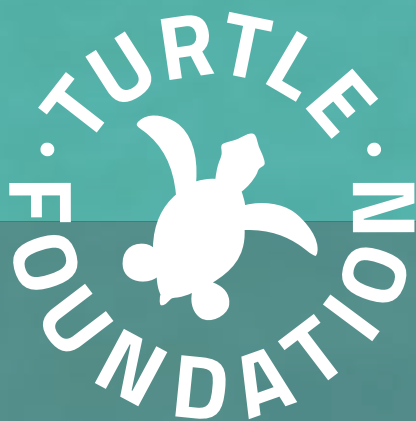


2024



ANNUAL REPORT



BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIRPERSONS

TURTLE FOUNDATION GERMANY: Prof. Dr Otto Jockel
TURTLE FOUNDATION SWITZERLAND: Dr Frank Zindel
TURTLE FOUNDATION USA: Reisa Latorra
FUNDAÇÃO TARTARUGA CABO VERDE: Dr Diamantino Barros
TURTLE FOUNDATION LIECHTENSTEIN: Dr Frank Zindel
YAYASAN PENYU INDONESIA: Rosek Nursahid
TURTLE FOUNDATION UNITED KINGDOM: John Logan

CONTENT

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS 2024	4
FOREWORD BY OTTO JOCKEL	6
PROJECTS 2024 INDONESIA	8
Overview	9
Berau	10
Sumatra	12
Organisational development	14
Outlook and planning	15
PROJECTS 2024 BOA VISTA (CABO VERDE)	16
Overview	17
Protection measures on nesting beaches	18
Data collection and research	20
Nature conservation	21
Community engagement	22
Outlook and planning	23
FINANCIAL REPORT	24
Introduction	25
Financial statement	26
Source and use of funds	27
PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS	28
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	29
IMPRINT	30

TURTLE FOUNDATION
Protecting Sea Turtles and their Habitats

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS 2024

229 NESTS

of the leatherback turtle were recorded in Indonesia



1 NEW CONSERVATION DOG

named 'Olivia' was selected for our team on Boa Vista



3.4 KILOMETERS OF BEACH

on Boa Vista have been cleared of rubbish



519 PEOPLE

were informed about our work at the 'boot Düsseldorf' trade fair stand



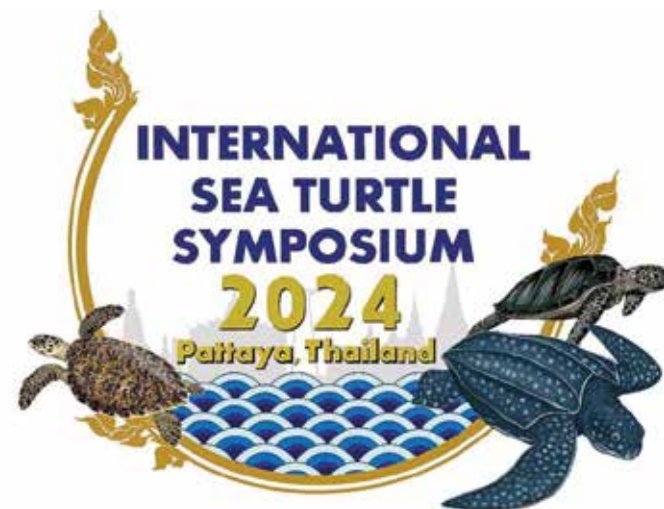
750 PRODUCTS

made from plastic waste were produced in the upcycling workshop Lixo Limpo on Boa Vista



101 LEATHERBACK TURTLES

have been tagged in Indonesia since 2018



9 TEAM MEMBERS

took part in the 42nd International Sea Turtle Symposium in Thailand



64 LOST TURTLES

were saved on Boa Vista



19,188 NESTS

of the loggerhead turtle were counted on Boa Vista



12 EMPLOYEES

– ten men and two women – were trained as ranger trainers in Indonesia

FOREWORD

Dear friends of the Turtle Foundation,

Sustainable species conservation means constantly striking a balance between ambitious goals and concrete feasibility – between a global perspective and local action. This area of tension has always characterised the work of the Turtle Foundation. Since its establishment, the organisation has stood for a consistent, long-term commitment to the protection of sea turtles – an animal group that represents the fragility of marine ecosystems and the influence of human activities like no other.



Otto Jockel on Boa Vista at the celebration of his 50th birthday

My first contact with the Turtle Foundation was the day I met my wife, Dr Hiltrud Cordes. After producing a documentary film about sea turtles off Sangalaki (Borneo), she had set up the Turtle Foundation with her colleagues and a diving couple from Liechtenstein. They wanted to do something about the commercial plundering of the nests, which would inevitably have led to the extinction of the turtles in this area.

As a professor of logistics and supply chain management, I dealt with sustainability issues in the context of these themes. This was, and still is, almost exclusively about questions of economic sustainability in the context of global value creation networks, but rarely about the ecological consequences that are often associated with this. I first saw these with my own eyes when we travelled through Sumatra together for the first time in 2006. Despite the overwhelming beauty of this tropical world, the consequences of overexploitation were visible almost everywhere. Illegal logging and dynamite fishing have destroyed previously species-rich primeval forests and colourful coral reefs, leaving behind wastelands on land and under water. And after many more trips to our project areas in Indonesia and Cabo Verde, I am sad to say that these trends have not fundamentally changed. Counteracting this has become a personal concern of mine.

Sea turtles are survivors from prehistoric times. They have been travelling the world's oceans for over 100 million years – majestic, graceful and seemingly unaffected by time and space. Anyone who has ever encountered them in their natural habitat while diving will never forget this moment: the calm gliding through the water, the elegant movements, the peaceful existence in a threatened world. These encounters are touching – they make the beauty, vulnerability and worthiness of protection of these animals directly tangible.

What once began with the first volunteer missions on remote beaches has developed into a professional, internationally active organisation over the years. This development was only possible thanks to strong local partnerships – particularly in Indonesia and Cabo Verde – and the trust of numerous supporters. On the ground, dedicated teams, rangers and managers carry out indispensable work on a daily basis – whether through night patrols, educational work or securing nesting beaches.

At the same time, intensive work has been carried out in recent years to further develop the organisation's structural and administrative foundations. The transformation into a foundation under public law, the establishment of effective management structures and the strategic orientation of the programmes mark important milestones in making the protection of sea turtles sustainable and fit for the future.

The clear goal is always at the centre: the long-term conservation of sea turtles and their habitats. This goal can only be achieved if local knowledge, scientific findings and a high degree of professionalism go hand in hand. The Turtle Foundation sees itself as a platform that makes this interaction possible – down-to-earth in its implementation, open to innovation and supported by a strong network of partners, sponsors and committed individuals.

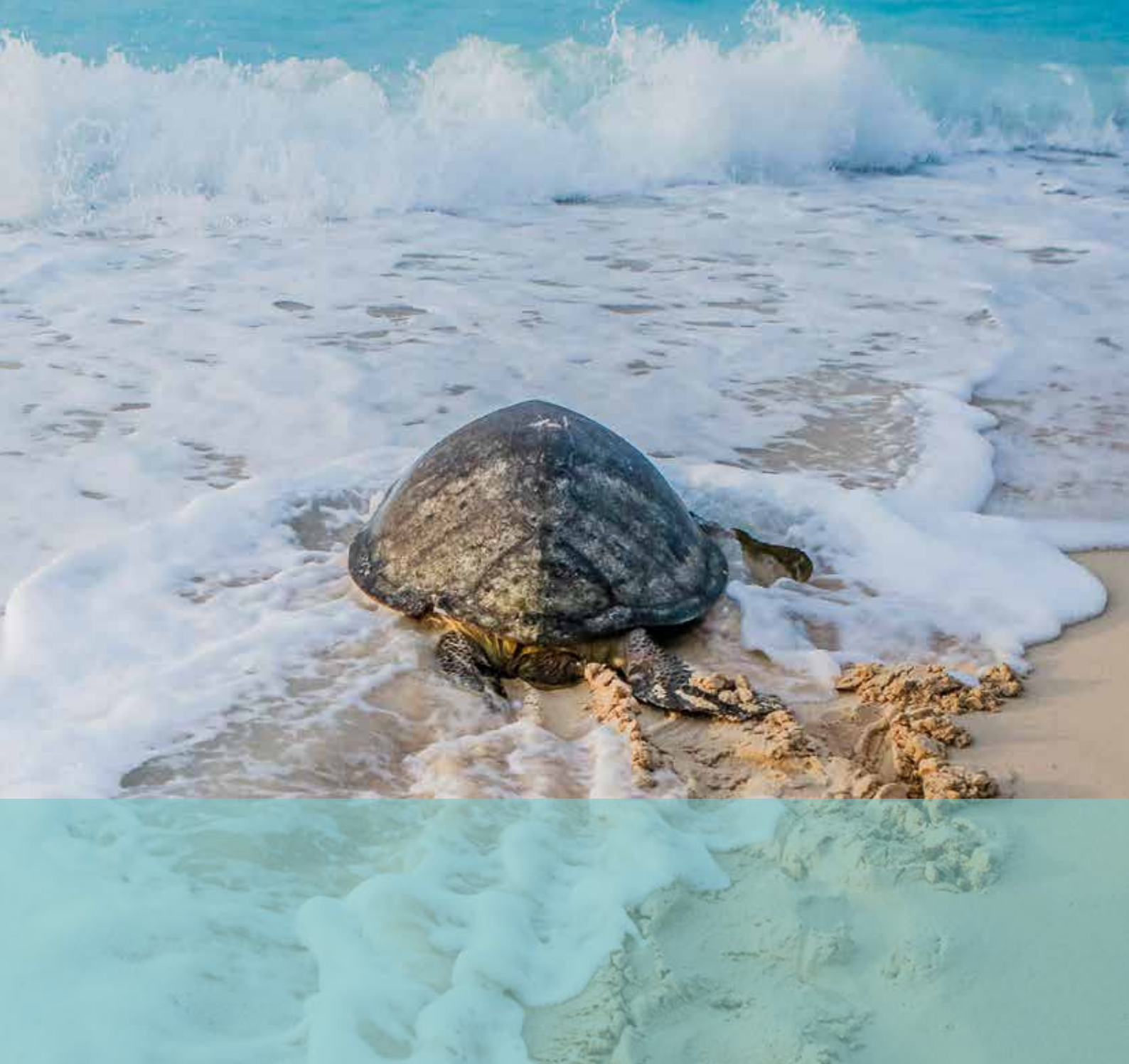
The challenges in nature and species conservation will remain complex in the coming years. This makes it all the more important to continue along the path we have chosen with determination, a sense of proportion and foresight. The protection of sea turtles and their habitats is not only an ecological task, but also a social one – and a shared responsibility.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Otto Jockel".

*Otto Jockel
Chairman of the Board
Turtle Foundation Germany*

Project visit to Selaut Besar: setting up the tent camp on the beach





PROJECTS 2024 INDONESIA

© Perdiansyah

OVERVIEW

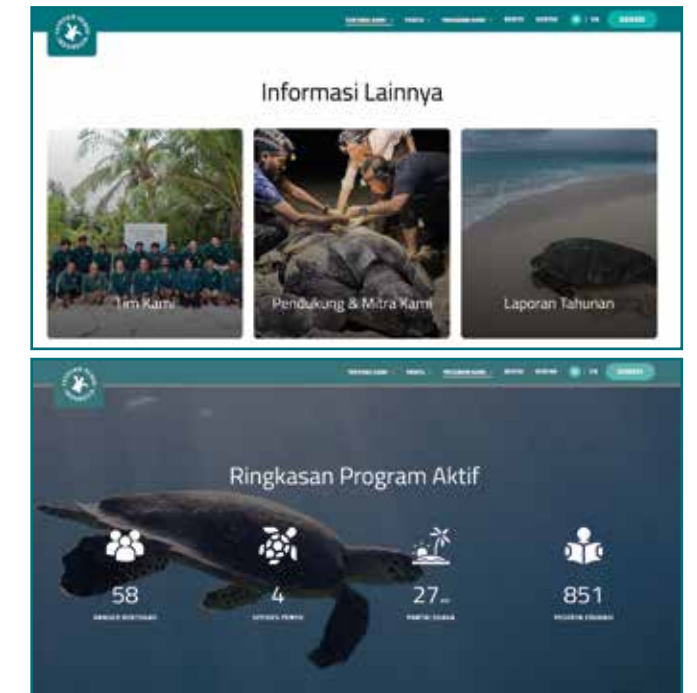
The year 2024 brought some significant changes at the head office of our project partner, Yayasan Penyu Indonesia (YPI). Unexpectedly, the positions of Managing Director and Deputy Managing Director became vacant during the course of the year. The Foundation's Board of Directors immediately initiated a recruitment process to fill both positions and ensure a smooth transition. The new appointments will be made in spring 2025. In the meantime, the Foundation's Board of Directors has taken over the core tasks of the management, to avoid negative consequences for the implementation of the projects as far as possible.

At the same time, the YPI received support from a new employee, Alya Daniyah Rosyadah, who took over the 'Communications and Public Relations' department and managed the relaunch of the YPI website (www.yayasanpenyu.org), which now has a modern look.

The Turtle Foundation's international office in Germany was also strengthened: we were able to recruit Adhith Swaminathan, a highly qualified expert, as a scientific advisor for our projects in Indonesia. Adhith lives in Chennai and has managed the Dakshin Foundation's leatherback turtle project for 14 years. As a teenager, he joined a group of volunteers who protected the sea turtles nesting in his home town. Now, together with the scientific director of the YPI, Meriussoni Zai, his task is to supervise the data collection and evaluation of the Indonesian conservation programmes through regular project visits. Like our scientific director, Dr Thomas Reischig, Adhith is also a member of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group (MTSG) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The recruitment of these new employees was made possible by a project funded by the Darwin Initiative, which we report on in the 'Organisational development' section.

The new website of our sister organisation YPI



A highlight of 2024 was our participation in the 42nd International Sea Turtle Symposium (ISTS), which took place in Pattaya, Thailand, in March. Together with our sister organisations Yayasan Penyu Indonesia and Fundação Tartaruga, we attended this prestigious conference with a delegation of nine people and presented various aspects of our work in Indonesia and Cabo Verde.



Our delegation at the 42nd ISTS in Thailand

BERAU

DECLINING NEST NUMBERS ON BILANG-BILANGAN AND MATAHA

Since we took over the management of the two most important nesting islands for green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in the Derawan archipelago, East Kalimantan, at the beginning of 2023, we have also resumed recording nesting numbers. As we had already recorded the corresponding numbers on both islands from 2008 to 2017, we expected similar results – namely approx. 4,700 nests on Bilang-Bilangan (average 2008-2017: 4,676) and approx. 1,900 nests on Mataha (average 2008-2017: 1,907).



Beach with turtle tracks on Bilang-Bilangan

The numbers were already below this average in 2023 with 4,106 nests on Bilang-Bilangan and 1,410 nests on Mataha but were still within the range of natural fluctuation.

In 2024, the numbers dropped again. We recorded 3,411 nests on Bilang-Bilangan and 594 nests on Mataha, which are the lowest numbers ever recorded for both islands.

We were pleased that we had several visits from hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*): one nest of this particularly rare species was recorded in each of the months of February, March, April, June and October.



A green sea turtle returns to the sea after laying its eggs. (© Perdiansyah)

Initially, we suspected that habitat loss was the main reason for the low nesting numbers. It cannot be overlooked that both islands, but especially Mataha, are suffering from severe erosion, which is causing the nesting beaches to shrink. This can have many causes, from rising sea levels due to climate change to the destruction of coral reefs by destructive fishing methods. Unfortunately, illegal dynamite fishing is still widespread in Berau.

SUSPICION OF NEST THEFT

As part of the YPI's organisational development measures, a 'Training of Trainers' was held on Bilang-Bilangan in September, which was conducted by the scientific management – Meriussoni Zai and Adhith Swaminathan – and attended by experienced rangers from Sipora and Simeulue. It quickly became apparent that there were irregularities in the data records, such as unusual fluctuations in nest numbers. Above all, however, it was noticeable that there were hardly any hatchlings to be seen. Two months earlier, in July 2024, 432 nests had been recorded; taking into account the two-month incubation period, more than ten nests should have hatched every day in September.

As this was obviously not the case and no other cause for the massive loss of nests was recognisable, the suspicion arose that nests were being systematically stolen. We suspected that the rangers on the two islands were not carrying out their night patrols as required and therefore not all nests had been recorded.

Training with the scientific advisor Adhith Swaminathan. (© Perdiansyah)



COUNTERMEASURES

It was immediately decided to increase the number of rangers and recruit them from outside the Berau region, as it seemed likely that there were communication links between the rangers on the islands and the egg thieves. As events unfolded, it turned out that the rangers had even profited from the egg trade themselves because they accepted bribes from the thieves.



The new rangers at work in Berau (© Perdiansyah)

It should not be forgotten that the trade in turtle eggs in Berau not only has a long tradition, but is also a great temptation. The price that egg collectors can achieve is currently the equivalent of almost 90 cents per egg. With an average of 85 eggs per nest, the selling price of a single nest is around 75 euros, which is 32% of the current minimum wage in East Kalimantan. Meanwhile, the retail price per egg is 1.75 euros.

[TURTLE-FOUNDATION.ORG](https://www.turtle-foundation.org)



School visit in Berau

As it is no longer possible to track how many nests fell victim to the theft over the course of the year, we are unfortunately unable to report any reliable hatching figures for 2024.

Even though all rangers who were convicted of complicity were of course dismissed immediately, the threat remains.

We are continuing our school visits and planning for a village development programme on the inhabited neighbouring island of Balikpapan, but ultimately – as with the issue of dynamite fishing – we are dependent on the cooperation and prosecution of the relevant authorities. The discovery of the systematic egg trade has at least led to the local police being shaken up and pledging their support.



Green sea turtle hatchlings before release into the sea (© Perdiansyah)

SUMATRA

HOTSPOT SIMEULUE

When we launched the conservation programme on the small, uninhabited island of Selaut Besar northwest of Simeulue in the province of Aceh together with our partner organisation Ecosystem-Impact in 2020, we expected to find the highest density of nesting leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) in the western Sumatra region. However, it turned out that this is not the case. The leatherback turtles visit the west coast of Simeulue Island in far greater numbers, although it is by no means uninhabited. In fact, the villages here are located directly on the beach, which means that almost all nests are collected for human consumption or plundered by village dogs.

After we had started patrolling the nesting beach in Along in cooperation with a group of villagers the previous year, representatives from other villages approached us and expressed interest in a similar programme. In the 2023/24 nesting season, we therefore included two more beaches on Simeulue in our protection programme – with surprising results!

Aerial view of the nesting beaches on Simeulue



Turtle eggs are brought to a hatchery



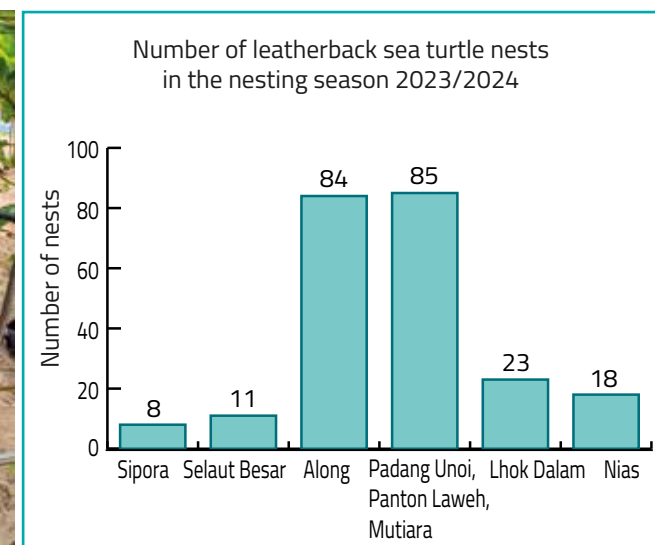
NEST NUMBERS RISE AGAIN

The first nest of the 2023/24 season was reported from Along on 28th October 2023, and the last nest was registered on 8th March 2024 in one of the new project villages, Lhok Dalam.

While we counted 78 nests at three locations in the previous season, we were now able to record a total of 229 nests, the majority of which – 192 nests – were laid on the village beaches on Simeulue. The total number takes into account that we also regularly patrolled Moale Beach on the island of Nias from November 2023. We counted 18 leatherback turtle nests there.

Although the focus of our activities in Sumatra is on the particularly rare leatherback turtles, it should not be forgotten that we also monitor a significant nesting population of green sea turtles on the island of Selaut Besar. In the reporting year, we counted 750 nests there, which also represents a slight increase on the previous year (679 nests).

In order to increase acceptance of our conservation programmes, we carry out our tried-and-tested environmental education and public relations measures at all project locations. We also always work hand in hand with the local authorities at village and district level to ensure support for our activities.



WHY WE TAG LEATHERBACK TURTLES

By attaching a small microchip implanted in the shoulder and two external metal tags to the rear flippers, we tag the nesting leatherback turtles after the nesting process. This allows us to recognise individual animals and identify their migration patterns. Especially with a small population such as the leatherback turtles of the north-eastern Indian Ocean, we can record a large proportion of the animals within a few years and gain information about their nesting frequency. This tagging programme is also a central goal of the Eastern Indian Ocean Leatherback Alliance (EIOLA), in which we have joined forces with the organisation EcosystemImpact on Simeulue and the Indian Dakshin Foundation.



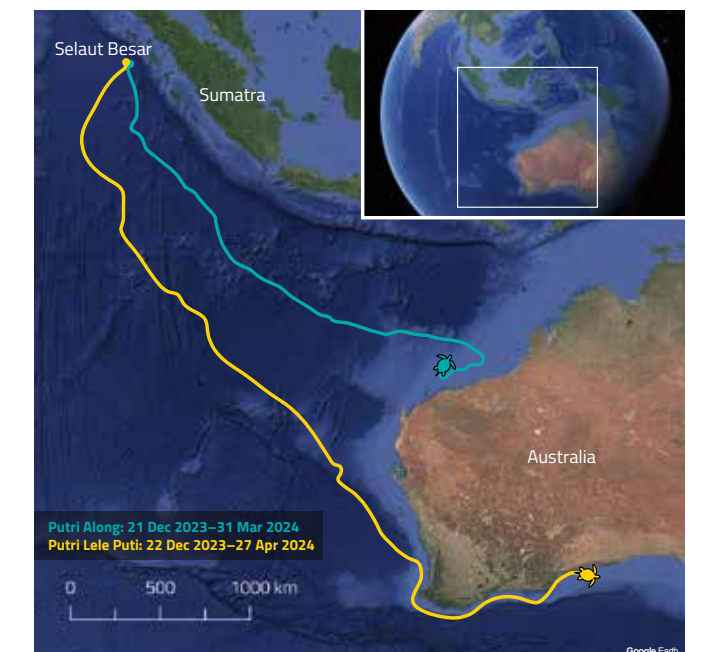
Material for tagging sea turtles
(© Perdiansyah)

Since the start of the tagging programme in 2018 until the end of 2024, we have tagged 101 leatherback turtles at our project sites on Sipora, Simeulue and Selaut Besar. In Sipora, one turtle tagged in 2018 was sighted again in 2022, and another tagged in 2019 returned in the 2023-2024 nesting season and nested seven times – the highest nesting frequency in one season to date. In Selaut Besar, seven tagged turtles were observed nesting in later years. Two individuals nested in consecutive seasons – which is the shortest documented remigration interval.

JOURNEY TO AUSTRALIA

The two leatherback turtles that we fitted with satellite transmitters in December 2023 embarked on a determined migration to Western Australia. While the recording of the first transmitter ended after 94 days not far from the harbour town of Port Hedland, the second turtle swam around the south-western tip of Australia and continued its journey in an easterly direction close to the coast until its transmitter failed after 120 days.

We communicated these results to colleagues in Perth, Western Australia, and attracted a great deal of attention and enthusiasm. Although it was known that leatherback turtles live in the coastal waters there, there was a lack of knowledge about where these turtles nest.



The microchip of the leatherback turtle is read with a scanner.
(© Perdiansyah)



ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



In April 2024, a two-year project was launched to strengthen the human and organisational capacities of Yayasan Penyu Indonesia. Funded by the Darwin Initiative, an international funding programme of the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), YPI is to be supported in its development into a leading organisation for the protection of sea turtles in Indonesia.

The extensive catalogue of measures includes the redevelopment of the website, the expansion of the presence on social media and mutual exchange visits with representatives of the protection project for leatherback turtles in West Papua as well as the development of a handbook for the work as a ranger.

The urgency of a standardised methodology for beach protection, data collection, turtle tagging and nest monitoring is a direct result of the increase in project beaches and a natural turnover of rangers. The challenge is that new rangers have to be trained every year, which can easily lead to undesirable differences in methodology creeping in without suitable teaching materials.

The content of the modular ranger handbook is being developed in a participatory approach, in which long-standing rangers from all project locations contribute their knowledge and experience from field work and at the same time receive training as trainers. The aim is to create a group of ranger trainers who can pass on their knowledge to new rangers in a standardised form.

The project began with the purchase of standardised uniforms and work materials and the development of a training plan for employees at the head office, with a particular focus on improving financial management processes.

Later on in the project, various materials for environmental education will be produced and plans for the co-operation with local village communities will be developed for two project locations – Simeulue and Berau.

Amelia Silalahi tags a green sea turtle with a metal tag.
(© Perdiansyah)



A green sea turtle egg is measured.
(© Perdiansyah)



OUTLOOK AND PLANNING



Our projects in Indonesia have always been defined by a balance of successes, opportunities and challenges. In this context, the Darwin Initiative's organisational development programme, which runs until March 2026, is particularly important because we need a strong local partner.

We are still prepared for surprises regarding the leatherback turtles in Sumatra, as it is quite possible that there are other nesting beaches in the region that are still unknown to us.

In the centre of the nesting area of this population, on the island of Great Nicobar, the Indian government is planning to build a container port, which would irretrievably destroy the main nesting beach. Will the leatherback turtles then move away and visit the Indonesian side of their nesting area in larger numbers to lay their eggs?

In any case, we intend to intensify our tagging and monitoring activities in order to increase re-encounter rates.

We will also continue our work with satellite transmitters and the exchange with organisations in Western Australia. Our tracking data is already being used so that the local nature conservation authorities can develop suitable measures for the coastal waters so as not to endanger the leatherback turtles travelling through.

Following a successful first nesting season for leatherback turtles, we plan to develop an integrated strategy for turtle conservation on the island of Nias that also considers the production and trade in tortoiseshell products. As we know from previous projects and surveys, Nias is an important centre of this illegal trade.

For Berau, our biggest task remains the protection of the nests on the islands of Bilang-Bilangan and Mataha. We were able to commission a new boat this year, which will be available in 2025 so that we can get to the islands at any time, even in unfavourable weather conditions. We will also be moving the project centre from the district capital, Tanjung Redeb, to the village of Biduk-Biduk, as the crossing to the islands is much shorter from here. With these measures, we want to enable closer monitoring of the rangers and quicker access in the event of irregularities.



Leatherback turtle hatchlings
(© Jatmiko Wiwoho)



PROJECTS 2024

BOA VISTA (CABO VERDE)

© Timo Busch

OVERVIEW

The Cabo Verde Islands off the west coast of Africa are home to one of the world's most important populations of loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*). Around two thirds of the animals nest on the beaches of the island of Boa Vista, which therefore plays a key role in the survival of the species.

At the same time, this population is seriously endangered by a number of factors. In addition to the effects of environmental pollution, bycatch in fishing and unregulated mass tourism, it was poaching in particular that led to a sharp decline over many years. The females that come to the beaches to lay their eggs were particularly affected.

The Turtle Foundation and its partner organisation Fundação Tartaruga have been active on the 620 km² island since 2008. Targeted protection measures, in particular night-time monitoring of important nesting beaches, have significantly reduced poaching. The positive development in this area shows that continuous presence, educational work and cooperation with local partners are having an impact.

However, new challenges have emerged in recent years. With 14 designated protected areas, the island of Boa Vista has the highest density of nature conservation areas in Cabo Verde. However, there is a lack of effective implementation of conservation measures in many places. An increasing problem is posed by groups of visitors who are driven in off-road vehicles over sensitive dunes and nesting beaches to observe the turtles laying their eggs at night. This leads to disturbances caused by light, noise and human presence, which can affect both nesting turtles and hatchlings.

The key results of our projects and the next steps for the protection of sea turtles and their habitats on Boa Vista would be impossible without the active support on site and from a distance. In particular, we would like to thank the vet Harrison Watler from the UK, who is supporting us in the project development of an information and rescue centre for sea turtles on Boa Vista. We would also like to thank our longstanding colleague Joana Nicolau, who left for new shores at the end of 2024.



A loggerhead turtle on its way back to the sea
(© Klaus Suchfort)



Joana Nicolau at the 42nd International Sea Turtle Symposium in Thailand (© Hiltrud Cordes)

PROTECTION MEASURES ON NESTING BEACHES

BEACH PATROLS AGAINST POACHING

The direct protection of the nesting beaches of the loggerhead turtle on Boa Vista – both by conventional foot patrols on the beach and by a mobile team – remains one of the core tasks of our programme, which is implemented by our sister organisation Fundação Tartaruga.

For beach protection, we once again decided to set up five temporary camps, strategically positioned in the middle of endangered contiguous stretches of beach. Rangers and national as well as international volunteers live here during the nesting season, supported by a logistics team that is responsible for supplies – an important basis for a functioning camp life in the remote areas and the often demanding patrol work.

There is a special case in the north of the island: a 1.7-kilometre stretch of beach, which was managed by a community-based conservation project until

2022, has been under our direct responsibility since last year. There is no need for a separate camp there – the rangers operate directly from the nearby village of Bofareira.

As every year, the turtle season began at the end of May/beginning of June with a mixture of well-established routine and hustle and bustle. Thanks to the work of the management and logistics teams and the active support of everyone involved, the camps were set up smoothly and the patrols were able to start on time.

This year's nesting season lasted an unusually long time until almost mid-November, and we were able to count 19,188 nests on around 30 kilometres of patrol beach – around twice as many as in the

previous year and even four times as many as in 2022. However, the peak values from 2020 and 2021 have not yet been reached again. The huge increase in loggerhead sea turtle nesting activity across Cabo Verde in recent years remains an extraordinary phenomenon, the causes of which are still unclear.

A total of 51 local employees, mainly rangers, were on duty on the beaches. They were supported by seven national and 48 international volunteers as well as seven community members employed by the local nature conservation authority. Together with the teams from logistics, management and our dog and drone team, around 130 people were directly involved in the programme.

THE DOG AND DRONE TEAM

Poaching has been significantly reduced thanks to conventional foot patrols on the beaches protected by us and other organisations. In 2017, however, the mortality rate again reached around 4.5%. In response to this, our mobile dog and drone team was established in 2018 – an internationally recognised approach. Equipped with thermal imaging drones, night vision devices and specially trained dogs, the team can be deployed flexibly and can cover the entire island. The missions focus on particularly vulnerable areas with high nesting densities and an increased risk of poaching. In close cooperation with the authorities, local partners and a stricter protection law, the annual

mortality rate from poaching has been consistently reduced to less than 0.2%; an unprecedented success.

In the 2024 nesting season, the dog and drone team was active from 25th May to 16th November and completed 103 night-time missions, covering around 60% of the nights and being accompanied by the police in twelve cases. The team recorded a total of five poaching cases on beaches protected by us, with six animals killed. While four cases were only discovered days or weeks after the crime, the team found two freshly poached turtles on 27th September. Although the perpetrators were able to escape the police who had been called, they had to leave their poached meat behind.

NEW CHALLENGES

Due to the massive decline in poaching on the nesting beaches, this threat to nesting turtles no longer poses the greatest danger. It is much more common for females to get lost after laying eggs or get stuck in crevices. Without timely help, they are in danger of dying from overheating and exhaustion in the sun.

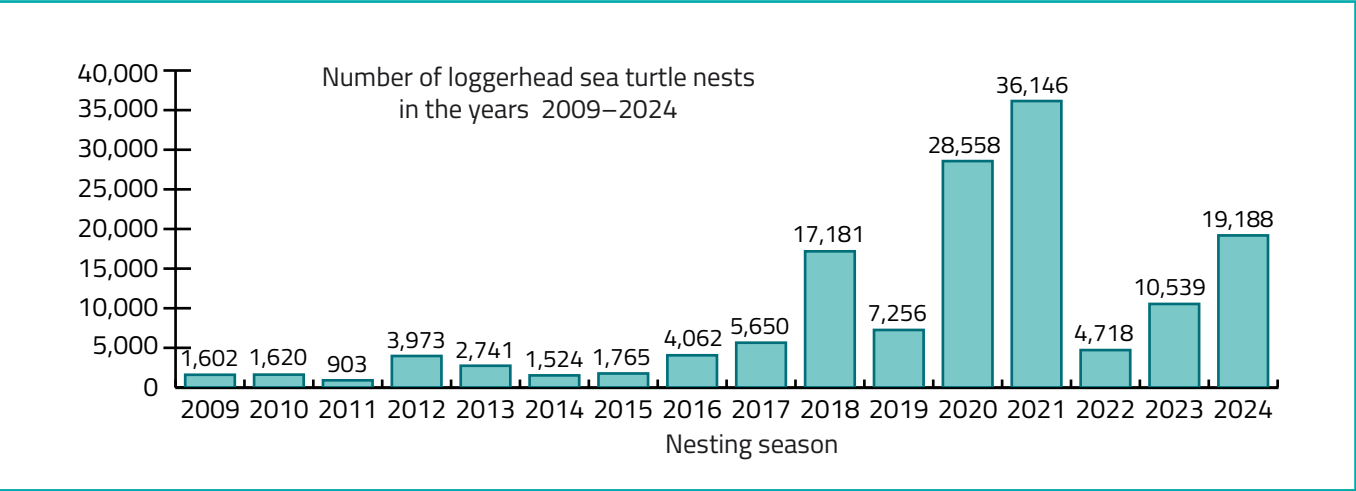
In order to provide better help for these animals, the endangered beach areas in the south of the island are specifically searched for lost turtles. On the beaches of Fundação Tartaruga, a total of 64 turtles were rescued and safely returned to the sea in 2024 alone.



Camp Lacacão on Boa Vista
(© Adilson Ramos)



Camp Lacacão at night (© Adilson Ramos)



The dog and drone team on night patrol



© Thomas Reischig



A loggerhead turtle has fallen off rocks onto its back.

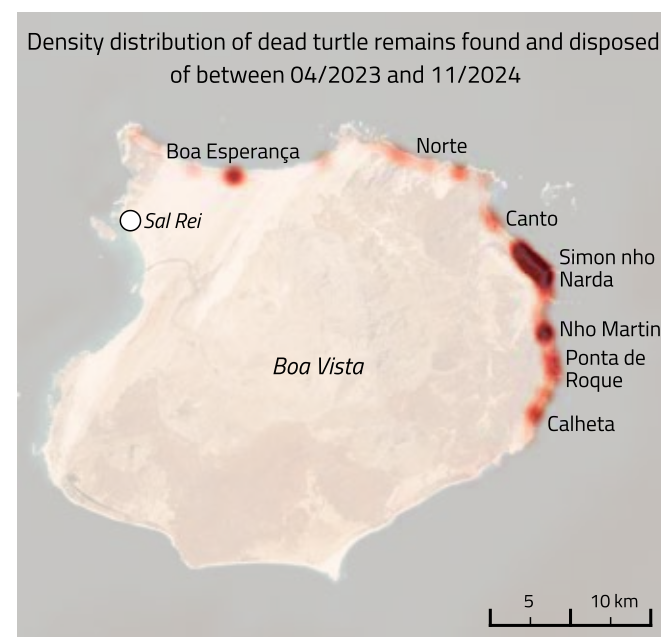
DATA COLLECTION AND RESEARCH

Reliable data collection, the tagging of nesting turtles with microchips and careful analysis of the data form the basis of our species conservation management.

Since switching to digital recording three years ago, we have been documenting all relevant information – including microchip labelling – directly on the beach using a tablet. This allows us to analyse the data efficiently and gain insights into nesting activity on an almost daily basis. For the 2024 season, our recording system, which is based on the Kobo Toolbox platform developed for humanitarian missions, has been extensively revised and expanded with new functions.

For the 2024 season, we have once again set up a hatchery on Ponta Pesqueira beach near the Lacacão camp. At Lacacão beach, a hotel and the

presence of tourists on the beach cause considerable disruption to the turtles' nesting activity and reproductive success. In 2024, 27,059 eggs from 378 nests were hatched in the hatchery. With a hatching success rate of approx. 84.4%, 22,800 young turtles were eventually released into the sea.



For many years, poachers on Boa Vista left the remains of their activities directly on the beaches. Between April 2023 and the end of 2024, all the remains of poached sea turtles were recorded and removed from around 70 kilometres of beach by the dog and drone team in coordination with the nature conservation authority. Over many years, complete carcasses and scattered bone fragments had accumulated there, often hidden under bushes. In total, the remains of over 1,000 turtles were documented and removed. In addition to the expected finds in the known problem areas, larger quantities were also found on previously less suspicious stretches of beach. This shows how skilfully poachers hide their tracks and that in some places the problem was bigger than expected. Thanks to this campaign, new poaching cases can be more easily recognised in the future and 'problem beaches' can be specifically monitored.



Hatchery on the beach at Ponta Pesqueira (© Adilson Ramos)

NATURE CONSERVATION



Illegal driving is destroying the Curral Velho nature reserve. (© Thomas Reischig)

The encouraging developments in terms of increasing nesting numbers and a simultaneous decline in poaching give us the opportunity to intensify our activities to protect the nesting beaches. As all nesting beaches are located within nature reserves, we are increasingly involved in the management of these areas.

Between January and June 2024, we conducted a comprehensive biodiversity study on Boa Vista together with local partner organisations and the Ministry of the Environment as part of a special project funded by BIOPAMA. The aim was to systematically record the flora and fauna in two particularly valuable protected areas – the Parque Natural do Norte (PNN) and the Reserva Natural de Tartaruga (RNT). The study made it clear that human activities – including the introduction of

invasive animal and plant species, illegal construction, fires, environmental pollution and the extraction of natural resources – are severely affecting the ecological balance in the protected areas.

The results of the study now form the basis for targeted conservation measures. The top priority here is the so-called turtle watching excursions, which take place between July and September. In general, we support this form of tourism because it is a good source of income for the island and, if carried out correctly, hardly disturbs the turtles. However, due to the sharp rise in nesting numbers in recent years, the number of visitors has increased considerably. In the 2024 season, an estimated 10,000 visitors took part in such a tour.

Not only has this exceeded the capacity utilisation limit on the beaches themselves, but off-road vehicles are also driving recklessly across sensitive dune and beach areas right through nature reserves. Regulation with driving bans and standardised routing is urgently needed here. For the particularly affected south coast of Boa Vista, where the unique Curral Velho wetland – a so-called Ramsar site – is also located, we have submitted a draft for a sensible road layout at the request of the Ministry of the Environment.



A dark side of tourism: improper handling of hatchlings (© Adilson Ramos)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In the reporting year, we further expanded our projects to promote community and environmental awareness on Boa Vista and forged new partnerships.



Our mascot Kimi in the logo of the ADB Barraka sports club

We started a promising partnership with the local sports club ADB Barraka, which combines basketball programmes for children, young people and adults with social commitment. Fundação Tartaruga supports the club as a sponsor, in particular by providing jerseys. In the 2023/24 season, ADB Barraka achieved first place in the Boa Vista championship and second place in the national men's league – a great success that underlines the important role of sport as a means of community building and social integration.



Our employee Karine Mendes at the beach clean-up

While the sporting area received new inspiration, our upcycling workshop 'Lixo Limpo', which was launched in the previous year, also continued to develop. The great response shows how important sustainable offerings are: by the end of 2024, around 750 products had already been made and are being sold in a new shop in Sal Rei. This project not only creates an alternative source of income for the local population, but also promotes awareness of waste avoidance and resource conservation – an issue that is closely linked to the protection of marine habitats.

Accordingly, we also continued our beach cleaning campaigns, which removed 4,130 kilograms of rubbish from 3.4 kilometres of beach over the course of the year.

Building on the successful swimming courses of previous years, which teach children basic swimming techniques and a deeper awareness of the environment, we were once again able to offer two blocks of courses in 2024. A total of 43 children took part.

In the field of education, we also continued our efforts to improve local learning conditions: the renovation of ten classrooms was successfully completed together with our partner organisations and our school visits continued to be a proven format for introducing young people to environmental issues in a direct and fun way. Our conservation dog Kelo and the dog and drone team inspired around 400 children at eight primary schools with the protection of sea turtles.

Conservation dog Kelo on a school visit



OUTLOOK AND PLANNING

Direct beach protection to combat poaching will remain an indispensable part of our work on Boa Vista in 2025. Our beach camps for monitoring nesting activity, the dog and drone team as well as the community projects will continue in the usual quality. In order to remain successful in the long term and meet new challenges in turtle conservation, strategic realignments are also planned and some have already been initiated.

In addition to increased involvement in the management of nature reserves, an important project is the establishment of an information and rescue centre for sea turtles. Time and again, our teams come across injured, lost or sick animals for which there is currently no veterinary care. In the future, the centre will help these animals and at the same time inform visitors about sea turtles and their protection. The plans have largely been finalised and the necessary permits are in sight. We want to secure funding in 2025 so that the ground-breaking ceremony can perhaps take place in the same year, or in 2026 at the latest.

Bird's eye view of Camp Lacacão (© Adilson Ramos)



[TURTLE-FOUNDATION.ORG](https://turtle-foundation.org)



A loggerhead turtle got lost on its way back to the sea. (© Hiltrud Cordes)

A generational change is imminent in the dog and drone team: our experienced conservation dog Kelo will be retiring in a few years' time. In order to be able to plan and train the transition to a new pack member properly, we have decided to purchase another Labrador from the Aguzannis kennel in Slovakia, where Kelo also comes from. Our bitch 'Olivia' – named after the olive ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) – was born there on 19th October. Her training will start in the beginning of 2025 and she will come to Boa Vista in March to gradually grow into her tasks.

There are also new plans to involve the dog and drone team in the coordination and realisation of whale and dolphin rescues. Equipment will be purchased and training with specialists organised for this purpose.

Finally, we want to include a training camp for all camp and field coordinators as an integral part of our programme before the start of the season. Based on the 'training of trainers' principle, the coordinators will be trained to pass on their knowledge to the rangers – for better teamwork and higher quality work in the field.

INTRODUCTION

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS

Time and again, we receive touching signs of solidarity for the sea turtles. Whether at birthdays, weddings or funerals – many people are committed to their protection. The commitment of young people and school classes is particularly impressive.

The Environmental Club at Lake Forrest Preparatory School in Maitland, Florida (USA), for example, raised 903 US dollars for our work as part of a school-wide campaign. A wonderful initiative that shows how environmental education can motivate young people to become active.

The most impressive surprise came from the United Kingdom: Benjamin Campbell from Leeds was on holiday with his family in Borneo and encountered sea turtles for the first time while snorkelling in the Derawan archipelago. The experience stuck with him. Back in England, the 10-year-old trained with his parents to take part in the famous 'Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge' charity run – a 38.6 kilometre circuit with 1,585 metres of elevation gain over three peaks.

On the day of the challenge, Benjamin covered the distance in 16 hours and raised £2,442 for sea turtle conservation – a huge achievement in every way for a ten-year-old. Thank you for your perseverance and dedication, Benjamin!

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In the 2024 financial year, the Turtle Foundation was once again able to slightly increase its consolidated income across all seven sister organisations – to a total of 1,310,610 euros. This has created a stable basis for our international conservation projects.

In total, we implemented projects with a volume of 1,056,604 euros – similar to the previous year. 61% of these funds were channelled into our project in Boa Vista (Cabo Verde) and 39% into the implementation of our four conservation projects in Indonesia.

In order to cope with the growing workload in the area of institutional fundraising, an additional position was created in our Cologne office. As a result of this and general cost increases, the office's total expenditure rose to 292,820 euros.

Total expenditure in 2024 amounted to 1,349,424 euros. To cover the difference, 38,814 euros were taken from provisions.

FINANCIAL REPORT

© Perdiansyah

In 2024, we were able to purchase a new vehicle with a built-in transport box for our dogs. (© Marcel Maierhofer)



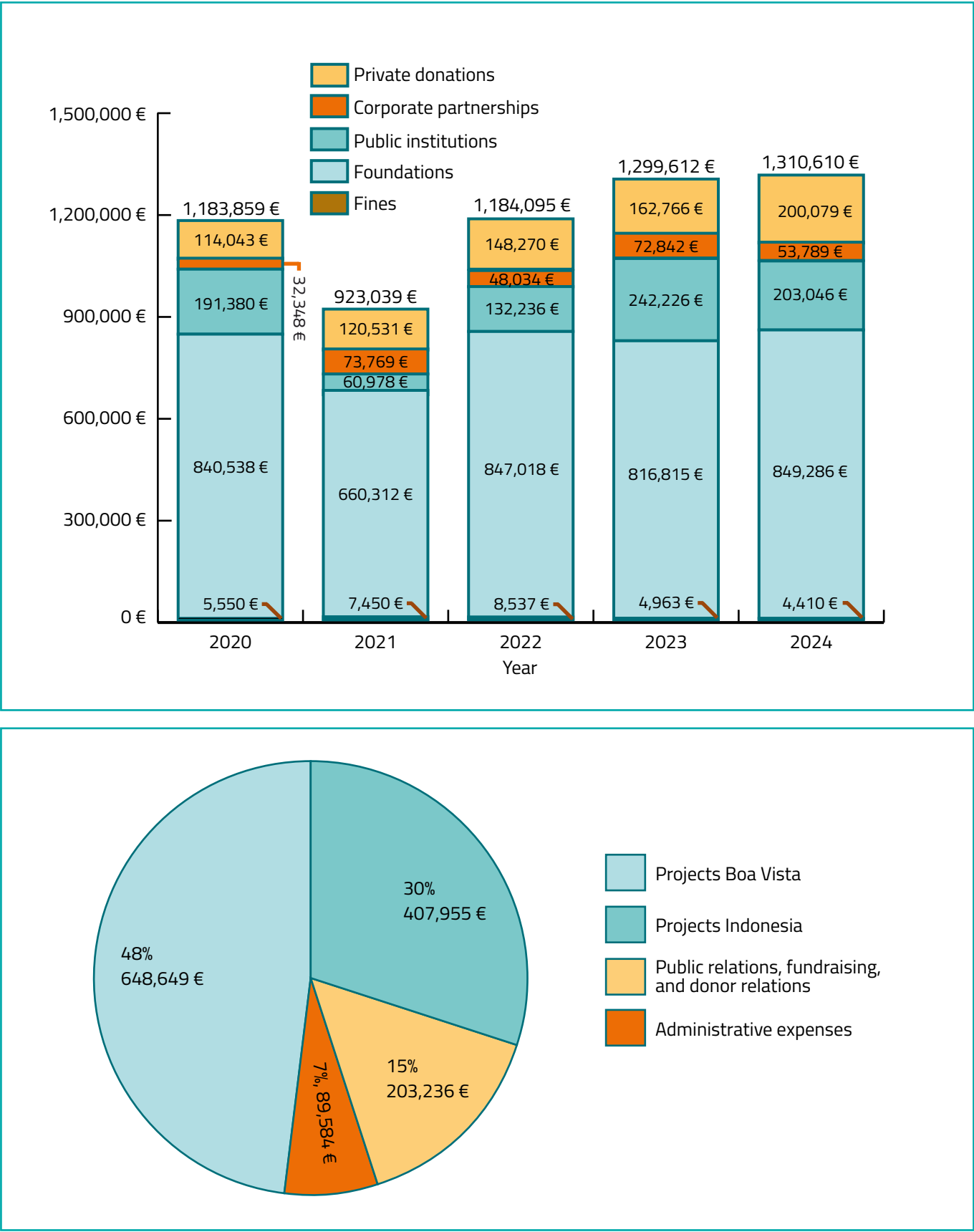
Benjamin at the 'Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge' (© Sarah Laycock Campbell)



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

EXPENSES 01.01. – 31.12.	EUR 2024	EUR previous year 2023	INCOME 01.01. – 31.12.	EUR 2024	EUR previous year 2023
Cabo Verde			Restricted funding and income		
Coordination and overheads	178,785	212,217	Funding Cabo Verde	482,258	686,802
Protection of nesting beaches	290,898	254,436	Corporate donations and sponsoring Cabo Verde	13,294	5,700
Special project "Protected Areas" (BIOPAMA)	45,315	68,552	Private donations and adoptions Cabo Verde	14,275	15,620
Civil society engagement and community projects	30,586	47,461	Volunteer contributions Cabo Verde	35,940	17,055
Data collection and research	7,585	4,476	Funding Indonesia	284,439	187,341
Expenditure for the local Ministry of Environment (special funding)	0	36,968	Corporate donations and sponsoring Indonesia	7,412	58,404
Expenditure on organisational development (special funding)	9,287	0	Private donations and adoptions Indonesia	36,662	44,202
Project supervision	86,193	58,703	Restricted funding and income total	874,280	1,015,124
Direct expenditure Cabo Verde	648,649	682,813			
Indonesia			Unrestricted grants and income		
Bali headquarters	175,451	94,951	Foundations	285,635	184,898
Programme Berau	68,365	57,873	Private donations	106,674	80,390
Programme Sipora	35,462	20,757	Corporate donations and sponsoring	33,083	8,738
Programme Nias (2023: Banggai)	14,944	100,104	Fines	4,410	4,963
Programme Simeulue	58,626	69,497	Sales of miscellaneous items	6,528	5,499
Project supervision	55,107	37,531	Withdrawal from provision	38,814	0
Direct expenditure Indonesia	407,955	380,713	Unrestricted donations and income total	475,144	284,488
Support for third-party projects	0	3,932			
Cologne office					
Public relations, fundraising, donor support	203,236	169,676			
Structural costs	84,927	48,740			
Web shop expenses	4,657	2,465			
Cologne office total	292,820	220,881			
Provision for project funding 2025	0	11,273			
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,349,424	1,299,612	TOTAL INCOME	1,349,424	1,299,612

SOURCE AND USE OF FUNDS



PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

OWN PUBLICATIONS:

Bartoschek, J. et al. (2024). Corporate partnerships: Greenwashing or valuable support for sea turtle organizations? 42nd International Sea Turtle Symposium, Pattaya, Thailand.

Cordes, H. et al. (2024). Hatcheries, hatchling retention, and headstarting – discussing their conservation value. 42nd International Sea Turtle Symposium, Pattaya, Thailand.

Nicolau, J. et al. (2024). Addressing online trade of turtleshell products in Indonesia. 42nd International Sea Turtle Symposium, Pattaya, Thailand.

Reischig, T. et al. (2024). Protecting Indonesia's largest green sea turtle nesting rookery: A two-decade retrospective and key insights. 42nd International Sea Turtle Symposium, Pattaya, Thailand.

Yeoman, K. et al. (2024) Threats and pressures facing an endangered population of loggerhead turtles in Boa Vista, Cabo Verde. 42nd International Sea Turtle Symposium, Pattaya, Thailand.

Zai, M. et al. (2024). Closing the knowledge gap: Contributing data from Sumatra on the northeastern Indian Ocean leatherback sea turtle subpopulation. 42nd International Sea Turtle Symposium, Pattaya, Thailand.



REPORTING ABOUT US:

Bergmann, L., Reischig, T. (2024). In the name of the ocean – Protecting sea turtles together with Turtle Foundation, in: Responsible Herpetoculture Journal, Issue 15, 05-06/2024, p. 90 – 104.

Planet Wild (2024): We got serious about saving sea turtles, Video on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JZ5OuRZxvI>

Turtle Foundation (2024): Gemeinsamer Einsatz für den Lederschildkrötenschutz im westlichen Sumatra, in: MitgliederMagazin Bund Deutscher Tierfreunde, Issue 01/2024, p. 16-19.

Turtle Foundation (2024): Vor Ort gegen den Schildpatt-handel: die Turtle Foundation in Indonesiens Hotspot Banggai, in: MitgliederMagazin Bund Deutscher Tierfreunde, Issue 03/2024, p. 22-26.

Turtle Foundation (2024): Vier Pfoten auf Sonder-mission: Meeresschildkrötenschutz beginnt bei den Kleinen, in: MitgliederMagazin Bund Deutscher Tierfreunde, Issue 04/2024, p. 15-17.

Turtle Foundation (2024): Lederschildkröten-Updates aus Aceh (vor der Westküste Sumatras), in: Marginata, Issue 79, 03/2024, p. 6-7.

Turtle Foundation (2024): Überbordender Tourismus an den Niststränden, in: Marginata, Issue 79, 03/2024, p. 7-10.

Turtle Foundation (2024): Turtle Foundation in Sipora, in: Divemaster, Issue #120, p. 16-19.

Our conservation dogs Zedda, Karetta and Kelo were the stars of Planet Wild's 'Mission 11 - Turtle Patrol'.



Turtle game developed by our sister organisation Yayasan Penyu Indonesia

TURTLE-FOUNDATION.ORG

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all donors and to all private and public foundations, organisations and companies that have supported us and thus made our work possible. Our special thanks go to:

About Vintage, Abri voor Dieren Foundation, Aquazoo Lötbecke Museum, Avilan Ocean Foundation, Béatrice Ederer-Weber Stiftung, BIOPAMA/IUCN, Bright Light Foundation, British Chelonia Group (BCG), Bund deutscher Tierfreunde e.V., Bunse Aufzüge GmbH, Darwin Initiative, Deutsche Stiftung Meeresschutz, Eight Limited Design GmbH, Dr. Elfriede Backhaus Stiftung zum Schutz der Tiere, Erlenmeyer-Stiftung, Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust, Eva Mayr-Stihl Stiftung, Fivetolife Foundation, Fondation DAVAC, Fondation Hans Wilsdorf, French Facility for Global Environment (PPI), Gemeinde Vaduz, Gerda Techow Gemeinnützige Stiftung, GID-Projects GmbH & Co. KG, HB Protective Wear GmbH & Co. KG, HX Foundation, Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund, Kölner Stiftung für Tier- und Artenschutz, KraussMaffei Technologies GmbH, Lakeside Primary School, Margarethe und Rudolf Gsell-Stiftung, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of Cabo Verde, Narinja Stiftung, New Flag GmbH, Oswald Stiftung, Paul Hewitt GmbH, Peter Dornier Stiftung, Planet Wild / Climate Labs GmbH, Postcode Lotterrie DT GmbH, pro-WIN pro nature, Salmann Investment Management AG, S.D. Fürst von und zu Liechtenstein, SEE Turtles - Billion

Baby Turtles program, SEE Turtles – Sea Turtles & Plastic, SSI International GmbH, Stiftung Drittes Millennium, Stiftung Farald von Wedekind und Fiorimonde Wedekind, Stiftung Ormella, Stiftung Temperatio, Stiftung Visone, Stiftung Wolfgang Wüsthof, Stumme Brüder Stiftung, Turtle Foundation Friends e.V., Undercover GmbH, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Valüna Stiftung, VRD Stiftung für Erneuerbare Energien, VT-Etiketten GmbH, Willy und Margherit Wölfl-Stiftung, Zoo Ostrava/Tschechien

We would also like to thank our project partners for their successful cooperation: Balai Pengelolaan Sumberdaya Pesisir dan Laut (BPSPL) Padang, (Indonesia), BIOS.CV (Cabo Verde), Biosfera (Cabo Verde), Camara Municipal Boa Vista (Cabo Verde), Cabo Verde Natura 2000 (Cabo Verde), Dakshin Foundation (India), Dinas Kelautan Dan Perikanan (DKP) Banda Aceh, Padang, Samarinda (Indonesia), Direção Nacional do Ambiente (DNA - Cabo Verde), Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, EcosystemImpact (Indonesia), Kementrian Kelautan dan Perikanan (KKP – Indonesia), Policia Nacional da Boa Vista (Cabo Verde), Profaua (Indonesia), Projeto Biodiversidade Sal (Cabo Verde), Queen Mary University of London (United Kingdom), Regional Partnership for the Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Conservation in West Africa (PRCM), TAOLA+ (Cabo Verde)

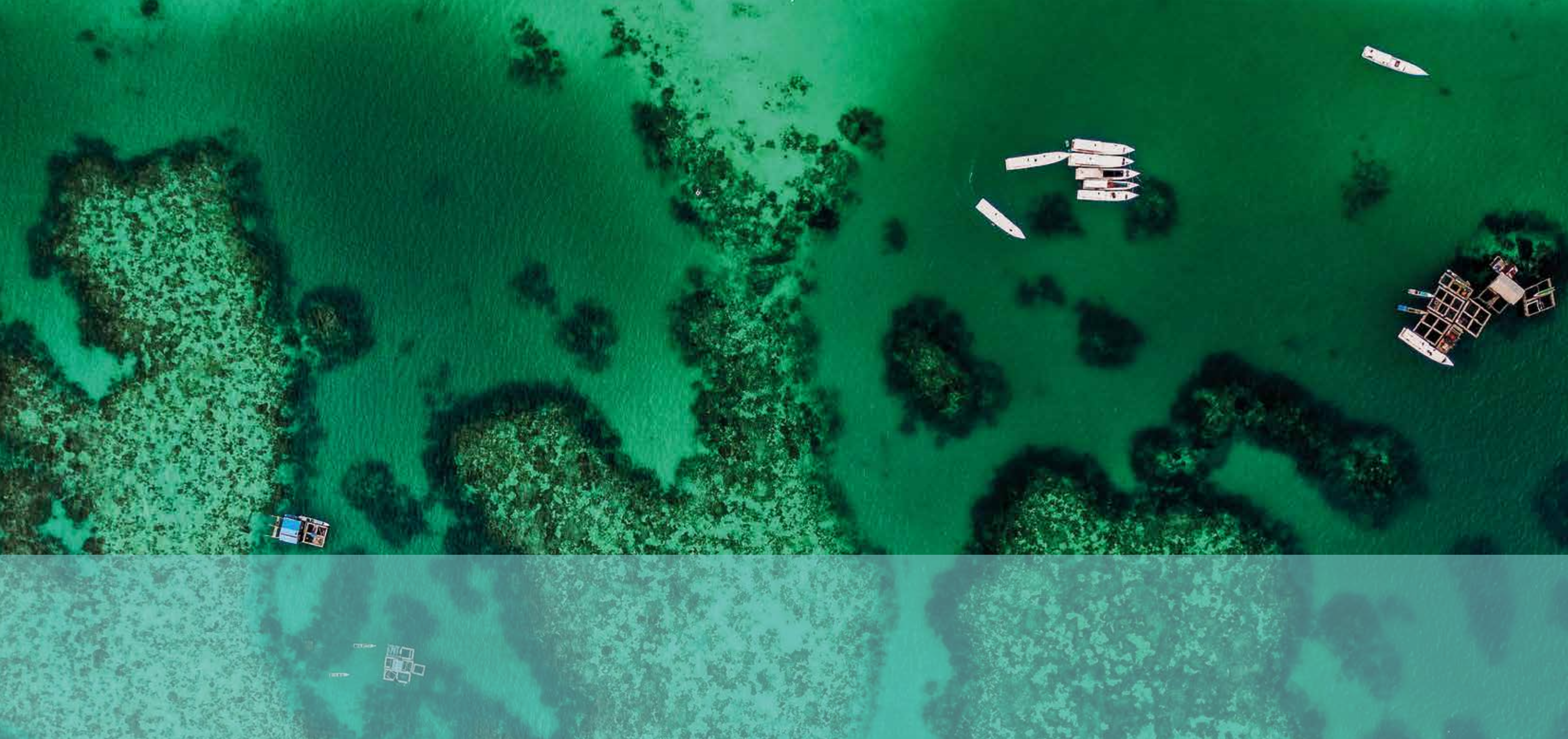
Turtle tracks on the beach on Boa Vista (© Adilson Ramos)



TURTLE-FOUNDATION.ORG

The dog and drone team visiting a school class





IMPRINT

Text: Dr Hiltrud Cordes, Dr Thomas Reischig, Janin Bartoschek, Miriam Franken, Prof. Dr Otto Jockel

Layout and typesetting: Stephan Collet

Editors: Dr Hiltrud Cordes, Dr Thomas Reischig, Janin Bartoschek, Adhith Swaminathan

Unless otherwise stated, all image rights are held by Turtle Foundation.

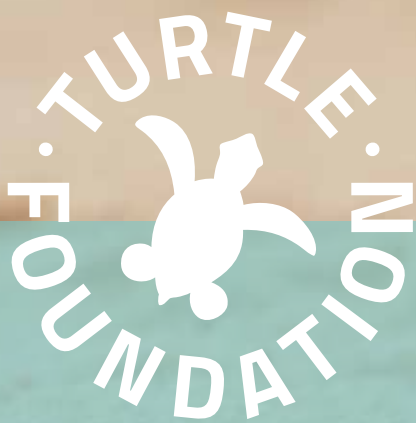
Published by Turtle Foundation
www.turtle-foundation.org
E-mail: info@turtle-foundation.org



- + environmentally friendly color printing
- + 100% recycled paper
- + 100% green energy
- + We plant a tree with every order
- + climate-neutral & low-emission printing

BANK ACCOUNT EUR:
GLS Bank
IBAN: DE48 4306 0967 1085 9361 00
BIC: GENODEM1GLS

BANK ACCOUNT GBP:
Swiss Post, PostFinance
IBAN: CH13 0900 0000 4042 9368 1
BIC: POFICHBEXXX



TURTLE FOUNDATION GERMANY

An der Eiche 7a, 50678 Cologne

TURTLE FOUNDATION SWITZERLAND

Kerbelstrasse 18, 9470 Buchs

TURTLE FOUNDATION USA

2615 Jefferson Street, Bellingham, WA 98225

FUNDAÇÃO TARTARUGA CABO VERDE

Riba d'Olte, Caixa Postal Nr. 172, Sal Rei, Boa Vista

TURTLE FOUNDATION LIECHTENSTEIN

Landstrasse 63, 9490 Vaduz

YAYASAN PENYU INDONESIA

Jl. Danau Tondano 45, Sanur, Kota Denpasar, Bali

TURTLE FOUNDATION UNITED KINGDOM

48 Medway Road, London E3 5BY