

TURTLE FOUNDATION

Protecting Sea Turtles and their Habitats

Annual Report **2018**



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Fundação Tartaruga Cabo Verde: Euclides Resende

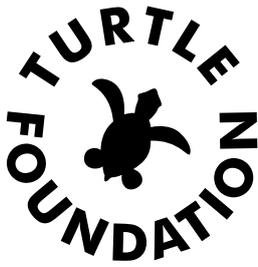
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TURTLE FOUNDATION

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Content

PREFACE	2
TURTLE FOUNDATION	3
PROJECTS 2018	3
MEDIA & PUBLICATIONS 2018	11
FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1 OCTOBER 2017 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2018	12
SOURCE OF FUNDS	14
USE OF FUNDS 1 OCTOBER 2017 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2018	14
AUDIT REPORT	15
PROJECT PLANNING 2019	16
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	17

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

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

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Cover: Leatherback sea turtle (Brendan Delzin, Shutterstock.com). **Content images:** Turtle Foundation (if not mentioned otherwise)



PREFACE

Dear friends and supporters of Turtle Foundation,

Looking back on the time when I started working as the coordinator and biologist of Turtle Foundation's Boavista project in 2007, many things seemed easier than they are today. Back then, our main task was to stop the rampant poaching of nesting loggerhead sea turtles on the beaches. With the help of night-time beach patrols supported by the Cape Verdean military, this mission seemed to be quickly accomplished.

However, the work just seemed simpler because we fought only one of the many threats to the survival of the sea turtles – albeit the most urgent at that time. In the meantime, we got the big picture, and today we are using more holistic strategies. Drones with a thermal imaging camera are used now to protect the beaches, and soon specially trained conservation dogs will help to track down turtle poachers and their contraband. Through cooperation with research institutes and our own investigations, we continuously learn new aspects about the biology and behavior of the sea turtles and can adapt our strategies to the findings. Today we work hand in hand with other organizations to join forces. Most important, however, is the involvement of the local population in sea turtle protection, which is critical to the success of conservation efforts. For example through information and environmental education, but above all through direct participation and improvement of living conditions, we seek in the long term to inevitably improve the general attitude and motivation towards the protection of sea turtles. This is the direction we are now also going in our projects in Indonesia.

We owe the fact that all this is possible to the donors and sponsors of Turtle Foundation. On behalf of Turtle Foundation, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of those who contributed to our projects either financially or through active help in our projects on location or from their home lands!

In the projects on site we do what we can do. But the threats to sea turtles and marine ecosystems go much deeper. Overfishing and by-catch through industrial fishing, climate change, and ocean pollution are the important keywords here. In order to help sea turtles and our oceans effectively and sustainably, it is just as important for everybody to question his own behavior. What can I do to minimize my contribution to overfishing, climate change, and generation of waste? By our individual consumer behavior, each person can be both part of the solution as well as a shining example for others.

*Christian Roder
Board member of Turtle Foundation Germany*



TURTLE FOUNDATION

Turtle Foundation is an international association of closely linked organizations dedicated to the protection of sea turtles and their habitats. It currently consists of six national bodies registered in their respective countries as charitable, tax-exempt organizations under local laws: Turtle Foundation (TF) Germany (since 2000), TF Switzerland (since 2006), TF USA (since 2006), TF Cape Verde (since 2012; local name: *Fundação Tartaruga*), TF Liechtenstein (since 2014), and TF Indonesia (since 2018; local name: *Yayasan Penyu Indonesia*). In addition in Germany, the friends association *Turtle Foundation Friends e. V.* is registered as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. Turtle Foundation primarily conducts operational activities and currently runs two conservation projects in Indonesia and one in Cape Verde. Our aim is to prevent the imminent extinction of sea turtles, to enable re-growth of the depleted populations back to healthy levels, and to prevent mistreatment of sea turtles. We foster the sustainability of our conservation projects by environmental education activities and by programs to create alternative income opportunities for the local population, with a focus on environmentally compatible and sustainable use of coastal and marine habitats.

Yayasan Penyu Indonesia (YPI; Turtle Foundation Indonesia) was founded in 2018 in Indonesia as the sixth independent national institution of Turtle Foundation; the charter was signed on 27 July 2018. After many years of involvement in this country, this step finally became possible due to recent changes in the local legal situation.

Turtle Foundation concentrates its activities and funds primarily on its own projects. In exceptional cases, however, we also support external sea turtle conservation initiatives that are particularly outstanding for their activity and impact through financial contributions. In 2018, one such project



The logos of Turtle Foundation (international), Fundação Tartaruga (Cape Verde) and Yayasan Penyu Indonesia (Indonesia).

was the turtle rescue initiative of *Lampedusa Turtle Rescue*. In the high-traffic waters around the Mediterranean island of Lampedusa, sea turtles are frequently injured by boats, ships, and fishing hooks. The organization, which has been operating purely on voluntary basis for 30 years, cares for around 200 injured turtles per year and runs regional education and awareness programs.

PROJECTS 2018

Indonesia, Derawan archipelago

Project background

The conservation project on the Derawan Islands in the Berau district of the Indonesian province of East Kalimantan on Borneo has been in place since the formation of Turtle Foundation in 2000. There, the eighth largest nesting area of the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) in the world is located, spread over several islands. The



Green sea turtle in the Derawan archipelago after hatching from the nest on its way to the sea.



New project island Belambangan in the Derawan archipelago off the coast of East Borneo.

population is currently only about 10% of the population 70 years ago and is still threatened by illegal collection of its eggs. In addition, the hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) lives in the coral reefs of the archipelago, only rarely nesting on the islands. These animals are threatened with extinction, but they are still heavily hunted: jewelry is made from the turtle's shell, smaller animals are often stuffed as wall decorations and illegally offered for sale.

Since the year 2000, rangers engaged by Turtle Foundation have protected important nesting islands of the archipelago from egg theft: first Sangalaki, and from 2008 also Bilang-Bilangan and Mataha. In 2012, the protection of Sangalaki was taken over by the local nature conservation authority BKSDA, while Turtle Foundation continued work on Bilang-Bilangan and Mataha. The conservation measures on the islands were carried out by local organizations, which were supported technically, logistically and financially by Turtle Foundation. Since the beginning of the project until the end of the cooperation with the local implementing organization BLB in October 2017, the hatching of approx. 9 million young turtles has been made possible; most of which would otherwise have ended up in the cooking pots while still in the egg stage.

In Indonesia, Turtle Foundation has been working closely with the renowned Indonesian animal

and species conservation organization *Profauna* for many years. In recent years, special financial and technical support for *Profauna* has been provided for intensive cooperation in the Berau project, particularly in environmental education, public relations, advocacy, and investigative research.

New conservation project on Belambangan

We unfortunately had to terminate our cooperation with the implementing project partner BLB in October 2017. Since then, BLB has tried to maintain the protection project on Bilang-Bilangan and Mataha on its own, but its success is at best unclear. To avoid conflicts, we therefore decided in November 2018 to concentrate our efforts on establishing a new conservation project on the hitherto unprotected nesting island of Belambangan. We have been endeavoring to do this for years, but it has not been possible for financial reasons. The majority of the turtle eggs still illegally traded in the region come from this island, where about 15% of the Derawan archipelago's green sea turtle nesting activity takes place. The new conservation program is being set up with the approval of the local government through our new Indonesian subsidiary YPI.

In recent years, due to political and legal imponderables on Sangalaki as well as on the neighboring islands Bilang-Bilangan and Mataha, a situation has arisen which clearly questions the



Track of a green sea turtle on the beach of Belambangan that nested the night before. To the right on the horizon, the neighboring lighthouse island Sambit is faintly visible, on which turtles also nest and which is also monitored from Belambangan.

effective protection of the green sea turtles nesting there. We will continue to look for ways to improve the situation.

Investigation and threat analysis

In 2018, *Profauna* was commissioned by Turtle Foundation to carry out on-site investigative research into the current threats to the local sea turtle and other marine fauna.

As has been observed regularly for several years, some consumption of turtle meat occurs in the Berau region, especially on New Year's day. In 2018, however, we were no longer able to directly detect such an incident. Probably, a video and a brochure produced by *Profauna* warning of the dangers of poisoning after eating turtle meat (*chelonitoxism*) contributed to this encouraging development. Furthermore, during an official action in December 2018, about 3,600 poached turtle eggs were confiscated.

A veritable ecological disaster is caused by illegal fishing with explosives in the coral reefs of the archipelago. In 2017, in August and September alone, we observed 140 cases and reported them to the authorities. As a result, the local police and navy carried out several intervening operations. Additionally, former bomb fishermen were interviewed for finding ways to support people who had dropped out from this activity. In 2018, bomb fishing incidents decreased significantly as a result of these measures.



Left: On Belambangan, ranger Beny Piama relocates a green turtle nest endangered by flooding. **Right:** As on all islands of the archipelago, driftwood arising from the extensive deforestation on the mainland of Borneo forms serious obstacles for nesting sea turtles as well as hatchlings trying to reach the sea. Therefore, it must be regularly removed from the beaches to maintain their quality as nesting habitat.



Drawing action in the course of an environmental education program at a school in the district capital Tanjung Redeb.

Environmental education, public relations, and advocacy

Profauna regularly visits schools and other educational institutions in the Berau district to discuss nature conservation and the situation of the sea turtles. In a total of 30 school visits in 2018, 1,760 pupils, students, and apprentices were reached. A series of videos, brochures, and info-graphics on various environmental topics were produced and distributed. Numerous discussions were held with stakeholders from government and communities on issues of appropriate protection of the breeding islands, but also on general questions of local nature conservation in order to raise awareness for the interests of sea turtles and marine conservation.

Protection of hawksbill sea turtles

A very serious problem in the Derawan archipelago is the hunting of hawksbill turtles, from which stuffed specimens or turtle shell jewelry are produced and sold to tourists. Since 2014, Turtle Foundation has been increasingly committed to the protection of the local hawksbill turtles. Relevant markets and shops in the region were regularly inspected and illegal sale of hawksbill turtle products was reported to the authorities. In December 2018, an official confiscation action took place on the island of Derawan.

Overall, trade in hawksbill turtle products appears to have significantly declined in the Berau region.

Indonesia, Sipora

During an investigation into the consumption of turtle meat and eggs in the Mentawai archipelago off West Sumatra, in late autumn 2017 we discovered on the remote island of Sipora a nesting beach of the leatherback turtle that was unknown to the outside world until then – the beach of Buggeisiata. Little is known about the local population of this largest sea turtle species. It is part of the regional subpopulation of the northeastern Indian Ocean, whose main nesting areas are the



Hatchery and released leatherback turtle hatchlings on the beach of Buggeisiata on Sipora.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and which is most likely threatened with extinction.

Unfortunately, we realized that both eggs and the nesting animals were consumed almost completely by the local people. In cooperation with the nature conservation authority *BPSPL Padang* on Sumatra, we initiated a conservation project for this exceptional nesting beach. Special emphasis is placed on the integration of the local communities. In the 2017/2018 nesting season, 65 leatherback turtle nests were counted; this does not seem much compared to the nest numbers of the other projects, but every egg counts for these highly endangered animals. Unfortunately, 26 nests were stolen because the beach is very long, impassable, and therefore difficult to monitor. Two nests were flooded, but 34 nests could be transferred in time to a hatchery, where the eggs could develop protected against theft. The three remaining nests developed on the beach under natural conditions. The project continued with the start of the 2018/2019 nesting season last October. The beaches are patrolled every night by staff of Turtle Foundation and local rangers. Nesting and biometric data are collected in a standardized manner, and turtles are tagged to learn more about this newly discovered population in order to further enhance protection measures. No nesting leatherback turtles have been killed on this beach since the start of our activities.



Measuring and tagging of a nesting loggerhead turtle by our rangers on the beach of Boa Esperança.

For the first time in Indonesia, we have started to establish and use a series of metal tags registered in an international database at the University of Florida. In cooperation with the Ministry of Marine Affairs, it is planned to extend this series gradually to all turtle projects in Indonesia. Furthermore, we have initiated a cooperation with the Indian *Dakshin Foundation*, which runs a protection program for leatherback turtles on the Andaman Islands. In December, the Indian biologist Adhith Swaminathan visited the Island of Sipora with the aim to synchronize the methods of data collection and tagging between the two projects. These measures to protect the particularly rare leatherback turtles were officially approved in October 2018 by a cooperation agreement between *Yayasan Penyuluhan Indonesia* and the Ministry of Marine Affairs.

Cape Verde

Project background

The island country of Cape Verde off the coast of West Africa is home to the world's third largest nesting population of the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), of which about two thirds nest on the Island of Boavista. The population is classified as "endangered" and is one of the 11 most threatened sea turtle populations in the world. The most serious threat is poaching of females that come ashore to nest. However, illegal hunting at sea, unwanted by-catches in fishing operations, pollution at sea and on the beaches, and uncontrolled tourism development are also large contributors to sea turtle and hatchling mortality. Alarmed by the report of 1,200 turtles killed on Boavista's beaches in 2007, Turtle Foundation launched its conservation project on Boavista in 2008.

Since 2017, the cooperation with the locally active conservation organizations *Cabo Verde Natura 2000* and *BIOS.CV* has been intensified within the framework of a special funding program by the

Swiss nature conservation organization *MAVA Fondation pour la Nature* through defining cross-sectional tasks, sharing responsibilities, and thus, creating valuable synergies. Turtle Foundation took over the direction of development cooperation, while *Cabo Verde Natura 2000* and *BIOS.CV* are responsible for the coordination of scientific work (*Natura 2000*) and environmental education (*BIOS.CV*).

Protection of nesting beaches

The core activity of Turtle Foundation and its local sister organization *Fundação Tartaruga* is the protection of nesting beaches through night patrols of local rangers and international volunteers during the nesting season from June to end of October. In 2018, we protected about 40 kilometers of beach from poaching. The patrols were carried out through five temporary field stations (beach camps), and two groups from the villages of Povoação Velha and Bofareira that were supported by us financially and logistically (community-based conservation projects).

After the number of nesting turtles on Boavista had already reached record levels in the previous two years, there was another unexpected increase in nesting activity in 2018 – by a factor of three! The reasons for this dramatic increase are not yet clear and are currently the subject of intense discussion among experts. In total, we

counted 17,181 nests (2017: 5,650) on the beaches we managed, which were laid by about 3,430 individual animals (2017: 1,130). The protection of these large numbers of nesting turtles posed great logistical challenges for our teams, but these could be successfully managed. Although the absolute number of proven cases of poaching increased slightly to 35 (2017: 21) due to the high number of turtles, which provided many poaching opportunities, the documented poaching rate of 1.0% of the total number of nesting female turtles was significantly lower compared to 2017 (1.9%).

In addition to the regular beach patrols, our new project for combating poaching by means of beach surveillance with a night vision drone played a major role in decreasing the poaching rate. For this project, a special team was trained, which was supported and accompanied by the local police. During the nesting season, over 70 night missions were carried out monitoring selected beaches particularly affected by poaching activities, including the high-density nesting beaches managed by *Cabo Verde Natura 2000* in the East of Boavista. There, we achieved a reduction in recorded poaching from 214 cases in 2017 to only 35 in 2018, corresponding to a reduction of 84%!

To protect nests exposed to particular threats (large hotel complex on the beach, exceptionally



Left: One of our five beach camps, here at the beach of Boa Esperança, from where the night patrols are carried out. **Right:** Day training of the drone team; critical procedures like take-off and landing on a fixed tarpaulin have to be practiced continuously in order to work smoothly at night.



This image of our thermal drone on one of the eastern beaches of Boavista from a height of about 60 m at night impressively demonstrates the huge rush of nesting turtles in the 2018 season. Two rangers of the organization Cabo Verde Natura 2000 measure and tag a turtle, while other animals nest in the immediate vicinity (arrows).

high predation by crabs), we have increased the capacity of our hatcheries on the beaches of Boa Esperança in the North and Ponta Pesqueira in the Southeast of the island. A total of 428 nests were relocated (2017: 196 nests) and more than 24,800 hatchlings were released into the sea. The hatching rate achieved (approx. 75%) was significantly higher than that of nests left at beach (33% average hatching rate at Água Doce and Boa Esperança).



The hatchery on the beach of Boa Esperança was built for the first time in 2017 and extended in 2018; it serves both protection and research purposes.



During the great rush of nesting turtles in the 2018 season, animals repeatedly lost their way in the residential areas of the island capital Sal Rei and had to be carried back to the sea.

The turtles are not only threatened on the beaches by poachers, but are also caught off the coasts by fishermen. The extent of these catches is not yet clear, but there is evidence that the successful protection of beaches is increasingly shifting poaching pressure to the sea. In a pilot study commissioned by us, the influence of artisanal fishing on loggerhead sea turtles in their mating areas off the East coast of Boavista was investigated for the first time. The results of this study will help us to deepen our relationship and cooperation with the local fishermen.

Data collection and research

Since 2010, nesting turtles have been measured and tagged to gather information that is important for planning further conservation strategies. In the 2018 nesting season, a record number of 2,068 turtles was newly tagged. On the other hand, only about 200 animals tagged in previous

years were encountered. The high number of animals tagged to date by Turtle Foundation and other organizations would suggest a significantly higher rate of returning animals. The situation observed could indicate that a high percentage of the animals observed in 2018 nested on Boavista for the first time; however, data are still being evaluated. In addition, a research group at *Queen Mary University London*, in collaboration with Turtle Foundation, worked on scientific studies on various topics (migration routes, genetic and ecological diversity of the Cape Verdean nesting population, parasite infestation and its effects).

Community engagement

Only if we succeed in creating a common future for people and sea turtles will our work be successful. Turtle Foundation engaged the experienced community coordinator Carla Corsino, who started in cooperation with the local communities, and as part of the MAVA funding, a comprehensive participatory development program in spring 2018. The activities started with an analysis of the needs and wishes of the population, for which public meetings were held in different communities. Based on the results, we developed a plan of 20 individual projects, which are grouped under the following six categories:

- Training to increase skills and competencies

- Promotion of creative and sports skills among children and youth
- Training in organic farming
- Training in food processing and product diversification
- Aids and investment grants for the purchase of equipment for professional purposes
- Promoting healthy lifestyles, safety, and communication in the community and at work.

Examples include the purchase of bicycles for children in the village of Cabeça dos Tarafes to help them get to school safely and attend school regularly, a project to produce organic soap and natural cosmetics, the purchase of agricultural equipment, and an integrated water sports program for local children, most of whom have not yet learned to swim properly.

In addition, the proportion of Cape Verdeans directly involved in the conservation project also increased. In total, including the community-based projects on Boavista, 93 people were employed either year-round or seasonally (mostly rangers), 88 (95%) of whom were Cape Verdeans. In addition, 51 volunteers participated in the project, with 47 of them coming from different European countries and 4 Cape Verdean residents. While the foreign volunteers financed their stay themselves and supported the project with a financial contribution, the lodgings and meals in the camps



Left: New bicycles secure the way to school for the children of Cabeça dos Tarafes. **Right:** As part of our youth development program, drums were built and five guitars provided for the musical education of the children of the village of João Galego.

were free of charge for local volunteers as part of our support program.

Public relations and environmental education

The coordination of environmental education and the implementation of most of the related projects was taken over by the organization *BIOS.CV* in the course of the new division of responsibilities. Accordingly, for the first time since 2010, the "School in Nature" program was no longer carried out by us. Comparable educational events for children and young people were held in the *BIOS.CV* camp on the beach of João Barrosa.

In cooperation with the German conservation organization *Aktionsgemeinschaft Artenschutz* (AGA) a poster exhibition on the topic "Threats and Protection of Sea Turtles" was publicly presented at Boavista on various occasions in different locations. This exhibition was developed by AGA, and was adapted by us to the situation in Cape Verde and translated into Portuguese. Two additional sets of this exhibition were made available free of charge to the conservation projects on the neighboring islands of Sal and Maio.

Advocacy

The Fundação Tartaruga/Turtle Foundation is an active founding member of the Cape Verdean network for the protection of sea turtles TAOLA (*Tartaruga Kriola*). The annual conference of TAOLA members was organized by *Fundação Tartaruga* on Boavista in April 2018.

Sea turtles have been legally protected in Cape Verde since 2002, but the killing of animals has only been classified as an administrative offence and was only rarely officially prosecuted. Since May 2018, however, a new law has been in force that defines the killing of sea turtles, as well as trade and consumption of turtle products as an official offence and imposes severe fines and

prison sentences. Together with the other TAOLA members, Turtle Foundation played a significant role in the creation of this law.

In the course of the nesting season 2018, the first arrests and prosecutions of poachers on the basis of this new law took place on the Islands of Sal and Santo Antão.

MEDIA & PUBLICATIONS 2018

Media presence (selection)

- Visbeck, M. (2018): «**No stress!**» – **Mein Sommer mit der Turtle Foundation** ("No stress!" – My summer with Turtle Foundation). *Nereus* (Switzerland), Issue 4, pp. 12–13
- Brunner, M. (2018): **Die schildbewehrten Ur-tiere der Ozeane brauchen mehr Schutz** (The shielded prehistoric creatures of the oceans need more protection). *Habari* (Switzerland), Issue 3, pp. 8–10
- Beck, J. (2018): **Schweizer Spürhunde für den Schildkrötenschutz** (Swiss tracking dogs for sea turtle protection). *Tierwelt* (Switzerland), Issue 51/52, pp. 34–35

Online versions at <https://www.turtle-foundation.org/en/organization/downloads-en/>

Own publications

- Reischig, T., Resende, E., Cordes, H. (2018): **Drones for turtles: Controlling poaching of nesting loggerhead sea turtles with night vision unmanned aerial vehicles on Boavista Island, Cabo Verde**. *African Sea Turtle Newsletter*, Issue 10, pp. 9–13

Online version at <https://www.turtle-foundation.org/en/organization/publications/>



FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1 OCTOBER 2017 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

The current fiscal year covers the period from 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017. All members of the board of the foundation work on a volunteer basis without any salary payments.

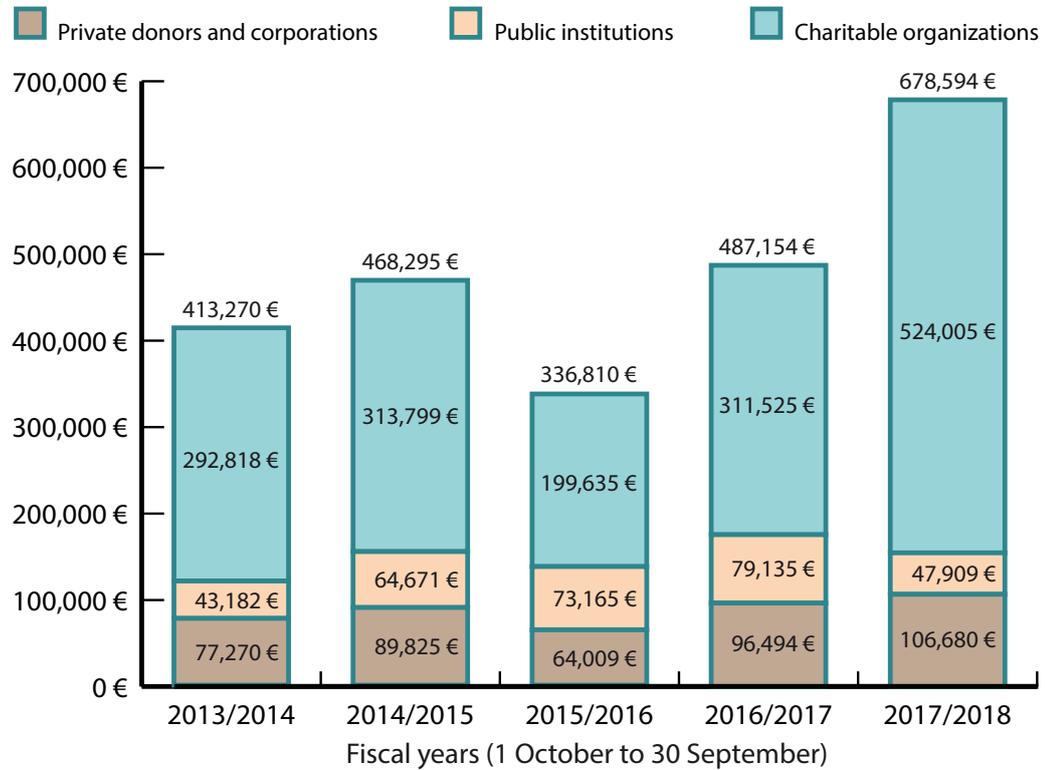
Balance sheet as per 30 September 2018

ASSETS	30.09.2018 EUR	LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	30.09.2018 EUR
Cash and cash equivalent	859,836	Accounts payable	94,173
Receivables	4,082	Deferrals	425,633
Accounts paid in advance	0	Accruals	50,000
Current assets	863,918	Committed assets	569,806
Tangible assets	77,002	Capital and surplus	372,921
Fixed assets	77,002	Expenditure surplus	-1,807
		Capital and surplus	371,114
	940,920		940,920

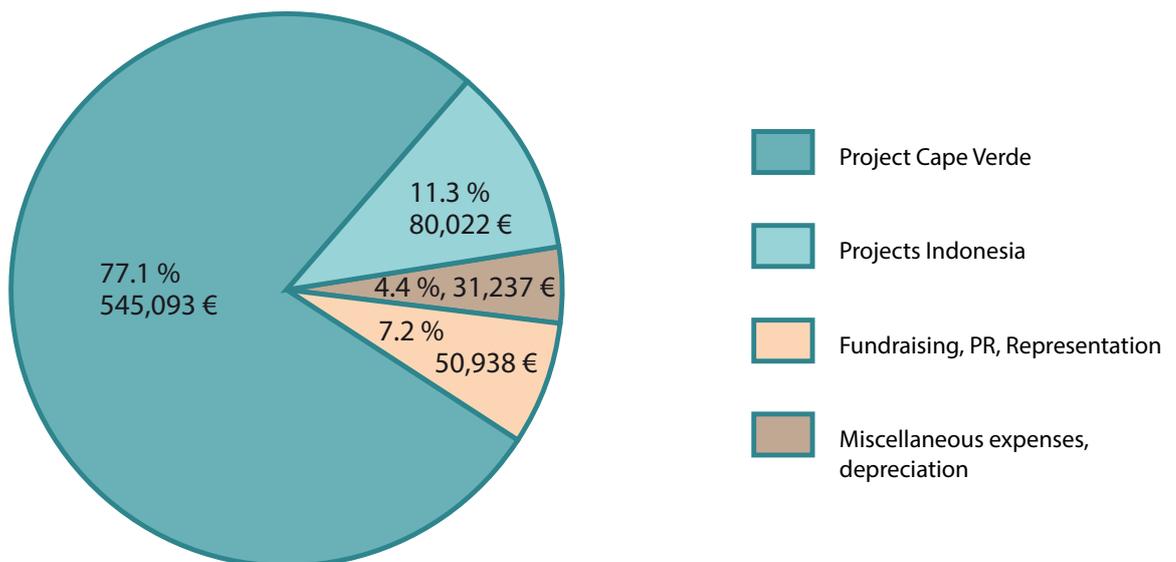
Profit & loss account 1 October 2017 – 30 September 2018

EXPENSES	30.09.2018 EUR	PROCEEDS	30.09.2018 EUR
Projects Indonesia		Donations, grants	
Direct project expenses	80,022	Private donors and cooperations	106,680
		Public institutions	47,909
Direct expenses for Indonesia	80,022	Charitable organizations	524,005
		Total donations, grants	678,594
Project Cape Verde		Sale of products	28,871
Coordination and overhead	176,794	Interests	0
Project management in Europe	39,500	Gain/loss on exchange	-1,982
Surveillance of nesting areas	288,956		
Community engagement	14,386		
Measures to enhance the reproductive success of the sea turtles	5,537		
Data collection and research	10,897		
Expenses for organizational development	9,023		
Direct expenses for Cape Verde	545,093		
Support of foreign projects	2,562		
Capital expenditure	675		
Depreciation	28,800		
Fundraising, PR	48,298		
Advertising, representation	2,640		
Allocation to research fund	0		
Expenditure surplus	-1,807		
	705,483		705,483

SOURCE OF FUNDS



USE OF FUNDS 1 OCTOBER 2017 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2018



AUDIT REPORT

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



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

As statutory auditor, we have examined the financial statements (balance sheet, income statement and notes) of Turtle Foundation (Switzerland) for the year ended September 30, 2018.

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 operational 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, January 30, 2019

Prefera Audit AG

H. Bertsch
Audit expert
(Auditor in charge)

M. Nadig
Audit expert



PROJECT PLANNING 2019

Indonesia

Setup of the protection project on Belambangan

On the so far unprotected Derawan island Belambangan, a guard station will be built and operated in coordination with the local government. The station will enable and ensure the permanent presence of 4–6 rangers on the otherwise uninhabited island. The rangers will monitor the nesting beaches of Belambangan all year round and protect both nesting turtles and their nests from poachers. They will also collect basic data on the nesting activity of the animals according to the standard protocols.

Public relations and environmental education

School visits and presentations will be held to raise public awareness.

Protection of hawksbill turtles

It is not only in the Derawan archipelago that hawksbill turtles are threatened by hunting for their shell and to produce stuffed specimens; the problem affects the whole of Indonesia. To save Indonesia's hawksbill turtles, we are launching a nationwide campaign to reduce both demand for and trade in such products. The project is carried out in cooperation with the US-American initiative "Too Rare to Wear" and is managed from Bali.

Protection of the leatherback turtles on Sipora

The protection program for the leatherback turtles nesting beach Buggeisiata, Sipora, will be continued in cooperation with the local nature conservation authority BPSPL Padang. The involvement of the local population will be further deepened through direct activities in the project, environmental education, and supportive measures. The survey for further nesting areas of leatherback turtles on the west coast of Sumatra and on offshore islands will also be continued.

Cape Verde

General strategy

The extended funding by the *MAVA Fondation pour la Nature* will be evaluated this year, and the re-

sults will be incorporated in a new three-year plan (2020–2022). We expect the cooperation with the organizations *BIOS.CV* and *Cabo Verde Natura 2000* to continue, as the synergies created will enable an increase in the efficiency of nature conservation work, environmental education, and development cooperation on Boavista.

Protection of nesting beaches

The protection of nesting beaches by night patrols will continue in the established manner. To this end, five temporary beach camps will be set up during the nesting season and the two community-based conservation projects in the villages of Povoação Velha and Bofareira will receive financial, technical, and logistical support. The night vision drone project started in 2018 will be reviewed in light of the experience gained. It will be continued in cooperation with the national police in order to further curb poaching by deterring and, if necessary, prosecuting perpetrators. At the same time, the conservation dog project will be further developed; the search dogs Karetta and Kelo, which are still in training, will be brought from the training center in Switzerland to Boavista for the first time in 2019. These alternative protection techniques should help to reduce the number of the personnel- and cost-intensive beach patrols in the medium term.

Data collection and research

Supported by a scientific coordinator, the organization *Cabo Verde Natura 2000* will direct the scientific activities of the individual organizations and standardize the data collection and evaluation on Boavista. Meanwhile, Turtle Foundation and *Queen Mary University of London* will continue to work together on further studies.

Community engagement

The community development projects to involve and motivate the local population in nature conservation started in 2018 by our new community coordinator will be continued; further projects will be started. These include increasing the safety of fishermen at sea by equipping them with life jackets and promoting an agricultural cooperative for the common use of agricultural machinery. In 2019, we will also carry out a study to determine the economic value of sea turtles. The aim is to demon-

strate that the protection of sea turtles through employment opportunities in nature conservation and ecotourism (turtle watching) is more lucrative than their one-off "use" as meat source.

Public relations and environmental education

General activities in the field of public relations and environmental education are organized by BIOS.CV within the framework of the ongoing distribution of cross-sectional tasks among the local conservation organizations. Additional activities will be carried out by us, in particular those where the conservation dogs Karetta and Kelo can be involved as ambassadors for nature protection.

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

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Nesting loggerhead turtle on Boavista