

CONSERVATION

THE BCG'S 2026 APPEAL

For 2026 the British Chelonia Group is sponsoring the European Terrapin (*Emys orbicularis*) in Slovakia. This attractive little terrapin is the only native chelonia species in Slovakia living in the Danube area and the organisation which has worked for years to protect this marsh turtle is BROZ, a well established NGO in Slovakia, which has been trying to protect and restore wetlands and grasslands and also by buying land to secure it for the future.

The BCG has received the following interesting update from the project leader, Dr Tomas Kusik.

UPDATE :

The news that an English Chelonia Charity was sponsoring the in-situ Conservation Project for the European Pond Terrapin (*Emys orbicularis*) in the Danube area reached the British Embassy in Slovakia.

The fact that this Conservation project had two little corgi helpers, Rexa and friend, involved with protecting the terrapins, was also noted.

This intelligent breed of dog having been the favourite of the late Queen, which were her companions and protectors during her life, was of course, an added attraction.

Consequently a visit was arranged for the British Ambassador, Mr Bilal Zahid, to pay the Conservation Project a visit and the Project leaders were delighted to host the visit. Mr Bilal Zahid showed great interest in the project and gave generously of his time.

The BCG has received the following photographs of the visit for use in its Newsletter and website. The captions speak for themselves.

Photographs by kind permission of BROZ

The Ambassador, Mr Bilal Zahid, meeting the two corgis, Rexa and her friend, the two little helpers on the Conservation project to protect the European Pond Terrapin.





*The Ambassador viewing a protected nest of the *Emys orbicularis**



The Ambassador taking an interest in the description of the project



The Ambassador being shown some hatchlings of the European Pond Terrapin.



Two hatchlings of the European Pond Terrapin