowing the sale of excess animals produced through CC can help to reduce smuggling, the spread of disease and other risks of the exotic animal trade.

## Biosecurity

CC will guarantee the genetic and veterinary health of the populations in the program.

# Societal challenges

The benefits of keeping wild animals in captivity (ex situ) are being increasingly questioned in public discussions and debates. In view of the global extinction crisis this is a troubling development. Apparently, the arguments for ex situ breeding are not reaching enough people.

A powerful campaign that encourages and inspires support for ex situ efforts could help. That requires recognizing the contributions of all those involved - and clear evidence of the benefits for threatened species.

Without public support there will be no funding – and little chance of success.



# Citizen Conservation offers

a sustainable campaign for captive breeding efforts.

The goal is to build a broad consensus that research and breeding of wild animals in captivity is a crucial part of the fight against extinction.



## Fighting Extinction

Doris Preininger and Thomas Wampula from Viennas Tiergarten Schönbrunn work every day to ensure the survival of an endangered salamander. Read the full story of Doris and Thomas: [www.citizen-conservation.org](http://www.citizen-conservation.org)

The Lake Patzcuaro salamander is critically endangered. If 50 private breeders each took one pair, the population could grow by 2500 animals in a single year.

## Getting started with amphibians

Citizen Conservation will begin with a focus on amphibians, eventually expanding to include other animal classes. The first phase is underway with the title CC #Amphibians.

### The goals of the pilot phase

- Testing the technical procedures, content of the program, and communication strategies
- Preparing for the expansion of the program to other animal classes
- Establishing CC as an independent and sustainable NGO

Pilot phase development will be guided by an advisory board with representatives from science, conservation, veterinary medicine, animal husbandry as well as creative industry and marketing. The day to day operations will be directed by a project management group with representatives of Frogs & Friends, DGHT and VdZ.

More than 2000 amphibian species worldwide are considered to be threatened.



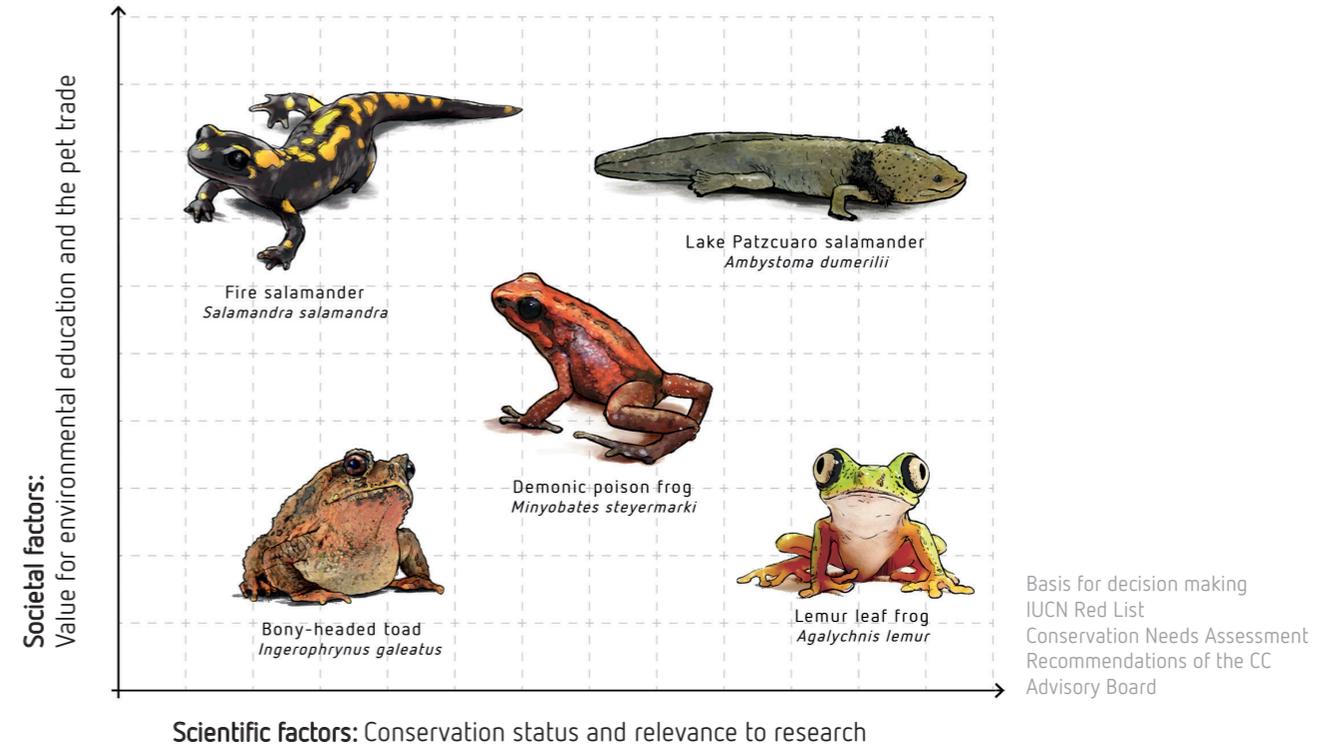
## Fighting Extinction

In his spare time, veterinarian Tobias Eisenberg breeds frogs, including critically endangered species like the lemur leaf frog. Read Tobias' full story: [www.citizen-conservation.org](http://www.citizen-conservation.org)

If 50 private breeders each took one breeding group of the lemur leaf frog, the population could grow by 1000 animals in a single year.

# First species in CC #Amphibians

In choosing species to include, CC takes into account both scientific and societal factors.





## Fighting Extinction

Together, Uwe Seidel and Philip Gerhardt have more than 50 years of experience in breeding fire salamanders. Thanks to the sophisticated breeding system they developed, they can rear precise numbers of new offspring each season. Read the full story of Uwe and Philip: [www.citizen-conservation.org](http://www.citizen-conservation.org)

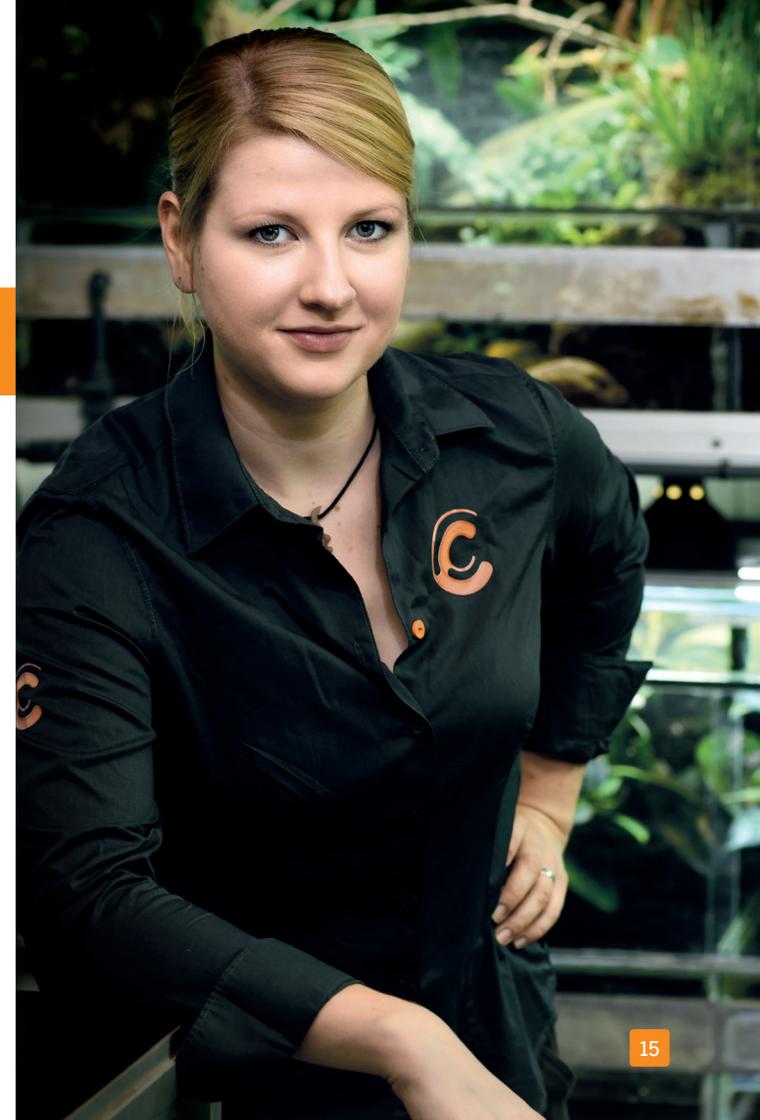
An invasive fungal disease threatens the fire salamander. If 50 private breeders each took one pair, the population could grow by 1000 animals in a single year.

# Citizen Conservation gets people moving

The “pro ex situ” initiative welcomes everyone who cares about species conservation.

Together we can make sure that captive breeding receives the respect and recognition it deserves as a valuable tool in the fight against extinction, with broad public support – and participation.

Anna Rauhaus and her team at the Zoo Cologne have managed to breed almost 20 amphibian species in captivity. One of them is the bony-headed toad, threatened in its home range in Vietnam. Read Anna’s full story: [www.citizen-conservation.org](http://www.citizen-conservation.org)





### **project partners**

Frogs & Friends e.V.	<a href="http://www.frogs-friends.org">www.frogs-friends.org</a>
Verband der Zoologischen Gärten e.V. (VdZ)	<a href="http://www.vdz-zoos.org">www.vdz-zoos.org</a>
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Herpetologie und Terrarienkunde e.V. (DGHT)	<a href="http://www.dght.de">www.dght.de</a>

### **project management group**

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