

**PROJECT FOR SAFEGUARDING OUR LOCAL TERRAPINS AND HABITATS
AND RECOLLECTING INVASORY SPECIES**

A successful volunteer day on Saturday December 14th, 2013



A small lake close to the coast and Mario-Waterpark had been detected as nature reserve for native terrapins and waterfowl.

Actually a golf course is planned there in one of the last remaining nature sites in between coastline, greenhouses and urbanizations.

And of course men already left its traces by releasing American terrapins like cooters and sliders. What else do we know.. But we caught by trapping actually two *Trachemys* specimens within one hour on this sunny winter day.

The „ARCO-Van“ served as exhibition place showing power point prints on the project and conservation efforts. The trailer had been used as working platform and exhibition table for exotic invasive turtles.



The project had been initiated by our collaborating partner and Almeria's leading herpetologist Emilio Gonzalez Miras, also co-authoring our booklet on „Amphibians and Reptiles of Almeria“.

The association for environmental education GAIA co-organized and supported that day out in the field and ARCO had been present with exhibitional, educational and informative contributions, also with co-organizing traps, floating islands, species registration and others.



Left: The trailer served perfectly as working and exhibition platform.
 Centre: Bringing floating island and trap into the lake to be left there for future observations and control
 Below: Children were, of course most fascinated by the living turtles and had much fun this day by watching, learning, doing and strolling around....



The lucky end of that day! .. we still found a native- terrapin, took photos, registered size, weight and pattern for later re-identification and control.....



Its a big hope that children will learn and be more cautious about nature and environment by such activities