



**Indefatigable Island Tortoise** (*Chelonoidis nigra porteri*)

**Size:** Carapace up to 130 cm **Weight:** Up to 272.2 kg **Habitat:** Found only on Santa Cruz, the second largest of the Galapagos Islands **Surviving number:** Estimated at 3,300 adults



Photographed by Christian Ziegler

# WILDLIFE AS CANON SEES IT

On and on. The Indefatigable Island tortoise can live for more than 150 years, and is able to survive for months without food and water. Over the years, this gentle giant of the Galapagos has developed a symbiotic relationship with other animals that share its home, including birds that feed on the ticks attracted to the tortoise. But it has not been as fortunate in its relationship with humans, who harvested the tortoise for meat

and oil for several centuries and also introduced species like rats and goats that destroy its young and compete with it for food. The question is, How long can the tortoise go on?

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