

TURTLE FOUNDATION

Protecting Sea Turtles and their Habitats

Annual Report 2015



Boards of Trustees Chairmen

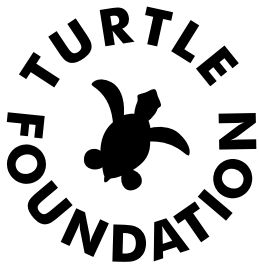
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Content

| | |
|---|----|
| PREFACE | 3 |
| THE TURTLE FOUNDATION | 4 |
| SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2015 | 4 |
| Project Indonesia | 4 |
| Project Cape Verde | 7 |
| FINANCIAL STATEMENT 01-OCT-2014 – 30-SEP-2015 | 10 |
| Balance sheet as per 30-Sep-2015 | 10 |
| Profit & loss account 01-Oct-2014–30-Sep-2015 | 11 |
| SOURCE OF FUNDS | 12 |
| USE OF FUNDS 01-OCT-2014 – 30-SEP-2015 | 12 |
| AUDIT REPORT | 13 |
| PROJECT PLANNING 2016 | 14 |
| Project Indonesia | 14 |
| Project Cape Verde | 15 |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | 16 |

Our vision...

...is a future where sea turtles and their habitats are sustainably protected, healthy, and safe from threat of extinction and destruction.

Our Mission...

...is to contribute to sea turtle conservation at our own project sites by cooperating with local communities to create a future where both seaturtles and people can thrive.

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Cover: Portrait of a hawksbill turtle (image by Kurt Amsler)

PREFACE



Dear friends and supporters of the Turtle Foundation,

On the occasion of my now ten-year membership in the Board of Trustees of the Turtle Foundation Switzerland I'm particularly pleased to present you our annual report for 2015. As a longtime avid scuba diver, who has also worked for several years as an instructor, I was always concerned about the protection of the sea turtles. My first encounter with a sea turtle in its natural habitat will always be memorable for me, as is also, unfortunately, the frequent confrontation with the dangerous threats to these majestic animals. I had to experience at the beach of Laganas in Zakynthos, Greece, how irresponsibly managed tourism destroyed large parts of this important sea turtle nesting beach. Sun loungers and bar tables hampered the turtles in searching for suitable nesting sites at night, and during the day tourist boats chased the turtles. This regularly led to the most unpleasant view of turtle eggs floating in the water, because the turtles were forced to release the eggs into the water when they were prevented from nesting on the beach; all those eggs died and all their potential progeny lost.

The plight of the sea turtles has always made me very concerned – so I was very delighted when I met the founders of Turtle Foundation and learned about its turtle protection project in Indonesia, which at that time still was their only project. I was extremely impressed how ordinary people could launch and operate such a project while achieving such awesome results. With great pleasure I accepted their offer to actively take part in Turtle Foundation. Since then I mainly care for the correct management and responsible use of our donations – a work for which I was predestinated due to my regular job as an accountant.

Of course, one does not necessarily have to spend a large part of his spare time in order to effectively help the sea turtles and our oceans. It is the sum of the large and the small financial contributions of our many friends and supporters that create the conditions for organizations like Turtle Foundation to be able to actively fight for our nature and our environment in an effective and powerful manner. Therefore, I would like to thank you so much for your help, and also in the future I will take great care that your contributions and donations to Turtle Foundation will be used in the best way to effectively protect the sea turtles and their habitats.

*Martin Gabathuler
Board of Trustees Turtle Foundation Switzerland*



THE TURTLE FOUNDATION

The Turtle Foundation is an international wildlife conservation organization dedicated to the protection of sea turtles and their habitats. The Turtle Foundation is registered as a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization in the following countries under the local legal requirements: Germany (since 2000), Switzerland (since 2006), United States (since 2006), Cape Verde (since 2012; local name: Fundação Tartaruga), and Liechtenstein (since 2014). The Turtle Foundation primarily conducts operational activities and currently runs two conservation projects in Indonesia and Cape Verde. Our aim is to prevent the imminent extinction of sea turtle populations, to enable re-growth of the depleted populations back to healthy levels, and to prevent mistreatment of sea turtles. We foster the sustainability of our conservation projects by accompanying environmental education activities and by programs to create alternative income opportunities for the local population, with a focus on environmentally compatible and sustainable use of coastal and marine habitats.

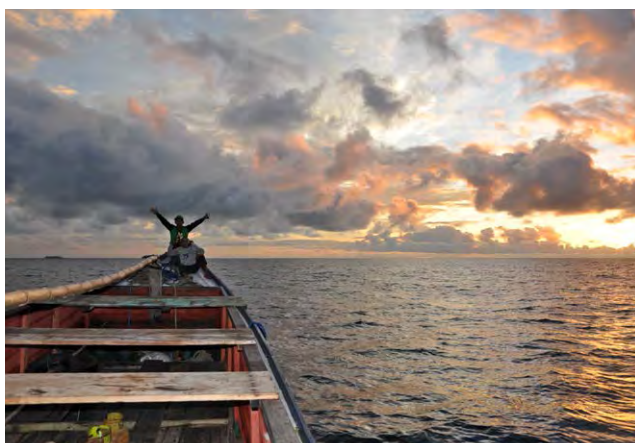
SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2015

Project Indonesia

The conservation project on the Derawan Islands (district of Berau, province of East Kalimantan, Borneo, Indonesia) started in 2000 and was the first project of the Turtle Foundation. The Derawan archipelago holds the world's eighth largest and Indonesia's largest nesting area for the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), but there are also significant feeding grounds of hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*). Since 1999, all species of sea turtles have been nominally protected under Indonesian law. Nevertheless, on the Derawan islands the local government had awarded concessions for collect-

ing green turtle eggs for decades, only ending this practice in 2001. However, since then egg poaching continued illegally, thus endangering the green turtle population to be eradicated in the next decades if no efficient countermeasures are taken.

In collaboration with Indonesian nature agencies and local organizations, in 2002 the Turtle Foundation erected a monitoring station on the Island of Sangalaki for year-round protection of its nesting beaches. Since 2008, further monitoring stations were built and operated on the islands of Bilang-Bilangan and Mataha. After 2012, the protection program on Sangalaki was taken over by the local nature agency but on Bilang-Bilangan and Mataha we were still able to continuously and efficiently protect about 50% of all turtle nests in the archipelago against egg poaching.



Left: There was great joy among our rangers when they were finally able to return to our project islands again on 2nd of February 2015 to continue with the protection project (just left beneath the nose of the boat is Mataha, further left is Bilang-Bilangan). Right: Ranger station on Mataha; on the left lies the fenced hatchery).



Left: Rangers are excavating a nest in which the turtles just hatched. The contents of the nest (including living hatchlings, undeveloped eggs, and any dead animals) are counted and recorded. The hatchlings were released thereafter. Right: During the months before we could resume the beach monitoring activity considerable amounts of driftwood washed up on the shore as well as piles of plastic debris. Driftwood poses a big problem for the nesting turtles; here, a ranger frees a turtle that is jammed between driftwood trunks.

After we had to part ways with our former project partner in 2014 due to its significant management failures, we entered into partnership with the newly formed organization „Perkumpulan Konservasi Biota Laut Berau“ (BLB; Association for the Protection of the Marine Life in Berau), which is under the direction of Berlianto Daniel. Our former partner tried to retain control of Bilang-Bilangan and Mataha, but continued management problems and insufficient protection measures resulted in cessation of their program in January 2015. At this time the BLB received the necessary permits to operate the protection program on Bilang-Bilangan and Mataha, and the BLB rangers returned on the Islands on 2nd of February 2015.

The rangers found the Islands and the stations in a very poor condition. Over a period of six months (August 2014–January 2015) the stations had not been maintained, beach cleaning was not performed at all, and egg poachers were again active at night as word had spread that the beaches were no longer protected. To get poaching under control again, in the following months after BLB took over all nests were relocated. However, the operation of the hatcheries had to be temporarily suspended after egg poachers robbed the hatchery on Bilang-Bilangan and stole 15 nests (about 1,500 eggs) from there. Instead, the nests were then buried in unmarked areas on the beaches to hide them from poachers.

Thus, most of 2015 was marked by the restoration of a proper protection program on Bilang-Bilangan and Mataha. Our Ranger have mastered this laborious task successfully with toughness and great effort: the beaches were cleaned, the signs of the beach sectors were renewed, the stations were refurbished, and since November no more nest thefts have occurred.

Between 2nd of February and 31st of December 2015 we counted on Bilang-Bilangan 3,615 nests and on Mataha 1,222 nests. Even if we extrapolate the missing figures for January, these numbers are significantly lower than the annual averages (Bilang-Bilangan: 5,135 nests, Mataha: 2,118 nests). In the months June to September there was an extreme drought in Indonesia, and many parts of the country including Borneo suffered from devastating forest fires. This dry period is associated with the El Niño weather phenomenon. It is suspected that the low nest numbers – which could also be observed in Cape Verde – might be associated with this world-wide weather phenomenon.

In total, since the begin of our protection project in the Derawan archipelago in 2000 we enabled about 8.1 million sea turtle hatchlings to start their lives in the sea. In parallel with the consolidation of the protection program on the nesting islands we defined a new division of tasks between our partner

organizations BLB and the conservation organization ProFauna whose office is also funded in Berau by the Turtle Foundation: While BLB is responsible for implementing the conservation measures on the islands, ProFauna focuses on outreach, environmental education, and public relations. The Czech biologist Hana Svobodová, M.Sc., who has been working for us in Berau since 2014, supported both organizations by performing environmental education measures in local kindergartens and schools, and by launching a pilot program for foreign volunteers.

In November, we also commissioned a team of two Indonesian consultants to support our project partners in Berau in administrative affairs as well as in building and maintaining of improved cooperation with government agencies. A special task of Nofri Yani and Meriussoni Zai is to establish agreements with the local authorities to enhance the legal security of our conservation program.

Besides the green turtles, the Derawan archipelago is also home of hawksbill turtles, which forage in the extended reefs of the archipelago. These animals are even more threatened than green turtles because they are still hunted for their shell and to produce stuffed animals despite legal protection. Turtle shell jewelry (bracelets, necklaces, keyring pendants, etc.) and stuffed turtles are sold to tourists in local stores. In 2014 the Turtle Foundation

together with the Gadjah Mada University of Yogyakarta (UGM) started a combined research and conservation program for hawksbill turtles in the region. Results of this study were presented as a poster to an international audience at the 35th Annual Conference of the International Sea Turtle Society.

It was planned to continue this program in 2015, but due to lack of funding the research part of the project could not be continued. We therefore concentrated on public relations and programs for producers and distributors of turtle products to mitigate the trade in these products. This included workshops for creating souvenirs from coconut shell and other environmental friendly materials, the provision of cheap T-shirts with attractive designs for resale within a revolving fund system, and issuing “Turtle Friendly Shop” certificates for souvenir shops who have abandoned selling turtle products.

Unfortunately, in Indonesia rearing sea turtle hatchlings in water tanks is still popular, although a large proportion of the animals die from diseases, and surviving animals released to the sea have little chance to survive. This method is termed headstarting. In many cases this practice is superficially promoted as turtle protection, however often there are pure economic interests hidden behind those activities (tourism, pet trade). Together with



Left: Hana Svobodová, M.Sc., teaches kindergarten children on Maratua playfully the value of the sea turtles and the nature of their homeland. Right: Another souvenir shop on Derawan officially abandoned selling turtle products, participated in our Turtle Friendly Shop initiative, and now can advertise with an environmental friendly product range.

our project partner ProFauna, we developed a plan to educate responsible authorities and other stakeholders such as tourists, hotel managers, etc. Also this material was presented to the public at the ISTS Meeting 2015 in Turkey.

Project Cape Verde

The Turtle Foundation started its conservation project on the Cape Verdean island of Boavista in 2008 in response to the massive, illegal slaughter of loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) at their nesting beaches. The Islands of Cape Verde are home to the world's third largest nesting population of this highly endangered species, and 80% of the overall nesting activity in Cape Verde takes place on Boavista. Since the beginning of the conservation project in 2008, the scope and quality of the protection measures have increased with each year. Currently, the project includes seven beaches with a total length of about 29 km, which are monitored during the nesting season (June to October) by patrols starting from three beach camps (Lacacão, Boa Esperança, and Canto) and a field station (Fundo das Figueiras). Monitoring and protection of the beaches are conducted on site by a team of a biologist/field coordinator and a camp coordinator in each camp. The direct protection work is carried out by local rangers, and local and international volunteers. In 2015, a total of 28 Cape Verdeans were working in our

protection project as paid rangers, in addition to 5 Cape Verdean and 51 international volunteers.

Unfortunately, in 2015 poaching increased again on the beaches compared to previous years. While we were able to confirm "only" six killed turtles throughout the season on our monitored beaches, we must assume a higher number of unreported cases because in some cases the turtles are removed from the beach and there are no remains. For an overall view of the situation we must further consider those beaches that are monitored by other organizations and that are partially exposed to even higher poaching pressure due to their accessibility. Taking all information together we have to assume that probably more than a hundred turtles on Boavista have been killed by poaching. Especially on the beaches in the northeast and east of Boavista there were repeated encounters between patrols and residents of the surrounding villages, of which some were marked by aggressive behavior. This demonstrates that the risk of poaching is far from over, and that intensive beach monitoring is still necessary at least for the next years.

We are thus facing the challenge to intensify our efforts in changing in the attitudes of local people towards nature conservation. In parallel, together with other nature conservation organizations we advocated for more effective prosecution of



Left: Beach camp of the Turtle Foundation in Lacacão. Right: In a morning patrol our ranger Domingos Dias found this turtle, which poachers tied up with ropes, turned it on its back and covered it with branches in order to return later to slaughter the animal and carry away the meat. Fortunately, the turtle was unhurt and Domingos could immediately release it into the wild.

poaching. In late November, a new, stricter law for the protection of the sea turtles was adopted in Cape Verde, which was to a large extent the result of our lobbying activity. We hope that this will also increase the will of the Cape Verdean authorities to implement the new law.

In 2015, the Turtle Foundation again allocated financial resources to enable the group “Projeto Varandinha” from the community of Povoação Velha to monitor the nesting beach Varandinha, which is about 5 km long. Another nesting beach in the southwest of Boavista (southeast of Santa Monica), which was monitored by the group of Povoação Velha in 2014 supported by funding through the Cape Verdean Ministry of the Environment, could not be integrated into the monitoring 2015 due to lack of funding.

Since 2009, we have collected basic nesting data on the turtles such as the numbers of nests, the numbers of unsuccessful nesting attempts, and the numbers of dead turtles found on the monitored beaches. Since 2010, biologists, rangers, and long-term volunteers of the Turtle Foundation have collected additional information: marking and identification of the individual females, information on the movement of individually identified nesting females between their nesting sites, and biometric data of nesting females.

In the 2015 nesting season we counted a total of 1,652 nests on our beaches; a large part of them would have not been present without our protection measures. Thus, nesting activity slightly increased compared to the previous year (1,431 nests) and was at a similar level as in the years 2009 and 2010 (1,602 and 1,606 nests, respectively). Due to the significantly higher nesting activity in 2012 (3,618 nests) and the fact that individual sea turtles return for nesting generally every 2–4 years, we and our colleagues from other NGOs on Boavista assumed there would be significantly higher nesting activity in 2015, however this was not the case. The results of our tagging program showed that only few of the turtles that were tagged on Boavista in 2012 returned for nesting in 2015. We will see if 2016 brings the expected high nesting activity.

In addition to the direct protection measures and to ensure the sustainability of our conservation projects, the Turtle Foundation places special emphasis on supporting measures for environmental education and poverty reduction. As in previous years we implemented our successful kids education project “School in Nature”. However, the project with its on site camp activities could be carried out only three times in 2015. This was primarily the consequence of Hurricane Fred which swept over the Cape Verdean islands



Left: In the beginning of the nesting season collaborators and volunteers of the Turtle Foundation were building a hatchery at the beach of Lacacão. To protect the turtle eggs from voracious crabs a deep trench for the fence had to be dug. Right: Flyers of the marine conservation organization OceanCare helped us during our “School in Nature” lessons in the beach camp of Boa Esperança to explain the dangers of marine pollution to the children.

in summer 2015. In addition to our beach camps, also tents and other equipment for the “School in Nature” project was damaged or destroyed so we had to stop this activity early. Increased donations resulting from a call for assistance in combination with emergency relief funds from the Fondation MAVA fortunately enabled us to replace the damaged material for the next nesting seasons.

As in previous years we drew public attention to the necessity of protecting the land and sea environments and natural resources with presentations, mural painting activities, theatre performances, and beach cleaning actions. The problem of marine pollution was also in 2015 a main topic of our activities. With flyers provided by the organization OceanCare we raised aware-

ness for this important issue among local people and tourists.

Again we paid great attention on the development of the tourism industry on Boavista, which often occurs without any concern for environmental sustainability. Sea turtles are threatened by beach development, excessive lighting of the beaches, destruction of nests by unregulated car and quad driving on the beaches, and disturbance of nesting turtles by unprofessionally guided turtle watching tours. In summer 2014 we started, with approval of the government, to post signs on nesting beaches prohibiting driving with motorized vehicles there. This activity was continued in 2015 and extended to other sensitive areas. The signs were designed by the Turtle Foundation and produced in Germany.



Left: The camp of Boa Esperança after its destruction by Hurricane Fred on 31st of August 2015. Right: The new signs are a great help in regulating the destructive vehicular traffic on the nesting beaches.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 01-OCT-2014 – 30-SEP-2015

The Board of Trustees decided unanimously, due to administrative reasons, to move the closing date of the financial statements to 30 September. Thus, the current fiscal year comprises the period 01-Oct-2014 – 30-Sep-2015

Balance sheet as per 30-Sep-2015

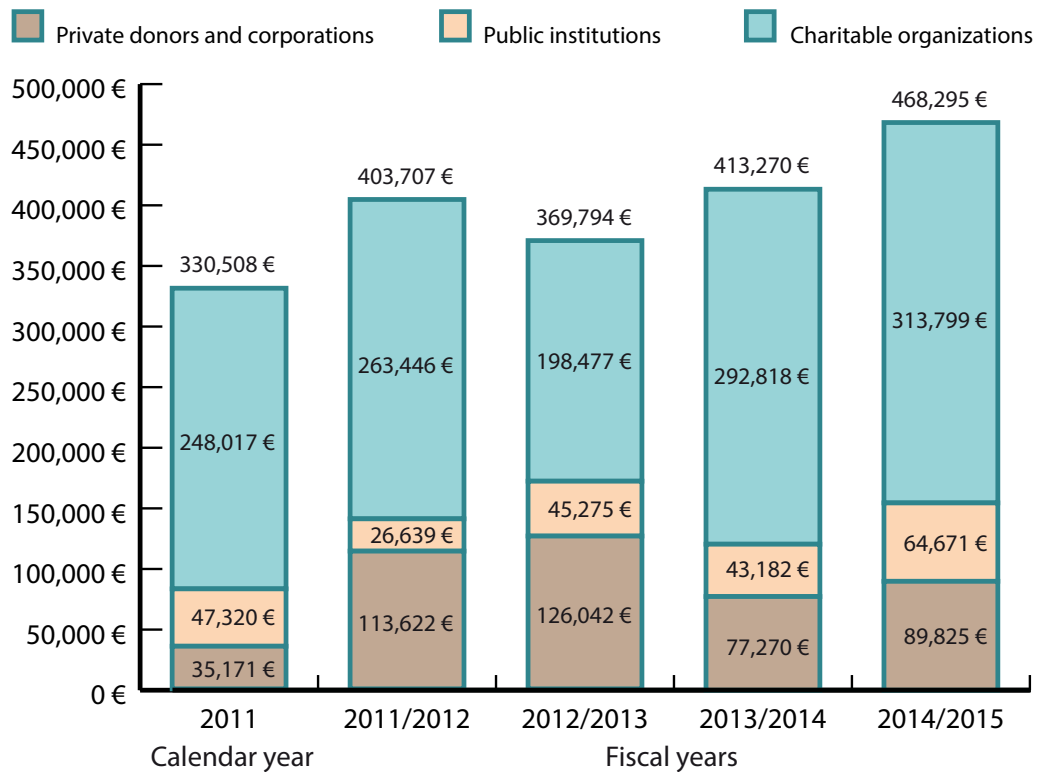
| ASSETS | 30-09-2015 EUR | LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | 30-09-2015 EUR |
|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents | 491,454 | Accounts payable | 0 |
| Receivables | 665 | Deferral | 36,457 |
| Accounts paid in advance | 6,137 | Accruals | 50,000 |
| Current assets | 498,256 | Committed assets | 86,457 |
| Tangible assets | 2 | Capital and surplus | 225,433 |
| Fixed assets | 2 | Expenditure surplus | 186.368 |
| | | Capital and surplus | 411,801 |
| | 498,258 | | 498,258 |

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

Profit & loss account 01-Oct-2014 – 30-Sep-2015

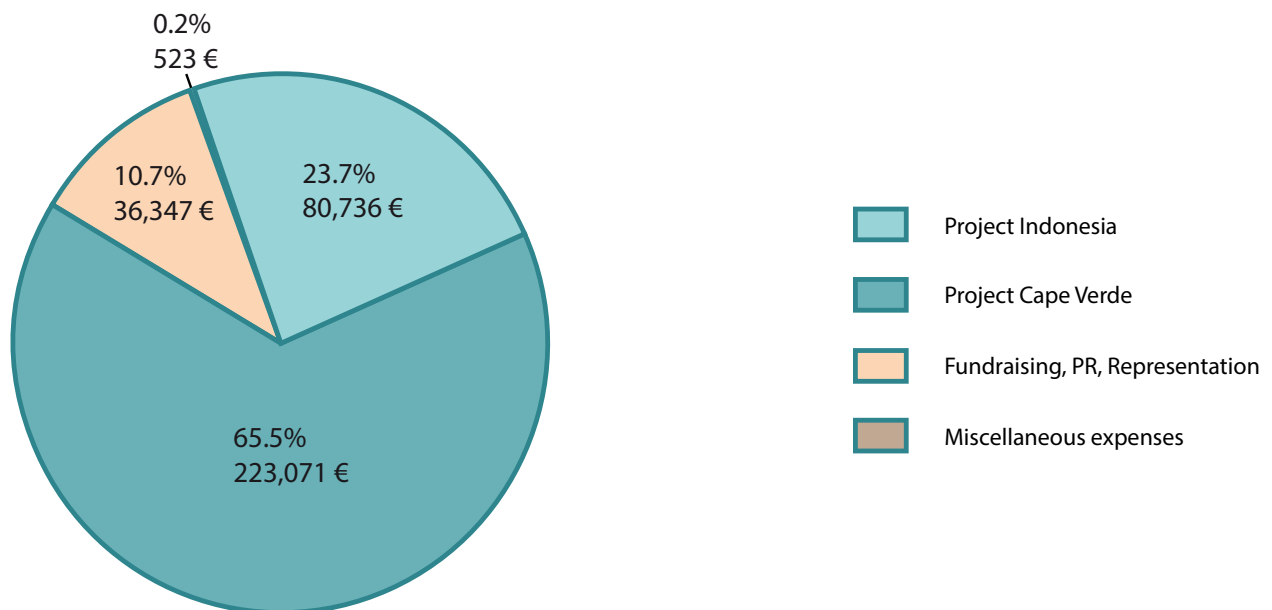
| EXPENSES | 30-09-2015 EUR | PROCEEDS | 30-09-2015 EUR |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Project East-Kalimantan, Indonesia</i> | | <i>Donations, grants</i> | |
| Direct project expenses | 80,736 | Private donors & corporations | 89,825 |
| Direct expenses for Indonesia | 80,736 | Public institutions | 64,671 |
| | | Charitable organizations | 313,799 |
| <i>Project Cape Verde</i> | | | |
| Investments, acquisitions | 42,366 | Total donations, grants | 468,295 |
| Salaries and fees | 98,588 | | |
| Operating costs: building, of- fice, storage | 24,970 | Sale of products | 17,032 |
| Operating costs: camps, gas food, water | 27,072 | | |
| Operating costs: vehicles/gen- erators | 9,414 | Interests | 60 |
| Local protection programs/ Varadinha | 9,755 | | |
| Travel costs | 6,680 | Gain/loss on exchange | 41,658 |
| Other, PR & advertising | 2,564 | | |
| Education program "School in Nature" | 496 | | |
| Patrols | 1,165 | | |
| Direct expenses for Cape Verde | 223,071 | | |
| Support of foreign projects | 0 | | |
| Capital expenditure | 523 | | |
| Fundraising, PR | 29,236 | | |
| Advertising, representation | 7,111 | | |
| Allocation to reserve fund | 0 | | |
| Surplus | 186,368 | | |
| | 527,045 | | 527,045 |

SOURCE OF FUNDS



*The year 2011 is a short fiscal year from 1 January to 30 September 2011. For the sake of comparison, the graph was extrapolated to a full year for the fiscal year 2011, but the figure includes the actual values for the period from 1 January to 30 September 2011. Thereafter, the financial year runs from 1 October to 30 September.

USE OF FUNDS 01-OCT-2014 – 30-SEP-2015



AUDIT REPORT

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



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 30 September 2015.

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 alprocesses 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, 12 february 2016

Prefera Audit AG

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Audit expert
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Audit expert

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PROJECT PLANNING 2016

Project Indonesia

1. Continued protection of important nesting islands

After the successful restoration of our programs for nesting beach monitoring and collecting nesting data on the Islands of Bilang-Bilangan and Mataha, our main target again is to continue our protection program on these islands. Unfortunately, in the meanwhile evidence has accumulated that the protection program on the Island of Sangalaki, which has been carried out by an Indonesian nature conservation agency since 2012, is not working. Investigative research revealed that there exists an organized supply chain in which virtually all eggs laid on Sangalaki are collected and marketed. We will commit ourselves in uncovering and stopping these machinations.

In the current conservation program of the Turtle Foundation in Berau about 50% of the area's green turtle nests are being protected. This is not enough for the sustained survival of the nesting population – especially since we have to assume that a large part of the other half of the nests is still poached and consumed. We will therefore continue with our efforts to find funding to expand our conservation project to the Islands of Sambit and Belambangan, two other important nesting islands of the area.

2. Environmental education

Our environmental education measures in local schools and kindergartens will be continued under the auspices of ProFauna. Further, we started cooperation with the local department of the Ministry for Fishery and Marine Affairs, which initiated a conservation group named "Duta Bahari" (Ambassadors of the Seas). The idea is to train young men and women from Berau and to deploy them for public relation activities. Further, the Turtle Foundation is involved in preparations to establish an Indonesian network for marine environmental education (IMEN – Indonesian Marine Educators Network). A first national meeting of the founding members is scheduled for August 2016 in Manado, Sulawesi.

3. Anti headstarting campaigns

During 2015 we learned that one reason rearing of sea turtle hatchlings in water tanks is so popular in Indonesia is because this so-called headstarting is recommended as sea turtle conservation measure by the conservation department of the Ministry for Fishery and Marine Affairs. Thus, regional departments of the ministry feel encouraged to fund and to build such headstarting facilities without evaluating the actual benefits. We therefore want to focus on lobbying on responsible people in the Ministry to convince them to change the respective policies. As in other cases the implementation will depend on our financial resources.

4. Establishing a volunteer program

In contrast to our volunteer program on Boavista, Cape Verde, in Indonesia we can only accommodate four volunteers simultaneously, which are participating in a specified program lasting for two to three weeks. Due to the remoteness of the islands and the limited possibilities for logistical supply it is not possible to take larger numbers of volunteers.

After first experiences and some adjustments in the last year, we are now planning to publish specific information, participation conditions, and application procedure for volunteers on our website and to permanently integrate the volunteer program in our protection program. Revenues from the volunteer program will contribute covering some of the costs of the project

5. Research and protection project for hawksbill turtles

Since the research part of the project could not be continued in 2015 due to lack of funding, we want to start a new attempt in 2016. We rely on the results of the pilot project in August/September 2014, which revealed very important findings and experience about the feasibility and modalities of studies on the biology and population of the hawksbill turtles in the Derawan archipelago. For 2016 we plan an expedition for about eight weeks in collaboration with the University of Yogyakarta to capture, measure, and tag about 100–150 hawksbill turtles. Concurrently, the successful measures to curb the trade in turtle products should be continued.

The implementation of all measures that go beyond the basic protection work will depend on the available funding.

Project Cape Verde

1. Protection of the sea turtles

The protection and monitoring of the beach areas covered in 2015, which include Aqua Doce, Boa Esperança, beaches of the north coast, Canto, Curral Velho, Ponta Pesqueira and Lacacão, will be conducted again in 2016 in the months of June to October. The ever increasing tourism activities in the Cape Verde islands, which particularly affect Boavista, lead to increasing conflicts between the interests of tourism and nature conservation. Together with different local stakeholders the Turtle Foundation develops concepts in order to meet these new challenges. The signposting project for nesting beaches, which was started in 2014 and continued in 2015, will also be continued in 2016. Additionally we want to create identified routes for quadbike tours to prevent the progressive destruction of the sensitive dune systems by uncontrolled driving on the beaches.

2. Environmental education

The Turtle Foundation will continue and, if possible, further expand its successful „School in Nature“ program along with other established measures for environmental education such as presentations, public events, and competitions. The protection work for sea turtles, which on Boavista is currently implemented by organizations lead by foreign persons, is by many local people still poorly understood, criticized, or even rejected. Therefore, the Turtle Foundation together with two other large organizations for sea turtle protection on Boavista (BIOS.CV und Natura2000) developed a new concept: A community coordinator (“turtle officer”) will be employed and work on behalf of all organizations. He will organize regular meetings in all communities to educate about the work of the or-

ganizations and mediate between the interests of the people and the conservation organizations.

3. Establishing alternative sources of income

As a part of our work on developing alternative income sources basing on agriculture and tourism the community of Povoação Velha was provided in 2015 with wooden stalls and an irrigation system for farming of vegetables. We will continue this cooperation with Povoação Velha and plan to initiate a similar cooperation with the village of Bofereira. In 2016 we will try to recruit some people of Bofereira for sea turtle protection on nearby beaches, and aim to expand this kind of collaboration to other regions.

If funding can be secured we will in 2016 organize a workshop for the production of soap from locally available raw material such as milk from donkeys and goats, sea salt, and aloe vera. Based on results and experience of this workshop we aim to expand our product portfolio and to initiate the production of not only soap but also other natural cosmetics. These products should be sold to local shops as well as directly to tourists.

4. National and international partnerships

The Turtle Foundation will continue to expand its networking activities and cooperation with national institutions and stakeholders to achieve better protection of the sea turtles on the Cape Verde islands, not only directly on the beaches, but also at the political level. The fact that the beaches guarded by the Turtle Foundation in the northeast and southeast of the island lie in officially protected areas will support our conservation efforts.

5. Scientific studies on sea turtles

We will proceed with our cooperation with the German GEOMAR Helmholtz Center for Ocean research also in the nesting season 2016. Studies already started will be continued, and new studies are planned.

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