

Emys Conservation



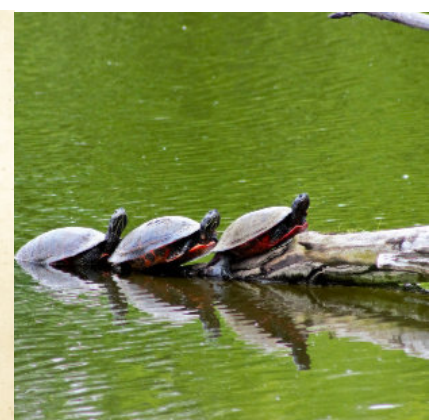
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Lettre n°36

Décembre 2021

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Chers collègues et amis,

Nous pouvons clore les interrogations ouvertes par les photos d'une possible Emyde lépreuse dans un aquarium de restaurant asiatique, voilà ce que m'a écrit mon ami Jean-Paul Hardy : « Bonjour Alain, pour la photo de la tortue aquatique dans le restaurant, je pense que c'est une *Ocadia sinensis* (origine Chine...) Effectivement, elle ressemble pas mal à une leprosa. L'*Ocadia* est une des rares tortues encore en vente et détention libre je crois. Des éleveurs disent qu'elle peut hiverner en extérieur dans les départements aux hivers les plus doux ».

7^{ème} Journées Techniques Cistude au Village des Tortues de Carnoules (83). Nous nous y sommes rendus, en voiture depuis la Brenne, les 7 et 8 décembre derniers. Une cinquantaine de participants. Elles ont été consacrées aux suivis des populations, à la gestion conservatoire, reconquête de la biodiversité, les contaminants, la stratégie de lutte contre les tortues exogènes. Elles ont été animées par Stéphanie Thienpont et Laurent Barthe. EC en a profité pour filmer certaines communications et interviewer les spécialistes et « historiques » de la Cistude, Bernard Devaux, Franck Bonin, directeur du Village, Marc Cheylan, Laurent Barthe, Charlotte Ducotterd, Stéphane Gagno. Les montages se font petit à petit, mais ils se font, un grand merci à Amel pour ce gros travail. 14 vidéos EC en circulation, la dernière, celle de Roland Simon, directeur du Parc de la Haute Touche, en Brenne, présentation du Parc et de son travail. J'espère que vous avez tous eu un Joyeux Noël, recevez nos meilleurs vœux 2022. Pour ce numéro 36, quelques photos les JT N°7 dont celle de groupe, quelques informations d'Allen qui a repris ses activités... Bonne lecture !

Alain Veysset, rédacteur

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We can close the question about the photos of a possible *Mauremys leprosa* found in an Asian restaurant aquarium. This is what wrote me my friend Jean-Paul Hardy : "Hello Alain, for this photo of an aquatical turtle in a restaurant, I think it's an *Ocadia sinensis* (from China...) They really look like a *Mauremys*. The *Ocadia* is a rare turtle always sold and with free holding, I think. Some breeders say that they can winter in areas where we find the milder winters ».

7th Technical Days at the « Village des Tortues » in Carnoules (83). We went there with a car from the Brenne, the 7th and 8th of December. Around fifty participants. These days were on survey of populations, conservatory management, reconquest of biodiversity, contaminants, strategy to fight exogenous turtles. They were animated by Stéphanie Thienpont and Laurent Barthe. EC took the opportunity to film a part of the communications and interview the specialists and personalities on Emys : Bernard Devaux, Franck Bonin, director of the Village, Marc Cheylan, Laurent Barthe, Charlotte Ducotterd, Stéphane Gagno. The video montages are made step by step but they are made, a great thank to Amel for this very big job. 14 EC videos on the web, the last one those of Roland Simon the actual director of the Museum of Paris « Haute Touche Parc », presentation of the park and his job there. I hope you had all a very nice Merry Christmas, receive my best wishes for 2022. For this 36th Letter, some photos of the JT's N°7 including the group one, some Allen's information who regulars his activities. Enjoy reading !

Alain Veysset, redactor



Accueil, café pas très chaud, Stéphanie déjà au taquet, en pleine reflexion...
Frédéric Beau, à l'écoute...



Jean-Marc Ducotterd papa de Charlotte et Laurent Barthe



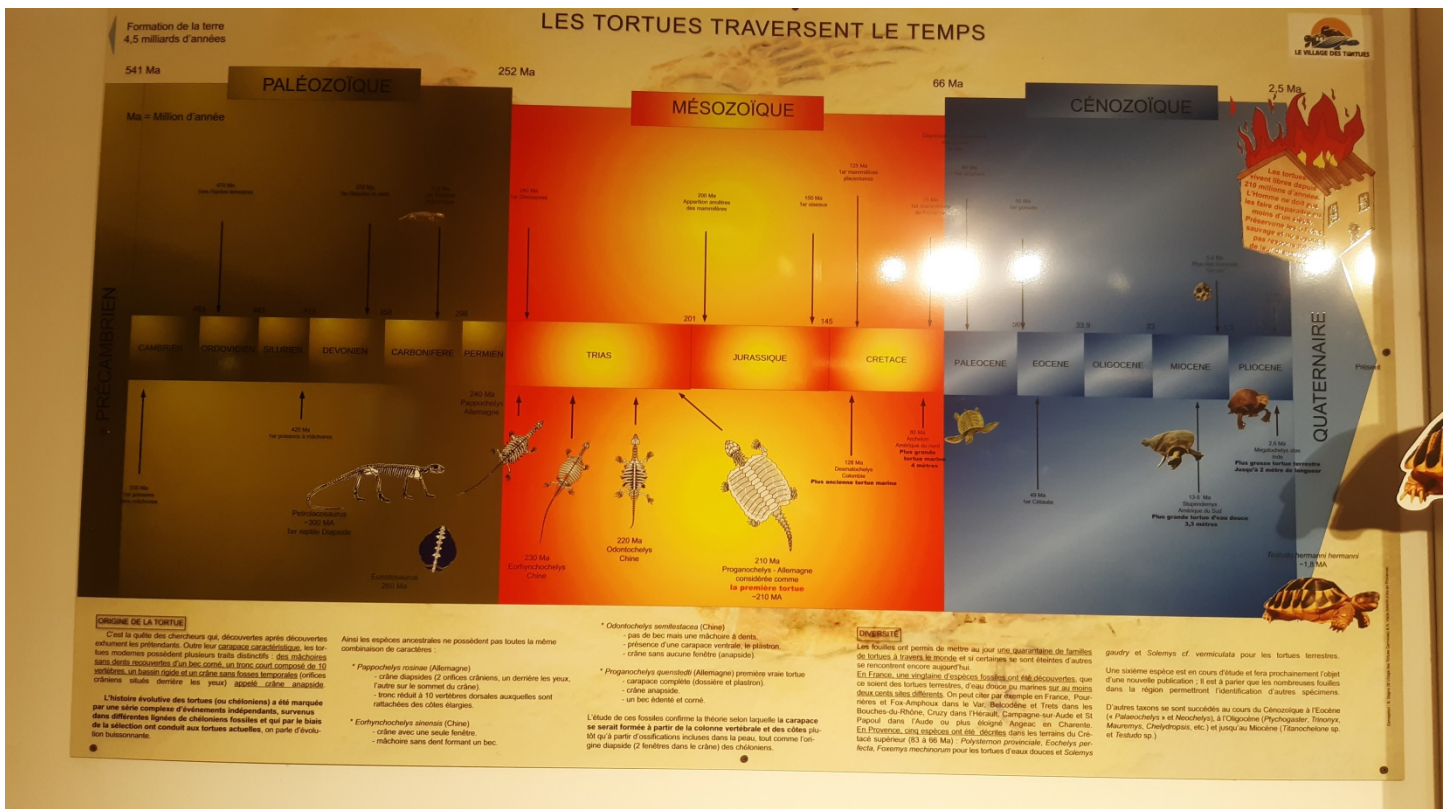
La grande serre chauffée par le soleil, même en hiver, attenante à la salle de conférence, lieu où les interviews se sont tenus. Amel au premier plan. Dans des abris très bien isolés, les tortues les plus tropicales ont leur chauffage autonome.



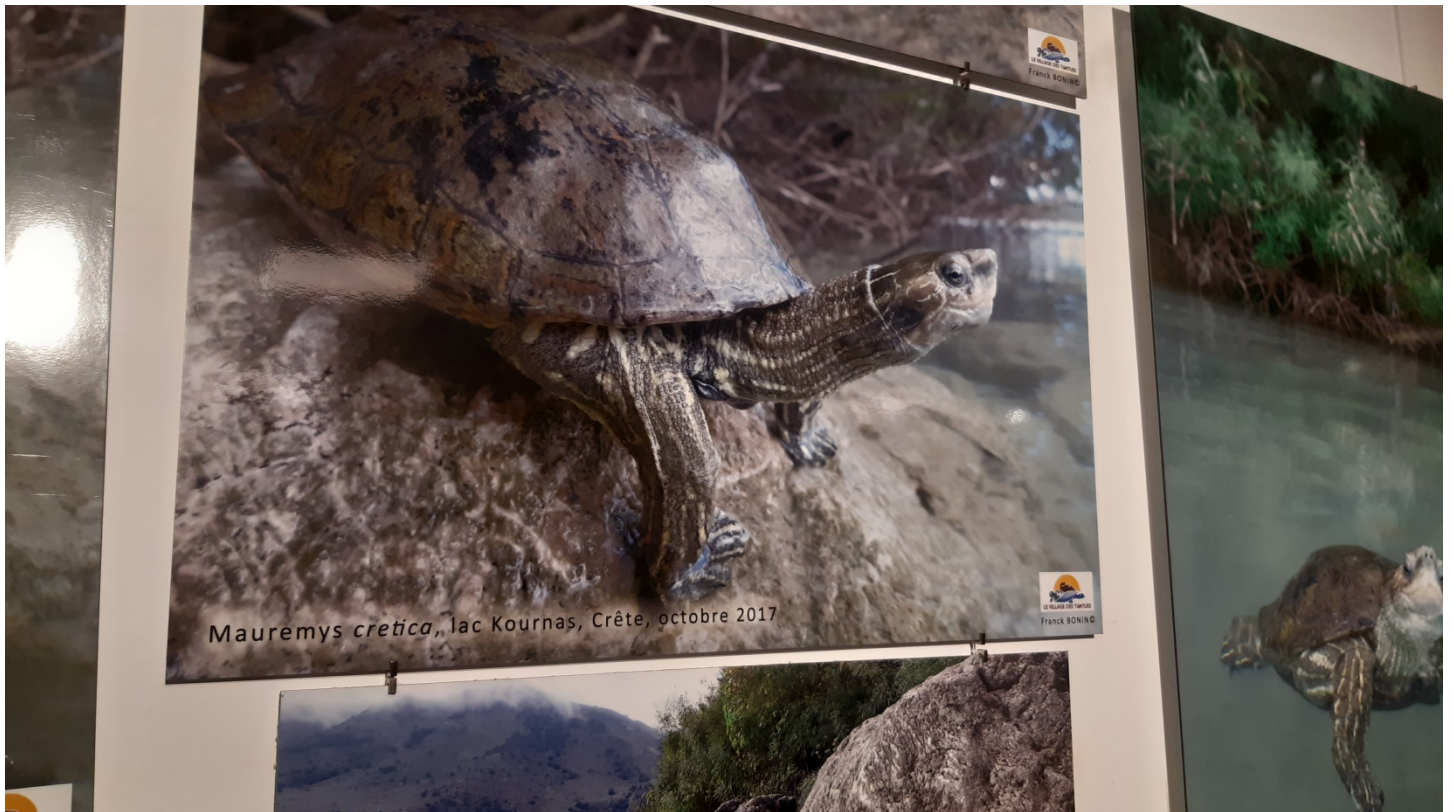
Le lieu des discussions à la pause, quelques belles journées provençales ensoleillées



Présentation des JT par Laurent pour la SHF, il a l'écoute de Bernard Devaux de dos fondateur du Village des Tortues et de la SOPTOM...



L'évolution des tortues depuis 300 millions d'années.



L'Emyde lépreuse de Crête en train de disparaître à cause de l'invasion des Trachemys américaines. Certaines de ces émydes ont les yeux bleus...



Peinture d'un paysage idéalisé, disparu, de l'habitat des tortues d'eau douce...



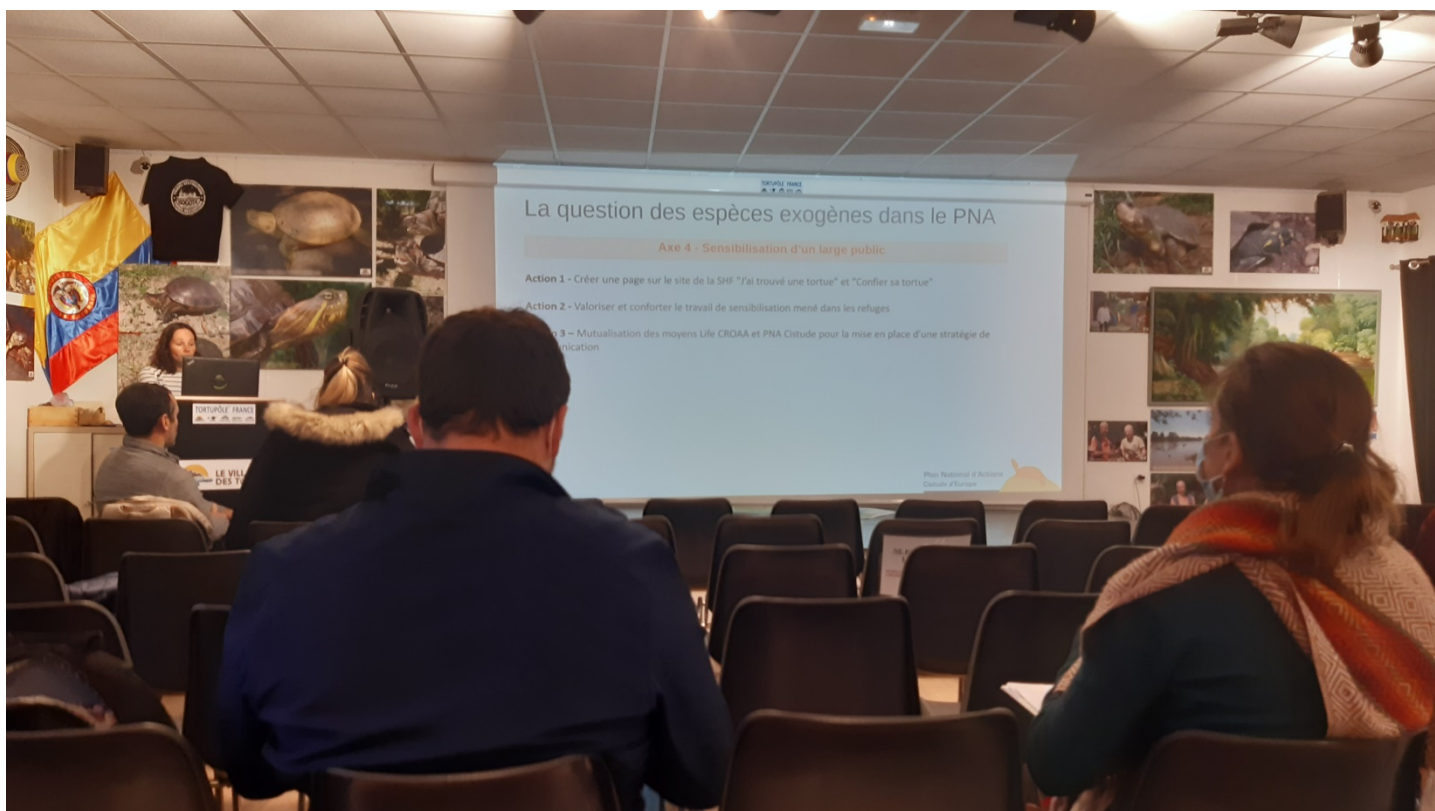
Différentes pierres semi-précieuses, taillées en tortues par des artistes...Vitrines qui décorent la salle de conférence...



Tortue d'eau douce africaine, certes, mais laquelle ?



Marc Girondot sur une méthode possible d'évaluation nationale des températures des sites de ponte et des chances de déterminer les conséquences sur le sexe...



Dernier jour, une bonne distanciation sociale, car les retours ont commencé... Une très belle salle de conférence, encore un grand merci pour l'accueil exceptionnel et chaleureux de la SOPTOM.



Fresh hopes for species' survival as 51 royal turtles released into the wild (Southern river terrapin-Batagur affinis)

The Phnom Penh Post-11/26/21

Fifty-one royal turtles were released into the wild, in northern Preah Sihanouk province's Kampong Seila district on November 26, by the Wildlife Conservation Society Cambodia Programme (WCS) and relevant government officials. The event was accompanied by a ceremony, attended by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries officials, local authorities, WCS representatives, Buddhist monks and locals.

WCS country director Ken Serey Rotha commented that conservationists had believed that royal turtles were extinct in the Kingdom, a presumption he said was rebuffed by a study back in 2000. Also known as the southern river terrapin and by its scientific name *Batagur affinis*, the royal turtle is listed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species as "critically endangered", and was designated as Cambodia's national reptile by a 2005 royal decree, according to the NGO.

Serey Rotha noted that November 26's event marks the sixth of its kind under the associated conservation project, bringing the total number of freed royal turtles from 96 to 147. He also credited the ministry's Fisheries Administration (FiA) for working with the WCS on rare-species conservation. Speaking at the ceremony, Kampong Seila district deputy governor Prak Sovann urged commune- and village-level authorities and the general public to join hands in the conservation of royal turtles.

"If we can protect these habitats, they'd provide enchanting eco-tourism spots," he said. "Sightseers would visit the royal turtles in their own spaces, as well as the beautiful forests here in Kampong Seila."

Sovann said he was committed to protecting the species and ensuring viable populations "at all costs", and called on the public to report trapped turtles to the authorities, who will then prepare them for release back into the wild.

FiA director-general Pum Sotha said royal turtles are now only found in Cambodia, Indonesia and Malaysia, of which the Kingdom has the largest population.

"We must all come forward to protect them, and not merely be content with having the most, but failing to look after them," he said.

Sotha also requested local authorities, the WCS and EU to look into building statues and other monuments across the Kingdom that are dedicated to the royal turtle and bear inscriptions that indicate the rarity and importance of the species.

Registration for our Scent Detection Dogs in Conservation Research online course closes on December 26.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Scent detection dogs are increasingly being used in a variety of situations, from law enforcement to medicine. Their recent application in field programs is seen as a way to enhance conservation research success by improving the frequency or probability of finding focal organisms, including rare or cryptic species. This course uses a case-study approach featuring an ongoing field-based project as a means to introduce participants to some of the practical issues, considerations, and benefits of using detection dogs in conservation. Taught by instructors with complementary expertise, this course explores the intersection of field conservation efforts, animal training, and the natural history of a target species. Participants will also learn about related topics such as practical considerations of canine temperament and training, collaborative partnerships, field methods in herpetology, and discuss real-life study logistics in an online platform. Participants will gain a unique insight into what is involved in using scent detection dogs as well as the potential benefits of this approach.

DATES: December 27, 2021 - January 21, 2022

FORMAT: This course consists of online learning for four weeks. Activities for the 4-week online course consist of pre-recorded lectures, synchronous and asynchronous discussions based on articles from the primary and secondary literature, weekly discussions around themed topics and applied training scenarios, and an online forum for other professional development and related training questions.

INSTRUCTORS: Lindsay Ware of Science Dogs of New England and Dr. Cheryl Frederick of Center for Wildlife Studies, with featured guest lectures from Dr. Matthew Chatfield, Conservation Biologist and Project Principal Investigator.

Learn about the importance of using scent detection dogs in wildlife conservation research by listening to this podcast: <https://www.greenacreskennel.com/blog/2021/02/22/podcast-science-dogs-of-new-england-with-lindsay-ware-22feb21/>

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FOR MORE INFORMATION/TO REGISTER, VISIT: <https://www.centerforwildlifestudies.org/courses/scentdogs-online-2-2021-2022>



Sébastien Caron et ses chiens...

Rare fossil reveals prehistoric Melbourne was once a paradise for tropical pig-nosed turtles
by James Patrick Rule, William Parker, The Conversation

The pig-nosed turtle, an endangered freshwater turtle native to the Northern Territory and southern New Guinea, is unique in many respects. Unlike most freshwater turtles, it is almost completely adapted to life in water. It has paddle-like flippers similar to sea turtles, a snorkel-like "pig-nose" to help it breathe while staying submerged, and eggs that will only hatch when exposed to the waters of the wet season.

It is also the last surviving species of a group of tropical turtles called the carettochelyids, which once lived throughout the northern hemisphere. Scientists thought pig-nosed turtles only arrived at Australia within the past few millennia, as no pig-nosed turtle fossils had ever been found here—or so we thought.

A 5-million-year-old fossil from Museums Victoria's collections has now completely rewritten this story. Discovered at Beaumaris, 20km southeast of Melbourne, this fossil lay unidentified in Melbourne Museum's collection for almost 100 years until our team came across it.

We identified the fossil as a small section of the front of a pig-nosed turtle's shell, as we report today in the journal *Papers in Palaeontology*. Although the fossil is just a fragment, we were lucky that it was from a very diagnostic area of the shell.

The fossil shows that carettochelyid turtles have been living in Australia for millions of years. But what was a pig-nosed turtle doing in Beaumaris 5 million years ago, thousands of kilometers from their modern range?

Well, in the past, Melbourne's weather was a lot warmer and wetter than it is now. It was more akin to the tropical conditions in which these turtles live today.

In fact, this isn't the first prehistoric tropical species discovered here: monk seals, which today live in Hawaii and the Mediterranean, and dugongs also once lived in what is now Beaumaris.

A tropical Melbourne?

Millions of years ago, Australia's eastern seaboard was a tropical turtle hotspot. The warmer and wetter environment would have been perfect for supporting a greater diversity of turtles in the past. This is in stark contrast to modern times; today, Australia is mostly home to the side-necked turtles.

Tropical turtles would have had to cross thousands of kilometers of ocean to get here. But this is not unusual—small animals often cross the sea by hitching a ride on vegetation rafts.

So where are these turtles now? Why is the modern pig-nosed turtle the last remaining species of the carettochelyids? Well, just like today, animals in the past were threatened by climate change. When Australasia's climate became cooler and drier after the ice ages, all the tropical turtles went extinct, except for the pig-nosed turtle in the Northern Territory and New Guinea.

This also suggests that the modern pig-nosed turtle, already endangered, is under threat from human-driven climate change. These turtles are very sensitive to their environment, and without rain their eggs cannot hatch.

This is true of a lot of Australia's native animals and plants. In reptile species such as turtles and crocodiles, sex can be determined by the temperature at which eggs are incubated. This is yet another factor that could put these species at risk as the climate changes.

The treasure trove of fossils from Beaumaris shows just how important Australia's previously tropical environment was for ancient animals. Southern Australia used to be home to many tropical species that now have much more restricted ranges.

Just last year, the discovery of tropical monk seals fossils from Beaumaris completely changed how scientists thought seals evolved. This shows just how much we still have to learn about Australia's prehistoric past, when it was so different from the sunburnt country we know today.

More information: James P. Rule et al, Turtles all the way down: Neogene pig-nosed turtle fossil from southern Australia reveals cryptic freshwater turtle invasions and extinctions, *Papers in Palaeontology* (2021). DOI: 10.1002/spp2.1414





Plan Cistude d'Europe

Tous les deux ans, les Journées techniques nationales consacrées à la Cistude d'Europe sont organisées quelque part en France, dans le cadre du Plan National d'Actions en faveur de cette espèce, animées par la Société Herpétologique de France. Cette réunion importante des spécialistes de cette tortue se tiendra prochainement à Carnoules, dans la grande salle du Village des Tortues. Elle est organisée par l'équipe scientifique de la SOPTOM, avec l'aide de la SHF, et durera deux jours, les 7 et 8 décembre. De nombreuses communications sont attendues, par des biologistes, naturalistes, et acteurs de la conservation, afin de faire le point sur cette espèce, qui reste fragile et dont les effectifs, selon les régions, sont parfois menacés.



Sympathique création

Le rond-point à l'entrée de Carnoules et à la sortie de l'Autoroute A57 vient d'être orné par une frise sur les tortues des Maures, avec des animaux réalisés par les enfants de l'hôpital de Pierrefeu, en relation avec les écoliers de la ville (photo). C'est la municipalité de Carnoules, sous l'impulsion du maire Christian David, qui a proposé et supervisé cette décoration avec Jean-Marie Cartereau, artiste local et responsable Art Thérapie de Pierrefeu. Prochainement, une tortue de grande taille viendra s'ajouter à cette frise, créée par des sculpteurs de la ville ; Miguel, qui a déjà réalisé une œuvre pour le Musée des Tortues ; et Coralie. Ce sera une belle manière, en entrant ou sortant de Carnoules, de se rappeler la présence importante, toute proche, du TORTUPÔLE et du Village des Tortues. Nous remercions la Municipalité, et son maire dynamique, qui a toujours soutenu nos actions sur sa commune. Pour information : info@villagedestortues.fr, et 04 89 29 14 10

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<https://www.helloasso.com/associations/station-d-observation-et-de-protection-des-tortues-et-de-leurs-milieus/adhesions/adhesion-adherez-a-la-soptom-en-2021-et-participez-a-la-protection-des-tortues>

Ou parrainer une tortue d'Hermann de notre élevage conservatoire :

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Ou parrainer une tortue d'Hermann de notre élevage conservatoire :

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