



TURTLE FOUNDATION

Protecting Sea Turtles and their Habitats

Annual Report 2012



Planning 2013



TURTLE FOUNDATION (SWITZERLAND)
Kerbelstrasse 18 - CH-9470 Buchs
Tel.: ++41 81 756 62 36
Email: schweiz@turtle-foundation.org

Swiss Post, PostFinance
PC-Kontonummer CHF: 40-429368-1
IBAN: CH13 0900 0000 4042 9368 1

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

www.turtle-foundation.org

Our vision ...

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

Our mission ...

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

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Summary of activities and achievements 2012

Project Cape Verde

The Turtle Foundation (TF) started its conservation project on the Cape Verdean island of Boavista in 2008 in response to the massive, illegal slaughter of loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) at their nesting beaches. The Islands of Cape Verde are home to the world's third largest nesting population of this highly endangered species; 90% of the overall nesting activity takes place on Boavista.

Since the beginning of the conservation project in 2008, the scope and quality of the protection measures have increased with each year. Currently, the project includes seven beaches with a total length of about 29 km. The monitoring and protection of these beaches in the nesting season (June to October) is coordinated from two beach camps (Lacacão and Boa Esperança) and a field station (Fundo das Figueiras). Our team now consists of a large group of soldiers, rangers, national and international volunteers and researchers (in 2012 more than 70 volunteers and 20 local employees). As a result of our efforts, the illegal slaughter of the turtles on their nesting beaches has stopped almost completely.

In 2012 TF continued with the program to collect important data about nesting throughout the patrolled area. Among other things, the number of nests and possibly killed turtles is recorded at the monitored beaches every night. In addition, all nesting females, not already tagged are equipped with flipper tags and/or internal "PIT tags" (passive integrated transponder, small microchips for subcutaneous marking). This way we gain important information on the migration and the nesting behaviour of these animals, which also helps us to improve planning and implementation of protection measures. Through collaboration with a research group of the GEOMAR Centre of the University of Kiel, students and PhD students have been integrated into the work of the TF in 2012.

Apart from the direct protection measures, TF implements accompanying measures such as environmental education, awareness campaigns, training, beach clean-up campaigns, etc. In a number of local schools, the highly successful project "School in Nature", which was already held in prior years, has been performed again. In this project, school children participate at several weekends directly in our sea turtle protection program and take an active part in presentations, educational games and sports on the beach.

With financial support from the Liechtenstein Development Service (LED) for the second time, we were able to offer a seven-month training program for local ranger candidates. After their successful completion, participants received an official certificate which is valid anywhere in Cape Verde.

In 2012 the TF supported again the first completely local organization dedicated to the protection of sea turtles, Projecto Varandinha, who are protecting a stretch of beach near their village out of their own initiative.

On August the 3rd 2012 the Cape Verdean NGO "Fundação Tartaruga" (Turtle Foundation) was officially founded on Boavista.

Project Indonesia

The conservation project on the Derawan Islands, East Kalimantan (Indonesia) started in 2000 and was the first project of the Turtle Foundation. The project area is part of the so-called Coral Triangle, the richest marine biodiversity hotspot in the world. Here is the world's eighth largest nesting area for the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), and significant feeding grounds of hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*). Since 1999, all species of sea turtles and their eggs and body parts (tortoiseshell, etc.) have been nominally completely protected under Indonesian law. Nevertheless, on the Derawan islands the local government had awarded concessions for collecting green turtle eggs for decades, only ending the practice in 2001. The result of this collection of almost 100% of the nests laid since the 1940's is the precipitous decline by more than 90% of the turtles and eggs. Other threats to sea turtles in the region include bycatch in local and foreign fisheries, habitat destruction (especially illegal cyanide and bomb fishing) and environmental pollution (plastic waste, waste oils).

With the islands Bilang-Bilangan and Mataha Turtle Foundation currently protects about 50% of turtle nests in Derawan Archipelago. Until late 2012, the Turtle Foundation also maintained a ranger station on the island Sangalaki, which was taken over at the end of the year by the local conservation authority KSDA. Sangalaki contributes about 25% of the nesting activities in the region, so that at present about 75% of the nests are protected.

The current population of annually nesting females of green sea turtles in the entire archipelago is about 3,200-3,400 animals. On the islands Sangalaki, Bilang-Bilangan and Mataha a total annual amount of about 11,238 nests is laid, from which about 930,000 young turtles are hatching. Since the inception of our protection program on the islands (Sangalaki: 2002–2012, Bilang-Bilangan and Mataha: 2008–2012) more than 6.5 million young turtles have been rescued by the Turtle Foundation.

The project islands are uninhabited, so in order to protect the nests from poachers it is necessary to create an infrastructure including a supply chain of shelter, personnel, food, and drinking water. We currently employ a team of 18 local people. Through continuous beach monitoring illegal egg collecting has been eliminated virtually completely. The following additional measures are implemented in order to protect the eggs and the islands:

- Nest relocations (About 20% of the nests are relocated to a hatchery because they were placed too close to the high tide line, and therefore threatened by salt water)
- Beach clean-up (Stranded garbage and driftwood are collected regularly. The disposal is currently done only by burning)
- Data acquisition (From 2002 to 2012 on Sangalaki, and since 2008 on Bilang-Bilangan and Mataha, on a daily basis the rangers have been collecting data on numbers of emergences, nests laid, and eggs per nest, as well as other aspects of population and nesting behavior of green turtles on the islands.)

To ensure the sustainability of the conservation work, education programs for students are conducted to teach the children about their wildlife and nature. In February 2012, two elementary schools in the coastal town of Batu Putih and the Island of Balikpapan, both inhabited mainly by fishermen, were visited, and at the end of June, a class of the state vocational school for Fisheries of Berau was invited to attend a two-day teaching seminar on Sangalaki.

Financial statement 01.10.2011.-30.09.2012

The Board of Trustees decided unanimously, due to administrative reasons, to move the closing date of the financial statements to September 30th. Thus the current fiscal year comprises the period 01.10.2011-30.09.2012.

Balance sheet as per 30.09.2012

ASSETS	30.09.2012 EUR	PASSIVEN	30.09.2012 EUR
Cash and cash equivalents	117'977	Accounts payable	142
Receivables	3'830	Accruals	0
Accounts paid in advance	66'000	Committed assets	142
Umlaufvermögen	187'806		
Tangible assets	2	Capital and surplus	250'596
Financial assets	0	Expenditure surplus	-62'930
Fixed assets	2	Capital and surplus	187'666
	187'808		187'808



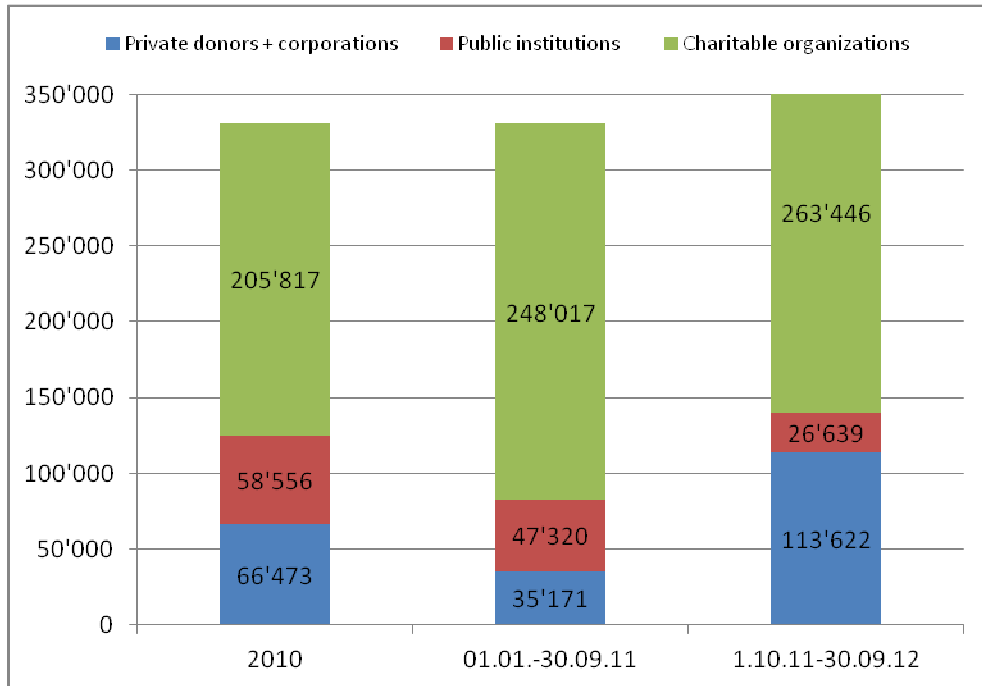
Disregarding our achievements so far, the sea turtles in our project regions are still threatened with extinction: on Boavista (left picture) we still encounter the remainings of poached loggerhead turtles from time to time. In Indonesia (right picture) we can not always protect the hatchlings of the green sea turtles on their dangerous way to the sea from natural enemies like monitor lizards and birds.

Profit & loss account 01.10.2011-30.09.2012

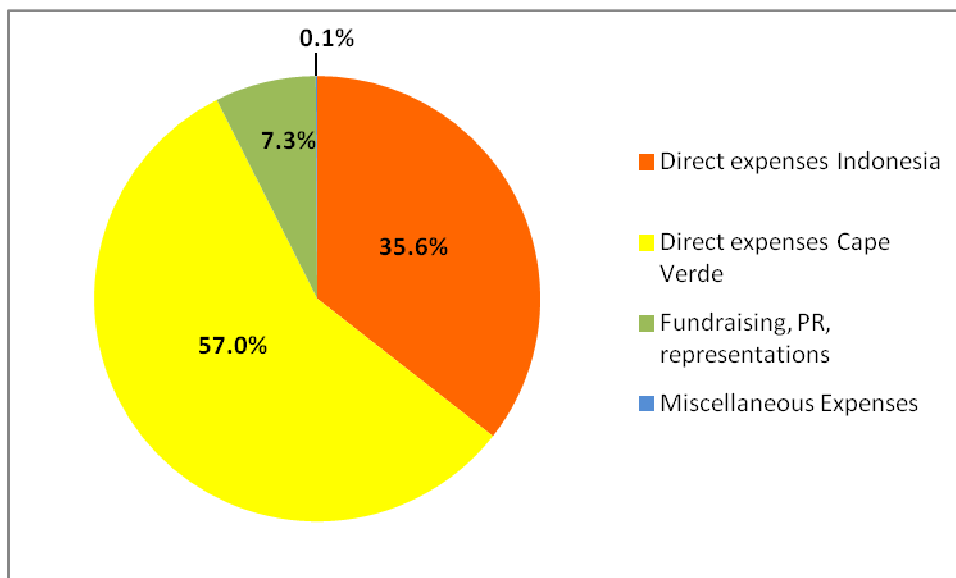
EXPENSES	30.09.2012 EUR	PROCEEDS	30.09.2012 EUR
East Kalimantan, Indonesia		Donations, grants	
<i>Investments and cost of material</i>		Private donors and corporations	113'622
Boats: operation and maintenance	22'548	Public institutions	26'639
Car Costs	29'531		
Building: aquisit., operat.& maintenance	7'141	Charitable organizations	263'446
Material & equipment	828		
Project reserve, miscellaneous	31'950	Total donations, grants	403'707
<i>Direct Expenses for investment and cost of material</i>	91'998	Sale of products	20'173
<i>Personnel, project cost, communication, representation</i>		Interest	255
Salaries	41'221	Gain/loss on exchange	3'242
Housekeeping & Food for staff members	28'786	Expenditure surplus	62'930
Transport costs excl. boat transfers	293		
Operation & maintenance office	6'730		
Representation, lobbying, PR	5'376		
<i>Direct Expenses for personnel, project cost, communication, representation</i>	82'406		
<i>Direct Expenses for East Kalimantan, Indonesia</i>	174'404		
Cape Verde Islands			
Investments, acquisitions	47'870		
Salaries and fees	78'289		
Cost of operation building, office, camp	22'703		
Cost of operation camp, gas, food, water	41'072		
Cost of operation vehicles/generators	13'340		
Local protection programs / Varadinha	11'769		
Travel costs	11'775		
Other, PR & advertising	19'959		
Education program School in Nature	7'981		
LED Ranger training	6'542		
Patrols	5'307		
Research	1'818		
Workshop	1'247		
MTCA/ TAOLA Meeting	9'723		
Settlement account costs Kapverden	0		
<i>Direct Expenses for Cape Verde Islands</i>	279'394		
Support of foreign projects	0		
Capital expenditure	539		
Depreciations	0		
Fundraising, PR	26'780		
Advertising, representations	9'190		
	490'306		490'306

All members of the board of foundation work on a volunteer basis without any salary payments. During the reporting period we have made investments of approximately EUR 80'000.

Source of funds



Use of funds 01.10.2011-30.09.2012



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):

P R E F E R A

AUDIT AG

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 2012.

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, 11 March 2013

PREFERA AUDIT AG


 H. Bertsch
 Audit expert
 (Auditor in charge)


 P. Guntli
 Audit expert

Project Planning 2013

Cape Verde

1. Protection of sea turtles

The protection and monitoring of the beach areas covered in 2012, which include Aqua Doce, Boa Esperança, beaches of the north coast, Canto, Curral Velho, Ponta Pesqueira and Lacacão will be conducted again in 2013 in the months of June to October.

The collaboration with the GEOMAR Centre continues and the studies which have been started in 2012 on the beach of Lacacão will be carried forward. These include studies on stress and disturbance of the turtle population by RIU Touareg hotel, especially regarding the effects of night time lighting. Additional threats by other construction activities that are planned in this area will be assessed as well.

The constantly increasing tourism activities in Cape Verde, which affect Boavista in particular, are leading more often to conflicts between the interests of tourism and conservation. In collaboration with various local stakeholders the TF seeks to develop strategies to meet these new challenges. Especially the vehicle traffic on the beaches has to be regulated and standards for turtle watching tours have to be implemented.

2. Environmental education

TF will continue its successful "School in Nature" program, along with other established measures for environmental education, such as presentations, public events, competitions etc.

3. Establishing alternative sources of income

The handicrafts project of making and marketing locally produced souvenirs initiated by the TF in 2011 will continue in the coming years. TF also seeks to develop more alternative sources of income in agriculture and tourism.

4. National and international partnerships

The TF will continue and strengthen the cooperation with national institutions and stakeholders to achieve better protection of sea turtles in Cape Verde, not only directly on the beach, but also on a political level. The fact that the nesting beaches in the northeast and southeast of the island which are guarded by TF are located in an official conservation area will support our positions. Through the good cooperation between TF and the management of protected areas in Boavista, various projects have been implemented last year already.

Indonesia

1. Continued work on the protection of Bilang-Bilangan and Mataha

The main objective for 2013 is the continuation of the protection of sea turtles and their habitats, including nesting data from the islands of Bilang-Bilangan and Mataha.

2. Renovation of the ranger stations on Bilang-Bilangan and Mataha

With the financial support of WWF, the urgently-needed expansion and renovation of the station buildings on Bilang-Bilangan and Mataha will be carried out.

3. Human Capacity Development

Most members of our local team have enjoyed only a very basic education. A few of them have even learned to read and write only after they started to work with us. To provide them with a better development of their professional opportunities, but also to ensure the quality of the protection work, we present a training program for rangers on duty for the protection of sea turtles and marine habitats.

4. Field trip for supporters of the Turtle Foundation

New this year, offered to a maximum of six sponsors of the Turtle Foundation, will be the opportunity to spend a week at our project site on Bilang-Bilangan Island, and then to stay at the Eco Dive Resort on neighboring Nunukan island. About half of the booking price will go into our conservation project.

5. Souvenir projects Derawan and Maratua

To create new, sustainable sources of income, we are developing an alternative arts and crafts project, including souvenir distribution opportunities for self-employed women, who currently sell as souvenir jewelry made from protected species of coral and tortoiseshell.

6. Head Starting brochure

Last year an educational brochure against so-called Head Starting was created. In Indonesia, this practice is still considered an appropriate and beneficial method of increasing hatchlings' survival in the sea. However, it is widely agreed by the scientific community that this method is actually harmful, as it removes hatchlings from the wild and generally keeps them in overcrowded, unsanitary conditions, resulting in high mortality and illness. Furthermore, commercial interests are often the actual background for Head Starting projects in Indonesia. The brochure will be printed this year and distributed in Indonesia using local partners.

7. Science

Soon the publication „Population assessment and conservation status of the green turtle nesting population in the Derawan (Berau) archipelago of Borneo, Indonesia“ will be submitted to an international scientific journal for publication. It includes the longest and most comprehensive survey of a marine turtle population in Indonesia and also shows the historical development of the population in the context of decades of massive exploitation by egg collectors. Another publication on the nesting behavior of green turtles on our islands is in preparation.