

TURTLE FOUNDATION INDONESIA

Monthly Report January 2015



I am sending you many regards now again from Indonesia ☺

Most of the January I was still in Czech Republic (I left 21.1), so I will inform you about progress in both places in this report.

In Czech Republic I was trying to increase people awareness about sea turtles, their threats and ways how to help protect them and also about Turtle Foundation and our project in Berau.



Four times I spoke in radio, you can hear one here:

<http://prehravac.rozhlas.cz/audio/3291760>

And another:

http://www.rozhlas.cz/radiowave/casablanca/_zprava/1443607

(They are in Czech, though!)

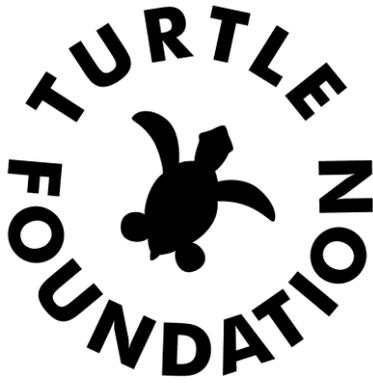
Two photo exhibitions about our project started also in Czech during January – one in town Liberec and second in Neratovice. I was speaking in opening ceremony of both exhibitions about turtles and a lot of people came ☺



I gave several public lectures about turtles also – in Liberec library, Neratovice, zoological garden in Ostrava, in Prague and also in three schools. Here you can see me and Berly in Czech national television:

<http://www.ceskatelevize.cz/porady/1095970013-chcete-me/video/>

It was quite a lot of propagation and publicity and I am happy that so many people are interested about our topic and they wish to help. There is one person who makes calendars – printing and distributing. These calendars are distributed not only in Czech Republic but around Europe; he wishes to make one about turtles and the income will go to our program. There are a lot of ideas how to help and I really increase my spirit and motivation in Czech when I saw that people appreciate that we are doing important and big things. I needed that a lot after staying so long in Indonesia where everything is slow and it is more challenging to get people interested and active in conservation efforts.



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We are working hard to get rangers back on the islands of Bilang-bilangan and Mataha. The local government office has started to think about problem of turtle protection seriously and they make several meetings about who should stay on islands. Bayu from ProFauna and rangers from Konservasi Biota Laut Berau join this meetings actively and they brought to the meeting good evidence that we are taking care about turtles and also alternative income of local people (education, handicraft workshop). After many meetings, the DKP office gave Konservasi Biota Laut Berau a letter (30.1.) which gave us permission to entry island.and we are hoping soon to have rangers back on the islands for protection



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TELATEN: Rudi Horst (kiri) dan salah satu anggota Biota Laut Berau (BLB), sedang membuat kerajinan pot dan lumbung-kumbung dari batok kelapa.

The last important information is about our project to teach the local people to make handicrafts from coconut shells instead of turtle shells. We know that we must help the people as much as the turtles, and handicrafts will help bring the people income. Local people started to be interested about handicraft, Mr. Rudi and Berly spoke in radio, two articles were published about the topic. Bayu from ProFauna helped with this promotion a lot. After the promotion of the topic the lady from airport came to Konservasi Biota Laut Berau office – she wants to sell our handmade products at the airport. This is great because people from villages of Maratua islands and from island of Balikukup who learned to make products from coconut will have potential market where we can help them to sell their products. So maybe they will not need to think about killing turtles for shell. Additional advantage is that we can put posters and later I hope videos about turtles at the airport so new visitors will obtain information about turtles in Berau.

Take care

Hana Svobodová