



TURTLE FOUNDATION INDONESIA

Monthly Report December 2014

I hope you had nice Christmas and I wish you happy year 2015. For me it is different and crazy to write you report about sea turtle conservation program in Indonesia from mountain cottage in Czech Republic.

Berly and I, we arrived to Czech 27. 11. 2014 – first few days were difficult because we were extremely cold but I trust it is important to inform people about sea turtles, their threats and how people can help so I organized a lot of actions.

2nd of December we had 3 lectures for students in Montessori school in Prague. I liked it very much, students were listening and asking a lot and they had great ideas how they own can help – students made banner about sea turtles for their Christmas market at school.

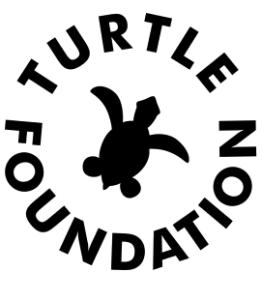


But it is important to inform not only students but also public. More than 5 000 Czech people are going to Indonesia for holiday every year and I wish they have information about sea turtles. It is important to show that sea turtles are nice animals but they are endangered. We need to inform people that the egg trade and trade with turtle shell is still real issue in Indonesia so tourist have to be careful during shopping. It is also very important to mention how people can help sea turtles, about our project and how to donate to Turtle Foundation during lectures. Most of Czech people have television at home so Dec. 3rd Berly and I made a short film for Czech national television about our program and sea turtles.



Four of December we moved to Germany to meet Hilli and Thomas in Göttingen. It was short but very nice meeting during which we started important discussions how to save program in Indonesia and hoe to get back to islands.

Later during December we often called to Indonesia and plan work and steps how to go back to islands



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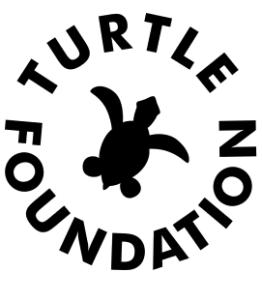
together with guys. It is not easy for rangers use internet because internet connection in Berau is not good so phone them was the best way how to communicate. There were some difficulties during our stay abroad but I have to say I am proud of guys because they get the permit for working in Berau, they continue with education at schools and they made two more workshops about handcraft from coconut on Maratua and Balikukup islands.



Later in Czech Republic I prepare photo exhibition about our sea turtle conservation program and I get new NIKON underwater camera for our program.



I am also very happy that finally the article in Czech version of National Geographic magazine was published and a lot of people can read about sea turtles and our program there. Good news also is that a special Czech magazine about reptiles started publishing regular reports from our sea turtle program in Indonesia. People are interested about our program and I think it is good for promotion and looking for new donators too.



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The last action in this year for increasing awareness in Czech public was to perform in a broadcast on Czech national radio. Recording was extremely interesting because we both together with Berly talked there and Berly explained how he started to work for sea turtle conservation 8 years ago, why he likes it and why he thinks it is important to help sea turtles. I was speaking about how tourists can help sea turtles and how all people can help our program if they donate to Turtle Foundation.



Take care

Hana Svobodová