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# FrogLog

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Promoting Conservation, Research and  
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SPECIAL EDITION

Tim Halliday: Amphibian Ambassador

Rediscovering Hope for the Longnose  
Harlequin Frog

Why We Need More Amphibian-Focused  
Protected Areas

*Pseudophilautus hallidayi*. Photo: Nayana Wijayathilaka.

... and so much more!

# Amphibians in Focus (ANFoCO): Brazilian Symposium on Amphibian Conservation

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Recently, the Amphibian Specialist Group for Brazil (ASG Brazil) conducted a massive review of the conservation actions involving amphibians in the country (unpublished data). The main objective of this diagnosis was to identify the people (and their work) involved with the subject, with the aim of connecting them and devising adequate strategies to improve amphibian conservation in Brazil.

From the analysis of this diagnosis, we developed the idea of organizing meetings to bring these people together, promoting debates that *effectively* contribute to the conservation of amphibians in our country. In this way was born the *Amphibians in Focus* (ANFoCO), a name that will be used for all the events organized by ASG Brazil from now on. In this first edition, it will be organized in a symposium format, but future events can have the structure of courses, workshops, etc.

The *I ANFoCO: Brazilian Symposium on Amphibian Conservation* will be held on August 4 and 5, 2018 at the São Paulo Zoo (São Paulo, Brazil), with the purpose of being a *propositional* event, and not merely an *expository* event. We want it to be a space for the presentation of successful ideas, so that they can be replicated in other places, with other species, and in other contexts. We intend it to be a space for the discussion of the difficulties faced, with the consequent proposition of practical actions aimed at overcoming the problems and correcting the flaws pointed out. We want it to be an inclusive space, stimulating the participation of people who are normally on the sidelines of the Brazilian scientific and academic worlds. We want it to be an innovative space, stimulating the shifting of paradigms and a new way of thinking about conservation. The principles of ANFoCO are:

**Unite:** we believe that unity and collective work are fundamental to advancing and consolidating conservation actions with amphibians in Brazil. Therefore, we intend to create an environment that facilitates and favors the intimacy and the exchange of ideas between participants. Thus, our event will be structured in a way that all people can attend all the lectures and spend most of their time together, without concomitant talks and with the existence of social spaces and activities that facilitate the contact between the attendees.

**Propose:** merely expository lectures, although important to present work results, very rarely stimulate changes. We consider that there are already other meetings in the Brazilian herpetological calendar for the exhibition of works; so we intend to structure our symposium in a way that all the talks presented are *propositive*, in order to influence the thinking of the participants, generating reflection and the impetus to put into practice the ideas proposed.

**Include and Encourage:** in our diagnosis, we identified some groups that, unfortunately, are still on the sidelines of scientific and academic worlds and, consequently, of the execution and decision-making processes of conservation activities. The groups



in question are women, young people, undergraduate students, and people from the North, Northeast and Center-West regions of Brazil. In our event, we intend to make room for their participation, stimulating their engagement by proposing quotas of attendance, and offering discounts and awards in recognition of their work.

**Innovate:** we want the event to be innovative not only in its inclusive and propositional format but also for new ideas and approaches to be presented. We intend to discuss new conservation concepts; to present new technologies which may replace outdated scientific techniques; to propose and stimulate the application of strategies that work very well in other countries, but are rarely applied in Brazil; and, above all, to make room for new names to present and discuss their ideas.

**Produce:** we hope that, at the end of the event, materials will be produced and disseminated, making the event's results accessible to all those interested in the theme. To do so, we will encourage the creation and publication of products (articles, reports, lists, maps, videos, etc.) in the period after the event.

The target audience of the *I ANFoCO* is all people interested in the conservation of amphibians in Brazil, including members of academic and scientific circles, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and civil society. The *Brazilian Symposium on Amphibian Conservation* is an event designed by ASG Brazil and co-organized in partnership with the São Paulo Zoo, where it will be held, and the Brazilian Society of Herpetology (SBH). The symposium will take place in the Dom Pedro Space at the Zoo, a 300 m<sup>2</sup> lounge with an outdoor area with balconies built and decorated in colonial style. It is located inside the Fontes do Ipiranga State Park, providing the participants with warmth and inspiration on a beautiful background of Atlantic Rainforest.

At the end of the *I ANFoCO*, we hope that the successful experiences presented at the meeting can be replicated in other places; that contacts made during the symposium result in future collaborations; that new ideas emerge; and that people who usually have no voice will be heard and valued. We want our event to be the catalyst that was needed to organize, connect and boost the conservation actions of amphibians throughout Brazil.

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