

# **Batagur baska Holding Facility**

WCS, 6 July 2006

## **Final construction details for the facility**

### **1. Perimeter fence: The cost and material to be used of the fence will need to be investigated.**

- The 2 m fence (45m x 45m) can be made of chain link or horizontal metal bars depending on cost.
- Circular barbed wire or another type of deterrent (depending on cost) will be added to the top to decrease the potential of thieves from climbing the fence.
- If chain link is used, metal posts will be used in the construction of the fence and sunk into the ground (~40cm) to provide stability. If another fencing material is used, this cost could be excluded.
- A gate (5' wide) with lock will be constructed at the main entrance.

### **2. Secure cage:**

- Natural vegetation and/or other material (shade cloth) will be used to cover the top of the cage and allow filtration of natural sunlight.
- The door will remain locked at all times when keeper is not working with turtles in the secure cage.

### **3. Hatchling holding:**

- Hatchling containers will be set up next to the cleaning/food preparation area to allow for easy access when cleaning.
- Two walls 5m x 3m x 1m will be constructed in order to separate the first juvenile tank from the food prep area (See diagram).
- A large tarp (~6m x 6m) will be placed over a section of the hatchling side of the secure cage to provide some protection from the rain. If fitted correctly, it can provide cover for part of the cleaning/food prep area otherwise another tarp will need to be purchased.

### **4. Juvenile rearing tanks:**

- Four large cement tanks: 3m x 4m x 1m with a water depth of 30-50cm will be constructed inside the secure cage.
- The large tanks will be divided into two smaller tanks (1.5m x 4m x 1m).
- Each tank will have a drain installed to allow for easy cleaning.
- A main cement drain (20m in length) has been constructed and runs the length of the secure cage. The main drain is (20cm x 20cm) and lies above ground. This will allow for the drain to be regularly checked preventing any blockage.
- All tanks will have a dry land crawl-out area (80 cm) and ramp for basking.
- An overflow has been built to prevent rain water from filling the tank.
- A 20m length of a regular garden hose will attach from the filters in the cleaning/food prep area and reach out to the tanks. This will supply filtered ground water to all the rearing tanks and hatchling containers.

### **5. Cleaning/food preparation area:**

- A wall approximately 5.0m x 2.0m x 1.0m made of cement will be constructed to separate the food prep/cleaning area of from the hatchling holding area.
- A cement sink or stainless steel sink will either be constructed or purchased and placed in this area.
- All food preparation will occur in this area.
- All hatchling containers will also be cleaned and disinfected in this area.

### **6. Turtle keeper staging area:**

- The size of staging area will depend on the size of area that is available and will be located outside of the secure cage near the road (See diagram).
- The material for this structure needs to be determined once the budget has been revised.
- This area will provide the keeper with storage space for general facility supplies, individual turtle records, and a place to take breaks.

### **7. Water supply:**

- All equipment for water supply has been set up and turtles are currently receiving filtered ground water.
- Water filters are currently located on the owner's house. Once the food prep area has been completed the filters should be moved into the secure cage and attached to the wall.
- A "Y" shaped shut off valve or faucet needs to be set up next to the filters, so water can be directed either to the food prep area and used in the sink and/or used with a hose for the cleaning of the juvenile tanks.

#### Maintenance of filters

- In order for proper filtration of ground water, the filters will need regular cleaning.
- **Filter #1** (first filter set up): This filter removes any sediment from the water. The filter should be removed from the blue casing and rinsed out. Check the filter once a month if the filter is at all black it needs to be rinsed with filtered water.
- **Filter #2:** (second filter): This filter removes chlorine, color and smell from the ground water. This filter needs to be cleaned every two weeks. Filter is taken out of blue casing and rinsed with filtered water.
- Regular cleaning of the filters will decrease the build up bacterial growth.

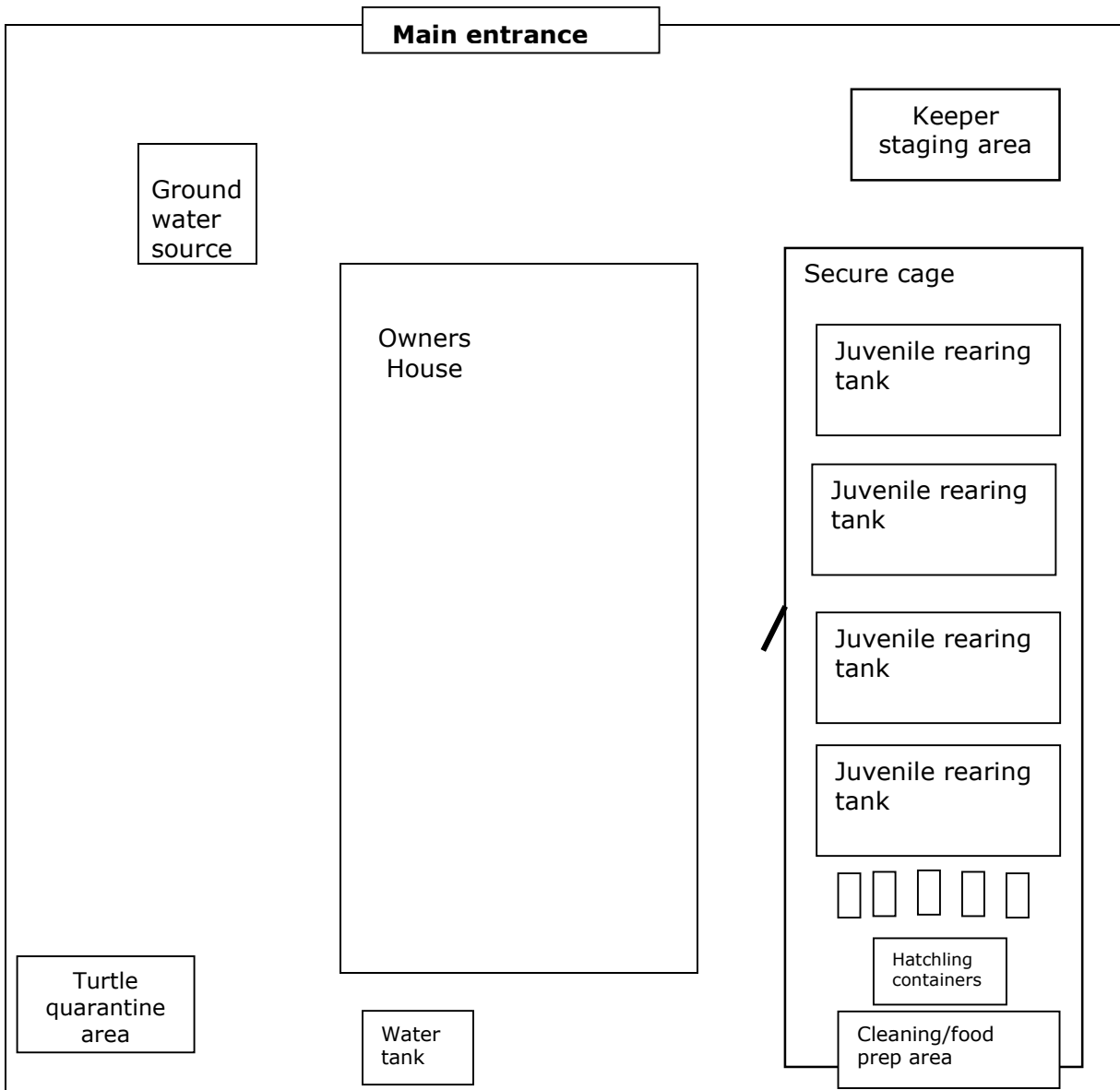
### **8. *B. baska* quarantine area:**

- Holding cage will be used for ONLY *B. baska* that have been confiscated and are waiting for release approval from WCS veterinarian.
- A small fiberglass water tank (~200L cut in half) will hold turtle(s) until decisions have been made. The fiberglass water tank will allow for easy cleaning. The purchase of the fiberglass water tank depends on the cost and the budget.

**9. Concerns/recommendations for facility:**

- All of the turtle waste and disinfectants will be draining into a rice field behind the owner's lot. Could be a possible environmental problem in the future. The construction of a 'French drain' to allow some of the turtle waste and disinfecting solutions to be filtered before it reaches the rice field is recommended.
- There is a lot of garbage/debris in the area. Keeper will need to routinely pick up any garbage/debris near the turtles enclosures.

**Diagram of area for holding facility**



**5 m**

**Close up diagram of area to be used for building the holding facility. Details are described below.**

