

STUDBOOK BREEDING PROGRAMMA

CHERSINA ANGULATA BOWSPRIT TORTOISE



Photo: M.Vriens and H.A. Zwartepoorte

Annual report 2006 and 2007



European
Studbook
Foundation

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Studbook/Breeding Programme *Chersina angulata* Bowsprit tortoise. Annual report 2006 and 2007.

This is not a usual annual report and also the time of issuing is unusual. This requires an explanation.

A significant number of *Chersina* specimens were entered into the studbook with permission of the South African authority Cape Nature Conservation. During the 90ties Western Cape Nature Conservation issued CITES export permits for transfer to the ESF Studbook.

In the beginning a number of specimens were exported to The Netherlands and although a significant number of animals died over the years communication with the participants was good. Even a few births could be reported.

A few imports into Europe however were carried out by Swiss and German private persons. All imported specimens were reported and registered into the ESF studbook. Until that point all was done by the ESF regulations. Later on a number of these tortoises were transferred to other keepers in Switzerland and Germany. From that moment on communication worsened and the studbook lost track of the specimens. Also quite a few animals died of which a number was reported as dead and some were not.

At present the total reported studbook population, reported between 1992 and 2007, counts 30.33.15 (78) specimens. 33 specimens are reported as dead and this concerns wild caught founder animals as well as captive born specimens. 13 Specimens are considered as "Lost to follow up" meaning that they can not be traced any longer. It is however to be expected that at least a few more animals are impossible to trace. This all indicates that more than half of the studbook population is lost.

With one exception of one hatchling in November 2007 no births are reported.

All these negative developments makes the studbook very unstable.

Closing the studbook/breeding programme is not an option to our view.

Currently we are investigating which of the current known participants is prepared to continue participation and which of the studbook specimens are still alive and how breeding options are for the near future.

Although the species does not have an endangered status in the wild not many specimens are kept in captivity in Europe and also reproduction is very poor.

This report has therefore to be considered as an interim report and with new spirit a more detailed report can be expected in the beginning of 2008.

Henk Zwartepoorte and Irmi Jasser Haeger.
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