

TURTLE FOUNDATION

Protecting Sea Turtles and their Habitats

Annual Report 2016



Boards of Trustees Chairmen

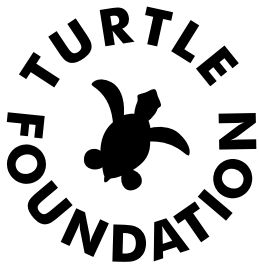
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TURTLE FOUNDATION

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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: Resting green sea turtle (image: Laura Denrath, Shutterstock.com). **Images:** Turtle Foundation (if not mentioned otherwise)

PREFACE



Dear friends and supporters of the Turtle Foundation,

I have always been magically attracted to sea turtles: They appear so proud and so wise, when they look at me during dive sessions; they seem so self-assured and powerful, while searching for food and nibbling at corals. They float so elegantly and effortlessly, while they radiate so much calm and confidence. Sometimes they even seem to be a bit bored by the activities of divers roaming in their very own element. Unforgettable for me – the view of rows of entirely unimpressed sleeping sea turtles at a wreckage off St. Eustatius in the Caribbean; and by contrast, watching the heart-melting exertions of female turtles, driven to drag their heavy bodies ashore by the need to reproduce. What an age-old, highly complex life cycle of the sea turtles – so mysterious and fascinating.

So I have been very pleased to be part of the founding of the Turtle Foundation in Switzerland in 2006, and to continue to actively be involved in the protection of sea turtles since then. I am primarily involved in administrative duties, such as project management and donor support. I participate in the annual meetings of the Board of Trustees and weigh in on decisions regarding our projects for the protection of sea turtles in Indonesia and Cape Verde. And of course I am proud of all of that we have achieved with relentless and voluntary commitment. I very much appreciate my co-trustees for their unselfish work toward our common cause. Together we make a difference.

My two stays in our beach camps on Boavista and my work during night patrols are still unforgotten. I am deeply impressed with the passionate dedication of so many volunteers coming to Boavista every year to again enable the safe nesting of the turtles on the beaches of this island. I personally can recommend this kind of experience to anyone and I would like to say a big thank you to all previous and future volunteers.

But of course, it takes more than our lifeblood and our effort on site – the project itself is only possible thanks to so many donors and supporters who are following our progress and are encouraging and trusting us. So I very much appreciate every single donation and I am wholeheartedly working to ensure the proper and effective use of committed funds.

*Margrit Roduner Gabathuler
Board of Trustees Turtle Foundation Switzerland and Liechtenstein*



THE TURTLE FOUNDATION

The Turtle Foundation is an international group of closely linked wildlife conservation organizations, dedicated to the protection of sea turtles and their habitats. The Turtle Foundation currently includes five national bodies, registered as nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations under the local legal requirements: Turtle Foundation Germany (since 2000), Turtle Foundation Switzerland (since 2006), Turtle Foundation United States (since 2006), Turtle Foundation Cape Verde (since 2012; local name: Fundação Tartaruga Cabo Verde), and Turtle Foundation Liechtenstein (since 2014). In addition, the Turtle Foundation Friends Association is registered as a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization in Germany. 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 turtles, 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 2016

Project Indonesia

The conservation project on the Derawan Islands (district of Berau, province of East Kalimantan, Borneo, Indonesia) has existed since the establishment of the Turtle Foundation in 2000. The project area is part of the so-called Coral Triangle, the most species-rich hotspot of marine biodiversity worldwide. Scattered over several islands, the world's eighth largest nesting area for the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) is located here; additionally, there are also significant feed-

ing grounds of hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) in the coral reefs of this archipelago. Since 1999, all species of sea turtles have been nominally protected under Indonesian law. Nevertheless, on the Derawan islands the local government had issued concessions for collecting green turtle eggs for decades, only ending this practice in 2001. However, egg poaching continued illegally on a large scale. Without this practice being stopped, the local sea turtle population would have been completely wiped out in the foreseeable future.



Left: A green sea turtle female lands on the beach of Mataha for nesting. **Right:** Still in 2000, massive egg collection occurred on Sangalaki under license issued by the local government; the sea turtles hardly had a chance. Despite legal protection now, the eggs are still threatened by poaching wherever they are not effectively protected.



Left: Ranger of the BLB performing one of the daily three beach patrols on the Island of Bilang-Bilangan. **Right:** Ranger Pak Ben is digging out a hatched nest. The contents of hatched nests (egg shells, undeveloped eggs, dead hatchlings, and also live hatchlings that did not reach the surface) are counted as these data provide many important insights into the reproductive biology of the local turtle population.

The Turtle Foundation has conducted operational activities in the district of Berau since its establishment in March 2000. As a result of intensive negotiations with Indonesian local authorities, a complete ban on collecting sea turtle eggs was declared for this region on an official basis. Initially, the protection law was enforced on the island of Sangalaki only – by rangers of the Turtle Foundation as well as by officials of the local nature conservation authority BKSDA. Since 2012, BKSDA is solely responsible for the protection on Sangalaki. At the beginning of 2008, additional monitoring stations were built on the islands of Bilang-Bilangan and Mataha and since then have been continuously operated by Turtle Foundation and our local co-operation partners – except for a six month period in 2014/15.

Our main activity in the district of Berau was focused on the continuous protection of nesting green turtles and their nests on the beaches of Bilang-Bilangan and Mataha against egg poaching. This part was conducted on-site by our local partner *Perkumpulan Konservasi Biota Laut Berau* (BLB; Association for the Protection of the Marine Life in Berau) headed by Berlianto Daniel. On both otherwise uninhabited islands, about 10 rangers of BLB were working. On each island, at least 3 rangers were continuously present for patrolling the beaches several times every day. Additional major tasks included the professional relocation of nests threatened by flooding or other adverse impacts,

the collection of nesting data, as well as the regular beach cleaning from plastic waste.

The funding of BLB for conducting all activities including salary for the rangers, supply of materials and food, transfer from and to the islands, and all local administration costs was provided solely by Turtle Foundation. Moreover, the Turtle Foundation financed the purchase of a motor boat for safe transport of rangers and materials. The boat was commissioned to a local boat builder, and was put into service in August 2016.

In 2016, on both nesting islands we counted in total 6,418 nests, with 4,482 nests on Bilang-Bilangan and 1,936 nests on Mataha. These numbers are slightly lower than the annual averages since 2008 (Bilang-Bilangan: 5,063 nests, Mataha: 2,155 nests). However, for 2016 the nesting activities were significantly higher than in the weak year 2015 (Bilang-Bilangan: ca. 3,784 nests, Mataha: ca. 1,288 nests; results include extrapolated figures for the usually weak nesting month January, for which counts were not directly obtained). By way of calculation (under consideration of average amounts of eggs per nest, average hatching rates and natural losses) the amounts of counted nests on both islands resulted in ca. 531,000 sea turtle hatchlings that were enabled to find their way into the sea. This would not have been possible without our protection, since experience demonstrates that without beach

guarding virtually all nests would fall prey to egg poaching. In total, from the beginning of our protection project in the Derawan archipelago in 2000 until the end of 2016, we saved in absolute terms about 8.6 million sea turtle hatchlings.

Besides the protection of important nesting sites of the green turtle at the Derawan archipelago, we also have been concerned with the extremely threatened hawksbill turtles in this region. This species nests only rarely on the islands of this archipelago. However, on the sea they are hunted on a large scale for their turtle shell in order to produce jewelry and souvenirs. In addition, smaller hawksbill turtles are stuffed and then sold as wall decoration. Officially, these activities are prohibited, but so far the authorities rarely pursue illegal hunting and sale of turtle products. 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. Despite the promising early results contributing to critical knowledge about distribution and biology of the local hawksbill turtles, as well as about social aspects of the local human population related to turtle hunting, the research part of the project could not be continued in 2016 due to lack of funding. Despite the loss of important subsidies, however, we were able to continue at least partially our protection program for the hawksbill turtles. The following measures were included within this program:

- Workshops for creating souvenirs from coconut shell and other environmental friendly materials, in order to provide alternative income opportunities for the local population instead of processing turtle shell
- The provision of cheap T-shirts with attractive designs for souvenir dealers who have officially ceased the sale of turtle products
- Environmental education lessons and presentations in schools and kindergartens (ca. 1,400 participating students)
- Distribution of information leaflets to tourists about the problems related with the purchase of turtle products

After the departure of our colleague Hana Svobodová, whose longstanding commitment we highly appreciated, our environmental education measures were continued by our local partner organization Profauna. For these activities, Profauna was supported by the regional youth group for marine conservation *Duta Bahari* (ambassadors of the seas), established in 2016 and funded by Turtle Foundation. In the course of our activities, at the end of February 2016, for the first time a direct intervention of the local authorities against the illegal trade of tortoiseshell products occurred on Derawan Island, whereby officials seized a considerable number of sea turtle shell-based jewelry. Profauna was involved in many further activities for the protection of sea turtles in the region of Berau, funded by the Turtle Foundation.



Left: Stuffed juvenile hawksbill turtles are illegally sold on the Island of Derawan. **Right:** A souvenir vendor on Derawan participated in our Turtle Friendly Shop initiative, abandoned selling of turtle shell products, and received our certificate with which she now can point aware customers to her turtle-friendly assortment.



Left: Children's group on Derawan after an environmental education lesson on sea turtles, in which also turtle pictures were painted. **Right:** A member of the youth conservation group Duta Bahari, which we are supporting since 2016, during a lecture on marine protection at a secondary school in the district capital Tanjung Redeb.



Earlier this year we received a message in regard to some so far not well documented occurrence of nesting sea turtles on the beaches of Lembata Island, which belongs to the small Sunda Islands. The report refers to numerous actions of poaching of adult turtles as well as their nests. Therefore, between mid April and mid June 2016, we funded a visit of two experienced BLB rangers to Lembata in order to evaluate the actual nesting activities and necessary protection measures in some selected areas in the western part of the island (district Nagawutung). Within this period we counted 36 nests, mainly from olive ridley sea turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), and occasionally also from hawksbill turtles. In the same time cases of egg poaching occurred and were documented. One of the highlights on Lembata was the visit of the Indonesian minister for Fishery and Marine Affairs, Susi Pudjiastuti, on 12 June 2016. As a result of our investigation, the Indonesian wildlife conservation and animal protection organization Jakarta Animal Aid Network, with which we frequently cooperate, initiated a conservation project on-site.

Fortunately, in 2016 we increased our cooperation with an important governmental body, the local authority for Fishery and Marine Affairs (DKP Berau). The DKP even provided rooms in their official building for setting up a local office for personnel of Profauna, BLB, and Turtle Foundation. Thanks to the physical proximity, our protection measures and joined programs can be now better aligned.

The coordination with the authorities has been driven ahead mainly by our Indonesian colleagues Nofri Yani and Zai Meriussoni, supporting the Turtle Foundation as consultants between November 2015 and December 2016. Another important part of their work was the development of a regional



The Indonesian Minister for Fisheries and Marine Affairs, Susi Pudjiastuti (right), visiting the Island of Lembata during our survey there. Middle: BLB ranger Pak Ben.

regulation for reinforcement of sea turtle conservation – addressed to the regional parliament of the district of Berau. The tendered draft of this regulation was the subject of several public hearings, partly in the presence of the district chief, in February 2016 also in the presence of two officials of the Turtle Foundation. As a result of these hearings, the local government announced public declarations

about the need for reinforced marine conservation in district Berau. However, the tendered draft is still in consultation. Among other consulting issues, Nofri Yani and Zai Meriussoni made inquiries for establishing the official body of Turtle Foundation Indonesia.

Another important engagement of the Turtle Foundation was the active support for establishing a network for promotion of responsible handling of marine resources by environmental education – called IMEN (Indonesian Marine Educators Network or Jejaring Pendidikan Kelautan Indonesia, JaPeKI). The founding conference took place in Manado (Sulawesi, Indonesia) on 8 and 9 June 2016. The chief aims of IMEN/JaPeKI are the establishment of a platform in order to make experience, materials, and methods of environmental education available to the broader public, in particular to teachers, students, wildlife conservation organizations. Further, competence and capacities for the effective protection of marine resources should be created on all public and social levels. In this regard, the cooperation in particular with Indonesian responsible authorities should be promoted.

Project Cape Verde

On the Cape Verdean islands off the West African coast, the third largest nesting population of loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) in the world is located. As far as is currently known, about two thirds of overall nesting activity is focused on Boavista Island. Turtle Foundation started the conservation project on Boavista at 2008 in response to the massive slaughter of nesting turtle females on the beaches that is posing a serious threat to the survival of this important population.

Since the beginning of the conservation project in 2008, the scope, extent, and quality of the protection measures have increased with each year. Currently, the project includes eight nesting beaches (Água Doce and the western half of Boa Esperança in the northern part of Boavista; Norte, Gatas, and Canto in the Northeast; Curral Velho, Ponta Pesqueiro, and Lacacão in the South, with a total length of about 30 km. As in the years before, those beaches were monitored during the nest-

ing season from mid June to end of October by patrols starting from three field stations (Lacacão, Boa Esperança, and Canto). The hard-to-reach and nearly 600 m long beach section of Gatas in the Northeast is now completely included in the daily patrols for the first time. Monitoring and protection of the beaches – mainly by nighttime patrols for protection of sea turtles generally nesting at night – were conducted on site by teams of local rangers and local and international volunteers, in each camp led by one field and one camp coordinator. In addition, the Turtle Foundation, as in previous years, allocated financial resources to enable the group *Projeto Varandinha* from the community of Povoação Velha to monitor regularly the nesting beach of Varandinha, which is about 5 km long – as well as to patrol sporadically the beach of Santa Monica in the Southwest of the island. Thus, in total nearly 35 km of nesting beaches at Boavista were covered by conservation activities of the Turtle Foundation in 2016. Other beaches in the East and Southeast of the island with a high rate of nesting activities were monitored – as in previous years – by the NGOs Natura 2000 and BIOS.CV.

The conservation project of the Turtle Foundation on Boavista was led by Euclides Resende (Cape Verde) and Joana Nicolau (Portugal). The office team of our local headquarters, located in the



Only rarely turtles can be encountered during daytime on the beaches of Boavista. In this case, the turtle got lost in the dunes after she laid their eggs in the previous night, and was rescued by our team from sweltering in the hot sun.



Left: The Lacacão field station receives a water supply. **Right:** The coordinator of the Boa Esperança field station, Christina Ferrando, during the daily disposition of personnel for the night patrols.

capital of the island Sal Rei, was supplemented by special coordinators for community work, for environmental education, and for the volunteers program. The three camps were led each by one camp coordinator and one field coordinator. In the course of the 2016 nesting season, the Turtle Foundation team included 26 Cape Verdeans as rangers and two hands for logistics on paid positions. In order to meet further staffing needs for our protection activities on the nesting beaches, the Turtle Foundation conducts a volunteer program every year between June and October, in which the volunteers patrol the beaches together with our paid rangers. We were very pleased to welcome in 2016 in total 55 volunteers, including 13 Cape Verdean and 42 international volunteers. The stay of volunteers ranges from 2 weeks to several months, whereby the volunteers were a really great help not only for nighttime beach patrols, but also for collecting nesting data and for normal duties in the camps. The volunteer program is funded mainly by the attendance fee of the volunteers. The working and living conditions for paid staff and volunteers in our remote beach camps are naturally very basic, but improvements can be introduced every year step by step. In 2016, we were able to equip all camps with solar power stations and corresponding buffer batteries. Thereby, we could provide sufficient electricity at any time, thus allowing us for the first time to permanently fulfill all electricity requirements of our work equipment and means of communication without using gas-operated generators.

In addition to the beach protection patrols, data are collected on the nests and nesting turtles during the season, e.g. numbers and exact locations of nests, numbers of unsuccessful nesting attempts, and numbers of dead turtles found on the monitored beaches. Following a cautious start, overall, 2016 was a record year in terms of landed sea turtles and nest numbers: On all beaches of the core project we counted in total 3,668 nests – which was significantly more than 2015 (1,652 nests) and slightly more compared with the former record year 2012 (3,618 nests). In addition, there were 394 nests counted by the Varandinha project. Together with the data collected by the other NGOs on all monitored beaches of Boavista, about 20,500 nests were recorded, of which about 20% were protected by



One of the three solar power stations that were purchased for the electricity supply of our field stations; here at Boa Esperança field station.

Turtle Foundation. The combined data of the last few years so far do not clearly indicate a decrease of the population, although the observation period is too short in order to make any statistically valid statements. However, it is important to note that the impact of increased poaching during the 1990s and 2000s will only become clear with some delay due to the long generation time of the sea turtles.

Poaching is a serious threat for the sea turtle populations on Cape Verde, but poaching in recent years has been significantly reduced through the joint commitment of the three conservation organizations on Boavista. However, we noticed again increasing poaching activities on all beaches of Boavista in the last two years. On our monitored beaches alone we documented evidence of 25 cases of poaching (remnants of slaughtered turtles and other clear traces), which is significantly more than the average of 5–10 cases per season in earlier years. Moreover, together with Natura 2000 we conducted investigations on one particular beach – named *Cruz do Morto* (cross of death) – in the Northeast of Boavista, as well as in some adjacent areas so far not being monitored by conservation organizations. There, we counted over 30 slaughtered turtles or clear evidences of slaughter. Further, 90 cases were reported by Natura 2000 from adjacent beaches. A conservative estimate of 100% undetected cases of turtle killings on guarded and unguarded beaches would indicate at least 300 slaughtered sea turtles by poaching on Boavista, which is more than 7% of this year's nesting female turtle population. On the neighboring island of Sal, the documented cases alone reached over 200. Unfortunately, this shows that after the first lull in poaching in conjunction with achieved successes of our and other conservation organizations at Boavista, the threat of poaching is far from being over, and that also in the upcoming years intensive beach monitoring including extension of monitored areas will be necessary for containment of poaching. As one of the most important immediate measures, the Turtle Foundation will include the beach stretches around Cruz de Morto into the existing protection program, which will require the setup of a fourth field station and associated logistics.



On a loggerhead turtle carcass, the Turtle Foundation team is documenting a case of poaching at the beach of Cruz do Morto. Particularly sad: This animal was already registered and carried a tag given to it by the Maio Biodiversity Foundation, a sea turtle conservation organization active on the neighboring Island of Maio.

Besides the documentation of pure nesting activities of sea turtles, during our patrols we also collect several biological data of encountered nesting turtles. Individual animals are marked or are identified by existing markings. For 2016, in total 662 nesting turtles were newly tagged, while 215 individuals, having been marked in previous years by Turtle Foundation (114 animals) or other organizations, were identified again. The information derived from these data is important to explore the specific nesting biology of nesting loggerhead turtles on Boavista, and to estimate the current size, condition, and structure of the local turtle population and its temporal development, and thus considerably help to improve our conservation measures.

Turtles coming ashore often abort the nesting procedure prior to the actual egg-laying, which to certain extent is a natural behavior. For most beaches, except for Lacacão, we had in 2016 nesting rates (numbers of counted nests compared to numbers of found turtle traces) between 28.9% and 41.1% with an average of 34.9%. However, for Lacacão, where since 2010 huge hotel facilities (RIU/TUI) and a water treatment plant are located, the nesting rate is only 18.7%, with a significantly higher abort rate during observed nesting attempts being reported. The main cause



Left: Under red light, from which the animals are not disturbed, a loggerhead turtle is marked and measured after egg laying (image: Derek Aoki). **Right:** The camp coordinator of Lacação, Laura Sanchez, digs out a nest that was placed near the RIU/TUI hotel the night before, in order to relocate it to our safe hatchery. Each egg has to be handled very carefully – it even has to be strictly avoided that eggs are turned until they are finally placed in their new location.

is the much too intensive, unregulated nighttime illumination of the nesting beaches by hotel and plant facilities, scaring the turtles off. In addition to the disturbance of nesting female turtles, this inappropriate illumination of both facilities leads also to adverse effects on the nightly hatching of turtle hatchlings from those nests that were still laid nearby. As a result of the artificial light, the hatchlings are often misdirected away from the water towards the lights and end up dying in the heat of the following day. In a scientific study of the University of Freiburg (Germany), which has been conducted on site by Derek Aoki within the framework of his master's degree, the adverse effects of artificial illumination on nesting turtle females as well as on turtle hatchlings were analyzed, quantified, and finally confirmed.

Unfortunately, there currently remains for us little more than to collect the facts and to consistently point out those deficiencies to the responsible entities. In spite of the overwhelming evidence of these adverse effects, the hotel facilities are being further expanded in 2016. In order to reduce the adverse effects at least to some extent, most nests around the hotel facilities were relocated into a fenced hatchery or to the adjacent beach of Ponta Pesqueiro (in total 124 nests). For the eggs of 94 relocated nests in the hatchery we observed a hatching success rate of ca. 85%, which corresponds to the normal hatching rate of in

situ nests unpreyed on by predators. This demonstrates successful implementation of the relocation measures by our on site personnel.

Besides this study about the effects of the RIU/TUI hotel and water treatment facilities of Lacação beach, further scientific programs were conducted as in previous years in the beach areas of Lacação and Ponta Pesqueiro. These studies were led by Christophe Eizaguirre from the Queen Mary University in London (who has formerly worked at GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre of Oceanic Research in Kiel). Research focused on ecological, population biology, genetic, and parasitological aspects of the Cape Verdean loggerhead turtles.

In addition to direct conservation and protection measures, the Turtle Foundation sets great value upon flanking measures for environmental education and poverty reduction in order to ensure the sustainability of our conservation projects. For community work and environmental education, the coordinator Cintia Lima was recruited. As a first step for a new approach of improved relationships between conservation groups and village communities at Boavista, she conducted a broad survey in regard to awareness and valuation of ongoing conservation and protection programs for sea turtles. This survey is currently being evaluated. Moreover, Cintia Lima led our proven education project *School in Nature* in one of our beach

camp, whereby the local kids and youths can get in direct touch with the nature of their island – and also can assist in some conservation activities, e.g., beach cleaning or short nighttime patrols on secure beach sections nearby the camp. This project has been conducted five times per season with 71 participants. Further activities of public relations included presentations, mural painting actions, expositions, beach cleaning, and football matches in the island capital Sal Rei and in island villages. A highlight at the end of the year was a workshop with the German artist Odo Rumpf in a joint action with a youth group, building a huge sea turtle from scrap metal. By these means, we create awareness for the need for environmental and marine conservation as well as for the valuable resources of the ocean and the required protection measures.

We also focused on the development of tourism on Boavista, which is generally expanding beyond any sustainability and environmental compatibility. Sea turtles are threatened by beach develop-

ment, 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. The posting of prohibited activities and information signs on nesting beaches and the marking of legal pathways for motorized vehicles – as started in 2014 – were expanded in 2016 to further areas with additional 16 signs. The signs were designed by Turtle Foundation, produced in Germany, and posted at selected locations.

We were very pleased about the visit of a delegation of the MAVA foundation in September 2016, which this year selected Boavista for the location of their yearly board meeting. The MAVA foundation has been financing a significant part of our project in Cape Verde for several years. Thus, we were very pleased to have the opportunity to present our project to the foundation board and assistants on-site – and also to plan joint strategies for the near future.



Left: Children of Boavista in one of our painting classes. **Right:** A turtle sculpture made from metal scrap is created in Boavista's capital Sal Rei under the guidance of the well-known German sculptor Odo Rumpf (left).

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1 OCTOBER 2015 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2016

The current fiscal year covers the period from 1 October 2015 to 30 September 2016. All members of the board of the foundation work on a volunteer basis without any salary payments.

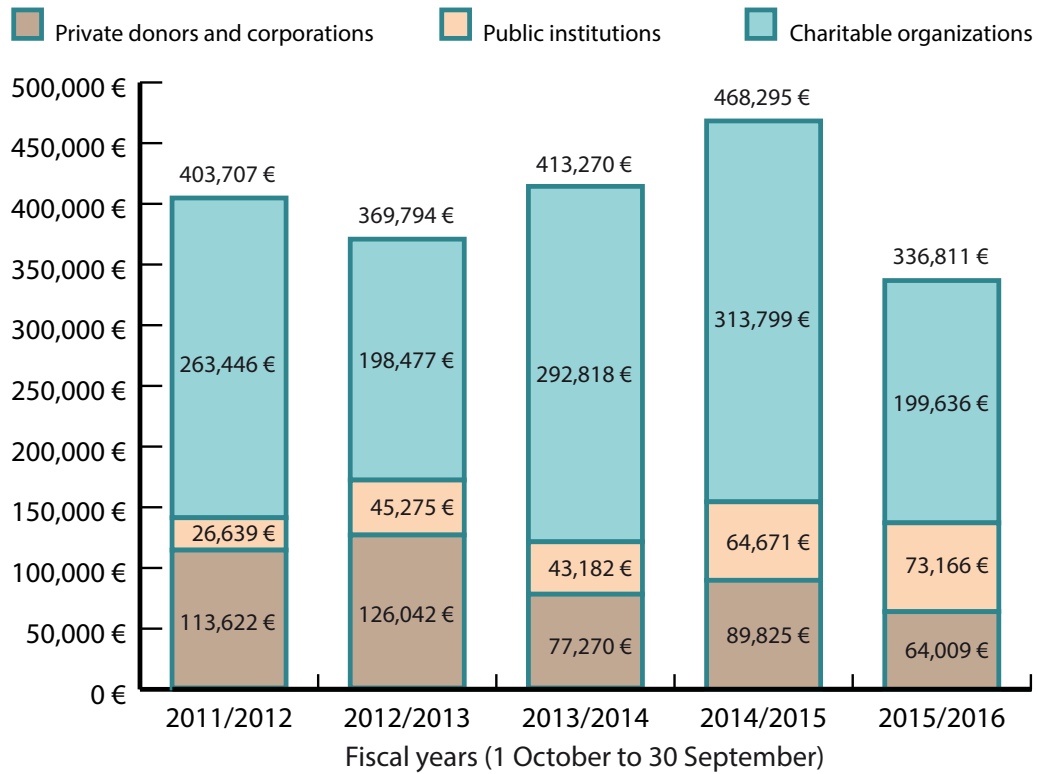
Balance sheet as per 30 September 2016

ASSETS	30 Sep 2016 EUR	LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	30 Sep 2016 EUR
Cash and cash equivalents	442,562	Accounts payable	0
Receivables	424	Deferral	31,446
Accounts paid in advance	4,633	Accruals	50,000
Current assets	447,619	Committed assets	81,446
Tangible assets	2	Capital and surplus	411,800
Fixed assets	2	Expenditure surplus	-45,625
		Capital and surplus	366,175
	447,621		447,621

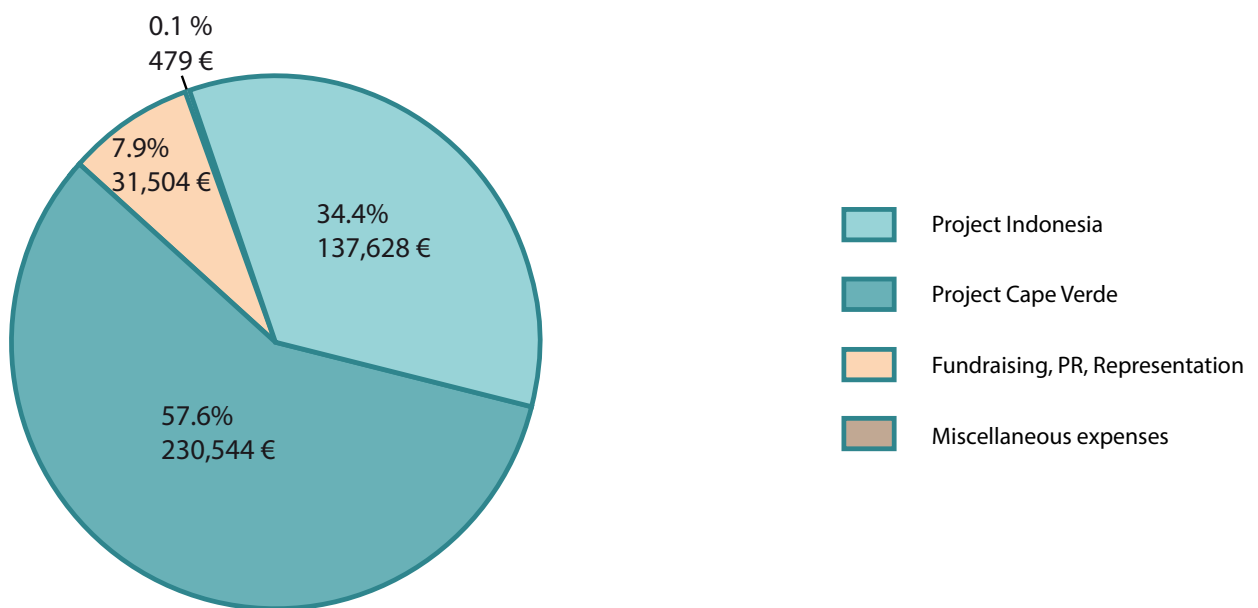
Profit & loss account 1 October 2015–30 September 2016

EXPENSES	30 Sep 2016 EUR	PROCEEDS	30 Sep 2016 EUR
<i>Project East-Kalimantan, Indonesia</i>		<i>Donations, grants</i>	
Direct project expenses	137,628	Private donors & corporations	64,009
Direct expenses for Indonesia	137,628	Public institutions	73,166
 <i>Project Cape Verde</i>		Charitable organizations	199,636
Investments, acquisitions	67,454	Total donations, grants	336,811
Salaries and fees	89,619	Sale of products	19,957
Operating costs: building, office, storage	22,337	Interests	8
Operating costs: camps, gas food, water	25,022	Gain/loss on exchange	-2,244
Operating costs: vehicles/generators	7,786		
Local protection programs/Varandinha	9,755		
Travel costs	5,095		
Other, PR & advertising	647		
Education program <i>School in Nature</i>	1,788		
Patrols	1,042		
Direct expenses for Cape Verde	230,544		
Support of foreign projects	0		
Capital expenditure	479		
Fundraising, PR	29,848		
Advertising, representation	1,656		
Allocation to reserve fund	0		
Surplus	-45,625		
	354,531		354,531

SOURCE OF FUNDS



USE OF FUNDS 1 OCTOBER 2015 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2016



AUDIT REPORT

The Turtle Foundation (TF) Switzerland is responsible for the cumulated accounting and the consolidated financial statement for the organizations Fundação Tartaruga Cabo Verde, TF Germany, TF Liechtenstein, TF Switzerland, and TF USA. TF Switzerland is supervised by the National Supervisory Office for Charities, and is obliged have its accounts audited annually. The audit was performed by officially authorized revisors from the Prefera Audit AG (Grossfeldstrasse 40, 7320 Sargans, Switzerland; www.prefera.ch). Below is the official English translation of the audit report written in German language:



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 2016.


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, 17 february 2017

Prefera Audit AG


H. Bertsch
Audit expert
(Auditor in charge)


A. Good
Audit expert



PROJECT PLANNING 2017

Project Indonesia

1. Continued protection of important nesting islands

The successful beach conservation and monitoring program for the green turtles on the Islands of Bilang-Bilangan and Mataha will be continued in a joint effort with our project partner BLB also in 2017.

We are still very concerned about the protection of sea turtles and their clutches on Sangalaki Island, where we conducted operational activities for protection of nesting beaches from the establishment of our organization up to October 2012. Since then, the conservation project has been continued by the local nature agency. However, we consistently receive messages in regard to well-organized poaching activities on Sangalaki. Unfortunately, we are currently unable to intervene in any official way, but we will keep a close eye on further developments. We will become actively involved in this issue as soon as there is a possibility on behalf of protecting the turtles.

In the current Turtle Foundation conservation program in the Derawan archipelago, about 50% of the area's green turtle nests are being protected. For the sustained survival of the nesting population, however, a comprehensive protection is required – especially since we have to assume that a large part of the other half of the nests is still being poached and consumed. In the past, there were always attempts to expand our protection program to the important nesting islands of Belambangan and Sambit, , but this goal has until now been unachievable due to organizational and financial issues. However, we will consistently continue to pursue this goal.

2. Research and protection project for hawksbill turtles

The urgently needed research regarding the population and biology of the hawksbill turtles of this archipelago, started in 2014, has not been continued due to lack of funding. Therefore, we focused on indirect protection measures that were feasible

under the current conditions – in particular in the areas of environmental education, alternative income opportunities, and lobbying work with the authorities and other stakeholder groups. These activities will be continued in 2017 as far as possible.

3. Turtle Foundation Indonesia

So far, Turtle Foundation was represented in Indonesia mainly by the officially registered partner organizations. In order to steer Turtle Foundation into a better position in terms of negotiations with authorities and stakeholder groups, we aim to establish Turtle Foundation Indonesia as an official legal body. Based on the specific legislation, this step is not without its problems in Indonesia, in particular if foreign organizations are involved. However, we have already invested considerable preparatory work for this purpose in 2016.

4. Environmental education & public relations

Our environmental education measures in local schools will be continued under the auspices of Prof fauna and with assistance of the conservation youth group named *Duta Bahari* (Ambassadors of the Seas), whereby the type and scale of activities depend on authorization of requested funds. Moreover, we will strengthen our cooperation with IMEN/JaPeKI, in order to represent the aspects of the protection of sea turtles in Indonesia at national level.

5. Anti headstarting campaigns

The popular practice of rearing of sea turtle hatchlings in water tanks is a serious problem in Indonesia. The reasons for the continuation of this activity range from wrong notions in terms of useful measures for protection of sea turtles to pure economic interests, since in many cases the animals are marketed as tourist attractions. Besides the distribution of our anti headstarting brochure and direct environmental education measures on site, we will continue to pressure the Indonesian authorities to renounce the official recommendation and promotion of headstarting as an adequate conservation method for sea turtles. Further, we commissioned a study with the aim to prove and to document the

harmful effects of this practice based on concrete cases – in particular with regard to headstarting facilities in Western Sumatra, where this practice is very common.

Project Cape Verde

1. Protection of the sea turtles on nesting beaches

Protection and monitoring of all of the 2016 covered beach sections, i.e. Água Doce, Boa Esperança, Norte, Gatas, Canto, Curral Velho, Ponta Pesqueiro and Lacacão, will be continued in 2017 between June and October. Starting in 2017, all camps will be operational already at the beginning of June, thus avoiding poaching activities in particular at the beginning of the nesting season. In the Northeast of the island close to Cruz do Morto a fourth beach camp will be established, in order to improve the protection of the eastern part of the island, which is extremely threatened. In addition to the so far promoted project Varandinha in the Southwest, we also will support the establishment of another community project at the village Bofareira in the North of Boavista, thus enabling us to effectively protect also the eastern half of the very long beach section of Boa Esperança. By means of those extensions, the two last major gaps within the joint beach monitoring programs on Boavista finally will be closed.

2. Environmental education, public relations and alternative income opportunities

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.

Basing on the results of our survey of the local population, we will develop a new participatory concept, in order to invite and actively involve the local population in the conservation of sea turtles. This concept should also include measures for develop-

ment of alternative income opportunities as well as for poverty reduction.

For recruiting new workers we will as much as possible refer to applicants of Cape Verdean nationality – in particular to local people of Boavista.

3. National and international partnerships

The Turtle Foundation will continue to expand its networking activities and cooperation with national Institutions, NGOs, 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 Turtle Foundation is an active member of the Cape Verdean network TAOLA, wherein all organizations engaged in the protection of sea turtles on Cape Verdean islands are united.

4. Scientific studies on sea turtles

We will proceed with our cooperation with the Queen Mary University of London also in the nesting season 2017, whereby studies already started will be continued and new studies will be initiated.

5. Cooperation with the MAVA foundation

The conservation foundation *MAVA Fondation pour la Nature* held out the prospects of giving special support for our and other sea turtle conservation projects on Cape Verde starting in 2017 for the next six years. We hope with this promotion we can achieve significant improvements and innovations in all areas of the project. In particular, the expansion of direct protection measures, the introduction of new techniques for beach protections, first monitoring measures for turtles at sea, as well as the expansion of scientific flanking projects, are planned. All those measures aim for the sustainability of the protection of sea turtles on Boavista also beyond the proposed 6 year funding period.

The implementation of all scheduled measures beyond direct protection work will depend on available finances.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The successful implementation of our projects for the protection of sea turtles was only possible thanks to the solidarity and the generous support of our numerous private donors and supporters as well as to public, private, and corporate organizations. We would especially like to mention the following organizations: *Aquifarm Foundation Vaduz, Backhaus Foundation, Binding Foundation, Community of Vaduz, Crea Group, Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V., Educasa Foundation, Empathie-Stiftung Tiere und Umwelt, Europäische Tierschutzstiftung, Fondation Conservation, Forteum Trust reg., Foundation Third Millennium, Kasakum Foundation Vaduz,*

Liechtenstein Development Service, Lighthouse Foundation, LOTEX Foundation, MAVA Fondation pour la Nature, Narinja Foundation Eschen, Peace at Last Foundation, Peter Dornier Foundation, Queen Mary University of London, RHW Foundation, Salman Investment Management AG, SOS Seaturtles, Sikamin Foundation, Fondation Temperatio, Styner Foundation, Turtle Foundation Friends e.V., U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Valüna Foundation, Vontobel Foundation, VP Bank Foundation, VT-Etiketten GmbH, Wölfler Foundation, Zürcher Tierschutz. We would also like to thank the numerous dive companies and tour operators who generously provided the prizes for our annual Turtle Foundation Raffle for the benefit of our projects.



In the name of the Turtle Foundation, our Boavista team 2016 including volunteers is thanking our numerous project partners, donors, and supporters!