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## *Lettre n°23*

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**Chers collègues et amis,**

Le dernier bulletin de la SHF m'a posé une petite question de conservation. L'expédition dans le Sahara renoue avec des traditions « Muséum », éveille l'imaginaire pour ses découvertes et ses dangers. Juste un petit souci, quand une « bestiole » endémique se retrouve dans l'alcool, une question : et si c'était le dernier représentant de son espèce ?

Personnellement, je n'ai pas trop envie d'avoir la responsabilité d'une éventuelle disparition définitive. N'est-il pas temps, même si c'est compliqué, de réfléchir à des protocoles alliant la conservation aux travaux de recherche sur les taxons et les collections ?

KITEN, le Vème Symposium Emys, un peu l'aventure, aussi, vu que le voyage n'avait rien de simple, ni d'économique. Certains sont passés par la Finlande, voire la Norvège. A Prague, j'ai retrouvé Uwe et sa brillante étudiante Melita de Slovénie. Puis l'aéroport de Bourgas, bien loin de la ville, puis un bus privé sur 50 km de routes cahotantes jusqu'à la station balnéaire de Kiten où un chaleureux accueil nous attendait.

Dans les années 1980, en soutien aux familles de mineurs emprisonnés en Pologne, on se faisait, avec ma Golf VW bourrée à craquer, en se relayant à trois, 2500km en un week-end. A l'arrivée, là-bas, les verres de vodka étaient alignés... Pareil à Kiten, Peter Havas, bras grands ouverts, bouteille à la main... on ranime les morts...

Excellentes retrouvailles donc avec les anciens mais surtout avec les jeunes des pays des Balkans que nous ne connaissions pas : Bulgarie, Roumanie, Serbie, Albanie, Slovaquie, Autriche, Slovénie, Turquie. Ils ont soulevé de graves problèmes de conservation dans leurs communications, posters et dans la table ronde.

Nos amies serbes ont dû accueillir une saisie douanière des mêmes probables trafiquants bulgares que les passeurs de migrants humains, de **1000 cistudes et apparentées** ! dans un bassin du zoo de Belgrade. Une semaine après, un quart avait péri, photos assez épouvantables...

En France, après discussion avec Stéphanie qui prépare un rapport de bilan des 5 années de PNA, grâce à la mobilisation de tous, nous avons pu ralentir la régression et nous espérons la limiter. Dans les pays balkaniques où les populations de diverses tortues d'eau douce sont considérables, la régression est extrêmement rapide et définitive car le manque de moyens financiers, de volonté politique des autorités, l'avidité et la corruption des élites, l'ignorance du plus grand nombre, conduisent aux catastrophes.

Nous n'étions que deux français, Marc Girondot et moi, et encore j'étais pour moitié, le 7<sup>ème</sup> de la délégation espagnole, avec mon poster demandant la déclassement de Minorque comme réserve de la Biosphère pour n'avoir engagé aucune action de protection d'*Emys orbicularis* qui disparaît de l'île. Marc a proposé des modèles de détermination du sexe dans la nature et non plus en laboratoire. D'autres communications passionnantes d'Uwe sur les écotypes et les voyages des animaux ou celles de Norbert et de Sergey sur ce qui nous attend comme espèce envahissante: le raton-laveur, capable d'ouvrir et de manger une cistude adulte...

Quelques photos et, bonne lecture !

Alain Veyssset, rédacteur

**Dear Colleagues and Friends,**

The last SHF review poses to me a question of conservation. The expedition in the Sahara revives a "Museum" tradition, awakens the imagination for its discoveries and its dangers. Just a little worry when a tiny and endemic creature ended in alcohol, one question : and if it was the last representative of its species ?

Personally I don't want to have the responsibility of a possible definitive disappearance. Isn't the moment, even if it is complicated, to take time to think about protocols able to unite conservation and the research works on taxons and collections ?

KITEN, the 5th Emys Symposium, a little bit the adventure too as the journey was not easy and affordable. Some people were in transit in Finland or Norway... At Prague I was very pleased to meet Uwe and his brilliant student Melita from Slovenia. Then Bourgas airport far from the city, then we took a private bus for 50km on a bumpy road until the bathing station of Kiten where a warmly welcome was organized.

During the eightieth, supporting the families of miners in jail in Poland, we drove with my Golf VW crammed with gifts, 2500 km in a week-end. When we arrived there, the glasses of vodka were lined up... The same in Kiten, Peter Havas, arms open, bottle in the hand... They revive the dead people...

So excellent reunion with the veterans but above all with the young people of the Balkan countries whom we didn't know : Bulgaria, Rumania, Serbia, Albania, Slovakia, Austria, Slovenia, Turkey... They brought up serious problems of conservation in their communications, posters and in the work shop.

Our Serbian (girl) friends were obliged to accommodate a custom seizure by the probable same Bulgarian traffickers than the smugglers of human refugees, of **1000 pond turtles and similar ones** ! in an artificial lake of the zoo of Belgrade. One week later one quarter died, photos rather dreadful...

In France after a discussion with Stéphanie who is writing the assessment of the five years of the NAP, because of the mobilization of all the people involved, we were able to slow down the general regression and we hope to limit it. In the Balkan countries where the populations of diverse pond turtles are enormous, the regression is very fast and for good, because of the lack of financial means, of political will, the greediness and the corruption of the elites, the ignorance of the great number, all that lead on to disasters.

We were only two Frenchmen, Marc Girondot and me, and even that I was for half the 7<sup>th</sup> of the Spanish delegation with my poster asking for the relegation of Minorca as Biosphere Reserve because not a single action was engaged to protect *Emys orbicularis* which disappears from the island. Marc proposed different models to determinate sex in nature and no more in laboratory. Some other fascinating communications like Uwe on ecotypes and the travels of the animals even in the sea or like Norbert and Sergey on what we will have in the future as invasive species : the American raccoon, able to open and eat an adult pond turtle ...!

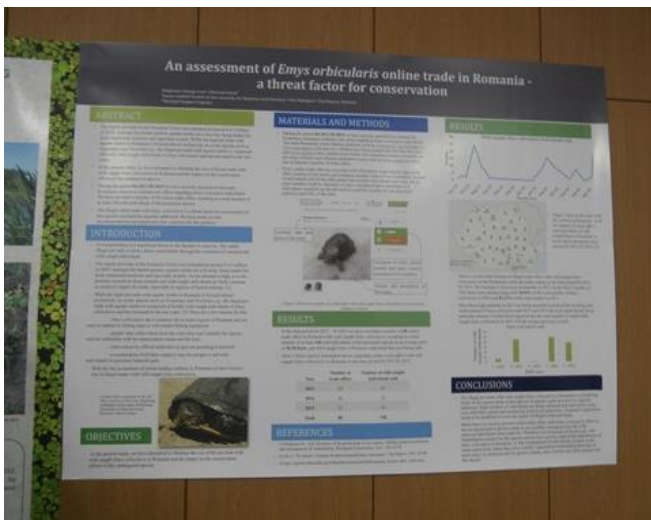
## Selected photos from the ES N°5



"Oh ! Two old men", dixit Uwe...



An invitation to a "Black Sabbath" by Peter...



Traffic of turtles on the Web in Roumania.



How to use a drone to observe pond turtles in nature ?



Ramon : how to save *Emys orbicularis orbicularis* in Catalonia when it remained only 10 animals, 30 years ago.



Hans-Dieter Philippen and Anne-Claire Meeske in coffee break.



## Photos (next)



Maria Schindler with the "Donau Park".  
She has also predation by raccoons on "her" nesting sites.



Four people from Catalonia, three from Spain :  
one Navarrian, one Dutch and one half French...



Sergey Drobenkov and Peter Havas during the excursion on the Veleka river. I heard about "Boat People" ?  
Sure I mistake...



The nice ladies of Serbia : Lili, Sonja, Ana...



Tourists' boats, with fishers all along the river :  
perturbations of the two pond turtles populations ?



## Photos (next)



*Emys orbicularis*, Haplotype Ia or Ib even IIa



*Mauremys rivulata*

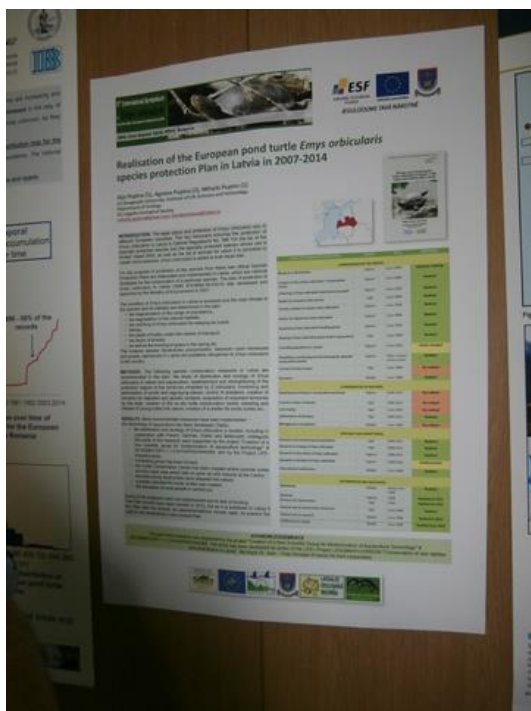


Beer club in Kiten, the hairs are from Astrid and Maria    Norbert Schneeweis and Heidrun Beckmann, coffee !





## Photos (next)



Action Plan in Latvia



Success of the posters Session.



And we banquet....



## Photos (next) and final



And we dance on traditional music with the Bulgarian pipes, a drum and the Prima Donna singing for Beata who represented very favourably Poland...



Melita and Uwe waiting with my poster, on our way home, at Bourgas Airport.



In Kosice, in 2002, the same great traditional welcome. The last ten E.o.o. from Catalonia in a pond of the CRT "De l'Albera" in 2004, my first numeric ones...





**MOM SOON, the World's most endangered turtle...**

# 'World's Most Endangered' Turtle, Over 100 Years Old, Could Be Mom Soon

Jun 4, 2015, 5:25 PM ET

By AVIANNE TAN

**AVIANNE TAN** [MORE FROM AVIANNE »](#)

Follow @avianneflu

via Good Morning America



The female Yangtze giant softshell turtle is seen basking and the male can be seen in the water.

Gerald Kuchling/Turtle Survival Alliance

Scientists are "holding their breath" as they anxiously await a female Yangtze giant softshell turtle to lay her eggs in Suzhou Zoo in [China](#), according to wildlife conservationists.

The turtle, believed to be over 100 years old, is the last known female of her species, *Rafetus swinhoei*, [according to the Wildlife Conservation Society](#), which also noted that she was recently artificially inseminated using the sperm of the last known male in China because he had "damaged sex organs."

The "world's most endangered turtle" is expected to lay eggs within a few weeks, and only then will scientists know if the artificial insemination was successful, depending on whether the eggs are viable, according to the WCS.

## **Illegal Traders Have Turned Baby Red-Eared Sliders Into a Health and Environmental Threat**

BY RACHEL NUWER / JUNE 1, 2015 Newsweek

Lorri Cramer opened the door of her Upper West Side apartment to find two handsome young officers standing in the hall, cradling three red plastic crates. The crates were marked "Fresh Litchi" (i.e., lychee), but a faint rustling sound came from within. They were teeming with baby red-eared sliders—652 of them.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation officers informed Cramer that the turtles had just been seized from a warehouse in Manhattan's Chinatown. Lacking the ability to care for the animals—and hoping to find an alternative to the usual procedure for dealing with confiscated baby turtles, euthanasia by freezing—the officers called Cramer, a state-licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

Although she did not have the facilities or funds to keep the babies, she agreed to take them on.

"Sometimes I wake up and ask myself, What did you get yourself into?" says Cramer, who usually tends to up to 30 turtles—most of them recovering from an injury and waiting to be released back into the wild—in a small apartment shared by three cats, a dog and a husband. "But when the officers called, I said, 'I'm happy to try to help.'"

More than four weeks later, the hundreds of confiscated turtles are still in her spare bathroom (though over a hundred have died). Packed 200-deep in three water-filled containers, the babies claw at the slick plastic walls of their enclosures and topple over one another, seeking a way out.

Farmed in the millions in their native Southern U.S., red-eared sliders are shipped within the country and around the world, mostly to pet stores and Asian meat markets. Since 1975, however, selling baby turtles that are less than 4 inches long has been illegal in the U.S., because some reptiles—red-eared sliders included—can harbor salmonella on their skin. While red-eared sliders of any size can carry potentially deadly bacteria, cheap, adorable and seemingly low-maintenance baby turtles are the ones most likely to be purchased on a whim and given to very young children as pets.

The animals in Cramer's apartment—each about the size of a silver dollar—violate that law, which was established at a time when tiny sliders were America's favorite pet turtle and sold in practically every dime store in the country. But as salmonella infections broke out across the U.S., officials soon discovered that an estimated 14 percent of all salmonella cases traced back to baby turtles. Of those infections, the vast majority occurred in children under 5 years old—a group apt to put toy-like creatures into their mouth and not wash their hands. The 4-inch law still stands—and with good reason. A 2012 multistate salmonella outbreak that infected nearly 500 people was traced back to illegal-size baby turtles, as was the death of a 3-week-old infant in 2007.

Those caught selling turtles that violate the 4-inch law may receive a fine of up to \$1,000, although if the turtles crossed state lines and their value exceeds \$350, then the crime becomes a felony under the Lacey Act. This seems to be the case for Cramer's turtles. A closer inspection of the label on the crates in which the turtles arrived indicated that they came from Yi Bao, a produce company in California that could not be reached for comment, and that their ultimate origin was China.

Lacey Act violations can result in up to \$250,000 in fines or five years in jail. For those caught trafficking in baby sliders, however, such a punishment "would never happen," says Edward Grace,



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deputy assistant director for the Office of Law Enforcement at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Instead, he says, first-time offenders typically receive a fine of around \$2,000.

Even that meager punishment is rarely doled out, however. Only about 1 in 10 wildlife crimes are discovered, and fewer still ever result in prosecutions, mostly because of a lack of resources and funds to fight these wrongdoings. In addition, though baby turtles might not be as profitable as elephant ivory or rhino horn, they have a much lower profile. That means the odds of getting caught are low—and that when traffickers are caught, they are rarely penalized.

Meanwhile, criminals can sell baby turtles for up to 50 times what they paid wholesale. At \$10 to \$25 a pop, the babies in Cramer's possession have a street value of up to \$16,300. "Really, turtles are just another high-profit resource that entails a low risk of getting caught or going to jail," Grace says. Illegal red-eared sliders are readily available for sale online, as well as in Chinatowns, pet stores, fairs and reptile shows across the country.

Cramer has politely turned down offers from several good Samaritans who expressed interest in adopting a few of the turtles. With their cartoon-like features and miniature proportions, baby sliders are undoubtedly adorable. But they grow quickly, eventually reaching the size of a dinner plate and requiring at least a 20-gallon tank. Like many turtles, red-eared sliders are also extremely long-lived creatures, often outlasting their human owners. Cramer knows of one red-eared slider that, at 87 years old, is now on its third set of humans.

Craigslist is peppered with ads for sliders—many in the 4- to 6-year age range, after the turtles have grown larger and require more care, and many offered for free. Cramer too encounters her fair share of desperate turtle owners. In a single three-month period last year, she received nearly 400 calls from people asking if she could take their red-eared slider off their hands. But as a rehabilitator who pays out of pocket for the animals in her care, she cannot act as a depository for unwanted pets. There's no real public solution either—only one state, Florida, offers a straightforward option for responsibly disposing of a cold-blooded friend.

Seeing no other way out, many slider owners release their turtles into the environment, even though letting any animal go without a permit is illegal in most states. Rogue do-gooders purchase turtles from food markets and also release them, while some Buddhists and Chinese believe that freeing caged animals—a practice referred to as fangsheng—gains them positive karma.

"When people at my congregation get sick, they contact the temple in China and the master there tells them to do release life," says Benkong Shi, an elder monk at the Grace Gratitude Buddhist Temple in Manhattan. Benkong often speaks out against the practice, which is alive and well in New York City.

Temples report on release-life ceremonies in their newsletters, while shop owners throughout Chinatown openly display baby turtles. Spotting Benkong's robes, vendors frequently offer him baby turtles, insisting, "You can do release life!" He politely declines, and then reports them to the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Although the release-life ceremony is meant to be positive for the animal, the majority of released turtles likely do not survive. In Central Park's overcrowded Turtle Pond, where pet owners and Buddhists alike release animals, around half of the turtles—many red-eared sliders—die each winter from starvation and

freezing. Come spring and summer, however, the pond is once again restocked with more illegally released animals. Other states, including Texas, California and Massachusetts, have also traced exotic animals found in the environment to release-life practices. In January 2011, for example, around 100

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dead and dying sliders were discovered just steps from a Buddhist temple in Westford, Massachusetts.

"Those turtles did not have time to prepare for hibernation," says Thomas French, who runs the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program at the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. "We want to be understanding and accommodating to religious customs, but we need to find a way that's first of all legal, and second of all doesn't involve a non-native species that is harmful to our environment."

Sliders that do manage to find their way into a suitable habitat at a suitable time of year often thrive. Aggressive, large and voracious, red-eared sliders are pond bullies; they easily outcompete many native turtles. They can also interbreed with several related subspecies of sliders found throughout the Eastern U.S., diluting those unique populations. "It almost looks like it might be too late for our big rivers and bodies of water," French says of his state. "These turtles compete with our native species, and we're especially concerned about our small, federally endangered population of red-bellied cooters."

In January, French helped issue a law that makes it illegal to keep pond red-eared sliders as pets in Massachusetts, but adds, "Frankly, I wish we would have prohibited them in the pet trade 15 years ago."

Red-eared slider invaders can now be found basking in ponds not only in and around New York, Boston, Miami, San Francisco, Phoenix, Los Angeles and Portland, Oregon, but also in locations throughout every continent except Antarctica. "They've been introduced all over the place," says Pam Fuller, leader of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Program at the U.S. Geological Survey.

"And I'm sure they're present in many other locations that we haven't recorded yet." Cramer doesn't want to release her baby turtles anywhere—not even in their native range, in the Southern U.S.—because she fears that, given that they might have come from a farm in China, they could be carrying a foreign disease. While she could donate the babies to a turtle farm—the route French sometimes takes when he confiscates red-eared sliders—that would mean the animals would likely eventually be exported to Asia and eaten, an endgame Cramer finds unpalatable.

Likewise, although she has received multiple "hate emails" instructing her to euthanize the invasive, illegal turtles, she will not consider that option either. "These animals have just started life and have not hurt anyone," she says. "I believe that a little turtle has as much a right to live as a dog or a person."

A creative solution might soon be at hand. Iris Ho, program manager for wildlife at the Humane Society International, and Benkong have taken up Cramer's case. In collaboration with the American Buddhist Confederation, they are working to find turtle sanctuaries in Southern states where the babies will first be monitored for any diseases and then allowed to live out their lives in enclosures.

In preparation for the turtles' departure from New York, six monks and nuns blessed the turtles, and six donors from Benkong's temple and the American Buddhist Confederation gave a total of \$2,000 in donations to help pay for the animals' transportation costs. In this way, the Buddhists receive their karma credit, the sanctuaries get paid, and the turtles get a happy ending.

In the meantime, Cramer continues to tend to the babies in her care. She has heard rumors that another large Chinatown turtle bust might be imminent—an event that could deliver hundreds of additional animals to her door. "I don't want to take in numbers like this ever again," she says. "But if need be, I would have to."





Philippine Forest Turtle  
*Siebenrockiella leytensis*

# Crisis in the Philippines

Dear Members and Friends,

Our message today is so urgent, and so important to the continued survival of a critically endangered species, that we are jointly requesting your help alongside our friends and colleagues at the Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA), Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group (TFTSG), and the Turtle Conservation Fund (TCF).

Yesterday, authorities in Palawan confiscated over 4,000 turtles just before they were to be shipped out from their native island in the Philippines. More than 3,800 of them were endemic Philippine Forest Turtles (*Siebenrockiella leytensis*), a species that exists only in a very small area in the northern end of Palawan. This number exceeds our current understanding of the existing wild population, and it would take decades for this slow-growing species to possibly recover from the effects of this massive, highly coordinated poaching event. Our concern is that the species may never recover from these staggering losses unless immediate action is taken.



## Extinction Up Close: A Rare Turtle Under Assault from Poachers (Philippines Palawan Forest Turtles *Siebenrockiella leytensis*,)

By [Andrew C. Revkin](#) DOT Earth, Blog, New York Times

June 24, 2015 5:17 pm

By now, you've likely heard about "[Accelerated modern human-induced species losses: Entering the sixth mass extinction.](#)"

The paper, [published last week in Science Advances](#) used a new approach to estimate global extinction rates and supports previous studies finding that Earth is in the midst of a human-driven "[mass extinction](#)" spasm on the scale of past mass die-offs triggered by geophysical calamities. (Another important paper last week, assessing evidence for "[mass extinction in poorly known taxa](#)" — a euphemism for low-profile organisms, particularly invertebrates — came up with this dark conclusion: "[We] may already have lost 7 percent of the species on Earth and...the biodiversity crisis is real.")

I'm still doing reporting on aspects of the Science Advances paper, including on the curious omission of [invasive species as a core driver of losses](#) in recent decades. Its conclusion that the mass loss of species [imperils human civilization](#) is also ripe for analysis. (A firmer conclusion would be that reducing the planet's [species abundance](#) and richness cannot be good for *H. sapiens*.) With that in mind, please read an invaluable piece by Cara Giaimo in Atlas Obscura focused on concerns of Stuart Pimm, a leading analyst of extinction, that the public is [missing equally important recent science revealing ways to stem the tide](#).

But it's worth setting aside these broader questions for a moment to look at what human pressures on rare or isolated species look like up close.



**(next) and concluding**

Last Thursday, authorities in the Philippine island province of Palawan confiscated [a horrifying trove of more than 4,400 freshwater turtles](#), 3,800 of which were the [critically endangered Palawan forest turtle](#), *Siebenrockiella leytensis*.

**More than 4,400 freshwater turtles, including 3,800 endangered Palawan forest turtles, were confiscating from a poacher in the Philippines last week. Credit Katala Foundation**

A 2012 study published by the international conservation union describes, wrenchingly, how the discovery of the significant population of this turtle at the north tip of Palawan island [sparked a “collecting frenzy”](#):

The recent discovery of a natural population of *S. leytensis* on Palawan has already spurred a collecting frenzy among wildlife trappers and traders to supply domestic and international markets for the illegal wildlife trade. In spite of its official protected status in local and international listings, the illegal trade in *S. leytensis* is rampant and is perceived currently as the greatest threat to the species. This threat is exacerbated by the continuing destruction of the lowland forests of Palawan, the primary habitat of the species. If the current trend of overexploitation continues, it is certain that several subpopulations of *S. leytensis* will soon collapse. In the face of these threats, wildlife authorities on Palawan must immediately enforce relevant laws and encourage greater coordination among appropriate government agencies that typically work in isolation.

The latest reports, from a coalition of turtle conservation groups and the Katala Foundation in Palawan, along with [the anti-trafficking group Traffic](#), show how this has been playing out in a mass roundup and trafficking operation, with the turtles secreted by Chinese merchants in shipments of rattan bound for Hong Kong, where the turtles end up sold both as prized pets and a culinary delicacy. The [smuggling route had already been noted in 2012](#).

In a phone interview, Eric Goode, the founder of the [Turtle Conservancy](#), which breeds and releases rare turtles, said the Palawan forest turtle is particularly vulnerable because of its small range but also because the turtles retreat into communal burrows along stream banks during the day, making poachers' work easy.

“We work Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden in Hong Kong,” Goode told me. “They’ve been noticing large numbers of this turtle in the food market and pet trade.” He said one indication of the expanded poaching was a drop in the price from 2,500 Hong Kong dollars (about \$322 U.S.) to 500 dollars (about \$64).

The confiscation of the turtles was hailed today by conservation groups, but Goode said there’s a big challenge in returning them to the wild. Some 3,000 have already been released, but with no certainty they will thrive given the specialize habits.

Please read more in “[Crisis in the Philippines](#),” by the turtle coalition.e

## **Madagascar: France Repatriates 150 Smuggled Rare Tortoises to Madagascar**

All Africa 8/18/15

Some 150 rare tortoises are to be returned to Madagascar by French customs, who seized them in December while they were being smuggled to Laos. The reptiles needed several months of intensive care after being transported hidden in cases of sea cucumbers.

Managers of the Village des tortues (Turtle Village) in the south of France issued a triumphant statement announcing the repatriation on Tuesday.

"The animals are now in the best of shape and have gained 40-60 per cent in weight," the statement said.

French customs seized 170 baby radiated tortoises (*Astrolechys radiata*) at Paris's Charles De Gaulle airport on 14 December after finding them rapped in sellotape and concealed under the false bottoms of cases transporting sea cucumbers to the south-east Asian country of Laos.

About 15 of them had died because of their unsuitable transit arrangements.

The tortoises, which live in the forests of southern Madagascar, are an endangered species and their sale without a permit is strictly forbidden.

Their lifespan can be as long as 100 years.

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## **Mexico Deploys Drones to Protect Sea Turtle Nesting Grounds**

MEXICO CITY — Aug 19, 2015, 6:16 PM ET

Mexican officials say they have begun flying two drones over sea turtle nesting grounds on the Pacific coast to better monitor and protect the sensitive habitats.

Federal prosecutor for environmental protection Guillermo Haro Belchez said Wednesday that the drones are watching over La Escobilla and Morro Ayuta beaches in Oaxaca state. Officials aim for "full coverage" of the area to help them fight poaching.

August marks the start of peak nesting season, and officials are working to safeguard the endangered reptiles. They are protected under Mexican law.

La Escobilla experiences more sea turtle nesting than any other location on Earth, with some 1.1 million nests there last year. About 36 million sea turtles were born in all of [Mexico](#) in 2014.



## Forum on the web and questions...

### Bébés cistudes d'europe

par jamu77 le Ven 30 Déc 2005, 14:49

Bonjour,

Nous avons 3 bébés cistudes depuis un peu plus d'un mois. Elles sont dans un [aquarium](#) de 60\*30\*40 dans lequel nous avons mis des pierres et une racine pour qu'elles puissent bronzer sous la lampe UV allumée 6 heures/jour. La t° de l'eau est de 24° et l'air 26°.

Elles n'ont plus de queues, car les tortues de Floride avec qui elles vivaient en animalerie les ont mangées et ont croqué leurs pattes....

Depuis 4/5 jours, 2 tortues ( Mickey et Squezze !) ne mangent plus et ne nagent plus. Elles restent sur la plage et se grimpent dessus. Clara ( la troisième ) est toujours en pleine forme, mange, nage après les 2 petits poissons...

Je ne sais pas ce qu'elles ont. Quelqu'un a peut-être une idée ? Est-il possible qu'elles veuillent hiberner ?

Merci de me répondre.

Jamu

Malheureusement, mes 2 tortues sont mortes... je suis trop triste !

Elles n'avaient pas été grignotées par les tortues de Floride, mais par des cistudes plus grandes. ça ne change rien, mais le vendeur tient à cette différence ...

Clara se porte très bien, et nous irons lui chercher une copine demain.

Concernant la loi suisse sur les cistudes : il est interdit d'acheter des cistudes à qqn n'ayant pas une autorisation spéciale ou d'en vendre sans autorisation. Voilà ! J'ai le droit d'avoir ma cistude.

This Forum on Emys babies in Switzerland was old, Dec 2005... But interresting. Trade is authorized in this country with sellers who have a permission given by the authorities. So this lady can buy her three Emys babies... From where are they coming, from nature or from artificial breeding ? What is exactly allowed ? We don't know.

The only thing sure is the deaph of two of them on the three babies because of an Emys adult, not an adult American fresh-water turtle... It is not very good to be a so small animal when the adults are hungry... If this kind of relation is possible for the same species, *Trachemys scripta elegans* have no problem to consider a small turtle like a prey...

A.V.

### Questionnaire Cistude - propriétaires d'étang

Suite au courrier que nous vous avons envoyé, vous pouvez remplir directement ce [questionnaire en ligne](#).



Cistude d'Europe -

Michel Bramard

### Habitat et biologie

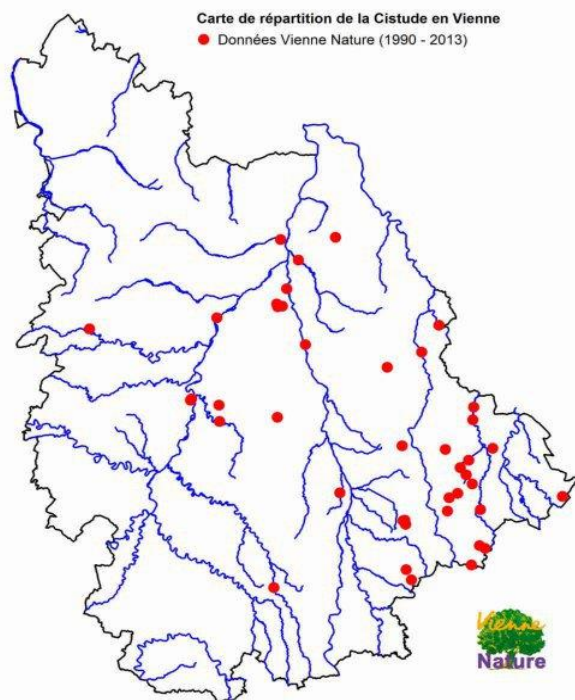
Seule représentante autochtone des Chéloniens dans la Vienne, la Cistude d'Europe est une petite tortue aquatique qui fréquente toutes sortes de milieux aquatiques : rivières à court lent, mares, étangs, fossés, marais. Elle affectionne le fond vaseux des eaux calmes et dormantes, les zones à nénuphars, les jeunes roselières et les fossés jouxtant les étangs.

Le régime alimentaire de la Cistude est composé d'invertébrés (mollusques, insectes) mais également de cadavres de poissons ou d'amphibiens. C'est donc une espèce carnivore mais aussi charognarde. Comme tous les reptiles, elle n'est pas capable de réguler sa température interne et doit s'exposer au soleil pour accumuler de la chaleur, et inversement, s'abriter en cas de trop forte chaleur. Après avoir hiverné sous l'eau d'octobre à mars, la Cistude s'accouple au printemps. Quelques semaines plus tard, la femelle ira pondre à terre dans un nid qu'elle aura creusé. Les jeunes naissent généralement en septembre, mais il arrive qu'ils naissent plus tard. Dans ce cas, les juvéniles resteront dans leur nid jusqu'au printemps suivant.

### Localisation de la Cistude dans le département de la Vienne

Même si son statut n'est pas totalement connu, l'espèce semble présente depuis très longtemps dans le département de la Vienne comme le prouvent les découvertes d'indices de présence à l'époque néolithique. Plus récemment, la Cistude était citée au XIX<sup>ème</sup> siècle comme présente dans la Vienne, le Clain et la Clouère. Aujourd'hui, la Cistude d'Europe est encore considérée comme rare dans le département de la Vienne, même si grâce aux prospections plus importantes, nous possédons plus d'informations sur sa répartition départementale. Depuis 15 ans, l'espèce a été observée dans une trentaine d'étangs, mais également dans plusieurs cours d'eau du département : le Salleron, l'Anglin, le Clain, la Gartempe, l'Envigne et l'Ozon. Des preuves de reproduction de l'espèce ont été découvertes dans le Montmorillonnais, le Châtelleraudais et à proximité de Poitiers. Il est probable que la population départementale soit en lien avec les populations importantes présentes dans la Brenne (36).





## Les menaces

L'urbanisation, les pollutions, la fragmentation des milieux, la destruction des zones humides (assainissement, drainage, etc.) et la disparition des prairies sèches utilisées comme zone de ponte à proximité des milieux aquatiques sont les principales menaces pour la Cistude. L'introduction d'espèces exotiques telles que les Tortues de Floride est un facteur pouvant aggraver ces menaces.

## Les statuts de protection

La Cistude cumule les statuts de protection (internationale, nationale) et est considérée comme une espèce quasi menacée en France. Elle est inscrite sur la liste rouge des Reptiles menacés du Poitou-Charentes (Poitou-Charentes Nature, 2002) et bénéficie d'un [Plan National d'Action \(PNA\)](#) (PDF - 2 Mo) devant permettre sa conservation.

## Pourquoi une enquête Cistude en Vienne ?

N'ayant jamais fait l'objet d'étude de répartition, son statut départemental n'est pas bien connu. C'est la raison pour laquelle Vienne va lancer un programme d'étude en 2014 et 2015 dont le principal objectif est de connaître de manière plus fine la répartition de la Cistude dans le département de la Vienne. L'objectif à long terme est de permettre la mise en place d'une gestion conservatoire durable dans un ensemble de sites permettant d'assurer la préservation de ce reptile patrimonial.

### *Vous avez observé de la Cistude dans le département de la Vienne ?*

N'hésitez pas à [nous contacter](#) pour nous informer de l'endroit où vous avez vu l'espèce. Vous pouvez également saisir cette observation directement sur [WNAT](#) :

## Gertrude, la cistude d'Europe



[Parc zoologique](#) [de Paris](#)

### En route vers la réouverture !

[par Aurore Chatras, journaliste](#)



Gertrude la Cistude d'Europe (*Emys orbicularis*) [Breeding, Sept2015: 100 babies more this year in RLHT](#)  
© Aurore Chatras Publié le [29 avril 2014](#) / Parrainez [Gertrude, la cistude d'Europe](#)

Tout droit arrivée de [la Réserve de la Haute Touche](#), il y a quelques mois, [Gertrude la Cistude d'Europe](#) (*Emys orbicularis*) occupe aujourd'hui l'un des vivariums nichés au creux du Grand Rocher, dans la biozone européenne.

[La Cistude d'Europe](#) (*Emys orbicularis*) est une espèce de tortues de la famille des Emydidae. Elle vit dans les zones humides aux eaux douces, calmes et bien ensoleillées d'Europe : marais, étangs, fossés, cours d'eau lents... Elle apprécie particulièrement les fonds vaseux et la végétation aquatique abondante qui lui ont valu le charmant surnom de "tortue bourbeuse" ! Elle est surtout active aux heures les plus chaudes de la journée. Elle passe une grande partie de son temps posée sur des troncs émergés ou à flotter à la surface de l'eau. Entre bains de boue et siestes au soleil, son mode de vie aurait tout d'une cure si la cistude n'était pas si farouche ! Au moindre bruit, elle plonge ! Contrairement à ses copines terrestres, la cistude est une excellente nageuse, grâce à ses pattes palmées et sa carapace lisse. Son aspect grisâtre et terne, et sa carapace arrondie lui permettent aussi de se confondre avec des galets au fond des ruisseaux. À l'automne, elle a tendance à s'enfouir dans la vase qui la protège du gel, pour redevenir active au printemps.

La cistude d'Europe apprécie les fonds vaseux et la végétation aquatique abondante © Aurore Chatras Très facilement reconnaissables, les jeunes individus et les femelles ont les yeux jaunes tandis que les mâles ont les yeux rouges. Ces derniers ont aussi une carapace plus plate que les femelles et sont généralement plus petits.

Jusqu'au XIX<sup>ème</sup> siècle, la cistude a occupé de grands territoires dans toute l'Europe, la Russie et la côte nord africaine. Quelques années plus tard, assèchement des étangs, fragmentation de l'habitat et pollutions en font une espèce désormais "quasi-menacée" selon l'UICN. Pour la protéger contre ces menaces et restaurer son milieu de vie, un Plan national d'action (PNA) a été créé. Le Muséum agit également pour la préservation de l'espèce à la [Réserve de la Haute-Touche](#), où sont élevées des cistudes en captivité en vue de renforcer les populations sauvages.



## Conference and workshop in LATVIA

We invite you all to take part in the Emys orbicularis conference and workshop in Latvia:

Dear colleagues!

We are very pleased to announce that the Department of Ecology, Institute of Life Sciences and Technology of Daugavpils University in a cooperation with the International Research Working Group "Herpetology at Species Range Borders" (HSRB), After-LIFE activities of the Project LIFE-HerpetoLatvia LIFE09NAT/LV/000239 "Conservation of rare reptiles and amphibians in Latvia", Latgales Zoo; Latgales Ecological Society; is organizing the

### 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference – Workshop

**RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN HERPETOFAUNA AND ITS ENVIRONMENT: *BOMBINA BOMBINA*,  
*EMYS ORBICULARIS*, AND *CORONELLA AUSTRIACA*\***

**24–25 September 2015**

\*Please, distribute the announcement to the persons (herpetologists, LIFE project teams, ecologists, conservationists, zoo keepers, PhD students, students), which are interested or can be interested in the **research and conservation of the three main species or its environment: any animals or plants species from the main species' ecosystems**.

Additional information: [www.herpba.com](http://www.herpba.com)

**Short summary:** The International Conference - Workshop will be held in **Daugavpils University, Latvia** (Parades 1a, Daugavpils, LV-5400, Latvia; [info@herpba.com](mailto:info@herpba.com) and [mihails.pupins@gmail.com](mailto:mihails.pupins@gmail.com); N 55.870011°; E 26.507601°) in **24–25 September 2015**. The official language of the workshop-conference will be **English** (presentations in **Latvian and Russian** are acceptable with English abstracts); participation in the workshop-conference will be **free of charge**, **accommodation in the University hostel will be free-of-charge**; **abstracts** will be published in PDF format in a day of conference; full **manuscripts** will be published after the conference in paper and PDF in **scientific journal Acta Biologica Universitatis Daugavpiliensis** (coverage: Thomson Reuters, Elsevier: SCOPUS, Zoological Record, BIOSIS Previews), **Herpetological Facts Journal** or in the PDF **Proceedings**. Each participant may present up to **three oral presentations** and any number of posters.

**Deadline for registration and abstract submission: September 10, 2015.**

**Deadline for manuscript submission: November 1, 2015.**

**The main topics** of the Conference – Workshop will cover different aspects of research, management of populations, and conservation in-situ and ex-situ of **three main species** of herpetofauna: *Bombina bombina*, *Emys orbicularis*, and *Coronella austriaca* **and any animals or plants species from the main species' ecosystems**:

- General biology and ecology of target species;
- Other species linked with the main species (plants forming biotope; animals species as a food, predators, sympatric species, competitors etc.)
- Practical results of LIFE, European, national, local and other projects connected with conservation or research on target species;
- Genetic analyses and its role in management of populations;
- Management practices for sustainability of populations;
- Zooculture and aquaculture of main species *ex-situ* and *in-situ*, technologies of keeping, domestication's problems, modernization;
- Connections between human impact, water and terrestrial ecosystems and target species;
- Experimental and theoretical approaches to surveys and data processing;
- Distribution, new findings, natural area, climate and habitats;
- Health conditions, diseases and veterinary;
- Re-introduction programs, population enforcements by releasing in wild and their results or problems.
- Diets and feeding of these species;
- Aquatic and terrestrial invasive species as threats;
- Role of education and public awareness in conservation programs

## (next) and final

**Practical part** of the Conference – Workshop will be in a form of work visits to:

- sites and territories of Project LIFE-HerpetoLatvia (near to borders with Belarus and Lithuania);
- facilities for *Emys orbicularis* breeding in Rare Amphibian and Reptile Breeding Centre;
- Laboratory of Aquaculture of Department of Ecology of Daugavpils university;
- Natura 2000 territory for *Bombina bombina*;
- territory where largest *B. bombina* population in Latvia is found (“Demene”).

*This program can be changed depending on weather conditions.*

## Costs of participation

Participation in the Conference – Workshop will be **free of charge** for all participants. The Conference – Workshop costs (registration fee, dinner, coffee breaks, accommodation in student hostel rooms, and conference materials) will be covered from the budget of the HBAG.

Unfortunately we **cannot cover travel** expenses.

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Logo :	Pierre DEOM, rédacteur de La Hulotte
Soutien :	Soptom (France) - CRT (Espagne)
Informations, crédits photos :	Allen Salzberg et Herdigest (U.S.A), Thierry Fretey, Alain Veyssset, Internet...