

'Extinct' Galapagos tortoise found after 100 years

Alex Stambaugh, CNN • Updated 22nd February 2019

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Email](#)

01:00

(CNN) — A species of giant tortoise believed to have been extinct for more than 100 years has been discovered on the Galapagos island of Fernandina, according to Ecuador's government. The last known time a Fernandina Giant Tortoise was seen alive was 1906.

An adult female believed to be more than a century old was seen alive on Sunday during an expedition by the Giant Tortoise Restoration Initiative (GTRI), according to a government statement.

Washington Tapia, GTRI director and expedition leader, said that genetic studies will be carried out to "reconfirm" that the tortoise found belongs to the Fernandina Island species.



The rare Fernandina Giant Tortoise, believed extinct, was seen earlier this week for the first time in 100 years.

Ministry of the Environment

Experts believe she is not alone. The tracks and scent of other tortoises, believed to be of the same species, were also observed by the team.

Conservationists have taken the tortoise to a breeding center on the nearby island of Santa Cruz.