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CURRICULUM VITAE | PHILIPPE JACQUES ROBERT KOK

PERSONALIA

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CURRICULUM

After having received his high school diploma (Athénée Royal Emile Bockstael, 1989), Philippe Kok enrolled at the Free University of Brussels (ULB) as a bachelor in Veterinary Medicine (1989), which he stopped after two years. He then spent a year at the Institut Paul Lambin (Brussels) studying Biotechnology. At the age of 22 he decided to leave Belgium for the tropics and spent several weeks in the rainforest of French Guiana, where he familiarized with field herpetology, and definitely fell in love with the tropical rainforests.

Back in Belgium in 1994 Philippe Kok was enrolled as a Research Associate at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (IRSNB) in Brussels, where he is still active.

Within the framework of an ongoing project on the systematics and biogeography of the Neotropical herpetofauna (with a focus on the Guiana Shield) he conducted numerous field trips mainly in French Guiana, Guyana, and Venezuela between 1996 and today (more than 20 expeditions, totalizing more than 500 days spent in the field).

In 1998 Kok and colleagues were sent one month to Thailand by the IRSNB within the framework of a project on the diversity of the reptiles and amphibians of Na Haeo, Loei Province, in collaboration with the Srinakharinwirot University, Bangkok.

In 1999 Philippe Kok started as CITES Expert (Amphibians and Reptiles) for the Belgian Government. Between 2003 and 2007 he worked as a freelance scientific consultant, notably for *Parc Paradisio* (now *Paire Daiza*) in Bruges, Belgium.

Between 2004 and 2008 he received substantial funding from the Belgian Directorate-General for Development Cooperation in the framework of a Global Taxonomy Initiative project on the herpetofaunal diversity of Kaieteur National Park in Guyana (and later extended to the Guiana Highlands) aiming at training local scientists in taxonomy and parataxonomy (“training through research” program).

Philippe Kok is associate editor for the journal *Phylomedusa (Journal of Herpetology)* since 2007, subject editor for the online journal *Check List* since 2011, and member of the Scientific Board of the *Boletim do Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi* since 2012; he has served as a reviewer for journals such as *Journal of Herpetology*, *Zootaxa*, *American Museum Novitates*, *Herpetologica*, *Journal of Biogeography*, *Contributions to Zoology*, etc. He is IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group Regional Co-Chair for the Guiana Shield.

Since 2009 Kok is employed as a part-time researcher in the Amphibian Evolution Lab at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, where he also teaches the Field Herpetology course to the second year students of Master in Herpetology.

Philippe Kok was enrolled as a PhD student in Leiden University, The Netherlands, in February 2011 under the supervision of Prof. Dr. E. Gittenberger and Prof. Dr. E. Smets.

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