



# Department of Defense PARC (Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation) Strategic Plan Workshops

Project # 09-423

## Background:

In 2009, the Department of Defense (DoD) Legacy Resource Management Program initiated the development of a Strategic Plan for the recently established DoD PARC Program. The purpose of the plan is to develop an amphibian and reptile conservation strategy that can be implemented through partnerships. The focus of the Strategic Plan is to reduce and mitigate the threats to amphibians and reptiles on DoD lands, while protecting and sustaining the military mission.

Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) was formed in 1998 in response to growing evidence of amphibian and reptile extirpations and declining populations. PARC and DoD signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2006 and 2011. The PARC network, comprised of additional concerned scientists, resource managers, and citizens, works together to achieve conservation of amphibians, reptiles, and their habitats on a local, state, regional, national, and global scale.

## Objective:

The objective of the DoD PARC Strategic Plan is to better integrate amphibian and reptile conservation and management on the DoD landscape. The development of the strategic plan will involve two major conservation stakeholders: DoD, one of the largest federal departments in the protection and conservation of threatened and endangered species in the U.S., and PARC. With the comprehensive resources that DoD and PARC bring to bear, it is anticipated that DoD will be better able to address amphibian and reptile conservation issues while simultaneously supporting military readiness.

## Summary of Approach:

To develop the strategic plan, two workshops were held in 2010, one in Crystal City, Virginia and another in Tucson Arizona. Workshops attendance included essential DoD staff and other natural resource experts. The draft version of the plan will be completed in the winter of 2010–2011, and made available for comment by the DoD natural resource community at large. It is essential that DoD natural resource personnel develop a sense of ownership in the plan, as its implementation will give all of DoD the chance to synthetically and

programmatically manage and conserve herpetofauna for the first time in history.

## Benefit:

The strategic plan will provide for enhanced conservation and management of natural resources on military installations throughout the U.S. and provide a framework for similar activities on installations throughout the world. The creation of this plan will focus on the much needed protection and conservation of amphibians and reptiles, many of which are disappearing faster than we can document.

## Accomplishments:

We have held the two workshops mentioned above and have written a draft DoD PARC Strategic Plan. The draft plan is currently under review by the military Services and the Conservation Committee. It is anticipated that the Final DoD PARC Strategic Plan will be complete by summer 2012.

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