2020

ANNUAL REPORT

TURTLE FOUNDATION

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TURTLE FOUNDATION

Protecting Sea Turtles and their Habitats

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OUR SUCCESSES IN 2020

7 LOCATIONS

of Turtle Foundation,
through which we are networked worldwide

2 NEW ISLANDS

in our conservation programs in Indonesia,
which were previously unprotected

12,000,000 VIEWERS

have seen our TV spot to fight
the turtle shell trade in Indonesia

52 KILOMETERS

of nesting beaches have been secured
by patrols worldwide

5 SPECIES

of sea turtles are protected
in our projects

160 SPONSORSHIPS

for sea turtles, which financially
supported our work

150 MISSIONS

were completed by the Surveillance
Task Force on Boa Vista

8,868 CHILDREN

have participated in our environmental
education programs in Indonesia

77 RANGERS

protected nesting turtles
and their nests within our projects

1,200,000 HATCHLINGS

have hatched in our care and
reached the sea

INTRODUCTION

Dear friends of Turtle Foundation,

In August 2013, my employer at the time, the conservation organization PROFAUNA, sent me to Bali to help a small group of turtle conservationists in the village of Perancak who had asked us for support. Every night we went to the 7 kilometer stretch of beach to look out for olive ridley turtle (Lepidochelys olivacea) *nests. It was a race against poachers who were trying to dig up the nests. The unwritten law of „first come, first served" applied: if the egg collectors discovered the nest, it was lost; if we found it, we took the eggs to our hatchery and let them hatch there under the sun.*

But what happened next, I did not like at all: after the baby turtles had hatched, they were put into water basins and had to stay there until tourists came and „bought" them out. Only then they were released into the sea. At that time I did not know much about this method of keeping hatchlings in captivity for a while. Meanwhile, I know that this practice is called headstarting and is supposedly used to increase the turtles' chances of survival. In Indonesia, this is widely practiced, although the harm of the method is greater than its benefit.

But even without this background knowledge, I found the way of treating the tiny turtles unacceptable: the water in the small tanks was dirty, the hatchlings had hardly any space and would bite each other's fins. After only a few days they were injured and infected with fungal diseases, and shortly afterwards most of them were dead. My suggestions for improvement fell on deaf ears with the group, and I soon left the project.

Meanwhile, more than seven years have passed, and in the meantime PROFAUNA and Turtle Foundation have jointly founded the organization „Yayasan Penyu Indonesia", of which today I am the managing director.

Headstarting remains a major, unsolved problem for sea turtles in Indonesia, and it is one of my goals to one day achieve a ban on this nonsensical and cruel practice that merely serves commercial interests.

Fortunately, Yayasan Penyu Indonesia has had more success with other activities: most notably, we have been able to establish a conservation program on the last two previously unprotected nesting islands in the Derawan archipelago, Belambangan and Sambit. I can proudly say that since the beginning of our activity and thanks to the efforts of our rangers there, not a single nest has been stolen!

I sincerely thank Turtle Foundation for the opportunity to work for the protection of sea turtles!

Bayu Sandi
Managing Director Yayasan Penyu Indonesia

TURTLE FOUNDATION

Turtle Foundation is an international alliance of closely cooperating organizations for the protection of sea turtles and their habitats. It currently consists of seven national organizations, which are registered in their countries as non-profit, tax-exempt organizations under local law: Turtle Foundation (TF) Germany (since 2000), TF Switzerland (since 2006), TF USA (since 2006), TF Cabo 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 organization.

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 programs to create alternative income opportunities for the local population with regard to an environmentally compatible and sustainable use of coastal and marine habitats.

March 2020 marked the twentieth anniversary of the official start of our work for sea turtles with the establishment of Turtle Foundation Germany. However, there was not much opportunity to look back or even to celebrate. The dominant topic of the year was the COVID-19 (Corona) pandemic, which had a strong impact on both our project work in the field and our organizational work in Europe and the USA. Despite pandemic-related adaptations, we were able to continue our protection projects with basically no cuts in scope and quality. This was made possible by our staff and volunteers who fought for the survival of the sea turtles with an unwavering „now more than ever!" mentality in the face of all given adversity!

Cologne office

Our supporters did not let us down either: symbolic turtle adoption sponsorships and campaign donations such as from the German charity ultra-marathon race „Brocken Challenge" as well as wedding and birthday donations helped to mitigate the Corona impact. The emergency programs of various funding foundations brought great relief to the endangered financing of our projects.

We are particularly grateful to all of them, especially in these difficult times. With so much support, we look forward with cautious optimism to the year 2021, which will certainly still hold special challenges, but which we hope to be able to master together.

PROJECTS 2020
INDONESIA

BERAU

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Derawan archipelago in the district of Berau in Indonesia is one of the most biologically abundant areas of marine biodiversity in the world. One of the largest nesting areas of the green sea turtle *(Chelonia mydas)* is located here. The population of turtles nesting here is only a remnant of a population that was once ten times larger. The reason for this is the massive harvesting of eggs for human consumption over decades. In addition, the coral reefs of the island group are home of the critically endangered hawksbill turtle, which is still hunted intensively for their shell.

BEACH PROTECTION ON BELAMBANGAN AND SAMBIT

Until recently, the uninhabited island of Belambangan and the neighbouring lighthouse island of Sambit represented the last significant unprotected nesting areas in the region. Most of the turtle eggs that are still sold in the district came from these islands. Since we began our involvement in the Derawan archipelago in 2000, we have tried time and time again to tackle this issue, and in early 2019 we finally managed to gain a foothold on Belambangan.

Turtle tracks on Belambangan

New supply boat

BERAU

Throughout 2019, the rangers lived and worked on the island in a temporary camp. At the end of the year, construction work began on a permanent ranger station, which was completed and ready for occupation in spring 2020. The top priority was to minimise the impact on the sensitive ecosystem by carefully selecting the building site, using sustainable materials for the construction and operation of the station, producing electricity using a solar system and operating a biogas toilet. Later in the year, a new boat was purchased, so that the project on Belambangan is now finally established and fully developed.

The beach on Belambangan is patrolled several times a day in the evening, night and morning hours, and data on the nesting activity of the turtles is also collected as standard. Poaching has thus been completely curbed in the past two years.

The new station is being built

Belambangan with our station

In the year under review, 2,747 nests were counted on Belambangan. This is slightly less than the 3,034 nests counted in 2019, where the nests from January and February could not be recorded, but a difference of 350-450 nests is within the range of normal fluctuations between individual years.

Since our partner organization *Yayasan Penyu Indonesia*, led by Bayu Sandi, has been working on Belambangan, we have been tirelessly trying to also get permission from the local authorities for a conservation program on the neighbouring island of Sambit located 5 kilometers away. This tiny island is only 2.3 hectares in size with a circumference of about 500 metres. We experienced resistance from the group of lighthouse keepers on Sambit, who were most likely involved in collecting and selling the eggs in the past. Nevertheless, we were able to consolidate our position and were allowed to protect the clutches of eggs on Sambit beginning with September 2020. On December 22nd 2020, Bayu Sandi was able to sign a contract with the Ministry of Marine Affairs in Jakarta, which legally secures the protection work on the two islands.

To save costs for further infrastructure, the initial plan was to transport the nests from Sambit to Belambangan and let them hatch there. But it soon became apparent that the short crossing between the islands can be quite risky, depending on the weather conditions; so we had to change this plan and build a simple shelter for our rangers on Sambit.

A nest is being relocated

So far we have been able to record nest numbers on Sambit over four months. Projections suggest that we can expect around 1,000 nests per year. A truly exceptional figure for this small island!

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Our core project on the islands of Belambangan and Sambit has so far been little affected by the Corona crisis. However, our accompanying programs for public relations and environmental education had to be suspended for the time being. Until mid-March, we were still able to give a few presentations to a total of 750 students. We hope to be able to resume this activity, which is so important for sustainable species conservation, in the foreseeable future.

Bayu Sandi signing the contract at the Ministry of Marine Affairs

SUMATRA

PROJECT BACKGROUND

There is a regional population of the impressive, critically endangered leatherback turtle *(Dermochelys coriacea)* in the northeast Indian Ocean. The nesting areas of this population are distributed over a chain of islands stretching from the Indian Andaman and Nicobar Islands to the islands of Simeulue, Nias and the Mentawai Archipelago, which belong to Indonesia. The population is very little studied, but it must be assumed that it is threatened with extinction. On the Indonesian islands, their eggs are regularly dug up for human consumption and the nesting females are slaughtered for their meat.

Matuptuman project village from a bird's eye view

Ranger team on Sipora

BEACH PROTECTION ON SIPORA

On the island of Sipora off West Sumatra, which belongs to the Mentawai Islands, we discovered a previously completely unknown nesting beach of the endangered leatherback turtle in autumn 2017: the approximately 8 km long beach of Buggeisiata. With about 60 nests per year, laid by about a dozen females, the leatherback turtle population there is small, but absolutely worth protecting. The extent of the threat became apparent when not a single animal came to nest on the beach during the nesting season from October 2019 to March 2020. However, as it was known that there had already been years without nesting leatherback turtles from time to time, we continued to pursue the project in the hope of saving this fragile little population after all. We spent the time protecting the nesting females of other sea turtle species that also use the beach to lay their eggs from poaching and moving their clutches to a *hatchery* so that the baby turtles could hatch there in safety.

But even in autumn 2020, the leatherback turtles did not return to the beach. Shortly before the completion of this report, to our great relief, we received the news that in January 2021 leatherback turtles had returned to the beach at Buggeisiata to lay their eggs. This gives hope for the population!

Children in Matuptuman

What is unique about this beach is that it belongs to a small village called Matuptuman and is not located in a nature reserve. Therefore, from the beginning, together with the project leader Meriussoni Zai, we have chosen a community-based approach to protect the sea turtles. For example, the rangers here are selected by a village committee. This year, we commissioned an organization from Padang to prepare a participatory village development plan, which first made a comprehensive inventory of the problems and potentials in relation to the local economy, environment and infrastructure.

Nesting basket in the hatchery

NEW PROJECT ON SELAUT BESAR

On other islands off Sumatra, we discovered further leatherback turtle nesting beaches during our surveys in the last years, which were unknown to the experts until now. For most of the beaches it is still unclear how many animals nest there per year and whether a protection project should be set up there. However, in the case of the intermittently inhabited island of Selaut Besar in the province of Aceh, the case soon became clear: leatherback turtles regularly nest there in larger numbers. During a visit on site in January 2020, we succeeded in tagging two leatherback turtles with satellite transmitters together with scientists Dr. Rita Patricio and Dr. Paulo Catry in order to obtain data on their migratory behaviour.

As the turtles' eggs are collected by fishermen and coconut farmers who visit the island regularly, the island's nesting beach needs to be protected. For this, in 2020 we established a partnership with the conservation organization *EcosystemImpact*, which is based on Simeulue Island, to which Selaut Besar belongs. While *EcosystemImpact* is responsible for the implementation of the project on the ground, we contribute the methodology of conservation measures and data collection. Recently, we were able to start training the rangers and launch the project.

Preparations for the deployment of the satellite transmitter

ANTI TURTLE SHELL CAMPAIGN

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The hawksbill turtle *(Eretmochelys imbricata)* is considered the most beautiful of all sea turtles because of its colourful shell. But the corneous plates of their dorsal shell unfortunately also provide a much sought-after material: the so-called turtle shell. Combs, spectacle frames, decorative objects and jewellery made of turtle shell used to be widespread in these parts of the world, too, but since the international trade in turtle shell has been banned, they are mainly found in the tropical countries where the hawksbill turtle is native.

The hawksbill turtle is heavily hunted for its turtle shell and is therefore one of the most endangered sea turtle species in the world. One of the remaining populations inhabits the waters of Indonesia. Here, too, the animals are now protected, but the problem and the extent of turtle shell exploitation have not yet been sufficiently recognised by the authorities.

ACTIVITIES

To help save Indonesia's remaining hawksbill turtles, we launched a nationwide campaign to curb the turtle shell trade, aiming to influence buyer behaviour and negatively connote the wearing of turtle shell jewellery. The project was implemented by *Yayasan Penyu Indonesia* in cooperation with the Indonesian conservation organization *Profauna* and the US-based initiative *Too Rare to Wear*. For the campaign, which started in mid-2019, an office was rented in Bali as an operational base.

First, however, we wanted to get an overview of the scale of the turtle shell trade, so we undertook a series of market researches during the project period, with Bayu Sandi and campaign manager Muhamed Jayuli travelling to locations we had identified as potential transshipment points and hotspots of the turtle shell trade. After visiting 16 localities in nine provinces, four regions are now in the crosshairs for further, much-needed follow-up: the island of Nias off the west coast of Sumatra, areas in the provinces of South and Central Sulawesi, and the island of Timor.

Mohamed Jayuli researching the market in Kupang, Timor

Turtle shell products on sale online

Furthermore, we came across a flourishing online trade on the commonly known sales portals. Through persistent, regularly repeated reports to the operators of the portals, citing the offence of illegal wildlife trade, the number of turtle shell items on offer was significantly reduced: between the first count in August 2019 and the last count in November 2020, offers dropped by 87%.

Due to the Corona restrictions, market research could only be carried out to a limited extent, so we used project funds saved here to produce a television commercial. The entire consumer campaign was based on the use of our mascot Kimi, a young hawksbill turtle who gives a face and a voice to its threatened brothers and sisters in the sea. Kimi's appeals not to cruelly kill marine turtles to make cheap decorative jewellery from their scales reached an audience of millions in Indonesia. On social media, radio and TV channels, the campaign contributions were noticed by a total of more than 20 million people. This was boosted by the already very high prevalence of social media in Indonesia as well as by the online times, which increased dramatically as a result of the lockdown.

Our research revealed the full extent of the turtle shell trade in Indonesia: in total, we found almost 42,000 turtle shell products at markets, in shops and on the internet, with a total value of over €340,000. Based on the calculation that the scales plates of a turtle provide about one kilo of turtle shell material and that on average 42 products are made from one kilo of turtle shell, we can estimate that the mass of material sighted is equivalent to almost 1,000 turtles and that the market value of a hawksbill turtle in Indonesia is about €345.

Much work will be needed to achieve the goal of ending the endangerment of hawksbill turtles in Indonesia through the trade in turtle shell.

Facebook post with Kimi

SCAN THE CODE TO GO SEE KIMI!

PROJECTS 2020
BOA VISTA (CABO VERDE)

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The West African island nation of Cabo Verde is home to the world's third largest nesting population of loggerhead turtles *(Caretta caretta)*; about two thirds of the animals nest on the island of Boa Vista alone. Excessive poaching, especially of the females that come ashore to lay their eggs, but also fishing, pollution and mass tourism have officially made this globally very important population one of the most endangered sea turtle populations in the world.

In 2008, Turtle Foundation began its work and set up its first conservation camp on Boa Vista after a report of 1,200 turtles killed each year brought the fate of Cabo Verde's sea turtles to our attention.

Since that time, the project, now under the leadership of Ukie Resende, has expanded greatly. Previously unprotected nesting beaches have been placed under the protection of our rangers and two community-based initiatives dedicated to turtle conservation are receiving financial support and technical advice. As a result, about 40 km of nesting beaches were actively protected by us in 2020. Another 26 km were protected in projects run by the *Cabo Verde Natura 2000* and *BIOS.CV* organizations and the local nature conservation authority, with whom there is close cooperation under the name *Projeto Tartaruga Boa Vista.*

Locaccio beach camp

Remains of poached turtles from earlier years

DIRECT PROTECTION MEASURES

In 2020, Turtle Foundation's activities were considerably affected by the Corona pandemic, which did not spare the Cabo Verde Islands. Due to the lockdown in spring, the set-up of beach camps and the start of beach patrol activities were delayed by about three weeks. Furthermore, due to the travel restrictions, we had to do without the help of international volunteers to protect the nesting turtles from poaching. To prevent infections, various precautionary measures and rules of conduct were introduced in the camps.

In this way, we have achieved that there were no failures in the protection of the sea turtles caused by Corona. On the contrary: our team on Boa Vista even managed a new record in nest numbers! We counted 28,558 nests on the project beaches of Turtle Foundation! This far surpassed the previous record of 2018 (17,181 nests). Across the island, the total number of nests was as high as 125,900, which were mathematically laid by around 25,200 female turtles. Despite these overwhelming nesting numbers, only 6 poaching cases were recorded on the beaches protected by Turtle Foundation and 52 cases on the entire island. This represents a poaching rate of 0.2% of nesting females, down from 4.5% three years ago.

Nest evaluation in the hatchery

Ranger in Boa Esperança with nesting loggerhead turtle

Release of a large male loggerhead turtle after tagging

The decrease in poaching is due in part to the island-wide activities of the *Sea Turtle Surveillance Task Force (STSTF)*, a collaboration of the conservation authority, police and our drone and conservation dog teams that has been in place since 2018. The STSTF operated primarily on the high-risk beaches in the north and east of Boa Vista. On almost every one of the approximately 150 days of the nesting season, specific sections of beach were randomly selected and patrolled by the drone and dog teams. Different strategies were pursued and in some cases tested in both daytime and nighttime operations.

Although STSTF operations undoubtedly have a significant deterrent effect, there is still room for improvement in terms of the reporting system of suspicious movements and poaching cases on the nesting beaches, as well as with regard to the corresponding timely adjustment of the operational strategy. The effects of the pandemic also made themselves felt here, preventing the continued training of the task force units.

Furthermore, the arrest and conviction of two turtle poachers between July and August, whose nocturnal crime was discovered by our regular beach patrols the following morning, also had a positive effect. Further investigation led to the arrest of the perpetrators the same day while attempting to sell the poached turtle meat. The offenders were sentenced to fines as well as probation in one case and imprisonment in the other. After that, there was no evidence of poaching on Turtle Foundation beaches for the rest of the season.

Unfortunately, the conservation dog program encountered a setback when one of our dogs, Karetta, suffered a leg injury in March. Karetta was brought back to Switzerland for medical treatment and now lives with her trainer Dr. Marlene Zähner. However, due to the severity of the injury, Karetta is no longer fit to be a working dog and cannot return to Boa Vista. The operations on the beaches were continued with the remaining dog Kelo. At the end of the year, we started training a young female dog who will go on patrol alongside Kelo to protect the endangered turtles in the coming years.

Poachers caught red-handed

The dog team

Lacacão beach camp

DATA COLLECTION AND RESEARCH

An overview of the size and dynamics of the turtle population under protection is crucial for the sustainable success of conservation measures. For this purpose, relevant data are collected and research projects are carried out or supported. Within the framework of jointly agreed task sharing, the *Natura 2000 Cabo Verde* organization developed standardised data collection methodologies, which are now used by all groups. This is an important step towards a correct evaluation of the data.

Further projects with different questions on the biology of the loggerhead turtle are being carried out by the work group around Dr. Christophe Eizaguirre from Queen Mary University of London on different islands of Cabo Verde in cooperation with the NGOs there. In October 2020, the group published two papers on the population dynamics of the archipelago's loggerhead turtles in the journal *Scientific Reports* (see „Media and Publications).

A project to research the mating grounds and migration routes of the loggerhead turtles is being pursued in a cooperation between Turtle Foundation and the marine conservation organization *MarAlliance*. The background to the project is the presumed increase in turtle poaching at sea, with the turtles being particularly easy prey for fishermen during the mating season. For effective protection at sea, the mating grounds must obviously be well known. So far, four male turtles have been fitted with satellite transmitters, three of which are still active and have already provided very informative data in recent months.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Sustainable nature conservation does not stand alone, but can only take place in cooperation with the population, which is why we are particularly committed in this area. The pandemic did not leave our participatory development project on Boa Vista untouched, and we had to make some adjustments to our program.

The income of many families on Boa Vista depends on tourism, and since the number of holidaymakers completely collapsed from spring 2020 onwards, many people suddenly found themselves without an income. While employees in the tourism sector can still fall back on reduced wage payments, self-employed small entrepreneurs such as taxi drivers or restaurant owners are dependent on marginal state support.

Together with our partner organizations, we participated in an online fundraising campaign to support particularly affected families. Furthermore, we were able to create a small counterbalance by employing 61 local rangers and camp staff. The women's cooperative TAMBRA in the village of João Galego, which we support, was also directly affected by the pandemic.

Women are also part of the illegal trade in turtle meat, as it is usually the wives of the poachers who preserve and sell the meat. By providing guidance on how to produce and market preserved vegetable chutneys and natural soaps, we offer the women of TAMBRA a sustainable alternative to being involved in turtle poaching. Unfortunately, there were no tourists on Boa Vista this year, who are the most important target group for the handmade products.

A great success, however, was the completion of the construction work on the tourism centre in João Galego, financed by our donor MAVA, where the TAMBRA group will produce and sell their products.

We supported another women's group in the small village of Cabeçâ dos Tarafes in running a sewing course. The group was immediately able to implement the first orders for the production of fabric masks. For the future, it is planned to set up a sewing workshop here, where, for example, school uniforms and work clothes will be made.

The renovated TAMBRA house

Martina Tomar from the TAMBRA group harvesting dates

Sewing group in Cabeçâ dos Tarafes

In addition, we conducted a large-scale beach clean-up campaign in cooperation with village organizations to collect washed-up rubbish from nesting beaches. In this context, we also supported a pilot project to produce simple items from recycled plastic, which was implemented by a youth group. In the coming years, the production technique and the product range are to be expanded in order to achieve marketing here as well.

Another important target group of our social engagement for the protection of sea turtles are the fishermen of Boa Vista. There are about 70 fishing boats operating in the offshore waters. So far, little is known about the extent to which the hunting of turtles in the sea contributes to the decimation of the species. In order to involve fishermen in our project work, we started a cooperation with initially six fishermen who help us with data collection in the sea and with the tagging of turtles. In return, they received safety equipment for their boats and work clothes with individual motifs of sea creatures such as octopuses, whales and, of course, turtles.

Motif for fishermen equipment

A section of beach is cleared of plastic waste

FINANCIAL REPORT
ALL INCLUSIVE INCOME STATEMENT

EXPENSES 01.01. - 31.12.2020	EUR
Cabo Verde	
Coordination and overhead	113,615
Protection of nesting beaches	253,660
Social engagement and community projects	114,615
Data collection and research	2,759
Expenditure for environmental authority (special funding)	44,152
Expenditure for organizational development (special funding)	48,020
Project management	51,803
Direct expenditure for Cabo Verde	**628,624**
Indonesia	
Berau	127,470
Sipora	30,303
Selaut Besar	17,319
Anti turtle shell campaign	64,495
Project management	34,535
Direct expenditure for Indonesia	**274,122**
Support for third party projects	**7,181**
Cologne office	
Public relations, advertising, project fundraising	104,284
Structural costs	59,558
Cologne office total	**163,842**
Provision for project funding 2021	**110,090**
TOTAL EXPENSES	**1,183,859**

REVENUE 01.01. – 31.12.2020	EUR
Restricted funding and income	
Grants Cabo Verde	595,580
Income and sales Cabo Verde	12,376
Grants Indonesia	181,409
Income and sales Indonesia	730
Restricted donations	16,322
Total restricted grants and income	**806,417**
Unrestricted funding and income	
Foundations, private donations, Corporate donations	186,969
Special funding for organizational development (MAVA)	184,540
Fines	5,550
Sales of miscellaneous articles	383
Total unrestricted grants and income	**377,442**
TOTAL REVENUE	**1,183,859**

ORIGIN OF DONATIONS AND USE OF FUNDS

PROJECT PLANNING 2021

INDONESIA

BERAU

The conservation project in the Derawan Archipelago will continue. Rangers will continue to patrol the nesting beaches on Belambangan and Sambit islands year-round, both protecting nesting turtles and their nests from poachers and collecting data on the animals' nesting activity.

The community outreach, public relations and environmental education projects on the inhabited islands of the archipelago and on the mainland of Berau district, which had to be put on hold in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, are to be continued as soon as circumstances allow.

Primary school in Matuptuman

SUMATRA

The community-based leatherback turtle conservation project in Sipora, West Sumatra, will continue. In our project village of Matuptuman, the implementation of the participatory village development plan is to start by renovating the village school through community work.

Likewise, the new project on the lighthouse island of Selaut Besar, Aceh, is to be continued in cooperation with the local organization *EcosystemImpact*. Since other turtle species nest on Selaut Besar in addition to leatherback turtles, the beach protection program will run year-round. The first year will be used in particular to record the nesting activities of all turtle species throughout the year.

Furthermore, we are planning to complete the data collection on potential leatherback turtle nesting beaches in Sumatra in order to assess the need for further protection measures. The international networking with other organizations for the protection of leatherback turtles in the eastern Indian Ocean, which has already begun, is to be continued and, as far as possible, intensified through visit and training programs.

Hatchling of a green sea turtle

ANTI TURTLE SHELL CAMPAIGN

We will try to raise the necessary funds to continue the anti turtle shell campaign, whose first phase has officially been completed. The available results will be published on an international level.

Based on the results of the investigations on the trafficking of turtle shell and the relevant areas of origin and production as well as the experience gained here, we want to concentrate our activities on the areas that have been identified as hotspots of the turtle shell trade. The aim is that parallel to the campaign in the social media and the repeated broadcasting of the Kimi spot on local TV stations, school visits and action weeks will also take place so that the issue is brought intensively to the attention of the public over a shorter period of time. At the same time, where possible, initial measures will also be defined to focus on the origin of the turtle shell trafficking, specifically the catching of the turtles in the sea by local fishermen.

BOA VISTA (CABO VERDE)

During the second half of the special funding from the *MAVA Fondation pour la Nature* (2020-2022), which is now in progress, the successes of the past three years will be consistently built upon. The cooperation with the organizations *BIOS.CV* and *Cabo Verde Natura 2000*, the nature conservation authority and other local groups will be continued in order to further develop the achieved efficiency of nature conservation work, environmental education and development cooperation.

Our development cooperation program will primarily accompany and support the further development of the business activities of the women's group TAMBRA, the tailor's workshop in Cabeça dos Tarafes and the plastic recycling project. An exhibition of turtle figurines and objects from all over the world, which we collected in Cologne and sent by sea freight to Boa Vista, will be set up in the TAMBRA house in the village of João Galego.

The aim of our activities is to create sustainable sources of income that are at the same time closely linked to the protection of the environment and in particular of sea turtles.

In cooperation with the fishermen of Boa Vista, we want to find ways and possibilities to support this marginalised social group and to win them over for the protection of the sea turtles.

The protection of the nesting beaches by means of night patrols will be continued in the proven manner. For this purpose, temporary beach camps will again be set up during the nesting season and the two community-based conservation projects in the villages of Povoação Velha and Bofareira will be supported financially, technically and logistically.

As part of the *Sea Turtle Surveillance Task Force* (STSTF), the night vision drone project started in 2018 will continue with the aim of largely eradicating poaching by deterring and, if necessary, prosecuting offenders on Boa Vista. In parallel, search dogs will continue to be trained and deployed. These alternative protection measures should help to reduce the personnel and cost-intensive beach patrols in the foreseeable future.

Exhibition object

Exhibition object

Skylene and Aila, the daughters of Ukie Resende, with Karetta II and Kelo

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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