2019

ANNUAL REPORT

TURTLE FOUNDATION

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TURTLE FOUNDATION

Protecting Sea Turtles and their Habitats

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20 YEARS WORLDWIDE COMMITMENT TO THE RESCUE OF SEA TURTLES

TURTLE FOUNDATION USA
Bellingham
Since 2006

TURTLE FOUNDATION UNITED KINGDOM
London
Since 2019

TURTLE FOUNDATION GERMANY
Cologne
Since 2000

TURTLE FOUNDATION FRIENDS E.V. GERMANY
Frankfurt
Since 2009

TURTLE FOUNDATION LIECHTENSTEIN
Vaduz
Since 2014

TURTLE FOUNDATION SWITZERLAND
Buchs
Since 2006

FUNDAÇÃO TARTARUGA CABO VERDE
Sal Rei
Since 2008

YAYASAN PENYU INDONESIA
Tanjung Redeb, Berau
Since 2018

BELAMBANGAN BERAU GREEN SEA TURTLE

- Project since 2000
- 8 employees
- 9 million hatchlings were rescued

BOA VISTA, CAPE VERDE LOGGERHEAD TURTLE

- Project since 2008
- 19 year-round employees, 60 seasonal workers and volunteers during the nist season (June–November)
- 48,000 nests and 9,600 nesting female turtles could be saved in total

BEACH OF BUGGEISIATA Sipora, Mentawai Island LEATHERBACK TURTLE

- Project since 2017
- 8 employees
- No killed leatherback turtles since the beginning of the project

NATIONWIDE ANTI TURTLE SHELL CAMPAIGN Indonesia, Bali HAWKSBILL TURTLE

- Project since 2019
- 3 employees
- 7,000 students educated about turtle shell
- Market studies conducted in Bali and Nias and on online trade

LEGEND

TURTLE FOUNDATION AGENCIES

TURTLE FOUNDATION PROJECTS

7,200 Turtle Foundation Facebook followers

6,000 Newsletter recipients

3,750 Website hits per month

2,700 Fundação Tartaruga Facebook follower

2,100 Yayasan Penyu Facebook follower

1,800 Turtle Foundation Volunteers' Facebook-group

PROLOGUE

Dear friends and supporters of Turtle Foundation,

my journey in life started on the island of Fogo, the volcanic island of the country of Cabo Verde. I am the oldest of seven children. My father was a police officer and my mother was a housewife during the early years of my childhood.

After living aboard for a few years, where I studied the English language and gained experiences in life, I returned home to find passion in working in conservation, while raising a family.

Since joining Turtle Foundation in 2010, it has been a pleasure and at the same time an honor to work in the turtle conservation sector. With working for Turtle Foundation, my passion for conversation was ignited. I often like to say that "I was here from the beginning" and "I have witnessed the growth of today's biggest turtle conservation organisation in Cabo Verde".

When I look back, I remember one of my first duties was being the logistic coordinator – driving in deep sand through the desert off-roads to deliver food and water 30 km away or driving through hurricane Fred which hit Cabo Verde in 2015, trying to reach all camp sites in order to evacuate local rangers and international volunteers. It was so exciting!

Today, as the project manager, I became more of an office person as I am overseeing the functions and duties of the entire team of Fundação Tartaruga. Currently, the project consists of 79 people during the nesting season from June to November, and 19 permanent local staff throughout the year. Since I have no professional educational background or university degree, my role of leadership developed through training on the job and learning by doing over the years.

More importantly, Turtle Foundation's project has helped me build a bond with friends from around the world, from South America, Europe and Indonesia. This project made this possible.

The great support from donors, supporters and friends has helped my country to realize the importance of marine turtles and its habitats, in which today the majority of the country's population is united to make a difference. Thanks to your support, a person from Fogo has found his true passion, and it is also your continuous support that will give others like me the opportunity to fulfill their dreams in nature conversation.

Euclides "Ukie" Resende
Managing Director Fundação Tartaruga

TURTLE FOUNDATION

Turtle Foundation is an international association of closely cooperating organisations dedicated to the protection of sea turtles and their habitats. It currently consists of seven national institutions, which are registered in their countries as non-profit, tax-exempt organisations under local law: 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), TF Indonesia (since 2018; local name: Yayasan Penyu Indonesia) and TF UK (since 2019). Furthermore, in Germany, the support association Turtle Foundation Friends e. V. is registered as a non-profit organisation. Turtle Foundation is primarily operational and maintains conservation projects in Indonesia and Cape Verde. The aim is to stop the threat of extinction these animals are facing and to allow the populations to grow back to a healthy level in the long term, as well as to end cruelty and abusive activities against sea turtles. We promote the sustainability of the conservation projects by accompanying environmental education measures and programmes to create alternative income opportunities for the local population with regard to an environmentally compatible and sustainable use of coastal and marine habitats.

Turtle Foundation UK was established in London on the 12th of October 2019 as the most recent organisation of Turtle Foundation. It is headed by the foundation board members Lisa Logan, John Logan, Dr. Christophe Eizaguirre and Prof. Dr. Otto Jockel. Furthermore, Turtle Foundation Germany was transformed from a trust foundation into a foundation with legal capacity under civil law on the 25th of June 2019.

On March 27th 2020, Turtle Foundation will celebrate its 20th anniversary! This date marks the day on which Turtle Foundation Germany was founded in Ammerland, Upper Bavaria, by a documentary film team (Eberhard Meyer, Michael Goldschmidt and Hiltrud Cordes), two enthusiastic sportdivers (Christine Hagen and Frank Zindel) and the benefactor Rudolf Freiberger. During a film project and diving trips the year before, the founding members themselves experienced first-hand the threat to sea turtles from relentless exploitation.

GRÜNDUNGSURKUNDE

SCHILDKRÖTEN-STIFTUNG
TURTLE FOUNDATION

Ammerland, den 27. März 2000

Der Stifter

Dr. med. Rudolf Freiberger

Die Stiftungsrat

Eberhard Meyer Dr. Hiltrud Cordes Michael Goldschmidt

Christine Hagen Dr. Frank Zindel

Much has happened since then and through its success in the protection of sea turtles, environmental education and the assumption of social responsibility in the project areas, Turtle Foundation has grown into a renowned international organisation for nature conservation. Thanks to special funding from the MAVA Foundation, Turtle Foundation was able to open an office in Cologne in 2019, from where project management and fundraising are now coordinated.

PROJECTS 2019
INDONESIA

BERAU

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Indonesian Derawan Archipelago off East Borneo in the Berau district is home to the world's eighth largest nesting area of the green sea turtle *(Chelonia mydas)*. However, due to mass collection of their eggs, the population has shrunk to a tenth of its original population. The coral reefs of the archipelago are also feeding grounds for a significant population of the rare hawksbill turtle *(Eretmochelys imbricata)*, which is illegally hunted for its shell.

Our first project started in 2000 on the island of Sangalaki, which resulted in the construction of a permanent station in January 2002 to be able to protect the island all year round. Based on the success on Sangalaki, where we achieved almost the complete prevention of illegal collection of turtle eggs, we were able to protect two more islands (Bilang-Bilangan and Mataha) starting from 2008. In the meantime, these projects have been handed to a local nature conservation authority (Sangalaki) and a local nature conservation organisation (Bilang-Bilangan and Mataha). Belambangan remained as the last important and completely unprotected nesting island of the population, from which the majority of the turtle eggs that were still being sold in the district were sourced.

Green sea turtle searching for a nesting place

The island of Belambangan

BERAU

BEACH MONITORING ON BELAMBANGAN

After clarifying all formal, logistical and financial circumstances, we were finally able to take our position on Belambangan at the turn of the year 2018/2019. Under the guidance of project manager and managing director of Yayasan Penyu Indonesia, Bayu Sandi, a temporary camp was set up, equipped with sanitary installations, a small solar power plant with refrigerator, water supply and a kitchen tent. By the end of the year we were able to start building a station so that the rangers will soon have a permanent roof over their heads.

Since then, the beach is regularly patrolled at night and data of nests and turtles are collected. In the beginning, there were still some attempts by poachers to get to the island and steal eggs, which could successfully be prevented. Between March 1st and December 31st 2019, we counted a total of 3,034 nests on the island, from which about 250,000 hatchlings emerged; thus we are now permanently protecting another 15-20% of the population of the archipelago on Belambangan. This number of nests has exceeded our expectations; perhaps the island of Belambangan, which measures just 9.3 hectares (approx. 23 acres), has the highest nest density of all nesting islands in the Derawan archipelago!

COMBATING ILLEGAL FISHING METHODS

Illegal fishing with explosives and poison is a major threat to the coral reefs of the archipelago. A telescope was purchased to observe and report such activities to the authorities in the Belambangan area. Furthermore, we participate in boat patrols by the police, whereby dynamite fishermen could successfully be driven away. At the same time, together with the local fishermen's association Marlin, we are offering education to the population about the destructive effects of bomb and poison fishing.

Installation of the solar system

School children in Manado with TF brochure

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND ADVOCACY

To bring the idea of turtle and marine protection to the awareness of the young population, local schools have been visited regularly and over 5,600 children and young people were reached in a total of 57 events. Another topic addressed in the context of the anti turtle shell campaign during these visits was the wearing of turtle shell jewellery, which unfortunately is still very popular among young people.

Since Belambangan is administratively part of the larger island of Maratua with its four villages, we want to involve the local population in the conservation work. Besides the recruitment of rangers from Maratua, first exploratory talks have shown that, among other things, the development of an ecotourism concept with turtle-watching visits to Belambangan could have a chance of success. Further needs assessments and their results will be incorporated into future development cooperation programmes.

Of substantial importance is the trustful cooperation with government representatives and authorities with whom we are in close contact. We were therefore very pleased to welcome official delegations to Belambangan on several occasions and to present to them the progress of our work.

SIPORA

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The population of the impressive leatherback turtle *(Dermochelys coriacea)* of the Northeast Indian Ocean is very likely threatened with extinction. We were all the more affected when, after the discovery of a new nesting beach of this population on the Mentawai island of Sipora off West Sumatra, which was previously unknown to experts, we discovered that practically all nesting females and their eggs were consumed by the local population. Together with the local nature conservation authority BPSPL Padang and the Indian Dakshin Foundation we developed a plan to protect this beach.

BEACH PROTECTION AND POPULATION RESEARCH

The project started in autumn 2017 at the 8 km long beach of Buggeisiata on Sipora, about 4 km from the nearest village Matuptuman. In this village we rented a house as our headquarters and set up a simple camp on the beach with tents and a hatchery. As many clutches as possible were transferred to the hatchery to mature in a protected environment. Six villagers were hired to patrol the beach regularly during night time and in the mornings, relocate the nests, collect nest data in accordance with our standards, and permanently guard the hatchery until the young turtles would hatch.

Counting the eggshells of a hatched nest

In the nesting season of 2018/2019 we counted a total of 55 leatherback turtle nests (2017/2018: 65), 2 green sea turtle nests (2017/2018: 7) and 4 olive ridley turtle nests of (2017/2018: 0) on the beach of Buggeisiata. Three nests (2x leatherback and 1x green sea turtle nest) were collected by residents of the neighbour village, with which unfortunately no cooperation could be agreed upon so far. A number of 44 nests of leatherback turtles could be transferred to the hatchery. From these nests 3,085 hatchlings emerged, which were immediately released after measuring.

In the nesting season 2018/2019 we started marking turtles that were found nesting. Eight animals were marked, one of which could be identified in a total of five ovipositions; the other marked individuals were each encountered between one and three times. Based on the number of nests and an average of four clutches per nesting season, it is calculated that about 14 individual females visited the beach for reproduction in the 2018/2019 season. These are not large numbers compared to our other projects, however, each individual is valuable for the conservation of the population, which is estimated to consist of only 500-1,000 nesting females per season. No turtles have been killed on Buggeisiata beach since the project began.

Unfortunately the last nesting season in autumn 2019 did not start very promising – no traces of leatherback turtles were found on the beach until the end of the year. It remains to be seen whether this is merely a seasonal low in annual nesting activity or whether our initiative to save the leatherback turtles of Sipora has come too late.

All the more important are the excursions of our project leader Meriussoni Zai, who has visited potential other nesting beaches of leatherback turtles on the west coast of Sumatra as well as on the offshore islands in several research trips. Since leatherback turtles generally have a greater spatial variation in the selection of their nesting beaches compared to other species of sea turtles, it is particularly important to focus on the protection of the entire nesting population. It would be fatal to protect only one particular nesting beach if the turtle were to be killed at the next oviposition on another, unprotected beach.

COMMUNITY WORK AND REPRESENTATION OF INTERESTS

The use of sea turtles has a long tradition among the population of the Mentawai Islands. However, an agreement has been reached with the village community of Matuptuman to refrain from the consumption of turtle meat and eggs. In return, we employed six people as rangers during the nesting season, including the men who in the past were responsible for collecting the eggs and killing the turtles. In the small community of Matuptuman, which has about 300 inhabitants, there are otherwise hardly any opportunities to earn income beyond subsistence farming. Therefore, even a small number of employees is an effective scheme to nourish the cooperation with the village community. The villagers received additional income from visitors to our project, who paid for food and accommodation in the village. Furthermore, we organised and financed the renovation of the village church, which is of great importance for village life being a meeting place and community house.

The project on Sipora is carried out in close cooperation with the local authorities, especially the district administration and the regional office for the management of marine resources (BPSPL Padang).

ANTI TURTLE SHELL CAMPAIGN

PROJECT BACKGROUND

In addition to the man-made threats affecting all seven species of sea turtles, the hawksbill turtle *(Eretmochelys imbricata)* is particularly hunted for its sought-after turtle shell, making it one of the most threatened sea turtles. Despite the ban, hawksbill turtles are still being killed in Indonesia and products made of turtle shell (mostly jewellery) as well as stuffed animals are sold. Since the existing laws are hardly enforced, this happens at markets, in shops and on sales platforms on the internet. In addition, turtle shell is probably also smuggled into other Asian countries, especially Japan and China.

In order to save the remaining hawksbill turtles in Indonesia, we launched a nationwide initiative with the following objectives:

1. identify the active production and sales points as well as the national trade routes for turtle shell;
2. curb these activities by addressing and, if the situation requires it, reporting producers and distributors to the police;
3. conduct awareness campaigns in traditional and social media.

The project is implemented by our Indonesian partner organisation YPI in cooperation with the Indonesian nature conservation organisation Profauna and the US-American anti turtle shell initiative Too Rare to Wear. The campaign started in mid-2019; for this purpose, an office was rented in Bali as an operational base.

ACTIVITIES

In Indonesia, popular online sales platforms (e.g., Tokopedia, Shopee) and social networks (e.g., Facebook, Instagram) were systematically searched for offers of turtle shell products. We found approximately 200 active online accounts with over 1,500 individual offers of turtle products representing a sales value of over €300,000. We informed the platform operators about the illegal activities on their websites. Approximately half of them agreed not to allow the selling of turtle products in the future; some of the offers have already been removed. We are yet to receive feedback from many others and will investigate and take legal action if necessary.

In a first step, we also carried out research in local sales outlets on Bali and on Nias, another centre for the production and trade of turtle shell products. In Bali we found 23 shops with a range of turtle souvenirs, on Nias there were 14 shops. Partly the sources of the products could be inquired. The future follow-up measures will be discussed with the local authorities, but we are still trying to obtain voluntary waivers for the sale of turtle products from the shop operators before taking legal action.

Another core element of our activities against the turtle shell trade is our awareness campaign, which runs under the Indonesian slogan „Keren tanpa sisik" (translates as „cool without turtle shell"). The campaign primarily targets the emotional aspects of the turtle shell trade. This ranges from the disclosure of the cruelty of obtaining turtle scales (alive turtles are scalded with boiling water) to the positive effects for the protection of turtles and the sea, if you are „cool without turtle scales". As a sympathetic companion of the campaign (and also as our future Turtle Foundation mascot) „Kimi" was created, a young comic hawksbill turtle. Kimi adorns the information material produced for the campaign (flyers, stickers, printed bags etc.) and articles in the social media. In schools and at events in Nias and Bali, Kimi accompanied us during the presentations.

To spread our message on further to the relevant target groups, we started to build up a network between professionals in the tourism industry in Bali.

PROJECTS 2019
BOA VISTA

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The island state of Cape Verde off the coast of West Africa is home to the world's third largest nesting population of Loggerhead Sea Turtles *(Caretta caretta)*, with about two-thirds of the animals nesting on Boa Vista alone. Excessive poaching of nesting females in particular, but also fishing, pollution and mass tourism have officially made this globally significant population one of the 11 most threatened sea turtle populations in the world.

In 2008, Turtle Foundation set up its first protection camp on Boa Vista, alarmed by a report of 1,200 turtles killed the year before. Since then, the project has been greatly expanded and poaching on the protected beaches significantly reduced. An important step in 2017 was the intensified cooperation with the two other local conservation initiatives Cabo Verde Natura 2000 and BIOS.CV, whereby the responsibilities for certain tasks were divided. The cooperation is represented to the public under the name Projeto Tartaruga Boa Vista.

Beach camp Boa Esperança

Loggerhead turtle laying eggs

Washed-up waste

Carcasses of poached turtles

DIRECT PROTECTION MEASURES

The core activity consists of protecting nesting turtles from poaching through night patrols carried out during the nesting season from June to the end of October, operated by local rangers and international volunteers. In 2019 we covered a total of almost 40 kilometres of beach monitoring, corresponding to about 70% of the major nesting beaches on Boa Vista. The patrols were operated from five temporary beach camps and carried out by members of two local organisations from the villages of Povoação Velha and Bofareira, who received financial and logistical support from us.

After last year the number of nests on the whole of Boa Vista exceeded all previous observations by almost factor three, we saw rather „regular" numbers again in the 2019 season. However, with 7,232 nests on monitored beaches (17,181 nests in 2018, 5,650 nests in 2017) it turned out to be the second best result so far! All in all, there has been a positive development over the past few years.

Another reason for optimism was the significant decrease of poaching on land. In 2017 at least 235 animals were still killed on the beaches of Boa Vista, in 2018 it reduced to 70, in the 2019 season only 17 leading to an impressive total decrease of 93%. These results are mainly due to a combination of stricter legislation and the introduction of new methods of beach monitoring. Since last year, we have been providing strategic, technical and personnel support to a newly established official „Sea Turtle Surveillance Task Force" (STSTF) for the surveillance of nesting beaches by a night-vision capable drone. With this drone the particularly endangered nesting beaches were monitored almost every night. The project was expanded and optimised in 2019, especially from a strategic perspective. Progress was also made in STSTF's second project: In June 2019, after almost two years of training in Switzerland, our conservation dogs Karetta and Kelo and their two handlers began their work on Boa Vista under the supervision of the Swiss trainer Dr. Marlene Zähner. The dogs' main task is to track down parts of poached turtles. The dogs settled in nicely on Boa Vista and continued their training programme.

Shooting with Kelo and Karetta

Lunch at camp

To protect some of the nests from the effects of growing mass tourism and other threats in particular, we have increased the number of our hatcheries from two to three. A total of 520 nests were sunbred and hatched under natural but protected conditions (2018: 428 nests), from which a total of about 26,440 young animals hatched at a rate of about 78%.

Unfortunately, the threat to the turtles from poaching is not limited to the beaches; the threat to the animals at sea is even greater due to the increasingly effective beach monitoring. Therefore, we worked together with the marine conservation organisation MarAlliance on a concept for the protection of sea turtles at sea, for which some research is still required. In a pilot project, a male loggerhead turtle was equipped with a satellite transmitter on 20th June 2019 in order to find out its main whereabouts during the mating season and its year-round migration routes; more animals will follow.

Marking of a loggerhead turtle

In the warehouse: food distribution

Drone exercise

DATA COLLECTION AND RESEARCH

Ongoing research on the status and dynamics of the local hawksbill turtle population has been intensified in cooperation with the Cabo Verde Natura 2000 and BIOS.CV organisations. For this purpose, methodologies of data collection and evaluation were standardised under the direction of Natura 2000. In the future, a common database will collect biometric, geographic and other data of all recorded nests and nesting turtles of Boa Vista and allow access to scientists and authorities.

For several years we have been cooperating with the research group of Dr. Christoph Eizaguirre of Queen Mary University London, which is working on various questions concerning the biology of loggerhead sea turtles in Cape Verde. In September 2019, the group published a paper on the feeding strategies of loggerhead sea turtles of the archipelago in a prestigious scientific journal (see „Media and Publications").

SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

In 2018, we significantly expanded and professionalised our social commitment, and in 2019 we continued along this important path. Together with representatives and members of the local communities, a comprehensive participatory development program was developed and launched in spring 2018. A total of 28 individual measures were decided on for the next three years, 13 of which were either started in 2019 (6) or continued from the previous year (7). Further measures in this catalogue were completed in the previous year (11) or will be started in 2020 (5).

The activities in 2019 included a socio-economic study on the physical and intangible value of sea turtles, promoting the athletic, cultural and musical development of children and young people, supporting artisanal fishermen in improving safety at sea, workshops on organic farming and combating alcoholism. The women's cooperative "TAMBRA" in the village of João Galego is exemplary: founded in 2018 it continues to be supported and successfully produces and sells food as well as organic cosmetics under the brand of the same name, thus enabling women to contribute to the family upkeep. Even though the poaching of sea turtles on the beaches and in the sea continues being a man's business, women are also an important target group, as they process, cook and sell the meat.

Equally important ambassadors for the protection of the turtles and nature on Boa Vista are the people directly employed in the protection project. Altogether, including the community-based projects, 92 people were employed in the projects either year-round (19) or seasonally (mostly rangers and their coordinators; 73 in total), 89 (96%) of them Cape Verdean citizens. A further six Cape Verdeans served as voluntary helpers free of charge as part of a training programme for nature conservation rangers. Opposed to international volunteers, accommodation and meals for local volunteers are free of charge.

The TAMBRA women

Organic soap

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND REPRESENTATION OF INTERESTS

Since the launch of Projeto Tartaruga Boa Vista, BIOS.CV has been in charge of environmental education. We have therefore discontinued our long-standing project „School in Nature" for the time being. Since then BIOS.CV has been organising a similar activity with the support of all organisations.

Together with the other organisations we participated in various environmental education activities, awareness campaigns and beach cleaning events. As an example, MarAlliance has organized a large beach clean up campaign for the island off the capital of Boa Vista. MarAlliance also managed the cleanup of Boa Esperança beach, one of our project beaches, as part of the International Coastal Cleanup Day.

Together with Cabo Verde Natura 2000 and BIOS.CV, Turtle Foundation is one of the members of the Outcome Action Plan „Sea Turtles West Africa", which the MAVA Foundation has developed and is financing significantly for the period of 2017–2022. In addition to the island of Boa Vista, this includes the Cape Verdean island of Maio, as well as other areas in the countries of Guinea Bissau and Mauritania.

Turtle Foundation is an active founding member of the Cape Verdean network for the protection of sea turtles TAOLA (Tartaruga Kriola). TAOLA represents the interests of the national protection of sea turtles before the government and other interest groups, and played a significant role in the creation of a very important new law in this regard. At the 10th annual meeting of TAOLA in March 2019 on the island of Fogo, the nationwide standardisation of data collection and evaluation was discussed, where the experiences of the Projeto Tartaruga Boa Vista were significantly incorporated.

OBITUARY

We greatly grieve the death of our former employee and later project partner Alexander „Zeddy" Seymour, who died in a diving accident in summer 2019. Zeddy worked for Turtle Foundation in project management on Boa Vista before he established the Cape Verdean section of the MarAlliance marine conservation organisation there. He was significantly involved in our project to investigate and fight turtle poaching at sea.

We dedicate this annual report to Zeddy.

INCOME STATEMENT 01 JAN 2019–31 DEC 2019

EXPENSES	EUR
Project Cape Verde	
Coordination and overhead	167,601
Protection of nesting beaches	271,123
Community involvement and community projects	54,677
Data collection and research	7,866
Expenditure for environmental agency (special funding)	120,578
Expenditure on organisational development (special funding)	67,853
Project management	63,511
Direct expenses for Cape Verde	**753,208**
Projects Indonesia	
Berau	96,297
Sipora	37,464
Anti turtle shell campaign	33,440
Project management	31,755
Direct expenses for Indonesia	**198,957**
Support for third-party projects	**5,916**
International office Cologne	
Public relations, advertising, fundraising	103,229
Structural costs	56,863
Office Cologne total	**160,092***
Funds carried forward from 2018 for multi-year project funding	**-232,482**
Funds carried forward from 2018 for environmental authority (special funding)	**-90,347**
Expenditure surplus	**-16,238**
Total expenses	**779,105**

PROCEEDS	EUR
Restricted funds and revenues	
Funds for Cape Verde	525,572
Revenues and sales Cape Verde	20,213
Restricted donations	265
Revenues and sales Indonesia	479
Funds for Indonesia	33,059
Total restricted funds and revenues	**579,587**
Unrestricted funds and revenues	
Symbolic turtle adoptions, fines donations, Turtle Tombola	41,101
Sales of various articles	144
Funds from grant-giving organisations equalling and over 5,000 €	67,948
Private donations, corporate donations, and funds from grant-giving organisations below 5,000 €	83,300
Turtle Foundation Friends (friends association)	7,025
Total unrestricted funds and revenues	**199,517**
Total proceeds	**779,105**

*The costs for the Cologne office are financed by a special grant for organisational development.

SOURCE* AND USE OF FUNDS

*Exact comparability with previous years is not possible because a differentiated breakdown has been introduced from 2019

PROJECT PLANNING 2020

INDONESIA

BERAU

The protection project successfully started on Belambangan will be continued. The five rangers will continue to monitor the nesting beach of Belambangan all year round and protect nesting turtles and their nests from poachers, as well as collect data on the nesting activity of the animals according to our proven scheme. The temporary camp on the island will be replaced by a proper station, which will be built under the aspects of sustainability and recyclability of available materials; The smallest possible ecological footprint will be kept during the stay and the activity on the island. While the station is close to being completed, we are still looking for sponsors to finance a new boat with a more energy-efficient engine. The community work on the neighbouring island of Maratua is to be intensified with specific measures. Furthermore, public relations and environmental education in the spirit of turtle and sea protection is being carried out on the inhabited islands of the archipelago and in those parts of the Berau Regency located on the mainland of Borneo.

Ranger on Belambangan

SIPORA

The protection project for the leatherback turtle nesting beach Buggeisiata on Sipora will be continued whereas the involvement of the local population will be further strengthened through direct involvement in the project, environmental education and support schemes. In order to be able to protect the existing leatherback turtle population even better, the research for further nesting beaches in the region will be continued. The international networking with other organisations for the protection of leatherback turtles in the Eastern Indian Ocean, which has already begun, will be continued and intensified through visit and training programmes.

Measuring a leatherback turtle

ANTI TURTLE SHELL CAMPAIGN

Based on the results of the investigations about turtle shell trade and the relevant areas of origin and production sites, we will further expand our public relations activities, in particular in the social media. We will provide information material like pictures and videos in an emotionally effective way to draw attention to the fate of hawksbill turtles in Indonesian waters. Known sales points of turtle shell products must actively refrain from selling them, and if desired, they can be positively involved in our activities (e.g. by being certified as a turtle shell-free souvenir shop); in case of persistent refusal to do so, the authorities will be involved.

Turtle shell jewellery: illegal but openly offered for sale

CAPE VERDE, BOA VISTA

By taking on the second half of the off-budget financing by the MAVA Fondation pour la Nature (2020-2022), we will consistently build on the successes of the past three years. The cooperation with the organisations BIOS.CV and Cabo Verde Natura 2000, the ministries of agriculture and nature conservation as well as other local groups will be continued in the Projeto Tartaruga Boa Vista in order to maintain and further develop the achieved efficiency of nature conservation work, environmental education and development cooperation.

The protection of the nesting beaches with night patrols will be continued in the same established way. For this purpose, temporary beach camps will again be set up during the nesting season and the two community-based protection projects in the villages of Povoação Velha and Bofareira will be supported financially, professionally and logistically. Within the framework of the „Sea Turtle Surveillance Task Force" (STSTF), the night-vision drone project started in 2018 will be continued with the aim of largely eradicating poaching by deterring and, if necessary, prosecuting perpetrators on Boa Vista. At the same time, the search dogs Karetta and Kelo will be further trained and deployed. These alternative protection measures should help to reduce staff and cost-intensive beach patrols; we are expecting to be able to reduce the number of beach camps from five to four in the 2020 nesting season, or at least reduce staff noticeably in all camps.

The Cabo Verde Natura 2000 organisation will coordinate the scientific activities of the individual organisations and push the development of a joint database; we will do our utmost to support them in this. Meanwhile, Turtle Foundation will continue its cooperation with Queen Mary University of London for further studies.

The team of the Fundação Tartaruga

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MEDIA AND PUBLICATIONS

Beck, J. (2019): Pfoten helfen Flossen, Schweiz am Wochenende (Switzerland), edition January 12, 2019. German PDF download from https://www.turtle-foundation.org/organisation/downloads-de/

Cameron, S.J.K., Baltazar-Soares, M., Stiebens, V.A., Reischig, T. Correira, S.M., Harrod, C., Eizaguirre, C. (2019): Diversity of feeding strategies in Loggerhead Sea Turtles from the Cape Verde archipelago. Marine Biology 166:130. Scientific publication of the Queen Mary University London. link: https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00227-019-3571-8

Barrios-Garrido, H., Corsino, C., Cordes, H. (2019): Socio-economic value of sea turtles in Boa Vista, Cape Verde: A preliminary evaluation. Centro de Modelado Científico (CMC), La Universidad del Zulia, Venezuela. Turtle Foundation. Boa Vista Island, Cabo Verde.

In June and September 2019, the filming for the documentary „Cape Verde - Two dogs as turtle rescuers" was on site on Boa Vista. As part of the GEO Reportage, the ARTE TV production accompanies our conservation dogs Karetta and Kelo and their Cape Verdean handlers on their way from the training centre in Switzerland all the way to their place of work on Boa Vista and also reports on some of our other activities like the beach patrols with night-vision drones. The documentary will be broadcast in 2020.

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