

PRESS RELEASE – Turtle Island | Peter Praschag**Turtle Island enters Sweden**

TurtlesArk was officially opened in the presence of Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden in early June. Some endangered species (1 male and 3 females of *Cuora cyclornata annamitica* and one male *Platysternon megacephalum*) were transferred to the new TurtlesArk in the NordensArk (Sweden) zoo handed over by Turtle Island as part of the cooperation with the EAZA - the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) and NordensArk.

Other endangered species, such as *Batagur baska* and *Nilssonina hurum*, will be transferred in the near future.

Torsten Blanck, representing Turtle Island, attended the ceremony at NordensArk's request. In the presence of the Crown Princess, the following seminar on the topic of "Species Protection of Turtles" featured a very productive exchange of views on the subject of species conservation. She is especially enthusiastic about Turtle Island's field research and ex-situ conservation programs.







TURTLE ISLAND – at a glance

World's largest and most species-rich turtle conservation breeding station

Category A Zoo

Scientific institute & research facility

Animal shelter & sanctuary

Turtle Island in Figures

- Founded in **2013** by Dr. Peter Praschag (internationally recognized scientist and zoologist)
- Comprised of **4** scientifically recognized centers, located in Austria
- Approximately **2500** turtle specimens in total
- Home of **270** of the **360+** turtle taxa on the planet
- We house **37** of the **50** most endangered turtle species
- Home of approx. **90%** of the turtles within the two most endangered genera worldwide (*Batagur & Cuora*)
- Successful conservation breeding of more than **170** species
- **Six** of these species were the world's first captive-bred successes
- Successful breeding of **three** species that are already extinct in the wild

WE ARE

- a recognized scientific institution, research facility, and zoo, focusing on the conservation and breeding of the world's most endangered and overlooked turtle species
- a CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) certified institution (registration number AT033)
- a research station for the taxonomy and biology of turtles, with a focus on reproductive biology and ecology
- Austria's only official shelter and sanctuary for confiscated or unwanted turtles
- an European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) studbook keeper for 11 turtle species
- facilitators of in-situ reintroduction projects (e.g., Vienna Zoo and other internationally renowned zoos and research stations)
- public awareness advocates and educators for species conservation