



TURTLE FOUNDATION

Protecting and Preserving Sea Turtles

Annual Report 2009

Planning 2010

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Charitable organization under Swiss law
Tax exempt status

Branches in:

- USA
- Germany
- Indonesia
- Cape Verde

www.turtle-foundation.org

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Summary of activities and achievements in 2009

Project Cape Verde

The Turtle Foundation (TF) initiated its work in Boavista Island in 2008, in response to the ongoing slaughter of Loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*) on the nesting beaches of Cape Verde. Locals are drawn to the nesting grounds each season by the large numbers of turtles that come ashore each night. Cape Verde is home to the third largest nesting population of these species, while Boavista Island holds up to 90% of all the nesting in the country.

In 2008, our conservation efforts focused on the protection of the beaches of Porto Ferreira and Canto, on the East coast of the island, and resulted in an overall reduction of 90% of the mortality on these beaches. Our work also included community and school education and environmental awareness programs.

The 2009 season was in many respects an important milestone for the Turtle Foundation project in Cape Verde. In 2009, the project evolved into a more expanded, structured and effective effort in the conservation of the sea turtles in Boavista, yielding even more positive results. We now have the participation of international volunteers, which not only makes our project goals possible, but shows Cape Verdeans there is international interest in Cape Verde. As a result of our school education and community involvement programs, we are now well known and well received in the local community.

Similarly to 2008, the project had two main components: the protection of the nesting beaches with the collaboration of the Cape Verde Military Forces, as well as a strong environmental awareness effort.

Beach Protection and Monitoring In 2009, the protection program was expanded to four beaches: Canto, Northern coast, Lacacão and Curral Velho, while Porto Ferreira was protected by another NGO in the island (Natura 2000). This resulted in over 19 Km of coastline effectively monitored and patrolled and an overall mortality under 2% on the protected beaches. This huge success was mainly due to the collaborative effort between the Cape Verde Military, and the international volunteers who worked with Turtle Foundation during the nesting season (June-October).

The work was especially important in the Curral Velho/Lacacão area, where a massive hotel is being built, and up to 1,000 construction site workers are currently living, some with extreme financial limitations. Threats here include not only poaching of the female turtles, but also the poaching of the nests, the impact of artificial lights from the construction site, the unregulated access to the beach by motorized vehicles and unregulated night visitation by tourist groups. While the military presence could deal with most of these threats, the impact of the construction site was a recurrent problem during the nesting season, and several meetings were held with the site administration to reduce the impact of the lights (which was partially addressed by the contacted entity), while a beach sign was placed in Lacacão beach to draw the attention of visitors to the fragility of the site and the existing threats.

Other beach conservation initiatives included several beach cleanups organized either by Turtle Foundation, or in collaboration with other entities. These initiatives are an important action to restore the nesting beach, as in some cases, such as the Northern coast, trash that has accumulated on the beach actually prevents the turtles from reaching the optimal nesting sites on the beach, or becomes deadly

traps to hatchlings. But ultimately these activities aim at educating the locals and tourists about the problems that trash causes on the marine and coastal environment.

Environmental Education and Public Awareness Also focusing on this serious problem, this season TF developed a large scale campaign called "Ban the Plastic Bags", aimed at school children and high-school students, about the impact of plastic on marine life, especially sea turtles. This included lectures at schools, video presentations, games and a recycling workshop at the Sal Rei High Schol, which ended with a contest.

Other important activities that were crucial to promote the engagement of the local population in the conservation efforts included the funding given to an Environmental Camp organized by the Boavista Environmental Club, several public presentations given in the main villages, and painting of three public walls with sea turtle motifs, all events with many local participants.

Finally, and not least important, in response to the problem of the fairly common practice by the locals of raising juvenile sea turtles in captivity, TF organized several public releases during the season, where locals participated actively, learned about the problems caused by this practice, and why to stop it. These events were a major success, with people actually handing in the turtles in their homes for release in some occasions.

Project Indonesia

2009 was an eventful year, also for our conservation project in Indonesia. As in 2008 Turtle Foundation was able to prevent poaching on the three important nesting islands Sangalaki, Bilangbilangan and Mataha having our 15 year-round local rangers successfully protect the sea turtles and their nests round-the-clock. And again the protection of these three islands made possible for around one million baby turtles to hatch!

However, the latest economic crises haven't left Turtle Foundation untouched: the foundation hasn't received enough financial support in order to realize the intentioned inclusion of the two still unprotected islands Belambangan and Sambit into the conservation project. Additionally the resistance of the poaching lobby is still very high: they are not willing to give up the source of their profitable business just like that and surrender these two islands and the resulting illegal sale of sea turtle eggs.

The appalling events of last November and December show once more how important it is to expand our protection work into the surrounding area. It was a huge shock for us to discover and recover a mile long illegal fishing net with over 100 dead turtles (and many dead sharks and other marine animals) in it. Only ten days later another illegal net of 180 meters was found in the same area with 12 dead turtles in it. These incidents reminded us of the discovery of an illegal net with 150 dead sea turtles in 2005, and the illegal operating Chinese fishing boat with 400 dead sea turtles in 2007. All these discoveries are most likely only the tip of the iceberg as nobody knows how many illegal sea turtle hunters were successful and remained undiscovered.

The Derawan Archipelago is known to be the most important nesting and resting ground of the Green sea turtle in Southeast Asia, and listed as one of the most important biodiversity hotspots on earth! Therefore it wouldn't be sea turtles alone profiting from the protection of the two islands Belambangan and Sambit. The presence of guarding personnel would also hinder other illegal activities in the area such as illegal netting, as well as cyanide and dynamite fishing, still widely-used practices in Southeast Asia.

Besides the immediate protection of animals and their habitat through the presence of our rangers, through patrols and controls of suspicious fishing boats, Turtle Foundation also collaborates with local and national public authorities. Members of our Indonesian project management regularly meet with representatives of the responsible authorities. These meetings and conferences are crucial for our conservation work, as many times important information can only be obtained or arrangements can only be made through this channel.

Turtle Foundation will keep to the beaten track and do everything in their power to staff Belambangan and Sambit with security personnel as well.

Financial statements 2009

Balance sheet as per 31.12.2009

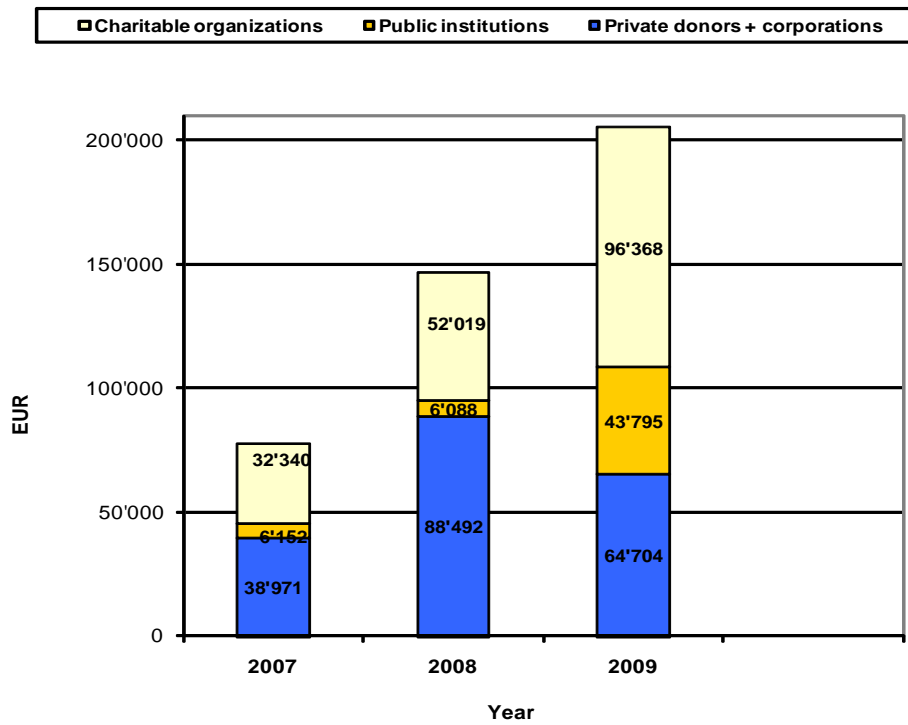
ASSETS	2009 EUR	LIABILITIES	2009 EUR
Cash and cash equivalents	96'377	Accounts payable	100
Receivables	1'365	Accruals	0
Accounts paid in advance	0	Committed assets	<u>100</u>
Circulating assets	<u>97'743</u>		
Tangible assets	17'407	Capital and surplus	74'407
Financial assets	0	Profit	40'643
Fixed assets	<u>17'407</u>	Capital and surplus	<u>115'050</u>
	<u>115'150</u>		<u>115'150</u>

Profit & loss accounts 2009

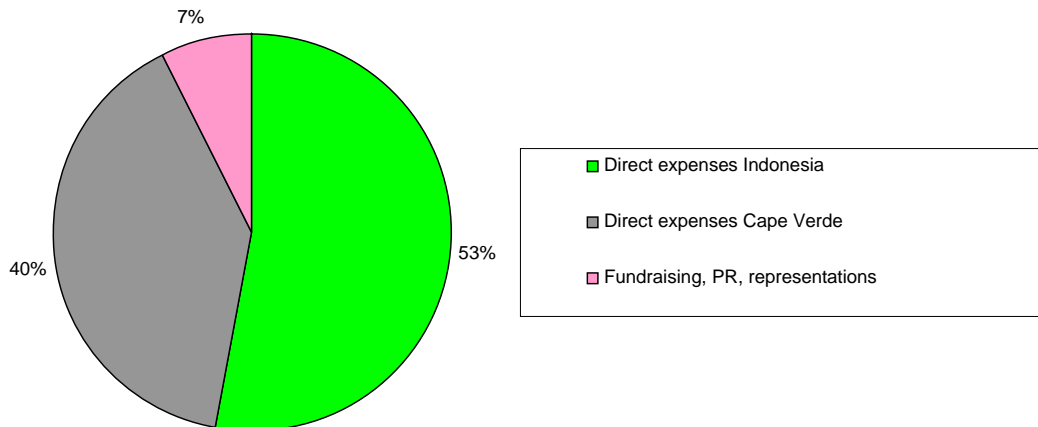
EXPENSES	2009 EUR	PROCEEDS	2009 EUR
East-Kalimantan, Indonesia		Donations, grants	
Investments and cost of material		Private donors and corporations	64'704
Boats: operation and maintenance	9'937	Public institutions	43'795
Buildings: acquisit., operat. & maintenanc	3'220	Charitable organizations	96'368
Material & equipment	887		
Project reserve, miscellaneous	5'777	Total donations, grants	204'867
Direct Expenses for			
Investment and cost of material	19'821	Sale of products	5'875
Personnel, project cost,		Interest	57
communication, representation			
Salaries	24'540	Gain/loss on exchange	610
Food for staff members	17'293		
Transport. costs excl. boat transfers	314		
Operation & maintenance office	3'929		
Representation, lobbying, PR	1'462		
Direct expenses for personnel			
project cost, communication			
representation	47'538		
Direct expenses for			
East-Kalimantan, Indonesia	67'359		
Cape Verde Islands			
Investments, acquisitions	9'623		
Salaries and fees	25'771		
Rental costs (building)	3'270		
Food and beverage	12'462		
Transport costs and fuel	9'203		
Travel costs	1'996		
Miscellaneous	3'469		
Local accounts	0		
Use MTCA due	22'321		
Direct expenses for			
Cape Verde Islands	88'114		
Support of foreign projects	100		
Capital expenditure	754		
Depreciations	717		
Fundraising, PR	12'982		
Representations	740		
Profit	40'643		
	211'409		211'409

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

Source of funds



Use of funds 2009



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):



Report of the statutory auditors on the limited statutory examination to the board of foundation of the **Turtle Foundation (Switzerland), 9470 Buchs**

As statutory auditors, we have examined the financial statements (balance sheet, income statement and notes) of Turtle Foundation (Switzerland) for the year ended 31 December 2009.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the board of foundation. Our responsibility is to perform a limited statutory examination on these financial statements. We confirm that we meet the licensing and independence requirements as stipulated by Swiss law.

We conducted our examination in accordance with the Swiss Standard on the Limited Statutory Examination. This standard requires that we plan and perform a limited statutory examination to identify material misstatements in the financial statements. A limited statutory examination consists primarily of inquiries of company personnel and analytical procedures as well as detailed tests of company documents as considered necessary in the circumstances. However, the testing of operation processes and the internal control system, as well as inquiries and further testing procedures to detect fraud or other legal violations, are not within the scope of this examination.

Based on our limited statutory examination, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements and the proposed appropriation of available earnings do not comply with Swiss law and the company's articles of incorporation.

7320 Sargans, 5 March 2010

PREFERA AUDIT AG


H. Bertsch

Audit expert
(Auditor in charge)


P. Guntli

Audit expert

Project planning 2010

Cape Verde

In 2010 Turtle Foundation (TF) will continue to expand the number of protected beaches, adding Boa Esperança beach in the north of Boavista, and Varandinha on the southwest (in collaboration with Natura2000). Two field stations will be set up to assist with the monitoring and protection of the beaches of Lacacão and Curral Velho, as well as Boa Esperança. Similarly to 2009, monitoring of the beaches of Norte and Canto will be done by a team stationed in the village of Fundo das Figueiras. Additional mobile camp units (each one is designed for six people) will be available to be set up, taken down, and moved quite easily in response to changing needs or unexpected circumstances.

Besides the ongoing activities mentioned above, TF will continue to expand its social and economic programs, through its work with the kindergartens of Bofareira and Fundo das Figueiras, the creation and establishment of the Environmental Centre of Boavista (in collaboration with the tour company Vista Verde), and the support of the Boavista Environmental Club. Also, TF plans to involve the communities in the North of the island at a higher level and support them by creating several jobs. In Fundo das Figueiras TF will implement, in collaboration with the villagers, community home-stays for volunteers and soldiers, providing local families extra income.

Beside the main goal of protecting the nesting beaches, the Turtle Foundation would like to pursue several additional goals:

- Implement a data collection protocol, to obtain more information about the nesting population and collaborate with those efforts already developed by other organizations in the country (e.g. Natura 2000).
- Build hatcheries on the beaches of Lacacão and Boa Esperança, where nests are in danger of flooding and poaching. A hatchery could also add to the tourism possibilities, resulting in increased income for the community.
- Continue to support the development of ecotourism by offering help training guides to lead tours and teach tourists about turtle biology, turtle nesting, and about sea turtle conservation efforts on Boavista. Through donations of guests Turtle Foundation could also raise some additional funds.
- Continue with a strong focus on creating a collective awareness about the problematic situation of the sea turtles in Cape Verde, promoting the understanding that in the long run, living sea turtles will have greater value as a tourist attraction than the one-time selling of their meat. Thus, our educational programs will again be a main component of our work.
- Be active members in the Cape Verde Sea Turtle Network, and help in the development and implementation of its goals and activities.

- Additional long-term goals include the protection of all the species of sea turtles from offshore hunting and the protection of foraging grounds as well as the development of protection measures to reduce bycatch in commercial fisheries.

We hope that with these activities, TF continues to increase the impact of the project, as well as to gain the community's trust, understanding and respect. Ultimately, TF aims to impart knowledge and experience to locals regarding the protection and benefits of the sea turtles, so that in the near future, its presence is no longer needed on the island of Boavista.

Indonesia

Our main goal in Indonesia is to extend our protection projects as soon as possible to the two remaining important nesting islands in the area: Belambangan and Sambit. This approach will assure sustainability of our protection measures.

Both islands are still unprotected and as soon as the financial situations will allow it, we immediately are going to build a simple ranger station on these islands and send our rangers there. Logistics will be arranged from Bilangbilangan and Mataha.

Belambangan and Sambit are in the South of the 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.