



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Quebec Zoos and Aquariums Team up to Save the World's Most Endangered Species

Montreal, Québec – February 25, 2008 – Earth is facing its single largest mass extinction since the disappearance of the dinosaurs. One third to one half of the world's 6000 amphibian species – which have thrived for the past 360 million years – are facing imminent extinction, some within the next 10 years. One hundred and twenty species have already become extinct in recent years. To mitigate this crisis, the world's leading conservationists have joined together to name 2008, "The Year of the Frog" in hopes of raising both awareness and the critical funding needed to address this crisis.

Amphibians are affected by habitat loss, climate change, pollution and pesticides, introduced species and over-collection for food and pets. The most immediate threat is an introduced parasitic fungus called amphibian chytrid, which is untreatable in the wild and can kill 80 percent of native amphibians within months.

CAZA, the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums, was established to promote the welfare of animals and to encourage the advancement of education, conservation and science. Its six Québec-accredited zoos and aquariums are joining forces for the first time in history to collectively address this critical problem.

The Ecomuseum Zoo will host a joint press conference on February 29th at 11:00am, with the five other organizations, which include; the Montréal Biodôme, Granby Zoo, Parc Safari, Parc Aquarium de Québec and Zoo Sauvage de Saint-Félicien. The leaders of each of the six organizations will discuss the reasons for the amphibian extinction crisis, propose solutions at a local level and announce their plans for the Year of the Frog.

ABOUT THE ECOMUSEUM ZOO – The Ecomuseum Zoo houses the largest collection of live animals indigenous to the Saint-Lawrence Valley in Canada, with more than 115 species represented. The primary mission of the Ecomuseum is to promote the responsible stewardship of the Valley through education, research and conservation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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