

ATELOPUS SURVIVAL INITIATIVE

GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Thanks for your interest in joining the [Atelopus Survival Initiative \(ASI\)](#) and your commitment to ensuring the long-term conservation of harlequin toads. The ASI and its members follow and act according to the following Guiding Principles, described in detail in the [ASI Strategic Plan](#). For further information, please have a look at the ASI [website](#) or contact: info@atelopus.org.

ASI MISSION AND GOALS

The ASI is a collaborative, coordinated regional effort dedicated to bringing harlequin toads (*Atelopus*) from the brink of extinction. The ASI will ensure “*Harlequin toads are conserved through the collaborative participation of stakeholders that produce baseline knowledge, mitigate the threats that affect the genus, and promote its cultural and biological importance*”. Rather than isolated stars, the ASI forms a constellation of champions working together to save harlequin toads with the specific goals:

- Ensure ASI members have the technical, logistical, and financial support, collaboration, and participation to ensure *Atelopus* conservation;
- Gather scientific knowledge and information to guide *Atelopus* conservation in the wild and in captivity;
- Implement strategies to reduce threats to *Atelopus*;
- Build the capacity to maintain sustainable captive populations of threatened *Atelopus* species in country and do reintroductions where needed;
- Raise awareness and promote *Atelopus* as the jewels of the Neotropics.

ASI ROAD MAP

The ASI and its members guide the implementation of its conservation actions by the [Harlequin Toad \(*Atelopus*\) Conservation Action Plan \(HarleCAP\)](#), which outlines range-wide conservation priorities, *in situ* and *ex situ*, and identifies needs at the local, national, regional, and international levels that should be implemented over the next 20 years (2021-2041) to save harlequin toads from the brink of extinction.

RESPECT, COLLABORATION AND COMMUNICATION

The ASI welcomes members who subscribe to our core values of collaboration, open communication and coordination, in an inclusive, diverse and just environment, guided by sound science. The ASI was created to bring a diversity of people and institutions and individuals from different countries, backgrounds and expertise to work together to save harlequin toads.

ASI MEMBERSHIP

ASI is open to all those committed to working together to advance *Atelopus* conservation under the guidance of the HarleCAP. Membership is open to individuals, NGOs, donors, government agencies, academic and research institutions, *ex situ* facilities, zoos, etc. Interested organizations and individuals who would like to join the ASI should fill the ASI [Membership Form](#), which will be reviewed and approved by the ASI.



ASI STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

The ASI is organized in 5 Thematic Working Groups (WG): *in situ conservation*, *ex situ conservation*, *infectious diseases*, *communications* and *funding*. ASI members are encouraged to be part of WGs, which are led by 2-3 Leaders chosen by its members. The ASI has a Coordinator and an advisory body under the [IUCN SSC ASG Atelopus Task Force](#), which provides technical and scientific advice to the ASI, facilitates and catalyzes the implementation of the HarleCAP, and together with the ASI Coordinator act as the primary decision-making body. The Atelopus Task Force is led by 2 Co-coordinators, and is composed by all the Leaders and the ASI Coordinator. The ASI Coordinator is responsible for maintaining and growing the ASI network, for maintaining and facilitating open communication with all ASI members, partners and donors, and for supporting ASI members wherever possible, advancing the HarleCAP implementation. The ASI Coordinator will promote the ASI to external audiences and will support fundraising, although it will not be responsible for it. The [ASI Strategic Plan](#) describes in detail the structure and governance of the ASI.



ASI COMMUNICATIONS AND FUNDRAISING

The goal of the ASI communication channels is to increase and improve coordination between members, and to raise the profile of *Atelopus* among the general public. ASI communication channels and outputs will be published in Spanish, English and Portuguese, when possible, to cover internal (countries where *Atelopus* occur) and external (international) audiences. The ASI is not responsible for securing funding to its members or deciding how potential funds collectively received should be used. The ASI rather guides and help potential donors make informed decisions on how to invest their funds, and gives credibility to its members by providing recommendation letters, helping to review applications before submission, and sharing information on potential funding sources.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATION OF MEMBERS

It is expected that ASI members will:

- *Work collaboratively with other ASI members for the conservation of Atelopus and the implementation of the HarleCAP;*
- *Maintain regular and open communication, as appropriate, with the ASI Coordinator and the Working Group Leaders, responding in a timely manner to their messages and requests;*
- *Promote the work of the ASI and disseminate the conservation success of the ASI via internal and external channels.*

BENEFITS TO MEMBERS

By joining the ASI, members will:

- *Be part of a well-respected collaborative effort contributing to Atelopus conservation;*
- *Have access to a wide network of the world's leading experts and organizations working on amphibian conservation and specifically in Atelopus conservation, research and education;*
- *Have access to technical advice and coordination support for Atelopus conservation;*
- *Get attention and visibility for their conservation work with Atelopus;*
- *Be informed of and have access to relevant funding opportunities for their work with Atelopus;*
- *Help to collectively reverse the declines of Atelopus species through increased conservation impact as a result of being part of a larger network of organizations and individuals pursuing a common goal;*