

TURTLE FOUNDATION

Protecting and Preserving Sea Turtles

Annual Report 2011



Planning 2012

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 2011

Project Indonesia

The Derawan archipelago off the east coast of Borneo (Indonesia, province East Kalimantan) holds the largest nesting population of green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) in Indonesia. However, the existence of this population is heavily threatened by massive egg collecting activities, bycatch and direct hunting, and decreased in the last 70 years by more than 90%!

Also in the 11th year of its existence the Turtle Foundation (TF) continued their sea turtle protection program in the Derawan archipelago, which is implemented by our local partner organization Yayasan Penyu Berau (YPB). The TF/YPB currently runs ranger stations on three islands (Sangalaki since 2002, Bilang-Bilangan und Mataha each since 2008). All ranger stations are manned with 4–6 rangers of the YPB the whole year round the clock. Our staff patrols every island three times a day completely, thus, illegal egg collection on these islands was almost fully terminated. According to preliminary calculations, we are now protecting about 75% of the archipelago's green turtle nesting population from illegal egg exploitation. Organization and financing of these conservation measures comprised the main activity of the TF in 2011 as in the years before.

According to our evaluation of nesting data collected by our team, in average about 871,000 young turtles hatch every year on our project islands. We calculated that until end of 2011 we enabled about 5,300,000 turtle hatchlings to start into life due to our sustained conservation measures. According to our calculations, there is a reasonable chance that on this basis Derawan archipelago's green turtle population is able to recover within the next decades; however, to achieve this goal we have to consequently continue and extend our conservation project for many years. Our results were presented in April 2011 as poster on the 31th International Sea Turtle Symposium of the International Sea Turtle Society in San Diego, California, and will be published in international scientific journals in spring 2012.

Thanks to the generous donations of two foundations we could significantly improve the infrastructure of our Indonesia project. The *Tierschutzstiftung Wolfgang Bösche* (Foundation for Animal Welfare Wolfgang Bösche) donated a new speedboat for the supply of our southern project islands. The donation of the Vontobel Foundation allowed us to buy a new speedboat for the supply of Sangalaki as well as a pickup car for our logistics on land roads. Our old motor boats already reached the end of their lifetimes and would have caused unacceptable risks for our employees in future. The new car offers significant alleviations and cost reductions in our logistics. Further, we could rent and equip a new project office in Tanjung Redeb that contributes to additional organizational facilitation.

Currently, on the island of Sangalaki an old diving resort is reconstructed by a local operator. The TF tries to ensure that negative impacts on the sensitive ecosystem of Sangalaki remains as low as possible.

In October 2011 the YPB initiated a training program for ranger of the marine national park Pulau Seribu. The training included mainly practical work on turtle conservation, e.g., proper relocation of endangered turtle nests as well as construction and operation of turtle hatchery stations.

Project Cape Verde

The Turtle Foundation (TF) initiated its work on Boavista Island in 2008 in response to the ongoing illegal slaughter of loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*) on the nesting beaches of Cape Verde. These are home to the third largest nesting population of this species, and 90% of the nesting occurs on Boavista Island.

Since TF started its sea turtle protection program on Boavista Island in 2008, when the project was restricted to just one beach and a small team, the quality and quantity of our sea turtle protection project evolved every year. Now we successfully monitor seven beaches (total length 25 km) while operating from two on-site beach camps (Lacacão and Boa Esperança) and one field station (Fundo das Figueiras). Our team is now a large group of Cape Verdean soldiers, local guards, national and international volunteers, coordinators and scientists (50 volunteers, over 20 local collaborators). Some remaining gaps in patrol areas were covered in this nesting season. As a result of our efforts, the mortality of sea turtles nesting on Boavista has been continuously reduced.

TF continued with the collection of basic data on nesting sea turtles throughout the monitored area. A total of 268 individual females were tagged with external flipper tags and/or internal PIT tags to gather information on nesting behavior and movements of individual females. Further, we initiated an internship program, thus offering the possibility for undergraduate and post-graduate students to conduct their research projects on beaches monitored by TF. Additionally, TF started a collaboration with a GEOMAR research group (Helmholtz-Zentrum für Ozeanforschung - University of Kiel) led by Dr. Christophe Eizaguirre; there, six female turtles were equipped with satellite transmitters. Results from these research activities will be used to design proper conservation measures.

Besides the direct protection of the turtles on the nesting beaches, TF is very active performing indirect conservation measures such as environmental education, awareness campaigns, capacity building, beach clean-ups, etc. TF continued and expanded its successful project "School in Nature", where local kids participate for several weekends in the sea turtle conservation work and attended presentations, educational games, sport events at the beach, etc. New collaborations were also established with other local groups like *Grupo Desportivo Pretoria* from the island of Sal, the football team *Onze Estrelas* from Bofareira and the Scouts Association of Boavista.

With donations from the *Liechtensteiner Development Service*, TF started an eight month training program for local community members to become Nature/Turtle-Rangers. After successfully completing the training, participants received an official certificate to be qualified to work in sea turtle conservation projects throughout Cape Verde.

A major concern in 2011 was the tourism development at the south coast (Lacacão Beach) of Boavista, especially the new RIU Touareg Hotel, which is located right on a nesting beach and opened in May 2011. We contracted a nesting-beach lighting specialist, Dr. Erik Martin, to travel to Cape Verde and visit the hotel on several occasions to evaluate the potential impact of the lights on the nesting turtles. An expertise of Erik Martin was presented to the RIU management. However, negative impact of the lights from the hotel urged us to protect the nests and hatchlings in this area. We started an intensive nest management program, which involved relocation of all nests too close to the hotel to safer areas of the beach, or to a hatchery.

In 2011, TF sponsored the first community based sea turtle protection group of Boavista, *Projecto Varandinha*, which protected a beach on the west-coast of the island. Additionally, TF sponsored four initiatives for turtle protection on small nesting beaches on other islands (Sao Vicente, Santo Antao, Sao Nicolau, Fogo).

Financial statement 01.01. – 30.09.2011

The Board of Trustees has unanimously decided for organizational reasons to relocate the closing date of the financial statements to September 30th. Thus, the current fiscal year comprises the period from 01.01.2011 to 30.09.2011.

Balance sheet as per 30.09.2011

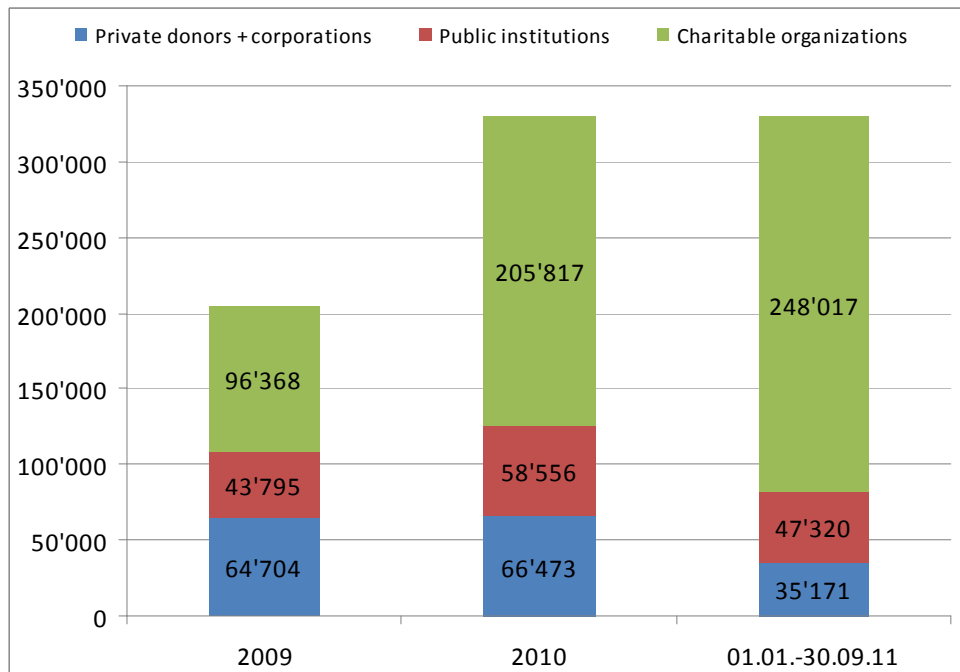
ASSETS	30.09.2011 EUR	PASSIVEN	30.09.2011 EUR
Cash and cash equivalents	253'891	Accounts payable	186
Receivables	2'176	Accruals	5'287
Accounts paid in advance	0	Committed assets	<u>5'473</u>
Umlaufvermögen	<u>256'067</u>		
Tangible assets	2	Capital and surplus	168'852
Financial assets	0	Profit	81'744
Fixed assets	<u>2</u>	Capital and surplus	<u>250'596</u>
	256'069		256'069

Profit & loss account 30.09.2011

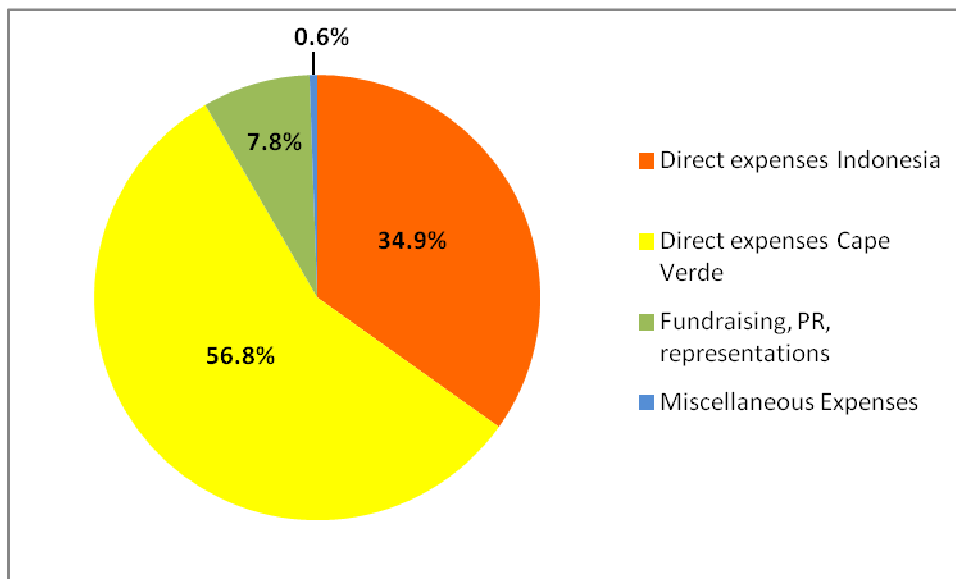
EXPENSES	30.09.2011 EUR	PROCEEDS	30.09.2011 EUR
East Kalimantan, Indonesia		Donations, grants	
<i>Investments and cost of material</i>		Private donors and corporations	35'171
Boats: operation and maintenance	24'836	Public institutions	47'320
Building: aquisit., operat.& maintenance	7'493	Charitable organizations	248'017
Material & equipment	675		
Project reserve, miscellaneous	4'806	Total donations, grants	330'507
<i>Direct Expenses for investment and cost of material</i>	37'810	Sale of products	7'905
<i>Personnel, project cost, communication, representation</i>		Interest	11
Salaries	26'192		
Housekeeping & Food for staff members	20'905	Gain/loss on exchange	4'439
Transport costs excl. boat transfers	358		
Operation & maintenance office	4'467		
Representation, lobbying, PR	1'296		
<i>Direct Expenses for personnel, project cost, communication, representation</i>	53'218		
<i>Direct Expenses for East Kalimantan, Indonesia</i>	91'028		
Cape Verde Islands			
Investments, acquisitions	21'244		
Salaries and fees	50'607		
Rental costs (building)	15'328		
Food and beverage	20'455		
Transport costs and fuel	8'707		
Travel costs	11'549		
Miscellaneous	20'308		
Local accounts	0		
Use MTCA due	0		
<i>Direct Expenses for Cape Verde Islands</i>	148'198		
Support of foreign projects	1'178		
Capital expenditure	305		
Depreciations	0		
Fundraising, PR	20'156		
Representations	254		
Profit	81'744		
	342'862		342'862

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

Source of funds



Use of funds 01.01. – 30.09.2011



Thanks

The realization 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 30 September 2011.

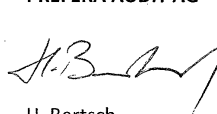
These financial statements are the responsibility of the board of foundation. Our responsibility is to perform a limited statutory examination on these financial statements. We confirm that we meet the licensing and independence requirements as stipulated by Swiss law.


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, 06 February 2012

PREFERA AUDIT AG


H. Bertsch
Audit expert
(Auditor in charge)


P. Guntli
Audit expert

Project Planning 2012

For 2012 we focus on following objectives:

Indonesia

1. Continuing the regular operation of the running conservation measures on Sangalaki, Bilang-Bilangan und Mataha

Also in 2012 our main task will be to ensure the smooth operation of our three existing ranger stations. There is a variety of work and expenditures pending for the renovation of the station-buildings.

2. Construction and operation of a ranger station in the island of Belambangan

With a station on Belambangan island we could also monitor the tiny island of Sambit, which is located close by. We plan this station since 2008 and it is already approved by the local authorities. Unfortunately, until 2011 we were still not able to build it, because we lack the necessary funds for construction and operation. Therefore, we are looking intensively for sponsors for this project. With this station we would be able to protect about 90% of the green turtle's nests in the Derawan archipelago; this would be a very stable basis for the long-term conservation and recovery of the depleted green turtle population in the Derawan archipelago.

In addition to the direct protection of the sea turtles from hunting and egg poaching, our presence on Belambangan will also benefit the protection of the Muaras coral reef. This is a core zone of extremely high biodiversity and an important feeding-ground for the rare hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) that is seriously threatened by destructive fishing practices like bomb fishing etc.

3. Increased involvement of local communities in our conservation programs by environmental education

A common cause of unsustainable exploitation of natural resources is the ignorance of ecological contexts as well as of possible alternatives. Therefore, we will increase our educational activities in the local schools. Further, we are preparing educational brochures about sea turtle protection. A brochure against so-called head starting initiatives, which in Indonesia are still common and even practiced by local conservation agencies, is nearly finished. In this context, we also plan to expand and professionalize our ranger training program basing on our positive experiences with the officials of Pulau Seribu national park.

4. Increased involvement of local communities in our conservation programs by creating alternative income opportunities

The TF is currently looking for possibilities to create alternative and sustainable income opportunities to dissuade people from destructive use of natural resources. Here, the TF already makes a contribution by employing 18 people from the local communities; after all, we also employ people who formerly had to collect turtle eggs to support their families. We see further opportunities in the foundation and/or support of small craft businesses that produce utensils or handicraft art from materials that otherwise are carelessly discarded and pollute the environment. Since due to better infrastructure and access tourism in the area is increasing from year to year, the demand for locally made souvenirs is also developing. Unfortunately, this demand from local and international (diving-)guests has led to an increased use of turtle shell from hawksbill sea turtles for bracelets and other accessories. Creating alternatives for this bad and illegal practice is an important goal for TF.

Cape Verde

For 2012 we focus on following objectives:

1. Sea turtle protection

TF will continue with the monitoring and protection of the nesting beaches covered in 2011. It is planned to set up a "satellite-Camp" in the end of Curral Velho beach which is the furthest extent of the Camp in this area and therefore one of the most threatened parts of the nesting beach.

The collaboration with the scientists from GEOMAR will continue and several studies are planned for 2012. These include monitoring the impact of the RIU Touareg hotel at Lacacão beach and closely monitoring the possible impact of the additional construction planned for this area.

The continually growing tourism sector in Cape Verde and in particular on Boavista will create new conflicts between interests of tourism and conservation and there are still issues TF and local institutions have to work on, like a functioning concept for vehicles close to or on the beach, as well as canalizing unprofessional turtle-watching activities initiated by tourism businesses.

If feasible, in 2012 TF will do a first assessment of the possibility to control illegal poaching of sea turtles at sea, and to control the channels of trade with sea turtles and their meat between the islands.

2. Environmental education and awareness, capacity building

TF will continue with the "School in Nature" program and the other established awareness work like presentations, public events, contests etc. We are also happy to be able to offer our ranger training again.

The support given to smaller projects on other islands in the years before will also continue in 2012. Even if nesting beaches on other islands are small and have only few nesting turtles, they should become part of the protection scheme, because the killing of nesting females is still very common on most of those beaches. We will identify some projects which have the potential for a community based approach and channel some funds to support these groups. Funding of the first community based sea turtle project on Boavista, *Projecto Varandinha* will be continued, too. This project is located in the village of Povacao Velha, which we identified as a good location to get a lot of support from the community. The project will help to close the last remaining gaps in the protection of nesting beaches identified in 2011.

Since 2008, TF has had a presence in the Norte area, consisting of three villages. In each year, the TF team was based in one village (Fundo das Figueiras) and meanwhile the people from the other two villages showed interested in getting more involved as well. Our aim for 2012 is to involve all three villages as much as possible in our conservation strategy.

3. Partnerships on national and international level

TF will strengthen the collaboration with national institutions and stakeholders to approach the conservation of sea turtles in Cape Verde together, not just in the field, but also on a more political level. The fact that the east coast of Boavista was declared a protected area in 2011 and includes nesting beaches monitored by TF in the north-east and the south-east will strengthen our cause.