

TURTLE FOUNDATION

Protecting and Preserving Sea Turtles

Annual Report 2008

Planning 2009

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Charitable organization under Swiss law
Tax exempt status
Branches in:

- USA
- Germany
- Indonesia

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Summary of activities and achievements in 2008

Project Cape Verde

In 2008 Turtle Foundation has turned over a new leaf. It's been the first time since the foundation's creation in 2000 that they have started a new project besides their projects in Indonesia: the protection program on the Cape Verde Islands.

These Islands are home of the third largest nesting population of Loggerhead Turtles (*Caretta caretta*), which are threatened with extinction. During the nesting season hundreds of female sea turtles are being brutally slaughtered when they come ashore to nest. This is not only about animal conservation but also about animal protection and preventing animal cruelty

It was the Turtle Foundation's goal to guard and secure one of the most important nesting beaches on Boavista Island during the nesting season 2008 (June – October) through nocturnal patrols in order to protect the animals which come ashore to nest. In 2007 poachers killed about 600 animals on this beach only, which corresponds to a significant percentage of the island's nesting population.

Thanks to the cooperation with the Cape Verdean Military it was possible to protect this beach successfully during the past nesting season. We reduced the number of sea turtles killed by 90% and prevented therefore the slaughtering of several hundred sea turtles. Not to mention all the hatchlings that had the opportunity to emerge from their nests after their nesting mothers were saved.

However, not all of the animals could be saved. The beach was simply too big and the number of people patrolling the beach too small. It was impossible to protect the whole beach from sunset 'til sunrise without interruption for several months. Nevertheless thanks to our protection work the number of sea turtles killed was reduced significantly compared to previous years. If the beach patrols had not happened, the slaughter would have been unthinkable.

It is critical for the long term success of the project to raise understanding and sympathy within the local community towards the turtles and the project. Our plan includes providing alternatives for jobs lost in the poaching business as well as developing informational material in order to educate the local population regarding the goals of our protection project.

During our first year we have been able to cooperate successfully with the local government, other NGOs and especially with the local population. For example the Turtle Foundation organized a "sea turtle protection day" (including a big colouring competition for local school children) in Sal Rei, Boa Vista's Capital. Our event attracted so many people that the local police quickly had to close the square to traffic and redirect it. Thanks to actions like this the Turtle Foundation has become popular not only for protecting sea turtles but also for including the local population into their protection work.

Recently a coalition of groups in the area working for the protection of sea turtles of Cape Verde was formed. This coalition consists of three NGOs (the Turtle

Foundation being one of them), two research establishments as well as the Department of the Environment.

Project Indonesia

2008 was the first full year for the protection of the two new islands of Bilangbilangan and Mataha, in addition to Sangalaki. The nesting numbers which we have been collecting during the year show very positive results: the effective number of eggs laid was considerably higher than expected and exceeded the quantity of what the former holder of the egg collection concession told us they would be.

Therefore the total number of hatched baby turtles of these three islands protected by Turtle Foundation in 2008 is almost one million animals!

Regarding the two still unprotected islands, Belambangan and Sambit, the Turtle Foundation suffered a setback. Our intention that those two islands would also be protected by the end of 2008 could not be realized. One problem was the lack of necessary funding. In addition, the poachers are resisting the protection of those islands, and their political influence is still great. The poachers seem to regard Belambangan and Sambit as their last "territory" and they are not willing to give it up easily.

Belambangan and Sambit are situated south of the Muaras reef, which with 288 km² is the thirteenth largest reef in Indonesia and according to The Nature Conservancy has one of the highest coral biodiversity (more than 400 hard corals) and highest number of fish species (at least 872) in the Berau Archipelago. The sea turtles would not be the only beneficiaries of rangers on site. The presence of guarding personnel would also hinder other illegal activities such as bomb and cyanide fishing.

The Turtle Foundation will continue to do everything in their power to staff Belambangan and Sambit with security patrols as well.

Financial statements 2008

Balance sheet as per 31.12.2008

ASSETS	2008 EUR	LIABILITIES	2008 EUR
Cash and cash equivalents	51'252	Accounts payable	0
Receivables	3'509	Accruals	0
Accounts paid in advance	1'521	Committed assets	0
Circulating assets	56'283		
Tangible assets	18'124	Capital and surplus	80'788
Financial assets	0		
Deficit	6'381		
Fixed assets	24'505	Capital and surplus	80'788
	80'788		80'788

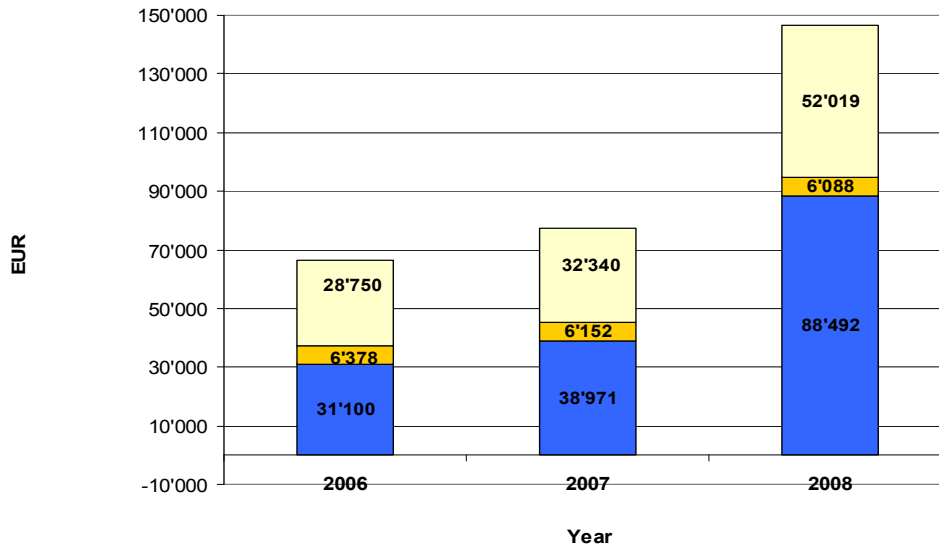
Profit & loss accounts 2008

EXPENSES	2008 EUR	PROCEEDS	2008 EUR
East-Kalimantan, Indonesia		Donations, grants	
Investments and cost of material		Private donors and corporations	88492
Boats: operation and maintenance	13'607	Public institutions	6'088
Buildings: acquisit., operat. & maintenance	7'719	Charitable organizations	52'019
Material & equipment	1'189		
Project reserve, miscellaneous	5'946	Total donations, grants	146'599
Direct Expenses for			
Investment and cost of material	28'461	Sale of products	645
Personnel, project cost,			
communication, representation		Interest	71
Salaries	24'933		
Food for staff members	18'048	Gain/loss on exchange	-2'462
Transport. costs excl. boat transfers	603		
Operation & maintenance office	3'461		
Representation, lobbying, PR	2'812	Loss	6'381
Direct expenses for personnel			
project cost, communication			
representation	49'857		
Direct expenses for			
East-Kalimantan, Indonesia	78'318		
Cape Verde Islands			
Investments, acquisitions	11'265		
Salaries and fees	13'067		
Rental costs (building)	10'318		
Food and beverage	10'901		
Transport costs and fuel	3'066		
Travel costs	8'919		
Miscellaneous	4'687		
Local accounts	0		
Direct expenses for			
Cape Verde Islands	62'223		
Support of foreign projects	0		
Capital expenditure	717		
Depreciations	717		
Fundraising, PR	8'545		
Representations	715		
	151'235		151'235

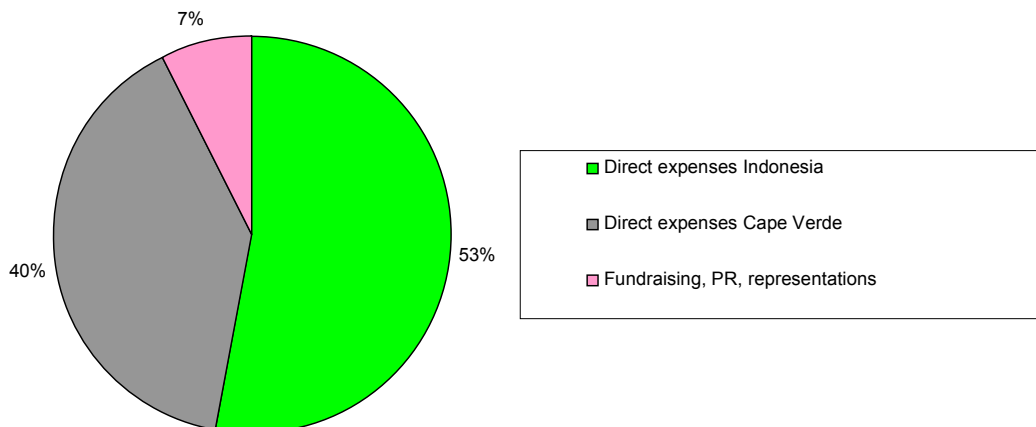
All members of the board of foundation work on a volunteer basis without any salary payments.

Source of funds

■ Private donors + corporations ■ Public institutions □ Charitable organizations



Use of funds 2008



It is thanks to the fact that all members of the board of foundation work on a volunteer basis that the costs for fundraising, administration and PR can be kept so low.

Thanks

The realisation and continuation of our successful projects in Indonesia (since 2000) and recently in Cape Verde (since 2008) was made possible by the solidarity and valued support of our private supporters and donors, by generous contributions from business corporation as well as by grants received from charitable institutions. Many thanks to all who supported us so far and made it possible!

Audit report

The Turtle Foundation (Switzerland) is supervised by the National Supervisory Office for Charities. It is obliged to have its accounts audited annually.
Translation of the original report (in German):

PREFERA

*Report from the auditor
to the board of foundation of
the Turtle Foundation (Switzerland), 9470 Buchs*

In our capacity as auditor we have reviewed the accounts and financial statements (balance sheet, profit & loss accounts) of Turtle Foundation (Switzerland) as per the year ending on 31 December, 2008.

Whilst the board of foundation is responsible for the financial statements, it is our duty to review and check the relevant documents. We hereby confirm that we are fully qualified to do so and that we are fully independent from the board of foundation.

We have pursued our review in accordance with the Swiss principles for professional auditors according to which a check should be made in such a way that relevant mistakes and errors in the financial statements will be discovered with high likelihood. We checked the financial statements based on analysis and sample audits. Furthermore we reviewed the principles applied for accounting and valuation as well as the presentation of the accounts. We are of the opinion that the review executed by us is a sufficient basis for our judgment.

Based on our review we are of the opinion that the accounts and financial statements are in accordance with Swiss law, with the statutes of the foundation and with the by-laws of the foundation.

We suggest to approve of this financial statement.

7320 Sargans, 19 May, 2009

PREFERA AUDIT AG

Project planning 2009

Cape Verde

Following the successful beach patrolling activities during the 2008 nesting season the project shall be continued in 2009 even more successfully based on the experiences gained during the last year and the contacts and friendships that were made with the local people.

The year 2009 will be a year of consolidation and reinforcement of this new project. Last year's project will be extended by adding some highly endangered nesting beaches to the North of Boavista to the protected area. The patrol activities will again be organized and coordinated from the main town of Sal Rei.

From 2010 on it is planned to set-up a beach protection camp on the east coast of the island. Such camp will improve the efficiency of the patrolling activities and it will enable us to protect yet additional nesting beaches on the East coast of Boavista. The building of such a beach protection camp requires significant one-off investments.

In order to ensure the sustainability of the protection program it will be important to expand the offer for ecotourism activities. As visitors will need drivers and guides for such activities the local people will have an opportunity to make a living without harming sea turtles. It will be easier to understand the reasoning for and importance of turtle protection laws once they realize that they will benefit more from a living than a dead turtle.

Indonesia

Our main goal in Indonesia is to extend our protection projects to the two remaining important nesting islands in the area: Belambangan and Sambit. Both islands are still unprotected and as soon as the financial situations will allow it, we will immediately build a simple ranger station on these islands and send our rangers there also.

Belambangan and Sambit are in the South of the so-called Muaras atoll and as soon as we have our rangers stationed there not only the sea turtles but also the entire atoll and its fauna and flora will benefit. The Muaras atoll is considered ecologically extremely important and as soon as the infrastructure is available on Belambangan it will be possible to organize regular boat patrols in the atoll.

We know from our experiences over the last few years that the fight against the sea turtle egg mafia is not won yet. We will have to be as alert and attentive as ever.