



TURTLE FOUNDATION

Protecting and Preserving Sea Turtles

Annual Report 2010

Planning 2011

www.turtle-foundation.org

Charitable, tax exempt foundation registered in the U.S., Germany, Switzerland, Indonesia and Cape Verde.

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Summary of activities and achievements in 2010

Project Indonesia

In 2010, the Turtle Foundation looked back on **10 years of successful work** in protecting endangered sea turtles. Since 2000, on the Island of Sangalaki a small percentage of the **Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)** nests were protected from commercial egg collection and two years later complete protection by the permanent presence of our ranger was accomplished. In 2008, this protection was extended to two other important nesting islands, Bilang-Bilangan and Mataha. Since then we also have plans and permits to build a permanent ranger station on the island of Belambangan to protect it and the nearby island of Sambit from egg poaching, but so far we have been unable to build the station due to lack of funds. Therefore, our work focused on the regular operation of the existing stations, manned by 15 rangers who protect the turtles and nests on three islands of the Berau Archipelago from illegal exploitation by poachers.

Despite of these successes, today we are just at the beginning of an extensive and long-lasting work that will be necessary to stop and eventually reverse the decline of the green turtle population in the Berau archipelago. On at least six other islands of the archipelago, almost all turtle eggs are collected and adult sea turtles are still hunted. The results are to be seen in many larger cities of Borneo, where eggs are illegally, but nevertheless openly, offered on the market. To be able to sustain and expand our activities, we not only have to increase our efforts in fund raising, but we also have to gather basic information about life history and the population biology of the sea turtles in the Berau Archipelago, together with their importance in the local marine ecosystem. We felt the need for assistance by a **scientifically-trained employee**, and therefore, since last summer we are collaborating with the biologist Dr. Thomas Reischig. Together with the program director Dr. Hiltrud Cordes he visited the project location in December. The functions of Mr. Reischig include scientific data collection and analysis, scientific and technical research, assistance in writing proposals, as well as general tasks of project coordination. Mr. Reischig will perform these tasks partly from his German office and partly during several project site visits per year.

Data on turtle nesting behaviour and their population biology have been collected by the staff of the Turtle Foundation since the beginning of our work. Data collections were performed selectively from 1999 and continuously since 2003. A professional analysis of these data has already begun, and already results that are very important for our protection efforts have emerged. Our calculations indicate that with approximately 9300 nesting females, the population of green sea turtle in the Berau Archipelago is larger than previously thought by experts, and that the Berau archipelago is indeed **the 8th most important nesting site of Green turtles in the world!** Furthermore, we calculated that as a result of Turtle Foundation's work, about 3.84 million hatchlings were saved by the end of 2010! Without our efforts virtually none of them would have reached the sea. Due to the continued protection of the three nesting islands, an average of more than 759,000 hatchlings is saved every year. Surprisingly, with about 341,000 hatchlings per year, the island Bilang-Bilangan contributed the largest part to this number. These and further results together with additional field observations suggest that the population of nesting sea turtles on other islands such as Belambangan and Sambit

may be underestimated, and it is possible that at least the island of Belambangan will house a similar nesting population as Sangalaki or Bilang-Bilangan. Possible underestimates of the Belambangan nesting population may be caused by false information from egg collectors, who are attempting to divert the attention of turtle protectors from their traditional egg harvesting sites. These results emphasize the importance of our efforts to build ranger stations on Belambangan and Sambit to establish the protection of nesting sea turtles and their eggs. Due to our new results showing the Berau Archipelago as one of the world's most important nesting sites of the green sea turtle, together with the publication of these findings at international scientific conferences and in peer-reviewed journals, we hope for an increased ability to raise funds to continue and expand our work. Despite the positive-sounding population surveys and our protection successes, we must not forget that in the Berau Archipelago we see only a residual Green turtle population of less than 10% of the population from 60–70 years ago. The stabilisation of the existing population after years of unrestrained exploitation will last for decades.

An important part of our future work is to **increase the involvement of the local people** in our conservation project through education programmes and the creation of alternative sources of income. We are aware that a sustainable protection of sea turtles and their marine environment can only be achieved in collaboration with the resident people. Our trip to Berau in December also served to explore possibilities for further planning in this endeavour. Of particular importance here is the project of a local businessman to rebuild and operate a diving resort on the island Sangalaki, which was abandoned three years ago. We are currently investigating the possibility of an ecotourism project for turtle watching, which should be in collaboration with the diving resort, with the protection needs of the turtles of paramount importance. We contacted the businessman, and initial discussions on mutual cooperation in the interest of sea turtle protection were promising; however, the Turtle Foundation must be very careful that the nature conservation interests are appropriately respected. Further, we discussed the possibilities for cooperation with members of BESTARI, an Indonesian NGO with the objective of bringing together the interests of nature conservation with the needs of the local people.

Project Cape Verde

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

When the Turtle Foundation project started on Boavista in 2008, the conservation efforts focused on the protection of the beaches of Porto Ferreira and Canto, and resulted in an overall reduction of 90% of the mortality on these beaches. Besides the protection of the nesting beaches in collaboration with the Cape Verde military forces, community work, environmental education and awareness were part of the conservation measures right from the beginning. In 2009, the protection area was extended and the project evolved into a more expanded, structured and effective effort in the conservation of the sea turtles of Boavista, yielding again very positive results. 2010 was the third year of the Turtle Foundation's activities towards the

conservation and protection of Loggerhead sea turtles on Boavista Island. We continued to focus on the nesting beaches chosen in the years before and extended the protection even more to include the beach of Boa Esperança. As in the previous season, protection was ensured with military presence, national and international volunteers, and for the first time also with local guards.

Beach Protection and Monitoring

During the 2010 season, Turtle Foundation actively protected five beaches: Canto, Norte, Curral Velho, Lacacão and Boa Esperança, for a total of 24 Km of protected coastline. As in the years before, for the beaches of Canto and Norte, soldiers, guards and volunteers were driven from their base in Fundo das Figueiras to the beaches each night after dinner, and picked up the next morning before breakfast. At the beaches of Lacacão and Boa Esperança, beach camps equipped with tents for the soldiers, volunteers and camp coordinators, cooking facilities and storage for drinking water, an eating area and a shade to cover the whole camp were set up to serve as a base for the Turtle Foundation teams. Operating from these beach camps allowed the patrol team to live directly next to the nesting beaches, in order to closely monitor any suspicious activity on the beach during both night and day. This led to an increased quality and quantity of the protection of the nesting females, and additionally led to increased security for tourists on the remote beach of Boa Esperança.

In 2010 Turtle Foundation established a tagging program at all beaches monitored, using PIT (Passive integrated transmitter) and metal (inconel) tags. Double tagging was performed whenever possible, giving preference to the application of PIT tags rather than external metal tags. A total of 334 female Loggerhead sea turtles were tagged (PIT and/ or metal tags) by Turtle Foundation teams in 2010 during the night patrols at the nesting beaches. Biometrics, behaviour of the turtle, any physical damage, or marking, as well as the time when it was encountered and when it entered the water again were also recorded.

Environmental education and public awareness

Due to the success of the educational beach camp at Boa Esperança in partnership with the environmental club of Boavista in 2009, we implemented this project of educational beach camps on a larger scale in 2010. The initiative "School in Nature" ("Escola na Natureza") camp was a very successful project carried out in partnership with Clube Ambiental da Boavista, and with financial support from the UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme. The aim of this project was to bring local kids between 8 and 18 years old to an alternative classroom setting (Boa Esperança beach) for the weekend. In total, 5 camps were organized during the season, and 88 kids from all the villages in the island took part. During each weekend, participants received lectures on sea turtle biology and conservation, discussed the impact of trash on their health and that of the ecosystems, and explored the importance of biodiversity and other issues such as the importance of family values, children's rights and much more.

Trash is still a major problem on the nesting beaches of Boavista, particularly in the Northern and North-Eastern coasts, especially Boa Esperança, Norte and Canto. Turtle Foundation participated in several major clean-up events on the beaches of Boa Esperança and Curral Velho, and was active in their organization and promotion. Participation of local people was significant, and extremely positive. Besides the major clean-up events supported by hotels, quad rentals and surf shops, the teams based in the camps regularly went out on the nesting beaches to collect trash.

With support from the Senior Expert Service (SES), Turtle Foundation organized a three week handicraft workshop from October 18 until November 17, aimed at participants living in the Barracas, the poverty neighbourhood of Sal Rei. Nine women and one man participated regularly in the classes where they were taught to produce unique handmade souvenirs. Cotton bags, felt purses, necklaces, and postcards, all decorated uniquely using different techniques, were just some of the products). The products were then offered to souvenir shops in Sal Rei or directly sold to people by the participants, to generate extra income for the people in need. The second annual meeting of the Cape Verde Sea Turtle Network, now known as TAOLA (TARTARUGA CRIOLA) was held in Sal Rei on June 28-30. Important decisions were made in terms of setting up national regulations for turtle-watching, and to implement the National Sea Turtle Conservation plan.

Other activities to promote the engagement of the local communities and visitors to the islands included public presentations and community meetings, regular participation in the fair held weekly at the RIU hotel to inform the guests about the issue of turtle conservation and to promote the Turtle Foundation project, public release events of juvenile turtles which had been kept in captivity, and setting up information signs at the important nesting beaches.

Financial statement 2010

Balance sheet as per 31.12.2010

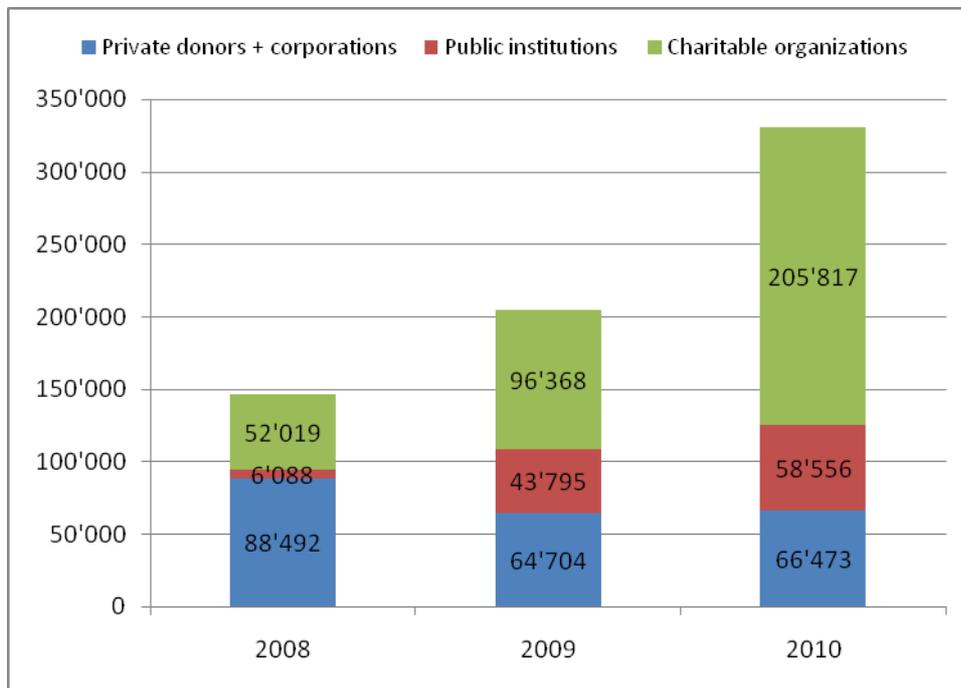
ASSETS	2010 EUR	LIABILITIES	2010 EUR
Cash and cash equivalents	220'461	Accounts payable	10'842
Receivables	3'598	Accruals	44'367
Accounts paid in advance	0	Committed assets	55'209
Circulating assets	224'059		
Tangible assets	2	Capital and surplus	115'050
Financial assets	0	Profit	53'802
Fixed assets	2	Capital and surplus	168'852
	224'061		224'061
	224'061		224'061

Profit & loss accounts 2010

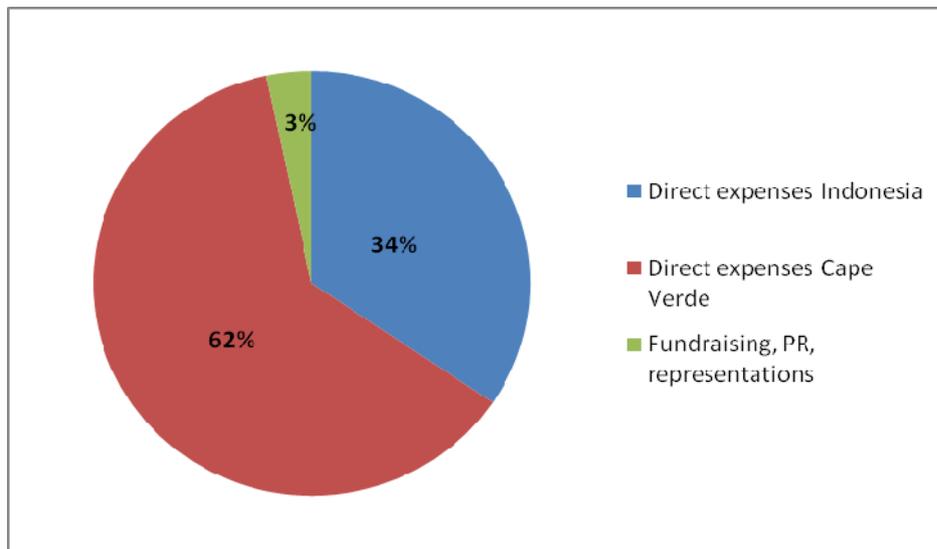
EXPENSES	2010 EUR	PROCEEDS	2010 EUR
East Kalimantan, Indonesia		Donations, grants	
<i>Investments and cost of material</i>		Private donors and cooperations	66'473
Boats: operation and maintenance	17'875	Public institutions	58'556
Building: aquisit., operat. & maintenance	5'724	Charitable organizations	205'817
Material & equipment	666		
Project reserve, miscellaneous	7'151	Total donations, grants	330'845
<i>Direct Expenses for investment and cost of material</i>	31'416	Sale of products	9'048
<i>Personnel, project cost, communication, representation</i>		Interest	196
Salaries	30'148		
Food for staff members	31'943	Gain/loss on exchange	14'552
Transport costs excl. boat transfers	480		
Operation & maintenance office	2'932		
Representation, lobbying, PR	581		
<i>Direct expenses for personnel, project costs, communication, representation</i>	66'084		
Direct expenses for East Kalimantan, Indonesia	97'500		
Cape Verde Islands			
Investments, acquisitions	90'299		
Salaries and fees	38'706		
Rental costs (building)	8'875		
Food and beverage	15'299		
Transport costs and fuel	5'370		
Travel costs	5'695		
Miscellaneous	4'189		
Local accounts	0		
Use MTCA due	7'379		
Direct expenses for Cape Verde Islands	175'810		
Support of foreign projects	390		
Capital expenditure	295		
Depreciations	17'405		
Fundraising, PR	5'553		
Representations	3'886		
Profit	53'802		
	354'641		354'641

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

Source of funds



Use of funds 2010



Thanks

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

Audit report

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



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

As statutory auditors, we have examined the financial statements (balance sheet, income statement and notes) of Turtle Foundation (Switzerland) for the year ended 31 December 2010.

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

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

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

7320 Sargans, 28 March 2011

PREFERA AUDIT AG

H. Bertsch
Audit expert
(Auditor in charge)

P. Guntli
Audit expert

Project Planning 2011

Indonesia

For the year 2011 we focus on the following objectives:

1. Maintaining the regular operation of the existing protection stations on Sangalaki, Bilang-Bilangan and Mataha

Efforts and financial expenditures are expected for the renovation of the ranger stations, and to establish secure communication links between the project islands and the office of the Turtle Foundation in the city of Berau. One of Turtle Foundation's two boats needs to be replaced as soon as possible to guarantee the safety of our employees. As a result of a generous donation by a German foundation for animal protection, this can be done in the near future. Also, our second boat now shows substantial wear after several years of intensive use and should be replaced in the near future. By our current activities, about 75% of turtle nests in the Berau Archipelago are protected from egg collectors.

2. Establishing and maintenance of a guard station on the island Belambangan

With a new station on Belambangan, this island and also the island of Sambit, which lies close to Belambangan, could be monitored. In total, about 90% of turtle nests in the Berau Archipelago could then be protected by the Turtle Foundation. In addition to the direct protection of the turtles from hunting and egg stealing, our presence will also benefit the protection of the Muaras reef. This is one of the largest reefs in Indonesia within a region of highest diversity of corals and other marine animals. This gem is threatened in its existence by illegal fishing practices such as the use of dynamite and cyanide. Recent ecological studies show the close relationship between intact coral reefs and sea grass meadows, and the biology of marine turtles. Here, it is clear that the successful protection of the marine turtles is fundamentally dependent on the integrity of their marine habitats. This further emphasises the importance of collaboration with the local people who live from marine resources. We are therefore pursuing the protection of sea turtles in an increasingly holistic context.

3. Increasing involvement of local people in our protection programme through education programmes

One major cause of unsustainable exploitation of natural resources is the ignorance of ecological contexts as well as of possible alternatives. A first approach to raise environmental awareness is to organise school trips to Bilang-Bilangan, where the students experience important implications of turtle and nature conservation very directly. Educational brochures about the work of the Turtle Foundation, about possible severe health problems caused by the consumption of turtle meat, and about the negative effects of head starting programmes, which are often performed in a misguided attempt to help the turtles, are in preparation.

4. Increasing involvement of local people in our sea turtle protection program by creating alternative income opportunities

The urgency of such measures we experienced very directly, as during a boat ride between islands we found a dead hawksbill turtle whose tortoise shell had been

peeled off its carapace (this is generally done by pouring boiling water over the still living turtle!). On the same day, we saw the other end of the production chain on Derawan island, where local women offered illegal tortoise shell products for sale. In subsequent discussions, the sellers proved very open to alternative income opportunities.

By employing 15 rangers who are recruited from the local community, the Turtle Foundation already offers a valuable contribution in the creation of alternative income sources; we also employ people who formerly collected turtle eggs to sustain their families. We see further possibilities in the establishment and support of small craft businesses that manufacture handcraft art and articles of daily use from materials that are carelessly discarded as waste and now pollute the environment. While we stayed in Jakarta, we visited a small company that manufactures appealing objects such as hand- and shopping bags from plastic waste, and successfully sells them in Europe. Plastic waste also pollutes the beaches of the islands in the Berau Archipelago, and (alas!) offers an inexhaustible source of raw materials. However, the beaches also come with other valuable resources: Due to extensive logging on the mainland of Borneo, large amounts of driftwood are washed ashore, which constitutes a major problem to the nesting turtles. This wood is partly of very high quality, but currently it is cut to pieces and burned by our employees. However, it could be used as basis for producing many useful products for the daily needs of the local population, and/or as handcraft products to be sold to tourists. Further, we see job opportunities in ecotourism, to which the Turtle Foundation may contribute by installing an information centre and by organising and supervising of turtle watching tours. Although not all of these projects can be carried out in 2011, the planning has already been started.

Cape Verde

In 2011 Turtle Foundation will continue to monitor and patrol the 24 km coastline of the 5 beaches monitored the year before. One base will be set up in Fundo das Figueiras, to monitor the beaches of Canto and Norte, and on the beaches of Lacacão and Boa Esperança there will be a camp set up at each beach to serve as a base for the Turtle Foundation teams working there. Since the poachers know that our resources are limited, and the goal of completely stopping the slaughter is not realized yet, areas adjacent to the main patrol areas will be included in the night patrols. We will gradually increase the number of people in the camps, allowing us to set up more patrols to increase the patrol area as well as the quality of the patrols themselves.

In addition to the *improvement of the patrols at night* to protect the nesting female sea turtles, Turtle Foundation will also continue working towards *public awareness and environmental education*. Additional goals also include:

1. Community involvement

In 2011 it will be one of our main objectives to involve more local people, not just for patrolling the beaches at night, but also for creating awareness and keeping the community informed and involved in the conservation of the sea turtles throughout the year. Besides the employment of locals as guards for the beach protection, Turtle Foundation will provide ranger/guide training for a duration of 7 months for 5 committed local people. This training will include lessons in sea turtle biology,

English, history of Cape Verde, basic IT skills as well as basic marketing skills. During the practical training, participants will learn about sea turtle conservation work at the nesting beaches, guiding tourists and setting up presentations and awareness activities.

2. Lacacão Beach

The RIU Touareg hotel at Lacacão Beach will open in May 2011. We are working on different strategies to mitigate the impact of the hotel in terms of light pollution, people, vehicles and objects at the beach. The construction of the “Lacacão Golf and Beach Resort” will continue in the Lacacão area and in 2011 we will have to face again problems like the impact of the light from the construction area as well as a huge number of workers living close by the nesting beach and being a possible threat for the sea turtles.

A hatchery will be built in Curral Velho and nests from the Lacacão beach will be relocated to the hatchery if they are deemed in danger of: flooding, beach denudation, vehicles on the beach, light pollution from the hotel and construction area etc. Some nests, randomly selected from those within the nesting beach, will stay in situ and will be monitored to assess the hatching success and the impact of the lights on the hatchlings.

3. Tagging program

The tagging program of Turtle Foundation will continue in the following years. As we accumulate additional information from our patrols on the beaches with the largest numbers of nesting turtles, we will be able to focus on the most important nesting beaches for future protection. Also the increasing knowledge about the movements of the loggerhead turtles between the islands of Cape Verde will provide important information for further conservation strategies.

4. “School in nature” project

We are planning to implement the project “school in nature” with several educational camps at Boa Esperança beach in 2011 again. At the moment we are still looking for funding opportunities for this particular project and will do our best to give the kids of Boavista the opportunity to participate in this great experience of the educational beach camps. However, we are confident that we will be able to realize the camps at least on a small scale with the help of local donors and supporters.

5. Protection at sea

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

We are confident, that after 3 successful years of conservation work in Boavista, and with the trust we have gained in the communities, we can continue to increase the positive impact of the project. Ultimately, Turtle Foundation aims to impart knowledge and experience to locals regarding the protection and benefits of sea turtles, so that in the future, our presence is no longer needed on the island of Boavista.