SAVE TURTLE ORGANISATION

(CHRÁNÍME MOŘSKÉ ŽELVY Z. S.)

ANNUAL REPORT 2025





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FOREWORD

The year 2025 was very demanding for me. At the end of 2024, our second daughter was born, and life with two small children brings both joy and daily challenges. Despite this—or perhaps because of it—there is a powerful desire within me that cannot be silenced: the desire to do what truly matters.

I love everything I do, which is both a blessing and a commitment. My work fulfills me and brings joy through its results, yet sometimes there is so much of it that I hardly find a moment to breathe. This makes me all the more grateful for the people around me—those who are always willing to help, who bring new ideas, energy, and a sense of calm, and who remind me of our shared values and what truly matters.

I also find peace and inspiration in memories of Jane Goodall, who passed away last autumn during her lecture tour. I remember reading her books and attending her lecture in 2016 at the Faculty of Science, Charles University. She often used to say: **“If you start something, give it your all.”**

Perhaps you, too, feel tired sometimes. Perhaps you feel that there are too many problems in the world and that an individual cannot make a difference anyway. Of course, no one can solve all the world’s problems. But when we look at our work together, we see that change is possible.

Thanks to stubbornness and perseverance, but above all, thanks to respect for local people, patience, open communication, and cooperation, we have managed to protect and release nearly **five million baby sea turtles** into the sea. What’s more, more are added every single day. And that is what motivates me to keep going.

If you feel like it, try to find something you can improve as well. Suddenly, you will feel that change is possible. And when you invite friends to join you, you’ll find that things start to happen. When you then realize that all over the world, there are people like you, also striving to change the world for the better, it will give you hope.

It is these very thoughts of Jane Goodall that compel us to keep going, to seize every opportunity, and to tell ourselves once again: **“ I can do this.“**

In the past year, we expanded our sea turtle protection efforts to an additional location in Sri Lanka. We now protect turtles in a total of nine locations—six in Indonesia and three in Sri Lanka. Across all these sites, 3,396 turtle nests were protected, and conservationists released 174,439 newly hatched turtles into the sea.

An integral part of our work is education and the development of local communities. In Sri Lanka, for example, we teach local residents how to produce bamboo straws as an eco-friendly alternative to plastics. In 2025, we also conducted extensive and systematic online monitoring of turtle centers in Malaysia.

Public awareness in the Czech Republic is equally important to us. We held **69 days of lectures and**



events for the public and as part of our campaign with Helen Doron English, more than 9,000 children and students learned about sea turtles in approximately 800 lessons across the Czech Republic.

We truly appreciate you walking this path with us.
Hana Svobodová Chair of Turtle Foundation (Chráníme mořské želvy z.s.)

I believe the world is full of great ideas, but only a few people have the courage and strength to bring them to life. Hanka is certainly one of them, and it is a great honor for me to have been drawn into her 'magnetic field.

I am a teacher and a mother of three teenage boys. Since they were young, my husband and I have raised them to love and respect nature, but it was only recently that we decided to give our family vacations a different dimension. We have moved them away from consumerist leisure toward responsibility and a sense of purpose in helping others.

It took me a while to find Hanka. First, I had to click through all those volunteer websites where you pay a 30,000 CZK fee just to work as a volunteer, only to end up petting little turtles in a pool. It all felt insincere, fake, a tourist trap. Then I came across a blog that said: 'If you want to see how turtles are truly protected, look at how Hanka Svobodová does it.' I clicked. I spent the whole evening reading the website, watching videos and lectures, and I knew I had found someone extraordinary.

It felt even more special when I had the chance to see it all with my own eyes in Indonesia and to understand the great strength, courage, and determination it must have taken for a young student from the Czech Republic, who decided to move the world on her own with her bare hands.

After returning home, I felt I had to continue. If Hanka and her team could achieve so much, surely I could do something more as well. So, I decided to develop lesson plans focused on sea turtle protection for children within the Helen Doron English language school network, where I work. With the approval and great support of our management, we taught English lessons themed around sea turtle conservation in 64 branches in June. We introduced the topic to approximately 9,000 children and received a contribution of 175,000 CZK for the organization 'Save the Sea Turtles' (Chráníme mořské želvy) from the children, parents, and teachers.

I am very happy about it, even though it may seem like just a drop in the ocean. **Each of us can create the ocean with our own drop.** Thank you, Hani, for inspiring everyone around you.

Martina Pohanková
English teacher at Helen Doron English in the Náchod region

SAVE TURTLE ORGANISATION



DIRECT CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES

in 6 regions in Indonesia
and 3 in Sri Lanka

EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

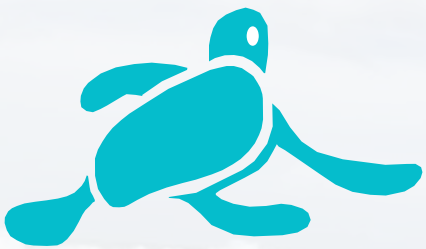
the tropics and the Czech Republic
covering ecosystems, turtles, waste management, English, and swimming

ECO-FRIENDLY CRAFT WORKSHOPS

supporting the financial independence of local communities

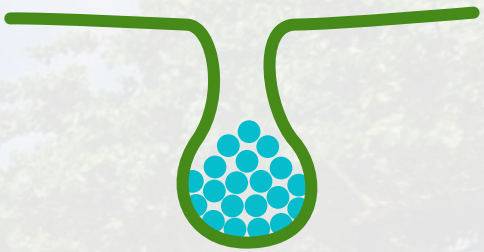
SAVE TURTLE ORGANISATION IN 2025 IN NUMBERS

174,439 HATCHLINGS
released into the sea



6 REGIONS IN INDONESIA
3 REGIONS IN SRI LANKA

3 396 NESTS
protected from poachers





1 MONITORING
project of turtle conservation in Malaysia



16 CONSERVATIONISTS
4 TEACHERS IN THE FIELD, 1 CRAFTSMAN



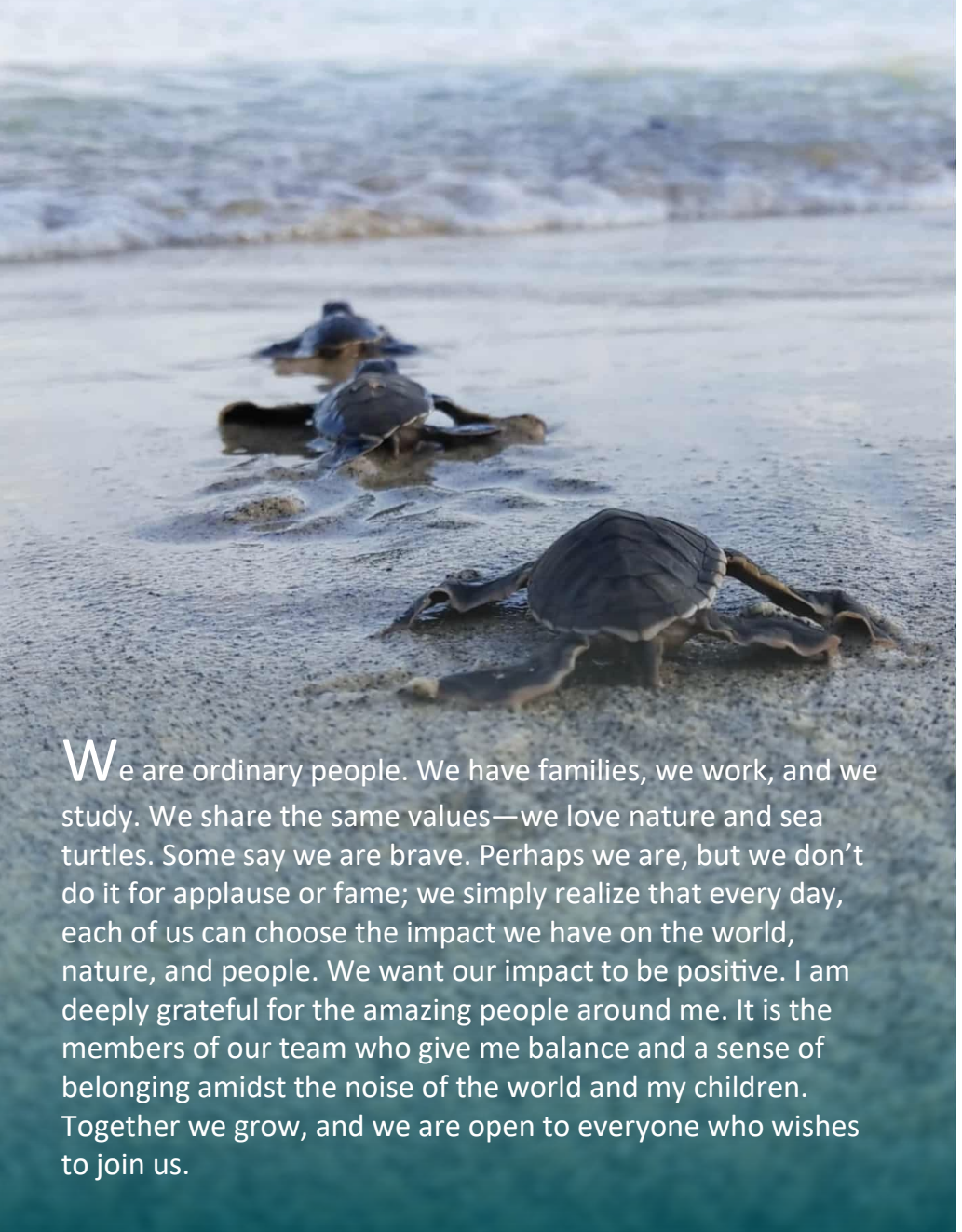
2 REGIONS
where corals and mangroves were planted

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22 VOLUNTEERS (12 in Indonesia, 10 in Sri Lanka)
EDUCATION, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT...
... AND RAISING AWARENESS:
69 events (33 for schools, 36 for the public)
+ approx. 800 lessons in Helen Doron centers - English for Children (over 9,000 students)

13 MEDIA APPEARANCES (8 articles, 2 radio features, 3 TV features)
1 BOOK inspired by the project
3 EXHIBITIONS
1 CALENDAR
1 AUCTION





We are ordinary people. We have families, we work, and we study. We share the same values—we love nature and sea turtles. Some say we are brave. Perhaps we are, but we don't do it for applause or fame; we simply realize that every day, each of us can choose the impact we have on the world, nature, and people. We want our impact to be positive. I am deeply grateful for the amazing people around me. It is the members of our team who give me balance and a sense of belonging amidst the noise of the world and my children. Together we grow, and we are open to everyone who wishes to join us.

Hana Vašina Svobodová – Founder and Chair of the association; a biologist who has been dedicated to sea turtle conservation for over twenty-two years. She communicates with local conservationists in Indonesia and Sri Lanka, with whom she coordinates not only the protection of turtles, but also data control and project accounting. She is responsible for communication in the Czech Republic – managing the association's Facebook page, giving lectures, and promoting the project. Alongside her conservation work, she is fully committed to her family, her two very young daughters, and the daily struggle with sleep deprivation. In addition to her "parental leave" and turtles, she educates teachers and helps develop the science curriculum concepts for several schools.

Eva Bílková – An entomologist, science popularizer, and enthusiastic traveler. In 2023, as part of the OU AID program at the University of Ostrava, she traveled to Indonesia and spent two and a half months there. On Lembata Island, she quickly became part of the local conservation community, and while monitoring turtle centers in Bali, she witnessed firsthand the harsh reality of tourist "rescue" centers. In 2024, she traveled to Indonesia and Sri Lanka for the second time with Hana to visit conservationists. Within the project, she primarily focuses on communication with the public, volunteers, and local conservationists in Asia.

Jitka Kubalová – An accountant by profession. For the turtles, she coordinates events in the Czech Republic and handles the issuance of donation receipts. She is also involved in humanitarian aid in Uganda and supports Czech animal shelters and rescue stations.

Olga Býmová Her volunteer stay in Indonesia motivated her to continue helping in the Czech Republic; she handles project administration, assists with translations to and from English, and helps with whatever is needed.

Ivo Pardus – A PhD student at the Department of Forest Ecology at the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (ČZU); his work focuses on the last fragments of pristine forests in Europe and researching their biodiversity. He completed a

10-week Erasmus internship focused on Loggerhead sea turtle conservation at the Archelon organization. In 2024, he participated in a month-long journey across Indonesia, assisting with project monitoring and education. In the Czech Republic, he helps with events and lectures.

Adéla Měrková – A graduate of the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague. She currently works as an external educator, teaching about nature and climate at the Sluňákov Center for Ecological Activities. In 2024 and 2025, she traveled to Indonesia for a month—first conducting research on temperature and humidity conditions in nests on Sulawesi, and subsequently helping to implement changes on a protected part of the beach. Thanks to Adéla's assistance, the hatching success rate on the Tompotika peninsula increased by tens of percent. During her internship at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre in Malta, she helped care for Hawksbill sea turtles. In the Czech Republic, Adéla assists with various events.

Lucka Váňová – Sea turtles have fascinated her since childhood, leading her to volunteer for various conservation organizations in Greece and the Maldives. She has experience in both direct beach protection and working at rescue centers. Although she studied pharmacy, her desire to deepen her knowledge of nature conservation led her to the Faculty of Science. In 2025, she conducted the online monitoring of turtle centers in Malaysia.

Petra Klembarová – A biology student at Charles University; in February 2023, she assisted with project development and turtle monitoring in Sri Lanka. She is currently processing the monitoring results into a professional article for the Sri Lankan government. In her free time, she leads several paddling and nature-oriented clubs at the Center for Children and Youth. She enjoys taking children to summer camps and on river trips, and skiing with her family. In the Czech Republic, she assists with various events.

Filip Kounek – Works at the Czech Union for Nature Conservation, where he focuses on protecting valuable natural habitats, restoring wetlands, monitoring vertebrates—particularly amphibians—and managing the care of injured wildlife. At the University of Veterinary Sciences, he specializes in animal welfare and protection. In 2023, he traveled to Lembata and Flores as a volunteer for sea turtle conservation. In the Czech Republic, he assists with lectures and events.



Eva Šlosarčíková – A breeder and protector of both Czech and tropical fauna; she manages auctions in the "Hand in Hand" Facebook group and assists with project events.

Pepík Brůna – A botanist who assists with website maintenance and handles the issuance of donation receipts.

Saša Zdeňková a Tomáš Kolman – They have traveled to Indonesia five times as volunteers; in the Czech Republic, they focus on education and help promote the project.

Hana Redererová – A girl from Moravia whose life path led her all the way to Tasmania. She loves nature and helps with donor communication.

Karolína Dzurendová a Ivana Moudrá – They manage the project's Instagram account and the English Facebook page.

Vlasta Pauke Dobešová – Ensures the financial and accounting operations of the organization.

Nataša Velenská – Chairwoman of the Turtle Breeders Club and a renowned turtle expert.

And there are many more of you who help regularly…

Thank you all for being part of this!



PARTNER TEAMS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA




Dikwella
Berau
Polewali Mandar
Tompotika
západní Papua
Matara
Godauda
Denawan
Lembata

In Indonesia, we support, coordinate, and fund sea turtle conservation across 6 different locations.



On Denawan Island in the Pulau Sembilan archipelago (South Borneo), we cooperate with the PAMALI Indonesia organization. We fund the work of conservationist Hasan and teacher Irwandi. In September, Buzdar also returned from Sulawesi, where he had been training conservationists in the Polewali Mandar region. Until December 2025, he focused primarily on educational activities.



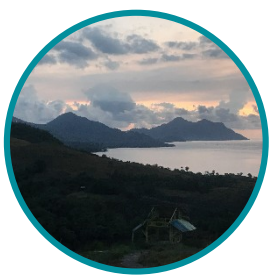
In West Papua, we collaborate with UNIPA University and the organization Yayasan Sealam Karya Lestari, which focuses primarily on the conservation of Leatherback sea turtles. The team on the ground includes Fitry, Deasy, university students, and local residents.



In West Sulawesi, in the Polewali Mandar region, we lead and fund the Laut Biru Indonesia team, where conservationists work alongside a local teacher.



In the Tompotika region (East Sulawesi), we cooperate with the Alliance for Tompotika Conservation (ALTO). The team, led by Marcy Summers, focuses primarily on protecting the critically endangered Maleo birds. However, sea turtles also lay their eggs on these local beaches, and we are the ones providing for their protection there.



On Lembata Island in southeastern Indonesia, sea turtles are protected by the Sahabat Penyu Loang team, consisting of Ade, Juvent, and Wilhelmus.



In the Berau region of East Borneo, we focus on education and the development of local communities. We send volunteers from the Czech Republic to local schools and fund the work of a local craftsman.

In southern Sri Lanka, we lead and fund sea turtle conservation at 3 different locations.



Gayan takes care of the turtles on the beaches near the town of **Dickwella**.



Near the town of **Matara**, the turtles are protected by Mahesh, who expanded his team by adding two new colleagues during 2025.



Since the end of November 2025, we have also been supporting Sandun and Malitha near the village of **Godauda**.

We cooperate closely on the national sea turtle conservation strategy with Mr. Channa Suraweera from the **Department of Wildlife Conservation**.

In 2025, funds from the Czech Republic covered not only the wages for 16 conservationists, one craftsman, and four teachers in the field, but also enabled the construction of protected beach areas for the safe incubation of turtle eggs at three locations. On South Borneo, we funded the renovation of a ranger station, the installation of solar panels, and Starlink technology, providing vital connectivity on an uninhabited island.

We also provide educational materials, and in Papua, we purchased computers. We fund equipment for conservationists, tools for community development, and educational activities. For the Kapuhenwala State Center in Sri Lanka, we designed, produced, and installed information boards for tourists.

The entire team in the Czech Republic works on a **voluntary** basis and receives no financial compensation for their work.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Nomination for the Josef Vavroušek Award for long-term contribution to environmental protection (2024)

Award from the Honorary Consul of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the Czech Republic – For contribution to sea turtle conservation in Sri Lanka (2021)

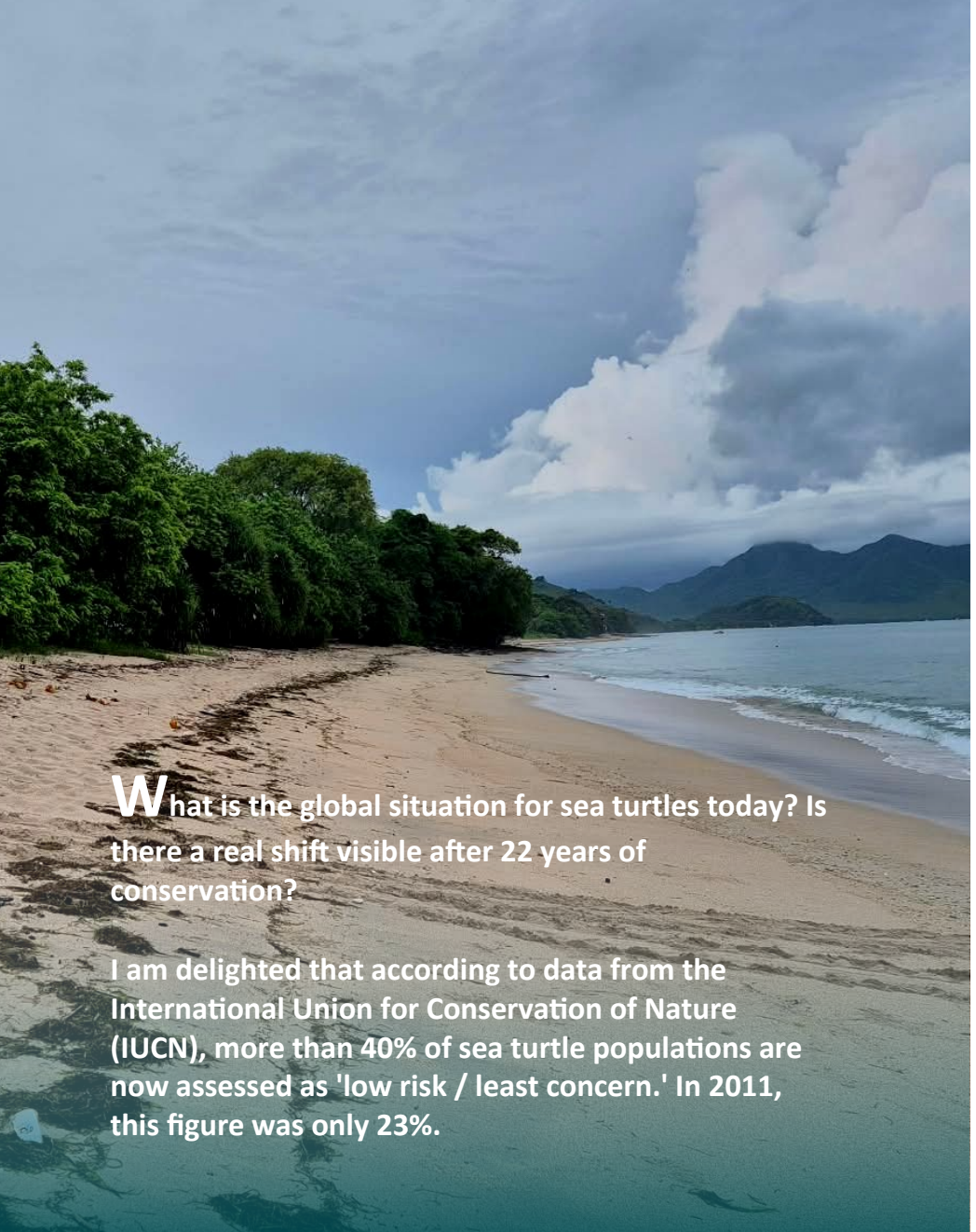
PETA Asia – Inclusion of the Konservasi Biota Laut Berau team in the "Animal Heroes during COVID-19" selection (2021)

Forbes Magazine – Included Hana Svobodová in the list of promising young Czechs "under 33" (30 Under 30 selection supplement)

Nomination for the Josef Vavroušek Award for an exceptional achievement in environmental protection (2019)

Zdeněk Veselovský Award for the research project: Abundance and behavior of the Leatherback sea turtle (Dermochelys coriacea) in the coastal waters of southern Ireland (2008)


SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION



What is the global situation for sea turtles today? Is there a real shift visible after 22 years of conservation?

I am delighted that according to data from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), more than 40% of sea turtle populations are now assessed as 'low risk / least concern.' In 2011, this figure was only 23%.

This represents immense progress, clearly demonstrating that long-term and targeted conservation works. I am proud and grateful that we could contribute to this shift—we have released nearly **5 million sea turtle hatchlings** into the sea, which is truly a significant impact.

We call our method **'Respect for Nature**.' It consists of removing the primary threats—especially the illegal poaching of eggs—protecting and cleaning the beaches, and then letting nature do its work. This approach, combined with education and support for local residents, has proven to be exceptionally effective. Conservation is not just about data and methods; it is about observing natural processes themselves, **respecting people**, building trust, and fostering long-term cooperation with local communities.

We are gradually expanding turtle protection to new areas; today, we operate across **nine locations**. To new conservationists, we offer not only scientific methods, data collection systems, wages, and equipment, but above all, **experience, support, encouragement, and educational materials**. Ultimately, however, success in each location depends on the most vital element—finding at least one, and ideally several, people with true dedication. When you realize how many such people exist around the world, it creates genuine hope for a global improvement in the situation of sea turtles.

This is also why I was delighted when, in October 2025, the global status of the **Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)** was reclassified on the IUCN Red List from 'Endangered' to 'Least Concern.' The population of this 'gardener of the seagrass meadows' has increased by approximately **28**% over the last 50 years. This represents a significant success for nature conservation, achieved through decades of nesting beach protection.

At the same time, however, **regional turtle populations** continue to face



serious threats—climate change, ocean pollution, and frequent entanglement in fishing nets.

Many other species remain endangered—some even critically—and therefore urgently need continued protection. Across our protected sites, 5 out of the world's 7 sea turtle species lay their eggs (the Leatherback and the Hawksbill, Loggerhead, Green, and Olive Ridley sea turtles).

Waste is a massive problem, particularly in Indonesia. Plastic cups, PET bottles, and fragments of fishing nets—all of these threaten life both in the sea and on land. In 2025, our conservationists rescued turtles injured by boats or **entangled in nets** on both Sulawesi and South Borneo. I value their work all the more because, even during the peak season when more than ten females lay eggs on the beaches daily, they still manage to clean the beaches regularly.

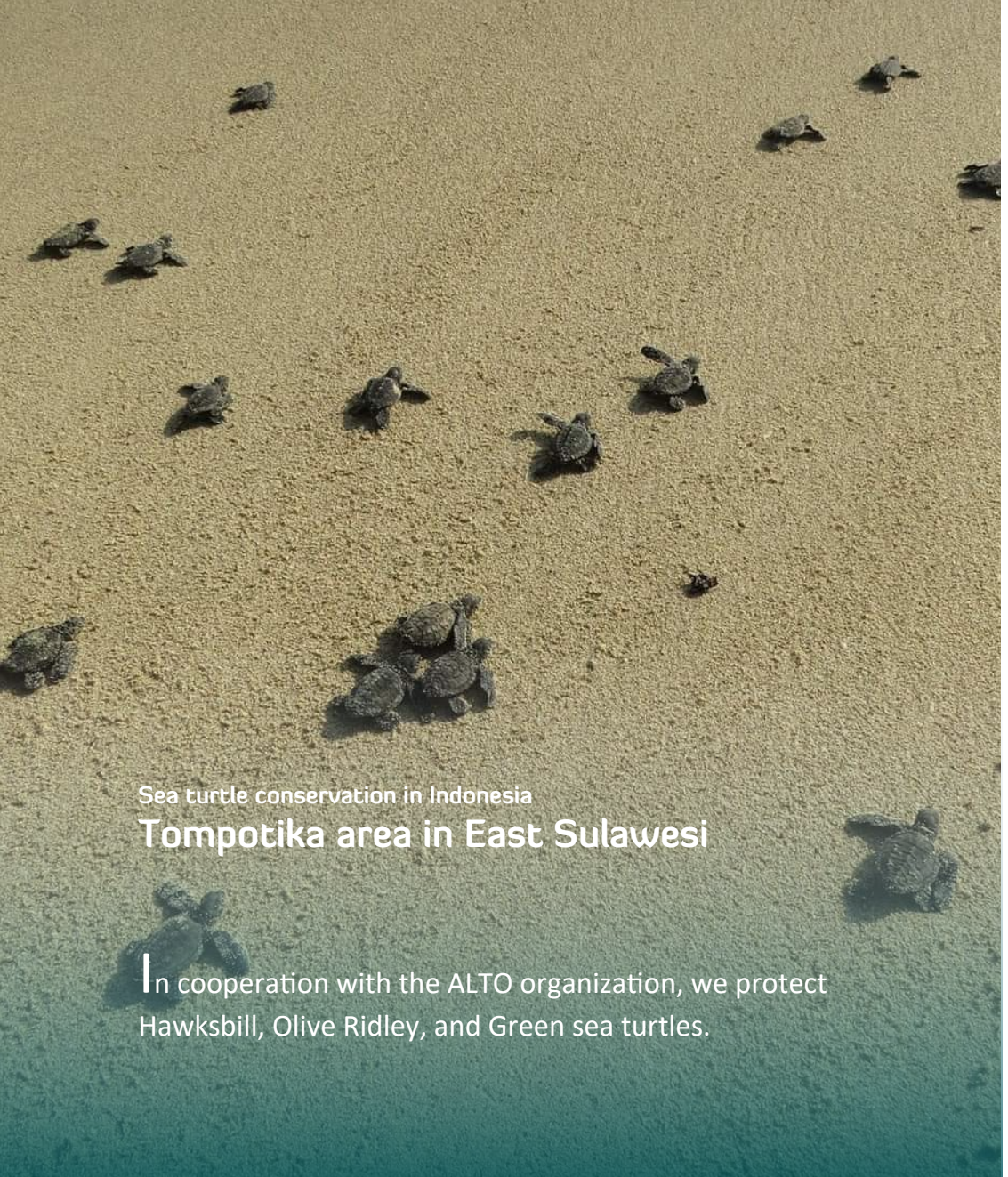
Tourism also remains a significant and persistent risk. Millions of people travel to areas where sea turtles live, and each of us can choose the impact our behavior will have. If you want to help the turtles, choose souvenirs made from sustainable materials and never support the trade in tortoiseshell products. Visit only those centers that are truly dedicated to conservation and do not use turtles as a tourist attraction. Give the turtles peace and space—keep your distance, avoid using white lights or camera flashes, and behave quietly and considerately.

Through your behavior on vacation, by supporting meaningful projects, and by sharing information, you can help ensure that sea turtles remain part of our planet for generations to come.

Much has been lost, but there is still so much left to save. Thank you for helping us make a difference.

SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION IN INDONESIA





Sea turtle conservation in Indonesia

Tompotika area in East Sulawesi

In cooperation with the ALTO organization, we protect Hawksbill, Olive Ridley, and Green sea turtles.

Due to unfavorable climatic conditions, the hatching success rate in 2024 reached only around 60%. Therefore, we conducted detailed measurements of sand temperature and humidity on-site and proposed **measures** that could increase the hatching success rate in the future.

We are thrilled that this work has paid off—**the hatching success rate has increased by more than 10 %** compared to last year, which we consider a significant achievement. It has clearly shown that the adjustments made to the conditions in the protected beach area had a positive effect. However, much work still lies ahead of us for the future.

In fact, the most frequently recorded temperatures at all monitored sites were around 30 °C. While this likely does not have a fatal impact on embryo development, it very probably means that significantly more females than males are hatching on Sulawesi—a trend seen in most parts of the world. Unfortunately, climate change poses a fundamental threat to turtles. Therefore, in the coming season, we plan to implement further measures that could help cool the sand and lower the temperature within the nests.

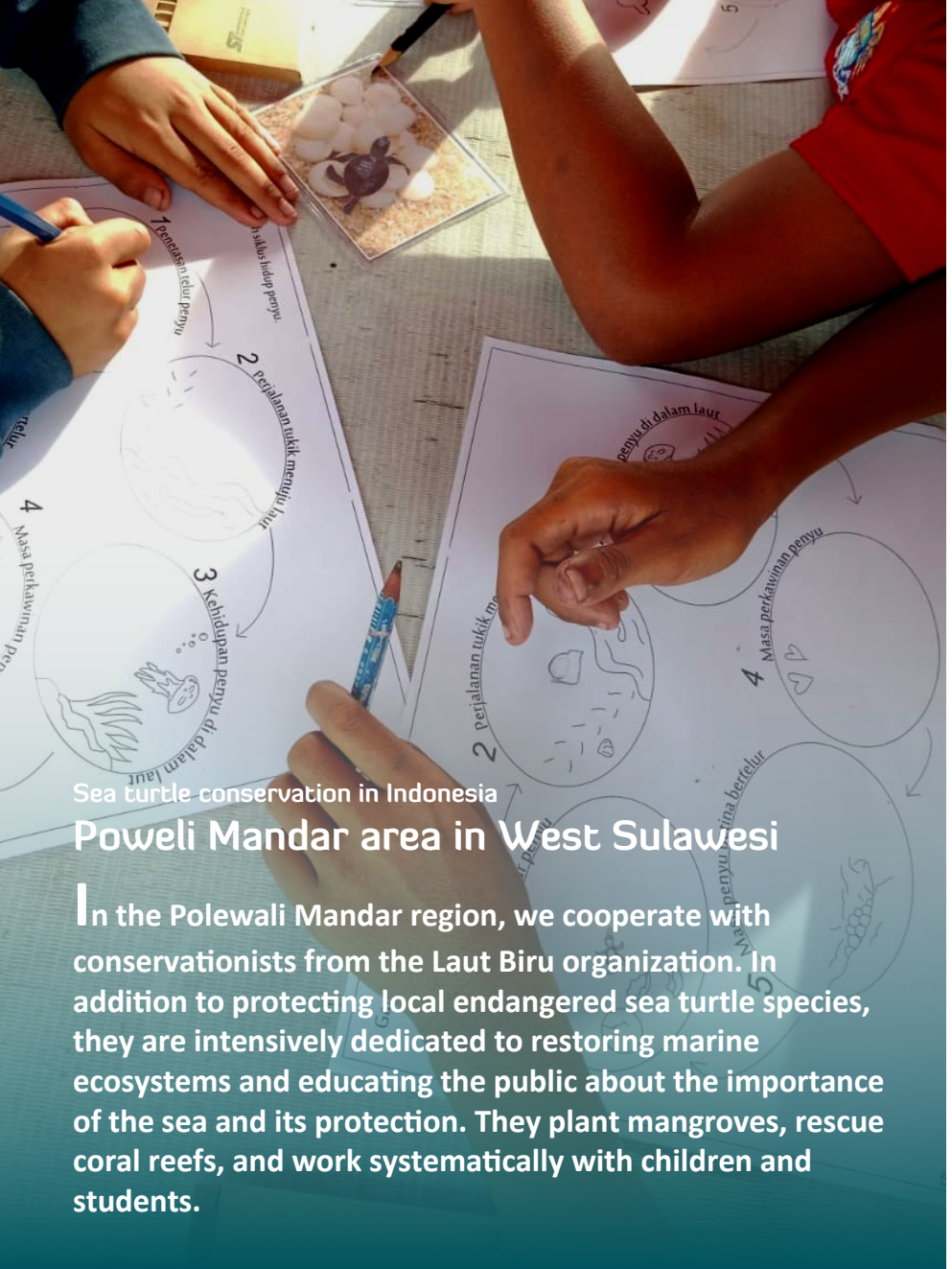
The good news is also that **63 turtles** came to lay eggs at two protected locations in the area (46 Olive Ridley nests, 13 Green turtle nests, and 4 Hawksbill nests), and conservationists released **4,625 hatchlings** into the sea.

Our cooperation also included **training for local conservationists**, who learned simpler and more effective methods for collecting data on turtle clutches and hatching success rates, which is crucial for long-term monitoring of changes.



I deeply admire the ALTO Tompotika organization. Their work is exceptional—in addition to protecting sea turtles, they dedicate themselves to the conservation of the Maleo (Macrocephalon maleo) and fight tirelessly against destructive nickel mining, which devastates local rainforests, pollutes water sources, and threatens the health and lives of local residents.

4,625 HATCHLINGS RELEASED INTO THE SEA
63 CLUTCHES PROTECTED FROM POACHERS
1 CONSERVATIONIST
1 RESEARCH PROJECT INCLUDING EQUIPMENT
2 PROTECTED AREAS



Sea turtle conservation in Indonesia

Poweli Mandar area in West Sulawesi

In the Polewali Mandar region, we cooperate with conservationists from the Laut Biru organization. In addition to protecting local endangered sea turtle species, they are intensively dedicated to restoring marine ecosystems and educating the public about the importance of the sea and its protection. They plant mangroves, rescue coral reefs, and work systematically with children and students.

They collect damaged coral fragments from the seabed and attach them to cleaned substrates. The success rate of this method is very high—**seven months after ransplantation, 80% of the 500 coral fragments** have taken root. Children also participate in the coral planting, learning firsthand about the threats these unique ecosystems face and why the sea is so important. This opportunity to experience conservation personally significantly increases their understanding and retention of key information.

Together with university and high school students, the conservationists planted **600 mangrove seedlings**, they regularly clean the transplanted corals, and they also organize a **'Sea School' (sekolah laut)** focused on ocean protection. During the sessions, children learn about the sea turtle species living in Indonesia, their life cycles, the threats they face, and how they themselves can contribute to their protection. The lessons are conducted through games, quizzes, and drawing, and the children are incredibly enthusiastic. **Small 'children's action groups'** have even emerged, creating their own environmental projects—cleaning up around their schools, planting flowers and trees, and taking an active interest in the state of their environment.

This year, conservationists from **Laut Biru** organized the **fifth festival** dedicated to turtles, corals, and mangroves. **Large-scale beach clean-ups** also took place—over one hundred local people, mostly students, participated, and together they managed to collect **more than one ton of waste**.

During their patrol, the conservationists found a turtle injured by a boat that was unable to dive. We consulted on the procedure with both Indonesian and Czech veterinarians, including **Prof. Zdeněk Knotek, CSc.**, a renowned European specialist in herpetology. Unfortunately, X-ray examination was not available in the area, and treatment options were therefore very limited. We treated the turtle according to the recommendations, and when its condition improved, we decided to return it to the sea—aware that we had provided the maximum possible care under the circumstances.



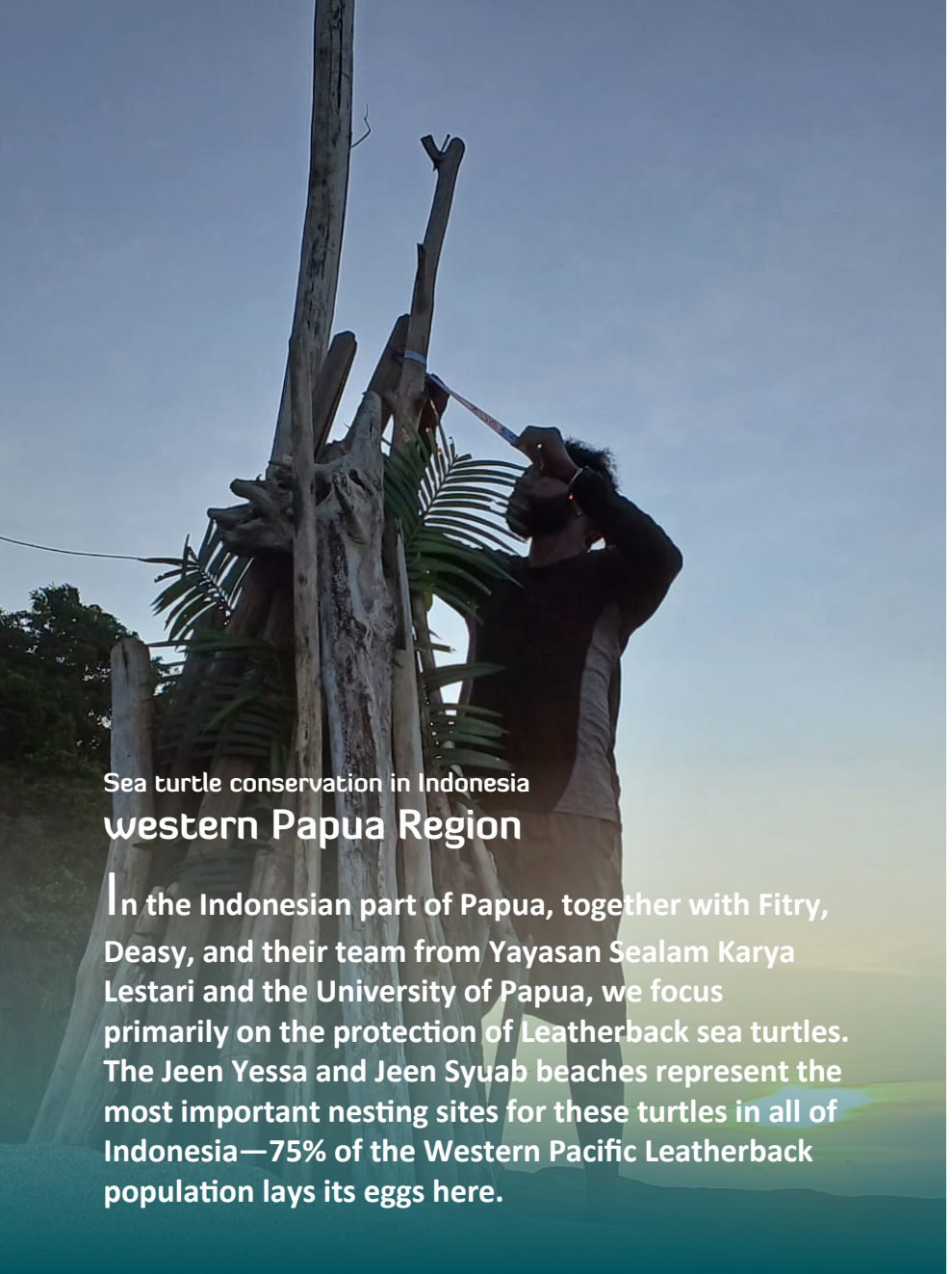
Several volunteers helped in the region in **2025. Linda and Dominik** participated in building a new protected section of the beach, while **Adéla, Saša and Tom**, volunteer **Daniela**, and teacher **Irena** focused primarily on education.

Regarding turtles, this site is among the less frequented. Only **59 nesting females** were recorded during the 2025 season; nevertheless, conservationists managed to release **4,749 hatchlings** into the sea. The hatching success rate was very high, for which special thanks go to the conservationist **Buzdhar**. He temporarily relocated here from South Borneo to train the local team in turtle protection methodology. After completing this mission, he returned to the **PAMALI Indonesia** organization in September.

Starting next season, conservationists from **Laut Biru** plan to expand protection to **another beach** where poaching activity was recorded and a dug-up clutch was found. We are rooting for them and hope they succeed in protecting the turtles there as well.

4,749 HATCHLINGS RELEASED INTO THE SEA
59 CLUTCHES PROTECTED FROM POACHERS
4 CONSERVATIONISTS + 1 TEACHER
1 NEW PROTECTED BEACH SECTION

+ SCHOOL EDUCATION, AWARENESS RAISING – FESTIVAL,
CORAL & MANGROVE PLANTING,
BEACH CLEAN-UPS



Sea turtle conservation in Indonesia

western Papua Region

In the Indonesian part of Papua, together with Fitry, Deasy, and their team from Yayasan Sealam Karya Lestari and the University of Papua, we focus primarily on the protection of Leatherback sea turtles. The Jeen Yessa and Jeen Syuab beaches represent the most important nesting sites for these turtles in all of Indonesia—75% of the Western Pacific Leatherback population lays its eggs here.

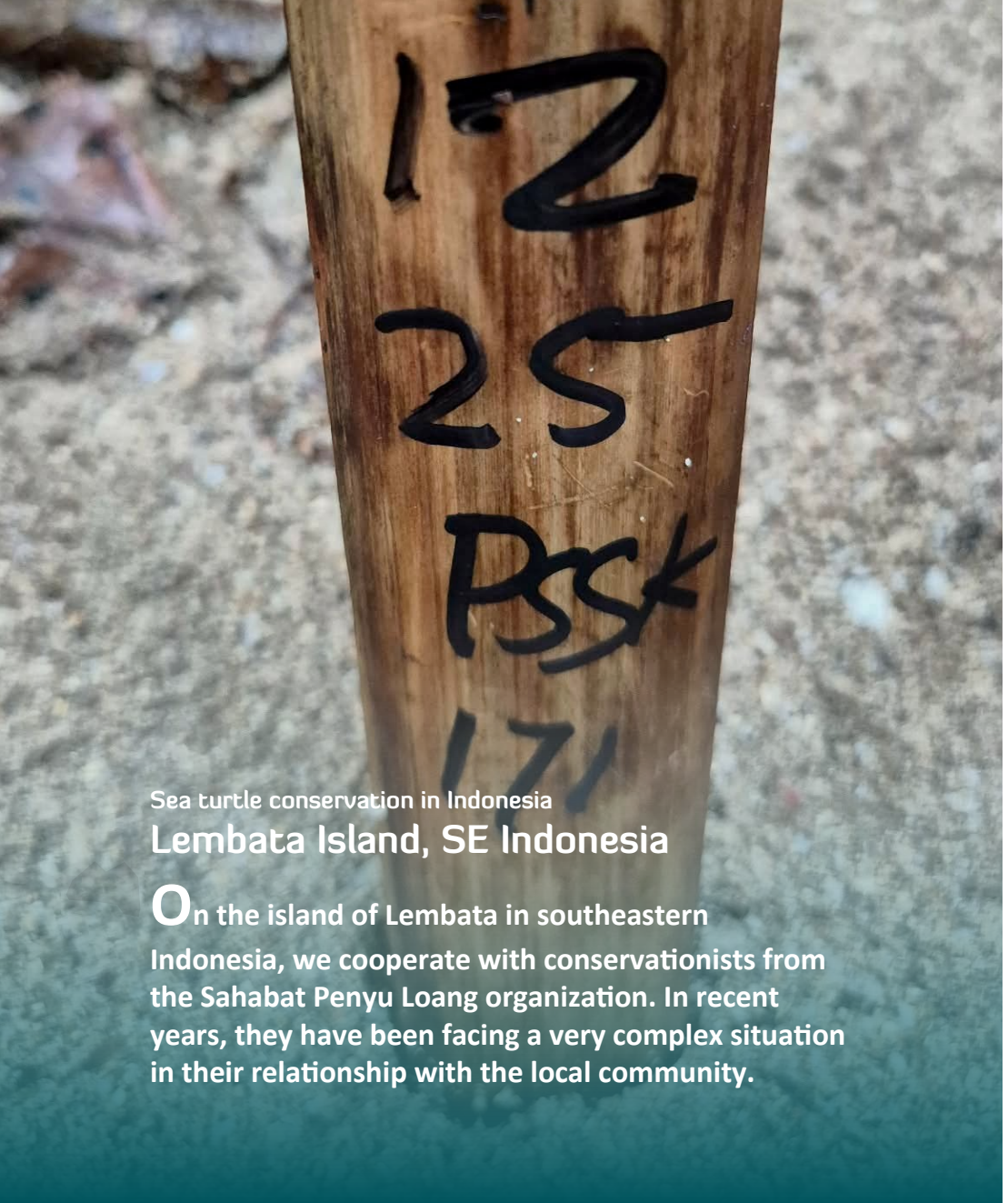
The Leatherback population has plummeted by up to 80% over the last 60 years due to poaching, which has been strictly suppressed since 2017. The primary current threats remain high sand temperatures, erosion, tidal flooding of nests, and predators.

To protect the eggs, **three new shaded hatchery sections** were built this year, as 2024 research revealed that low hatching success was primarily caused by high sand temperatures. The results showed that the highest hatching success is achieved when eggs are relocated, ideally under trees or into shaded beach sections—however, the number of trees is limited.

In 2025, a total of **1,713 sea turtle nests** were saved—including those of Leatherback, Hawksbill, Green, and Olive Ridley turtles. **Leatherbacks accounted for 61% of all nests**, representing the highest number and proportion ever protected at this site! Much of this credit goes to the two new conservationists whose work we fund. The cooperation between our colleagues from **UNIPA** university and members of local communities—especially young people from the villages of **Resye, Womom, and Syukwo**—demonstrates that linking nature conservation with community support is both possible and highly effective.

On Papua, we also funded **five computers** for the **Houses of Learning**. University students led courses here for children from remote communities. The courses were attended by **108 students**, nearly half of whom attended regularly and showed improvement in their computer skills. For many of the younger children, this was their very first contact with a computer, which was an extraordinary experience for them.

70,542 HATCHLINGS RELEASED INTO THE SEA
1,713 PROTECTED CLUTCHES
2 CONSERVATIONISTS
3 NEW PROTECTED BEACH SECTIONS + 5 COMPUTERS



Sea turtle conservation in Indonesia

Lembata Island, SE Indonesia

On the island of Lembata in southeastern Indonesia, we cooperate with conservationists from the Sahabat Penyu Loang organization. In recent years, they have been facing a very complex situation in their relationship with the local community.

In August 2024, someone intentionally **set fire to the protected section of the beach**, and more than **1,000 turtle eggs** burned inside. In February 2025, the perpetrator was sentenced to **four years in prison**; however, the conservationists subsequently faced threats from his family. Despite this, they did not give up. They built a new protected section—this time **on the private land of one of the conservationists**. It was extraordinarily demanding work, requiring the transfer of a large amount of sand from the beach, but the result was worth it: **29 nests** were protected there, and **2,573 hatchlings** emerged among the papaya trees. The conservationists then safely transported the freshly hatched turtles to the beach and allowed them to return to the sea.

When I listen to stories from **Lembata** Island, I often remember **Jane Goodall** and her beginnings in Gombe– the slow and patient building of relationships with local communities that allowed her to help animals over the long term. Here, we ask similar questions: *Can we help local conservationists convince residents to stop collecting eggs? Can we share experiences from other places to avoid mistakes that are common when working with communities?* The answer is: maybe.

Our presence on Lembata is, above all, proof that we are **not giving up** and are ready to help in any way we can. We hope that, over time, the conservationists will earn the trust, understanding, and respect of the local residents. Restoring the program, which functioned very well here years ago, will require **discipline, time, and patience**. Unfortunately, the situation is not made any easier by the fact that although many government officials publicly support conservation, their actions do not always follow their words.



Good news from Lembata was brought by the conservationist Denche, who lives on the other side of the island. In 2024, we trained him in proper sea turtle protection, and in 2025, he managed to save 8 clutches and release **512 hatchlings** into the sea. Furthermore, Denche strives to explain to local children that it is better to protect turtles than to eat them. On Lembata, which is poor and strongly influenced by tradition, collecting eggs for food remains a major problem—making **every saved egg** and **every child or parent** who decides to protect nature all the more valuable.

3,085 HATCHLINGS RELEASED INTO THE SEA
37 CLUTCHES PROTECTED FROM POACHERS
3 CONSERVATIONISTS



Sea turtle conservation in Indonesia

Pulau Sembilan archipelago in South Borneo

In the Pulau Sembilan archipelago, which is the most important nesting site for Green turtles in the entire South Borneo region, we cooperate with the local organization PAMALI Indonesia. Together, we protect sea turtles on Denawan Island and have long-term aspirations to expand protection to the islands of Pamalikan and Matasirih. However, this has not yet been successful due to a complex situation with the local inhabitants and government inaction.

Nature conservation is primarily about **working with people**—human activity represents the greatest threat to turtles. Conservationists repeatedly report massive poaching on the islands of Pamalikan and Matasirih. The situation can only be resolved by the government, which, however, has not yet shown sufficient will to intervene. This year, we at least attempted to negotiate the placement of **camera traps and warning signs** highlighting the illegality of poaching, featuring government and police logos. Yet even this has not been successful so far—neither official letters nor repeated personal meetings, for which the conservationists had to travel long hours and days, have helped.

By ensuring a **permanent presence of conservationists**, it has been possible to stop poacher raids at least on Denawan Island.

However, a persistent problem remains the **deteriorating state of marine ecosystems** on which endangered species depend. Indonesian marine ecosystems are among the richest in the world, yet they are also severely threatened and are gradually losing their capacity for natural regeneration. In addition to climate change, this is significantly exacerbated by pollution, overfishing, and especially **illegal fishing techniques**, such as the use of explosives or poisons—most commonly cyanide compounds—which destroy entire sections of coral reefs and seagrass beds.

This is why we focus intensively on **cooperation with local communities**. Our teachers operate on the islands of **Matasiri** and **Marabatuan**—education about the sea and sea turtles is provided by **Irwandi** and, following his return from Sulawesi, also by **Buzdhar**. Thus, the **PAMALI Indonesia** organization represents a determined and persistent defender of sea turtles in South Borneo.

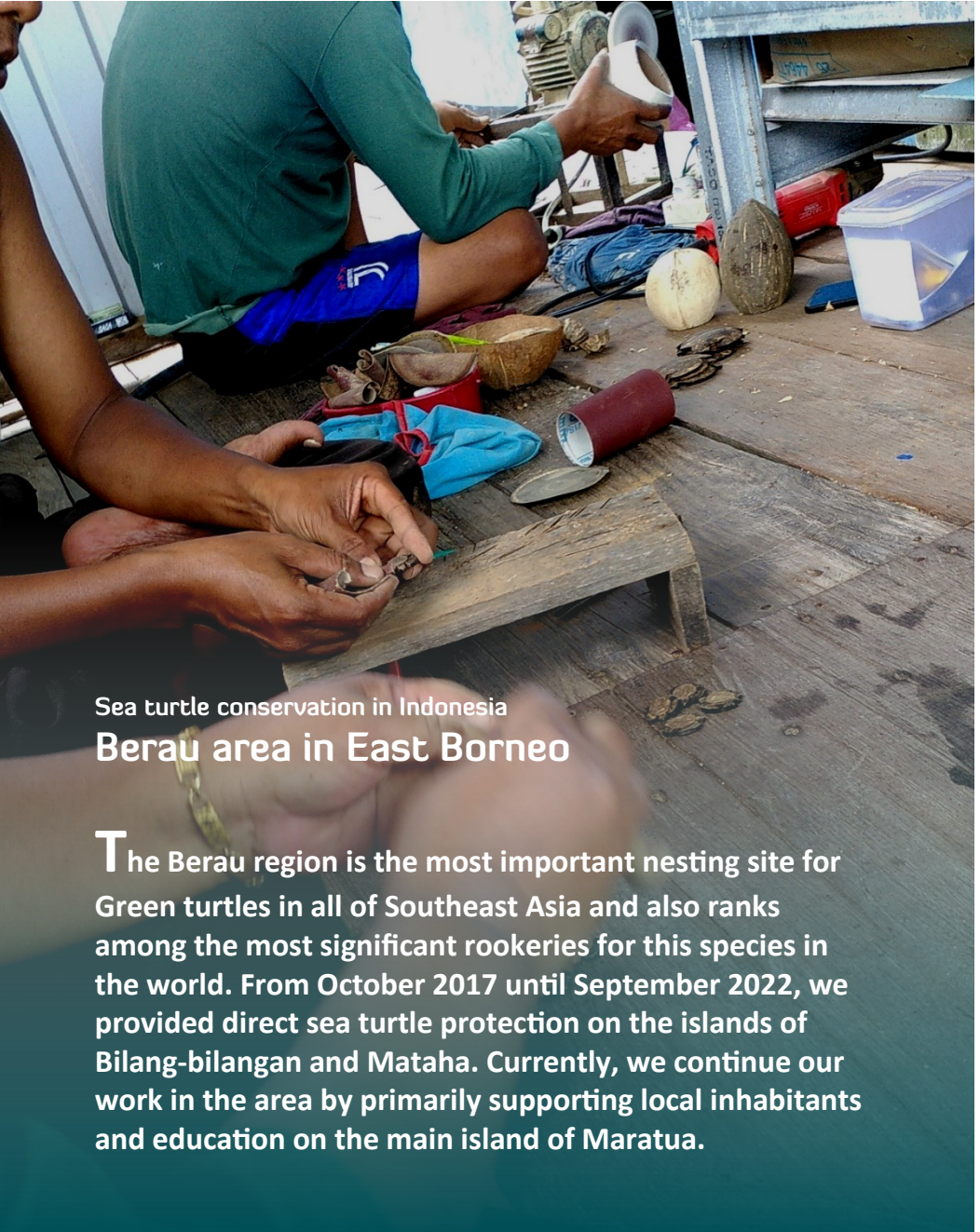


I find some comfort in the **resilience of nature**—there are many examples of places and specific species that were on the brink of extinction but were given a second chance and managed to return. Hopefully, the same will happen here. Strength is often hidden in the determination to overcome obstacles, and that is why I consider it essential to support those who do not give up.

Currently, our focus in the region is primarily on **education and supporting the conservationists on Denawan Island**. Thanks to the **'Signal for Turtles'** fundraiser, organized in cooperation with the **VAKOVAKO** platform, we were able to provide **Starlink** technology powered by solar panels. This gives the conservationists access to a signal and the internet directly on the uninhabited island. They can immediately contact the police if poachers appear, call for help in case of accidents or injuries, share data, photos, and videos of their work, and stay in touch with their families. They deeply appreciate this support and have currently begun repairing and renovating the conservationist hut.

In **2025**, turtles on Denawan laid **916 clutches**; these were protected, and **59,226 hatchlings** reached the sea safely. In addition to the threat of poaching, it is often necessary to relocate the eggs due to **erosion**—the island is literally shrinking before our eyes.

59,226 HATCHLINGS RELEASED INTO THE SEA
916 CLUTCHES PROTECTED FROM POACHERS
1 CONSERVATIONIST + 2 TEACHERS IN THE FIELD
1 PROTECTED ISLAND – Denawan



Sea turtle conservation in Indonesia

Berau area in East Borneo

The Berau region is the most important nesting site for Green turtles in all of Southeast Asia and also ranks among the most significant rookeries for this species in the world. From October 2017 until September 2022, we provided direct sea turtle protection on the islands of Bilang-bilangan and Mataha. Currently, we continue our work in the area by primarily supporting local inhabitants and education on the main island of Maratua.

On Maratua, lessons led by volunteers took place during both the **winter and summer seasons**. We educated children not only about sea turtles, the ocean, and nature conservation in general, but also in **English** and on topics related to **waste reduction and responsible waste management**. The teaching took place in the local primary school, on the beach, in front of houses, and in other outdoor spaces—essentially everywhere it made sense.

At the beginning of the year, several **workshops were also held with local craftsman Sablon**. Since **2014**, he has been dedicated to making souvenirs from **coconuts** rather than turtle shells. This year, thanks to our workshops, he further expanded his craft—beginning to work with white coconuts, colors, and strings. This resulted in a range of beautiful and original products, the sale of which provides a **livelihood for local people** while simultaneously **supporting sea turtle conservation**.

1 CRAFTSMAN
LOCAL COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION IN SRI LANKA





Sea turtle conservation in Sri Lanka

Direct Protection on Beaches near Dikwella

On Bathigama Beach and its surroundings, conservationist Gayan is dedicated to sea turtle protection. In addition to regular night patrols, relocating eggs to safety, and releasing freshly hatched turtles, he also focuses significantly on raising awareness among tourists.

In the local bay, there are almost always **2 to 4 adult turtles** that people can swim with. This is an extraordinary experience; however, many visitors do not respect the turtles' natural space—they touch them, try to feed them, lift them, or surround them. Some locals try to profit from this situation by selling seaweed to tourists so they can feed the turtles directly from their hands. Such behavior is **highly stressful** for the turtles and can have serious impacts on their health.

Gayan repeatedly explains the rules of safe and considerate behavior, reminding visitors of the prohibitions and the reasons behind turtle protection. Despite this, he often encounters **aggressive reactions and insults**. It is sad that in the pursuit of enjoying a vacation, respect for nature—as well as basic human decency and the willingness to follow clearly established rules—sometimes disappears.

However, tourism in this locality also has one positive side. Hotels near the beach are equipped with **security cameras**, which managed to capture a turtle egg thief red-handed. The perpetrator was convicted, and the footage even appeared on **national television**. We believe that this event has contributed to raising awareness that sea turtles are protected by law and that collecting their eggs is illegal—and that similar cases will decrease in the future.

In **2025**, Gayan relocated **55 nests** to safety, from which **2,826 hatchlings** successfully emerged. Before the start of the new season—at the end of the calendar year—he also repaired the protected section of the beach that had been damaged by a fallen branch and replaced the protective netting. Additionally, he organized **coral planting** around the beach, contributing to the restoration of local marine ecosystems.

2,826 HATCHLINGS RELEASED INTO THE SEA
55 CLUTCHES PROTECTED FROM POACHERS
1 CONSERVATIONIST



Sea turtle conservation in Sri Lanka

Direct Protection on Beaches near Godauda

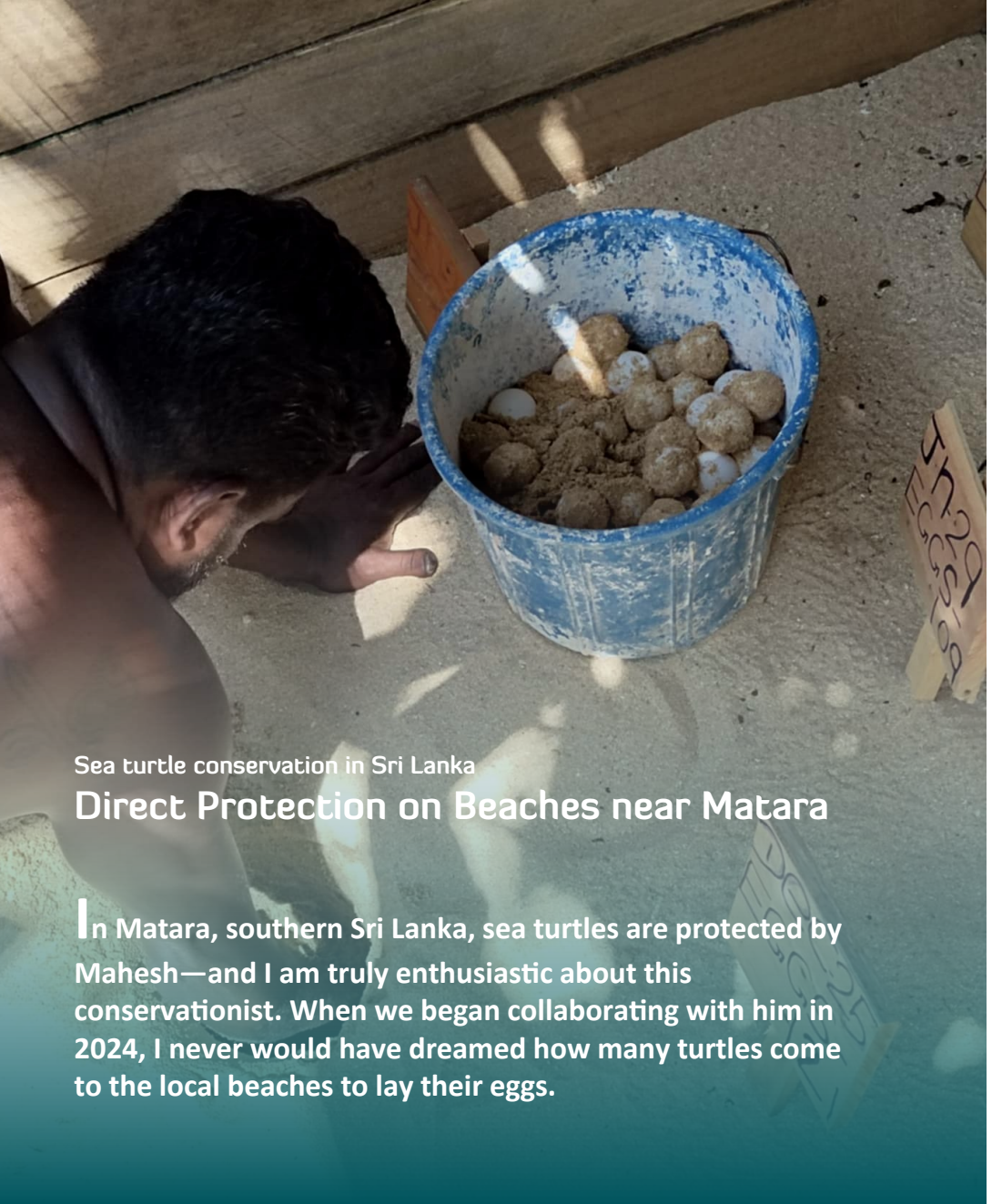
Near the town of Dikwella lies the village of Godauda, where—following the recommendation of Channa Surraweera from the Department of Wildlife Conservation and our long-term conservationist Gayan—we have initiated cooperation with two other local conservationists.

Sandun and Malitha are friends. Malitha works as a chef in a restaurant, while Sandun is a surfing instructor. It was Malitha who first became interested in sea turtles after talking with a colleague about their presence in the Godauda area. This curiosity soon turned into a deeper interest in turtle conservation, which Malitha then shared with Sandun.

Together, they subsequently met Gayan, who introduced them to the principles of sea turtle conservation and began supporting them in their activities. Our volunteers provided the conservationists with **red-light headlamps**, trained them in proper protection techniques and **data collection**, and together they built a **protected section of the beach**.

Thanks to this cooperation, sea turtle conservation in Godauda was able to get into full swing—and **since November 2025, we have been protecting turtles at nine locations.**

FIRST CLUTCH PROTECTED FROM POACHERS
2 CONSERVATIONISTS
1 NEW PROTECTED SECTION OF THE BEACH



Sea turtle conservation in Sri Lanka

Direct Protection on Beaches near Matara

In Matara, southern Sri Lanka, sea turtles are protected by Mahesh—and I am truly enthusiastic about this conservationist. When we began collaborating with him in 2024, I never would have dreamed how many turtles come to the local beaches to lay their eggs.

During this season, he managed to **save and safely release 29,386 hatchlings**. His personal goal was 10,000—the reality surprised even him. Furthermore, the average hatching success rate is exceptionally high. Mahesh himself says it is a small miracle, which he attributes to the **regular replacement of sand and the shading in the new protected section of the beach** that we built together.

It also brings me immense joy to see the meticulousness with which he follows all recommendations and how precisely and conscientiously he performs his work. He also manages tourists brilliantly—during the release of the hatchlings, he always creates a **protective corridor** where people stand aside; everyone has a good view, yet no one touches or endangers the turtles.

During the year, Mahesh gradually **expanded the protected area** and invited his colleague **Rasika** to cooperate. Together, they now protect an incredible **8 kilometers of beach**. They already have two protected sections of the beach; however, even these could not accommodate all the rescued clutches—**154 nests** had to be transported to the wildlife office for incubation. Unfortunately, we do not have data from there regarding the hatching success rate or the safe release of the hatchlings.

Therefore, we plan to **build an additional protected section of the beach and involve more conservationists** so that we can have the entire process under control—from egg collection to releasing the hatchlings into the sea.

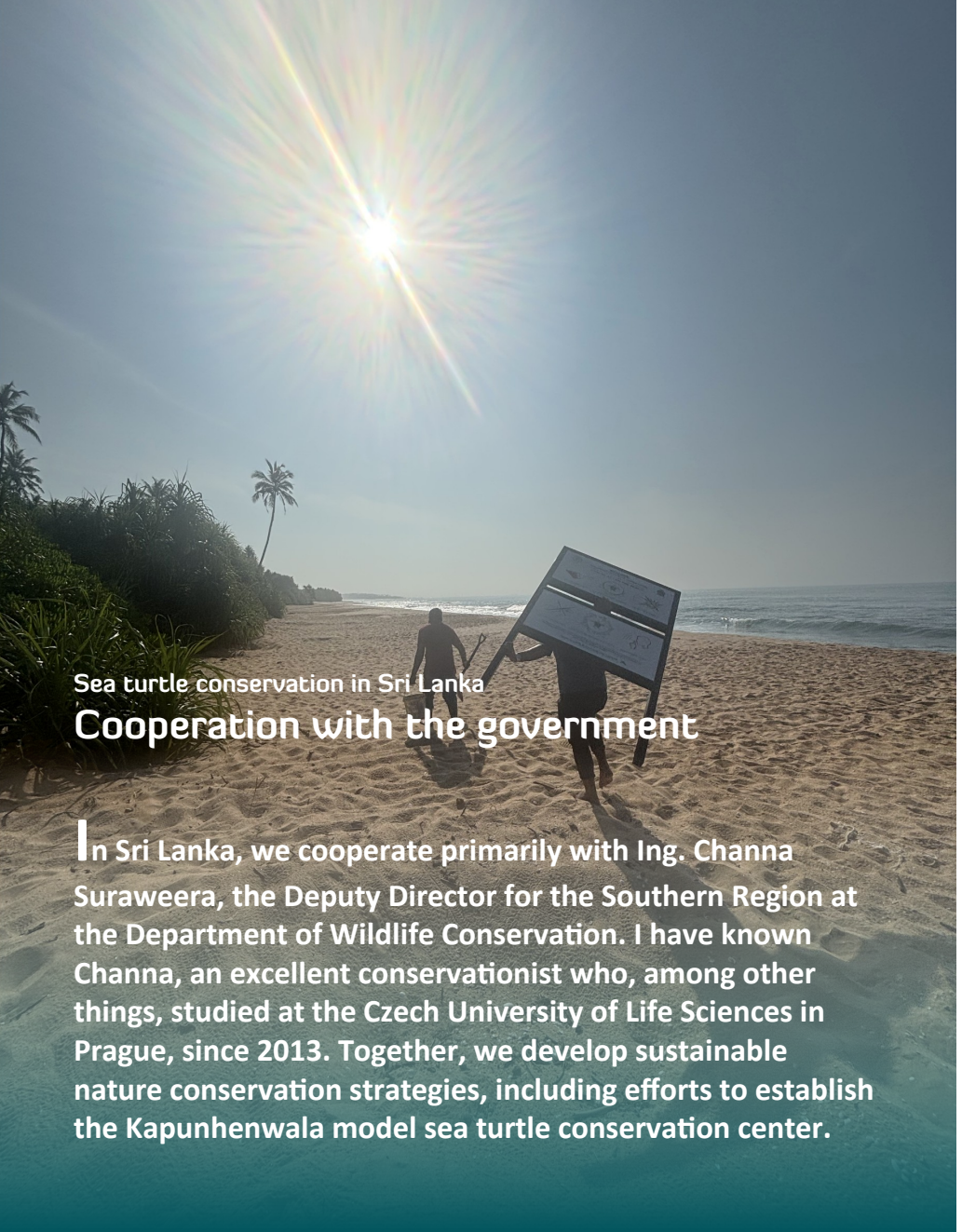


I deeply appreciate Mahesh's determination and the support he receives from the local people. **552 rescued nests** already represent a real change. As for me—hats off.

And one more crucial thing: until now, it was claimed that in the **Matara** area, turtles lay eggs only during the period from **November to May**.

However, with our support, Mahesh confirmed egg-laying in every month of the year. This fundamentally changes the perspective on the significance of the entire area.

29,386 HATCHLINGS RELEASED INTO THE SEA
552 CLUTCHES PROTECTED FROM POACHERS
2 CONSERVATIONISTS
1 NEW PROTECTED SECTION OF THE BEACH



Sea turtle conservation in Sri Lanka

Cooperation with the government

In Sri Lanka, we cooperate primarily with Ing. Channa Suraweera, the Deputy Director for the Southern Region at the Department of Wildlife Conservation. I have known Channa, an excellent conservationist who, among other things, studied at the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague, since 2013. Together, we develop sustainable nature conservation strategies, including efforts to establish the Kapunhenwala model sea turtle conservation center.

At the beginning of the year, we created an **educational trail with information boards** on the beaches of Kapuhenwala, so that tourists can better understand turtle conservation and follow the rules when observing nesting females and the release of hatchlings. We installed the boards on the beach and prepared **manuals for tourists** on how to behave safely and considerately. We also had t-shirts made for the state conservationists, so it is clearly recognizable who the actual conservationists are.

However, reality shows that one passionate person is often not enough. Channa faces an enormous workload—together with his team, he manages diverse **marine and terrestrial ecosystems**, including three national parks, several nature reserves, protected areas, and hundreds of kilometers of coastline. Moreover, a new local supervisor has been in charge at Kapunhenwala since mid-year; paradoxically, his interest in turtle conservation is minimal, and the situation at the center has worsened since his arrival.

Problems have emerged on the beach, such as a dog digging up eggs directly within the protected area because no one repaired a hole in the fence. Other issues included hatchlings inexplicably kept in the sun in a basin with very little water, or an adult turtle held in a barrel of dirty water—our volunteers found no sign of the injury for which she was allegedly being kept there. Instead, her flippers were rubbed raw and bleeding from the walls of the small barrel. Regular beach patrols are not being maintained, and egg protection is functioning only in a limited capacity. **We are addressing the situation directly with colleagues** from the Department of Wildlife Conservation and believe that during 2026, the situation surrounding their official government center will be resolved.

Kapunhenwala is located in southern Sri Lanka at the western end of Rekawa Beach, a four-kilometer stretch that is the most important turtle nesting site in Sri Lanka. On the eastern side of the beach,

the community project Turtle Kapunhenwala is located in southern Sri Lanka at the western end of Rekawa Beach, a four-kilometer stretch that is the most important turtle nesting site in Sri Lanka. On the eastern side of the beach, the community project Turtle Watch Rekawa operates, allowing tourists to observe egg-laying; however, the actual effectiveness of their conservation efforts cannot be precisely verified. Due to uncertain protection and indications of poaching, we wanted to help protect the turtles here as well. The project has been under preparation since May, and in the summer, it received preliminary approval from the head office of the Department of Wildlife Conservation in Colombo.

However, the permit with precise regulations has not yet been issued. Unfortunately, sometimes even months of negotiations and preparations do not lead to actual nature protection.

On the other hand, the **Sri Lankan government deserves praise**. A new regulation prohibits the placement of **beach bars and sun loungers** on the beaches, which is a huge step forward. In the past, dozens of illegal bars and lights emerged in some areas, disturbing nesting females and disorienting hatchlings. Thanks to this new regulation, turtles once again have more peace and space for nesting.

EDUCATIONAL TRAIL WITH INFORMATION BOARDS
MANUALS FOR TOURISTS
T-SHIRTS FOR CONSERVATIONISTS
MONTHS OF NEGOTIATIONS




Green Generation



We believe that the greatest key to change is education. Therefore, in all the locations where we protect turtles, we also teach children. On Borneo, Sulawesi, Papua, and Sri Lanka, lessons are led by conservationists, our teachers, and volunteers. We believe that through these lessons, children will understand that someone else cannot help the planet—that they themselves must strive for a better future for nature and for their own lives.

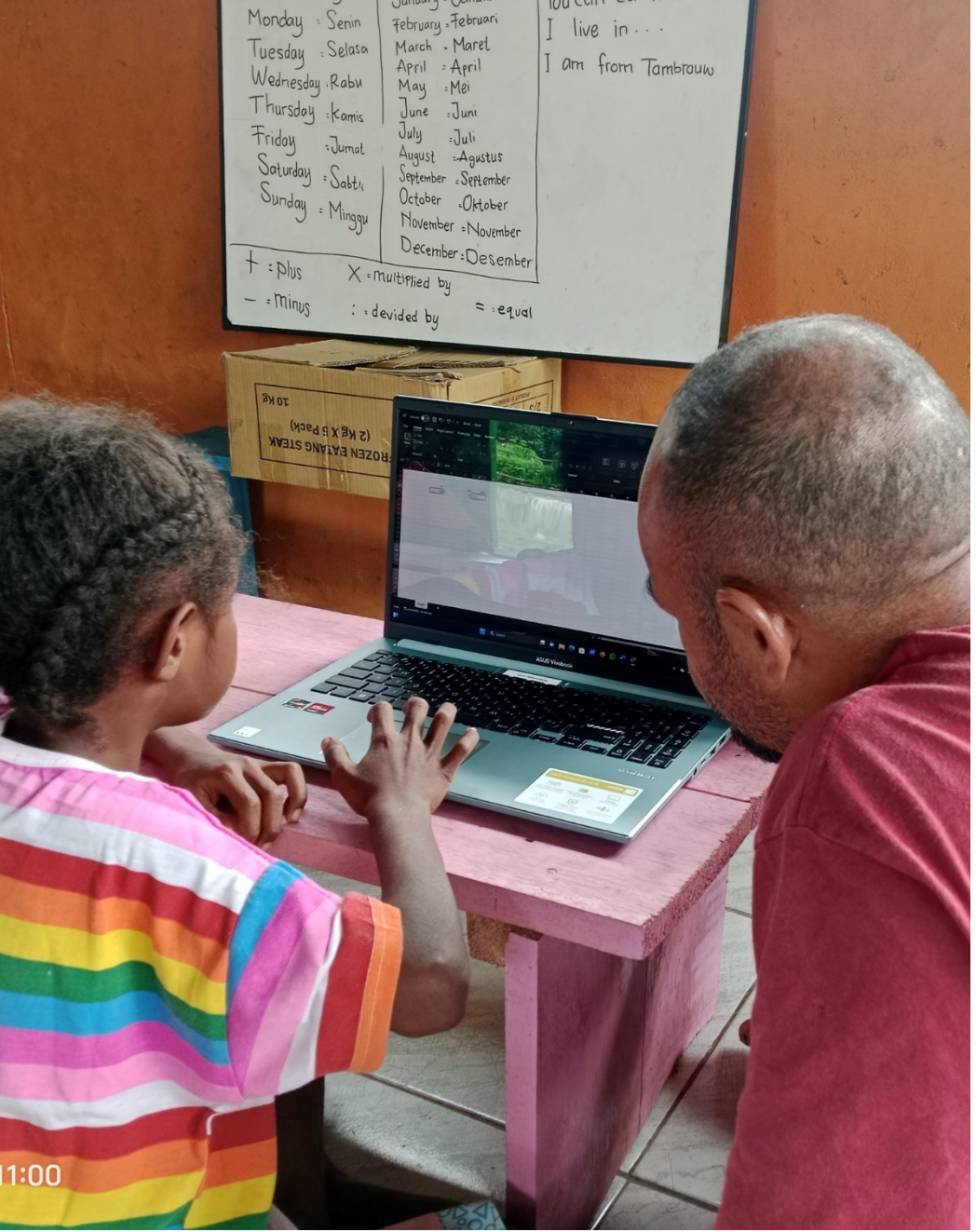
We strive to ensure that children understand the importance of the sea, sea turtles, and corals; they learn how to manage waste properly and why fishing with dynamite is dangerous and destructive. At the same time, we teach them about **sustainable tourism**, conducting nature-friendly activities, and the basics of English. It is also immensely important that we teach the children how to swim and take them directly into the field to see the turtles.

For example, on Sulawesi, children attend a 'Sea School,' where they learn through play about turtles, the ocean, and how they themselves can protect nature. Many of them then form small **action groups**—cleaning up their school surroundings, planting trees, and actively caring for their environment.

On Papua, we funded computers for the Houses of Learning, where students led courses for children from remote communities. For some of the children, this was their very first experience with a computer, and for all of them, it was a profound experience.

On Maratua Island, education took place directly in the field—on the beach, in front of houses, or at school. Children learned about sea turtles, the ocean, nature conservation, English, and responsible waste management. People here heard **about microplastics in fish for the first time**; however, some were intrigued and joined the volunteers in cleaning the beaches. Hopefully, even these small successes will ultimately lead to a great change. Education here connects knowledge with practical experience and serves as an inspiration.

In Sri Lanka, in **Dikwella and Rekawa**, our volunteers **taught successively in several schools**. In thematic lessons, the children learned important information about the **lives of turtles, the dangers they face, and how to behave so that these dangers for the turtles are minimized**. At the same time, the children expanded their English vocabulary.



22 volunteers participated in our field educational programs—12 in Indonesia and 10 in Sri Lanka. Their work was crucial for supporting local communities and raising a new generation of people who love nature and are interested in sea turtles, understand the causes threatening these critically endangered reptiles, and strive to act in ways that do not contribute to their decline. I am delighted that the volunteers always maintain that the children are passionate, interested in the topic, and are developing a closer and more responsible relationship with turtles and the sea.

22 VOLUNTEERS (12 IN INDONESIA, 10 IN SRI LANKA)
4 TEACHERS IN THE FIELD
(1 on Sulawesi, 2 in Southern and 1 in Eastern Borneo)
MORE THAN 1,000 CHILDREN IN INDONESIA AND SRI LANKA PARTICIPATED IN OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMS

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & COOPERATION





In all the locations where we dedicate ourselves to sea turtle conservation, we also strive for the development of local communities. We realize that local people need means of subsistence, and we believe that we can help them find sources of income that ensure their financial independence without destroying nature.

In Eastern Borneo, in the Berau region, we have been organizing **environmentally friendly craft workshops** for many years. The project here is led by a local artisan named Sablon, with whom we have cooperated since 2014. He specializes in making souvenirs from coconuts instead of tortoiseshell. This year, he expanded his work even further—starting to work with white coconuts, colors, and strings. He passes on his skills to other island residents, including primary and secondary school students. This results in original products whose sales provide a livelihood for local people while simultaneously supporting sea turtle conservation.

Our conservationist Buzdar is also dedicated to making coconut souvenirs. He shared these skills with locals not only in Southern Borneo but also on Sulawesi, where we sent him for nearly nine months to train the local team in turtle conservation methods.

We have also been dedicated to the long-term development of local residents in **Sri Lanka**. This year, we focused primarily on the production of bamboo straws. We have been planning **'straw workshops'** for several years, and we believe that if as many local people as possible get involved in production, bamboo straws can gradually become a genuine alternative to plastic ones.

In Sri Lanka, we also support a women's craft workshop in Bentota. At the same time, **Channa Suraweera**, the Deputy Director for the Southern Region at the *Department of Wildlife Conservation*, aims to create opportunities for the local community to learn how to manufacture environmentally friendly products. He would like his employees to be trained first, so they can subsequently pass on their knowledge to residents living near national parks and nature reserves. These products could then be offered to tourists at the entrances to protected areas, representing a further step toward sustainable tourism in Sri Lanka.

1 ARTISAN
PRODUCTION OF COCONUT SHELL SOUVENIRS ON BORNEO AND SULAWESI
BAMBOO STRAW WORKSHOPS IN SRI LANKA SUPPORT
FOR A WOMEN'S CRAFT WORKSHOP

TURTLE CONSERVATION MONITORING IN MALAYSIA





In 2025, we conducted a thorough online research of turtle centers in Malaysia to gain an overview of locations where sea turtle conservation takes place and the level of care provided. Thanks to this, we now have an idea of which centers meet the criteria for proper conservation, where there are gaps, and where the potential for improvement lies. We also have photographs and other materials at our disposal. For 2026, we plan for a member of our team to visit these centers, verify the gathered information, and potentially establish cooperation with local conservationists. Our goal is not only to support turtle protection in the field but also to recommend high-quality centers for tourists to visit.

A total of **31 organizations** were identified. For each of them, we strove to gather as much information as possible—reviewing publicly available photographs, videos, and reviews on Google Maps and TripAdvisor, and where possible, their websites and social media profiles. This data provided us with a baseline understanding of the standards of each rescue center or beach project and helped us better comprehend the local conservation conditions.

Based on our experience and expert knowledge, we established **criteria that can be at least partially verified online**. These include information on whether a center keeps hatchlings in tanks, whether there are multiple turtles in a single tank, or if red light is used during night monitoring. In total, we set **9 criteria for rescue centers and 13 criteria for beach projects**. The evaluation was designed so that no location would be penalized if a particular criterion could not be verified.

The result is an **overview that will serve as a basis for field research**. At some centers, we noted practices that could potentially harm the turtles. However, from the available information, it is impossible to say with certainty whether this is intentional behavior or rather a lack of experience or resources. This can only be assessed through personal contact with local conservationists.

We are pursuing two goals with this entire project. The first is to **identify centers that can be recommended to tourists**. The second goal is to **understand the intentions of centers** that currently do not meet the principles of proper sea turtle treatment. If we find common ground, we would be happy to support these centers in their improvement. This monitoring is also an opportunity for us to gain experience and insights that we can apply in other regions, and it confirms for us that **turtle conservation is always a combination of animal care and cooperation with people.**

ONLINE RESEARCH OF TURTLE CENTERS IN MALAYSIA

RESPONSIBLE TURTLE TOURISM





"One person's freedom ends where another's begins—and also where the destruction of nature occurs." This quote by Josef Vavroušek deeply etched itself into my memory during the announcement of the Josef Vavroušek Award, for which I was nominated. I wholeheartedly agree with it. Please, enjoy your holiday, but do not endanger sea turtles in the process.

How can we help sea turtles?

Ideally, choose souvenirs that are made locally and from sustainable materials. This eliminates the need to transport souvenirs from other parts of the world, or to manufacture them in factories under unclear conditions and from various materials. Furthermore, you will support local artisans and communities. Due to the trade in hawksbill turtle shells, this species has been pushed to the brink of extinction. **By purchasing souvenirs made from coconut, wood, or other sustainable materials, you contribute to turtle conservation.**

Visit only centers that truly help the turtles. Genuine rescue centers do not have pools full of hatchlings. Their primary goal is the protection of beaches and the turtles' natural habitat. If you want to see turtles, verify the information about the center you plan to visit in advance. **Photographs of tiny turtles in tanks often indicate a tourist trap rather than actual conservation**. The Sea Turtle Conservation team has repeatedly monitored centers in Sri Lanka, and recommended locations are available on our map here: https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/2/viewer?mid=1ONQbOwN9qxZRExQUNYIxup9H4X1JHa0&ll=6.387536386440332%2C80.3618695&z=9

Give the turtles their natural space—both in the water and on the beach. Calm behavior and a sufficient distance will allow the turtles to continue their natural activities without stress and will offer you a powerful yet ethical experience. When observing, use only red light and never take photographs with a flash.

Each of us can contribute to sea turtle conservation—through our behavior on holiday, by supporting projects working directly in the field, and by sharing verified information with others. If you know someone in the media, we would be delighted for the connection and help; we believe that the media should play a positive role in supporting sustainable tourism and nature conservation.

A half-minute video shot from a turtle's perspective , which has already reached more than 800,000 people, proved to be a great help. I consider this to be amazing proof of how powerful an impact a well-chosen form of education can have. https://www.youtube.com/shorts/XMZ7ZXOfpR4

I thank everyone who helps spread crucial information that keeping healthy turtle hatchlings in tanks is not a suitable conservation method, that releasing hatchlings onto scorching sand during the day can seriously harm them, and that prematurely digging hatchlings out of their nests just for the pleasure of tourists is unacceptable and disrupts their natural development.

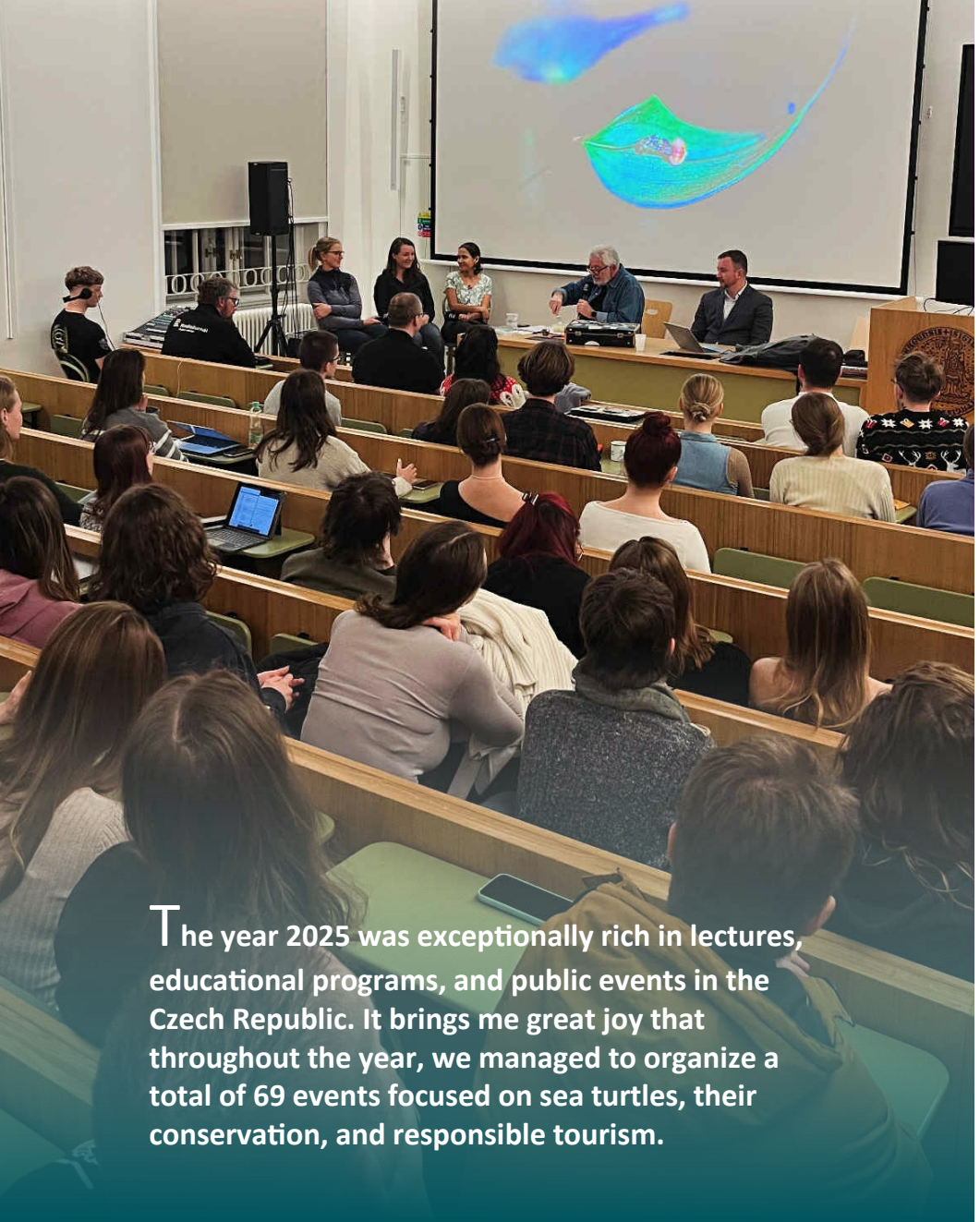
To ensure that tourists visit only locations that truly help the turtles, we also cooperate with hotels and other partners in the tourism industry.

Sea turtles lived on our planet even before the dinosaurs. Let's help them stay here for future generations. Thank you very much!



RAISING AWARENESS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC





The year 2025 was exceptionally rich in lectures, educational programs, and public events in the Czech Republic. It brings me great joy that throughout the year, we managed to organize a total of 69 events focused on sea turtles, their conservation, and responsible tourism.

Of these, **33 events took place in schools**—ranging from universities and high schools to primary and nursery schools. Furthermore, some schools prepared their own turtle programs. For example, the Hlučín–Rovniny Primary School utilized the RAFT method, which develops writing and creative thinking, while at the Krčín Primary School in Nové Město nad Metují, 'Turtle Festivities' (Radovánky) were held.

Another **36 events were designated for the general public**. I was very pleased, for example, by the March for Nature in Brno, the book launch of 'The Sea Turtle's Victory', a lecture for the Turtle Breeders Club at the Prague Zoo, the first Conservation Festival in Chomutov at the REPTIL club, and our participation in festivals such as Water – Sea – Oceans, Horizons, and AROUND THE WORLD. Traditionally, we also shared information about sea turtles at the Jihlava Zoo, at the Kodymka children's club camp, and at the Czech University of Life Sciences garden party. The meeting of TEDx Women speakers was also very inspiring.

The House of Children and Youth in Jirkov organized an event titled **'Together We Will Save the Planet,'** which was attended by more than 600 people. In Týniště nad Orlicí, a 'turtle trail' was even created following a lecture, and the local library published an article about turtles in the regional press:
https://www.morskezelvy.cz/pool/vzor/upload/clanky/zpravodaj_tyniste.PDF

I am also very happy about the new sea turtle information board in Chomutov—and I am delighted that another one will soon be installed in Rudná near Prague.

I consider the nationwide campaign, realized in cooperation with Helen Doron English centers, to be exceptionally important. Thanks to our volunteer Martina, who was in Indonesia during Christmas 2024, thematic lessons about sea turtles were created in 2025. Martina approached

the Czech headquarters of **Helen Doron English** as well as the founder of the method in Israel—and the idea was met with great enthusiasm. In May, I had the opportunity to lecture for approximately 300 English teachers from all over the country, and during June, more than **9,000 children across the Czech Republic learned about sea turtles**.

Children learned why sea turtles are endangered and how they can help them—not only on holiday but also from home. Parents, children, and tutors together raised more than 175,000 CZK for turtle conservation in Indonesia and Sri Lanka. I immensely value this cooperation and admire Helen Doron English for dedicating itself not only to language teaching but also to values and responsibility. Many thanks also goe to Lucka from marketing, who did a wonderful job informing the entire community about the campaign. I am even more delighted that the international headquarters of Helen Doron in Israel has adopted our lessons and plans to use them in their centers worldwide. This decision alone is an enormous recognition of our long-term work in the field of education. I highly recommend the report about the campaign on 'Zprávičky' on the Déčko channel (check out minute 2:15). https://www.ceskatelevize.cz/porady/10265744641-zpravicky/225411000160614/?fbclid=IwY2xjawMUCN9leHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETBLRDE4bjhHTEdOelhtYUhFAR4nA-Xg9oCh3y0OetDyR-g7DbkyNyHi2GQ7nKDUkLNxT9eALdKTdBb5gmehxg_aem_y_1jJx21-wa82jTLbdbF9Q

I would also like to thank the painter Dominika Brejchová and the Gram Prague gallery for the 'Life Aquatic' exhibition. Not only does Dominika create stunning paintings, but thanks to a raffle at the opening night, enough funds were raised to cover nearly two months' worth of salaries for conservationists. Additional funds were also raised through the sale of the paintings.

Media outreach also holds great significance for me. After years of effort, we succeeded in publishing an article in the inflight magazine of



Smartwings airline, which was available in every aircraft seat for three months.
https://www.morskezelvy.cz/pool/vzor/upload/clanky/MW_8-10_2025_Part41.pdf

Articles were also published on **Novinky.cz** (one of the most-read news sites in the Czech Republic).
https://www.novinky.cz/clanek/cestovani-ceska-pomaha-na-druhe-strane-planety-jeji-prace-uz-zachranila-miliony-zivotu-40512036?fbclid=IwY2xjawKrpVRleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBicmlkETBLRDE4bjhHTEdOelhtYUhFAR7OEIyFyvVT5oU0A1O5faahLkApLQHkufRnHRwUsIAgCTmDTC9SOMgWdFpp6A_aem_wapM7e9e3z9gSLWWfa5OkQ

Articles were also featured in TÉMA Magazine (in both the Czech and Slovak editions)
https://www.morskezelvy.cz/pool/vzor/upload/clanky/TEMA_zelvy.pdf,

in National Geographic
https://www.nationalgeographic.cz/priroda/turisticke-pasti-zabiji-morske-zelvy-indonesie/?fbclid=IwY2xjawOFMDhleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzkxNzg4MjAwODkyCGNhbGxzaXRlAjMwAAEe4scR7fpZ0FB-Z0vQQLz-Al4FJYa3Ko02JdJl9tu0D14g9kucQuWdVAQh0aA_aem_3dmkGURQvQ6C7gMVB07nXA

…and also in Forbes magazine
https://forbes.cz/nemame-more-no-a-co-ceska-biolozka-uz-zachranila-miliony-morskych-zelv/

I would also like to recommend the novel "**Victory of the Sea Turtle**" to book lovers https://lubospavel.cz/vitezstvi-morske-zelvy/ . The story is inspired by a journey dedicated to the protection of sea turtles. The author worked on the book for six years and personally participated as a volunteer in field conservation, so the novel offers an authentic insight into the reality that sea turtles face.



The book was also featured in a television report. https://www.tvnoe.cz/porad/43254-artbitr-kulturni-magazin-lubos-pavel?fbclid=IwY2xjawKuWhhleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETBLRDE4bjhHTEdOelhtYUhFAR6y7A7-i8dFUrHF4GsBrszkQYZtmEt-xE4nXKqMFlau2kWPhO0926OD9cACqw_aem_zaa3Z6vI3KxsKXH-K57LMQ

I also recommend the program 'Expeditions into the Wild' (Výpravy do divočiny) **on TV NOE.** https://www.tvnoe.cz/index.php/porad/42533-vypravy-do-divociny-chranime-morske-zelvy And I am very happy that on February 7, 2025, TV NOE also broadcasted a spot featuring actress Veronika Macková.https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGbq3o8fjiE

If you are more of a radio lover, you can listen to a recording from the Radio Junior Club. https://junior.rozhlas.cz/nepodporujte-na-dovolene-falesna-centra-pro-zachranu-zelv-jak-snadno-poznat-past-9514267?fbclid=IwY2xjawMUBcBleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHrBOed55y8FMnbJiPNJ3X3SGU382A1L6445QhfPdybcOwy-qHDdHXRmGZ-Lb_aem_ts8VEehBcEIV4_JMVHjrKA

Or a live broadcast from the world of natural sciences, titled: 'How We Protect Turtles, Diatoms, and Endangered Plants from the Czech Republic'. - Český Rozhlas Hradec Králové.

An exhibition of photographs by the aforementioned **Petr Jan Juračka**, who organized the last radio broadcast, could be seen in 2025 in Pardubice at the Mozartova 449 Grammar School, in **Rakovník at the Masaryk Hospital**, and at the Sports Grammar School in Kladno. The photos there were located directly next to the dining hall, so the children viewed them every day. A local teacher also organized accompanying programs to go with the exhibition.

I am also delighted by the Facebook auction on the 'Ruku v ruce' (Hand in Hand) profile and by the 'Protecting Sea Turtles 2026' calendar, which symbolically guides its owners throughout the year on the island of Sulawesi. The calendar offers not only photographs of sea turtles



but also images of local nature. My thanks go to all the photographers (Martin Pelánek, Linda Plívová, Martin Procházka, Vivi Tan Oga, Marcela Hovorková, Kevin Schafer, Ado Nunang, Eva Bílková, and the conservationists from Laut Biru) as well as to those involved in its graphic design (Lenka Pinkavová) and printing (Michal Votápka - TISK KRÁSNÁ LÍPA, spol. s r.o.).

I would also like to mention one very lovely collaboration. In Hradec Králové, thanks to Zuzka from the 'Královská zahrada' (Royal Garden) shop, beautiful ceramic mugs, plates, and jewelry with turtle motifs were created; their sale supports the protection of sea turtles.

Such initiatives give me great hope and joy. You can find Zuzka's work at https://www.facebook.com/podglazurou

69 EVENTS
(33 FOR SCHOOLS, 36 FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC)
+ APPROX. 800 LESSONS AT HELEN DORON ENGLISH CENTERS
(OVER 9,000 CHILDREN)
13 MEDIA APPEARANCES
(8 ARTICLES, 2 RADIO FEATURES, 3 TV APPEARANCES)
1 BOOK INSPIRED BY THE PROJECT
3 EXHIBITIONS, 1 CALENDAR
1 AUCTION



ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2025



Without a doubt, I consider the campaign realized in cooperation with Helen Doron English centers to be the greatest success of 2025. Thanks to this collaboration, more than 9,000 children across the Czech Republic learned about sea turtles, the threats they face, and the ways we can help them. This is exceptionally valuable to me because I deeply believe that education is the key—not only to protecting sea turtles but to protecting the entire planet.

I recall the words of Jane Goodall: 'Only when we understand, will we care. Only when we care, will we help.' I believe this is exactly what happened with many of the children involved. They gained new information, understood the connections, and were inspired to act responsibly—not only during their holidays but in their everyday lives.

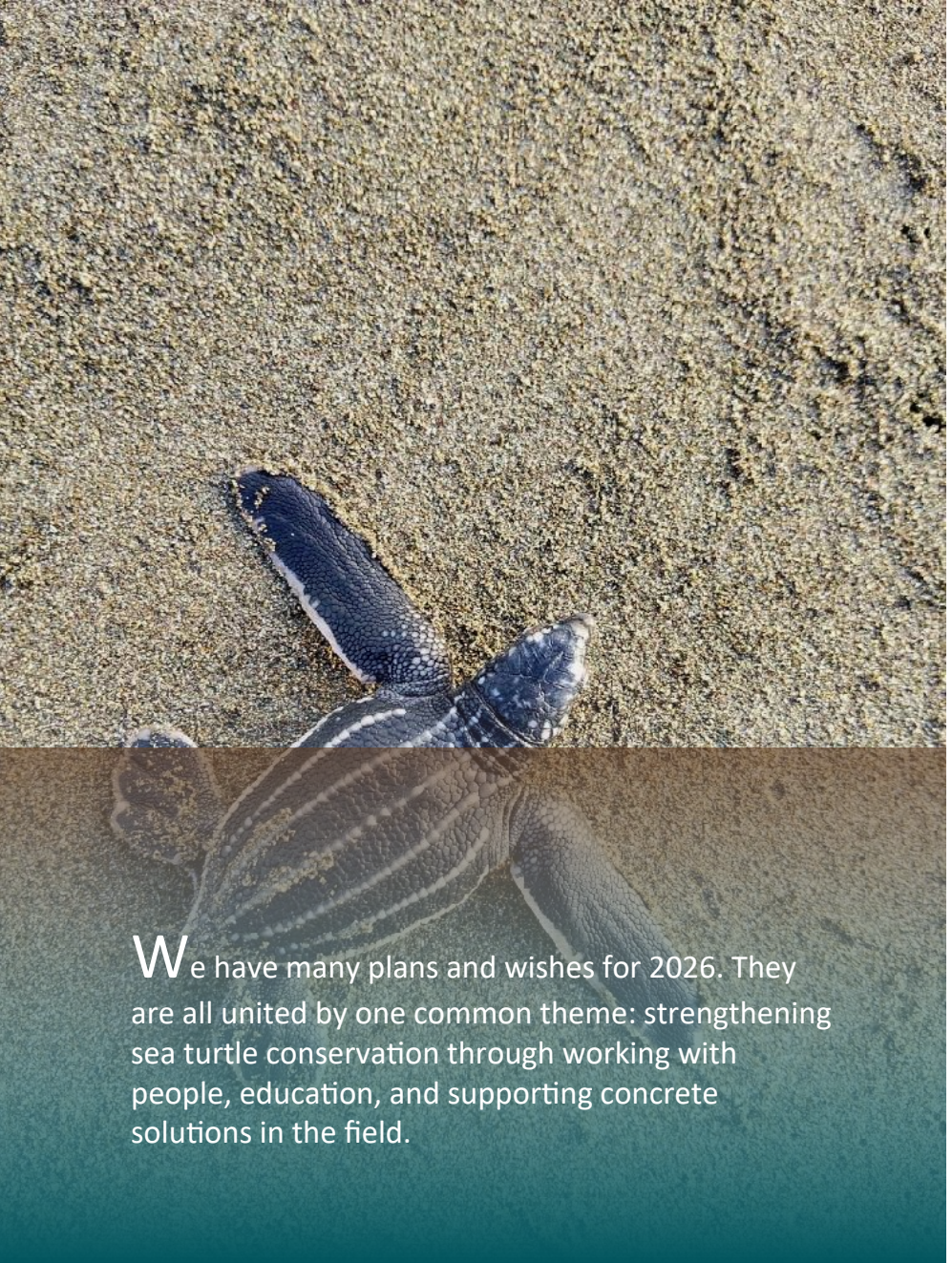
However, 2025 was not only about education and awareness. I am particularly proud of the concrete results from the field, which prove that our work has a real impact:„

- Expansion on Sri Lanka: We expanded sea turtle protection into a new area on the island.
- Safe Nest Relocation: A total of 3,396 nests were relocated to safety.
- Successful Hatching: 174,439 hatchlings emerged and safely reached the sea.
- New Scientific Findings: We confirmed that sea turtles around Matara lay eggs in every month of the year, fundamentally changing the perspective on this area's significance.
- Ecosystem Restoration: We focused on restoring marine ecosystems in two locations by planting mangroves and corals.
- Communication Infrastructure: Thanks to the 'Signal for Turtles' fundraiser, conservationists on Denawan Island finally have a stable mobile signal.
- Sustainable Alternatives: Workshops on bamboo straw production are helping create meaningful alternatives to plastics.
- Climate Adaptation: We are responding to the impacts of climate change—adaptation measures have successfully increased hatching rates.
- Strategic Research: A thorough online research of turtle centers in Malaysia has laid a solid foundation for the further development of our activities in the region.

For me, these results are proof that combining education, working with local communities, and direct field conservation truly makes sense. At the same time, they serve as motivation to keep moving forward.

OUR VISION FOR 2026





We have many plans and wishes for 2026. They are all united by one common theme: strengthening sea turtle conservation through working with people, education, and supporting concrete solutions in the field.

In the coming year, we aim to:

•Expand Protection on Sulawesi: Support at least one new group of conservationists to strengthen the local protection network.
•Climate Adaptation: Implement further adaptation measures to increase hatching success rates in the face of growing climate change impacts.
•Conflict Resolution on Lembata: Help stabilize the complex situation between the local community and conservationists.
•Reduce Poaching: Decrease poaching rates on Pamalikan and Matasirih islands in South Borneo.
•Improve Rekawa Beach: Contribute to enhancing sea turtle protection operations at Rekawa Beach.
•Sustainable Souvenirs: Train colleagues from the Department of Wildlife Conservation in Sri Lanka in the production of sustainable souvenirs.
•Field Visit to Papua: Personally visit Papua to meet the teams from Yayasan Sealam Karya Lestari and Universitas Papua, who have achieved excellent results in our second year of support.
•Malaysia Site Visit: Visit Malaysia to verify online monitoring findings, establish partnerships, and create a map of high-quality centers recommended for visitors.
•Philippines Monitoring: Conduct online monitoring of turtle centers in the Philippines, followed by a field visit to establish local partnerships and create a map of verified centers for the public.
•Awareness & Responsible Tourism: Continue raising awareness about sea turtles, ocean conservation, and responsible travel.
•Global Education: Joyfully follow the development of the international campaign with Helen Doron English centers, connecting children’s education with nature conservation worldwide.

We see the year 2026 as another step on a long journey. We know that change does not happen overnight—but it is precisely perseverance, cooperation, and trust that give our work its meaning.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE "PROTECTING SEA TURTLES" ASSOCIATION IN 2025

Total Revenues: 1 579 315 CZK = Donations **Total Expenses:** 984 120 CZK

Breakdown of Conservation Funding:

INDONESIA = 780 501 CZK
ALLIANCE FOR TOMPOTIKA CONSERVATION protects sea turtles in the Tompotika area in eastern Sulawesi: 121,439 CZK
LAUT BIRU is an organization that protects sea turtles in western Sulawesi (Polewali Mandar region): 207,088 CZK
YAYASAN SEALAM KARYA LESTARI and UNIVERSITY OF PAPUA protect leatherback turtles in the Indonesian part of Papua: 286,999 CZK
SEHABAT PENYU LOANG provides turtle protection on Lembata Island in southeastern Indonesia: 19,677 CZK
PAMALI INDONESIA protects hawksbill turtles on Denawan Island in southern Borneo: 121,298 CZK
Education and community development in the Berau region in eastern Borneo: 24,000 CZK

SRI LANKA = 176 037 CZK
Conservationist Gayan protects beaches near Dikwella: 28 946 CZK
Conservationists Sandun and Malitha protect beaches near Godauda: 8 254 CZK
Conservationists Mahesh and Rasika protect beaches near Matara: 80 527 CZK
Government Collaboration – information panel in Kapuhenwala center: 58 310 CZK

Promotion: 16 482 CZK (Domain, Calendar production)

Transaction Fees: 11 100 CZK

Details can be followed on the organization's transparent bank account: https://ib.fio.cz/ib/transparent?a=2101346384

A huge Acknowledgements goes to everyone who collaborated with us in 2025. Without you, none of this year's successes could have become a reality:

Helen Doron English, Nadace Via, Orange Academy, Nadační fond VAKOVAKO, ZOO Brno, Ruku V Ruce, Nobilis Tilia s.r.o., ZOO JH s.r.o., Nadační Fond CCBC, Zebra Technologies, Umim Anglicky S.R.O., Město Česká Třebová, UK Online Giving Foundation, European Diving School, Teraristická společnost Praha, Zoo Zájezd, Inreko Spol. s.r.o., Městská Knihovna Týniště nad Orlicí, Reptilclub. Z. S., Dům Dětí a Mládeže Jirkov, Diversionpromotion s.r.o., 4youth s.r.o., ZŠ A ZUŠ Líbeznice, ZŠ Kaplice, ZŠ Na Habru, Začít spolu Náchod, Sunny Canadian International School, Základní škola Velké Poříčí, ZŠ Sv. Čecha Choceň, ZŠ a MŠ Zbečno, ZŠ Kopřivnice – Mniší, Základní škola Hradební, Broumov

Thank you – it is thanks to your support that we can help sea turtles.

(Listed are those who contributed over 1,000 CZK via DARUJME.CZ in 2025):

Jiří Kolínek,
Linda Plívová,
Dominika Brejchová,
Jana Hlavínová,
Eva Brejchová,
Kateřina Mutinová,
Dagmar Danovski, Radek Matoušek,
Anna Josková Abelová,
Filip Kounek,
Martin Vokurek,
Eva Jedličková,
Eva Bílková,
Eva Šlosarčíková,
Miloslav Vlk,
Emanuel Bouchal, Daniel Pukýš,
Pavel Dušek,
Jan Frolík,
Radek Hýbl,
Ing. Jana Dobosová, Jana Pazdírková,
Marek Fiala,
Michal Řezníček, Michal Novák,
Vlasta Pauke Dobešová,
Ivana Zýková,
Aleš Hanák,
Adam Petrusek,
Daniel Szmaragowski,
Ing. Andrea Tláskalová,
Ing. Eva Samcova,
Linda Faltová,
Roman Macák,
Dagmar Stodůlková,
Helena Hrčková,
Michal Broža,
Ing. Jaroslav Slepička,
Jana Miknyiková,
Štěpánka Mulačová,
Yvona Herbová,
Zuzana Kubíčková,
David Surmaj,
Alena Hejná,
Lucie Váňová,
Lucie Vojáčková,
Iveta Ondřejčková,
Kateřina Volmanová,
Adéla Štrynclová,
Jardin Kocourek Renana,
Oldřich Mudra,
Petra Langerová,
Veronika Čermák Macková,
Veronika Brázdilová,
Petra Stanclova,
Nataša Velenská,
Zuzana Sochorová,
Tereza Pěnková,
Mgr. Lenka Rihová,
Mudr. Zuzana Kapounková,
Kamila Benešová,
Mgr. Robert Kostner,
Petr Suvorov,
Radek Jurman,
Vojtěch Benda,
Šárka Vokáčová,
Kateřina Vobořilová,
Petra Kopalová,
PhDr. Mgr. Eva Smido,
Eliška Janurová,
Petra Machátová,
Filip Ambrož,
Gabriela Čermáková,
Gildeinová Ivana Lol,
Tereza Hoffmannová,
Ivana Vítová,
Jiří Svoboda,
Jitka Macenauerová,
Milada Kostelníková,
Aleš Kozdera,
Martin Krbec,
Marek Lacika,
Milan Líšťanský,
Lucie Letochová,
Marie Polanská,
Jitka Novotna De Wolf,
Vanda Sittová,
Jitka Svobodová,
Michal Táborský,
Zuzana Vlčková,
Lada Fialová,
Denisa Žandová,
Ing. Jana Joujová,
Lucie Málková,
Marcela Šimková,
Adam Záhradník,
Adéla Přikrylová,
Tadeáš Böhm,
Lucie Buchbauerová,
František Ovčačík,
Julie Fülepová,
Renata Hojerová,
Ing. František Hošek,
Jitka Janousková,
Vlastimil Kurek,
MDDr. Lucie Krúpa,
Jiří Pácalt,
Pavel Šajnar,
Petr Flídr,
Jiří Rödling,
Dominik Sikora,
Josef Šalda,
Miroslav Tichý,
Veronika Kodymová,
Vilém Jurek,
Luděk Wiesner,
Tereza Bubeníková,
Michaela Svobodová,
Mgr. Sojková Monika,
Šťastná Veltruská
Ing. Lenka Holá,
Aleš Panáček,
Jan Švarc,
Klára Jandová,
Tomáš Kindl,
Kateřina Bajko,
Petra Ceralová,
Ivana Moudrá,
Ing. Tomáš Ryba,
Zuzana Vrběcká,
Leona Ptáčková,
Ing. Iva Kolářová,
Kateřina Trávníčková,
Bc. Kateřina Baránková,
Jan Pelčík,
Jaroslav Pavliňák,
Josef Brůna,
Daniel Koleška,
Lenka Šolínová,
Lucie Holeček,
Magdaléna Polanská,
Milena Mariašová,
Mgr. Jakub Kočí,
Mgr. Kateřina Krejčová,
Michaela Piňosová,
Michaela Vojkovič,
Michal Bureš,
Michal Varga,
Ing. Tímea Doksanská,
Zuzana Jankovicová,
Ivana a František Vašinovi,
Jana Svobodová,
Pavel Přichystal,
Jakub Pavlíček,
Anna Pilařová,
Jan Guliš,
Robert Pleskot,
Adam Roth,
Silvan Černý,
Simona Machníková, Radka Suchá,
Ondřej Svoboda, Veronika Špinková, Veronika Hrabánková, Veronika Zahradníčková,
Adéla Jenková,
Lucie Ondřejková

It wouldn't be possible without you. Thank you for helping us protect sea turtles.

(Listed are those who contributed over 1,000 CZK via DARUJME.CZ in 2025):

Kateřina Kuraková,
Pavel Šustr,
Robert Javorský,
Jiří Grunt,
Josef Boháč,
Marek Dubský,
Věra Vršková,
Zuzana Hýblová,
Pavel Peroutka,
Jana Týnková,
Jana Vojtěchová,
Jiří Kolínek,
Petr Peterka,
Sandra Vohrnová,
Zdeněk Matějovský,
Zdeňka Sloupová,
Michal Krajcovic,
Filip Durdis,
Jana Offenbartlová,
Jindřich Blabol,
Lucie Szakál,
Tereza Ondráčková,
Eva Tollinger,
Jan Dvořák,
MUDr., Jana Otradovcová,
Jana Stenglová,
Jana Vobořilová,
Ladislav Stehlík,
Miroslava Strašilová,
Pavlína Valová,
Šárka Fenyková,
Tatiana Hovanová,
Radim Ondroušek,
Adriana Fedorova,
Dagmar Suchá,
Edita Lišková,
Blanka Nájemníková,
Kateřina Janatková,
Martin Šembera,
Josef Felbáb,
Karla Němcová,
Kristina Bartůšková,
Lenka Horáková,
Petr Stavěl,
Petra Zíková,
Romana Presová,
Kamila Kudrnova,
Veronika Fialová,
Eva Ungermannová,
Ivan Matejić,
Jiřina Divišová,
Lucie Melechovská,
Monika Brigita Sluťáková,
Šimon Vobruba,
Vasut Karel,
Naděžda Kurzejová,
Bozena Klodova,
Alena Klírová,
Anna Haltůfová,
Dominika Maršíková,
Lenka Kleger,
Lenka Macháčková,
Luboš Kušnír,
Magdalena Machovičová,
Marcela Bílá,
Martin Procházka,
Pavel Broža,
Petr Šimek,
Tereza Zdeňková,
Veronika Šamajová

We also thank everyone who participated in our auctions.

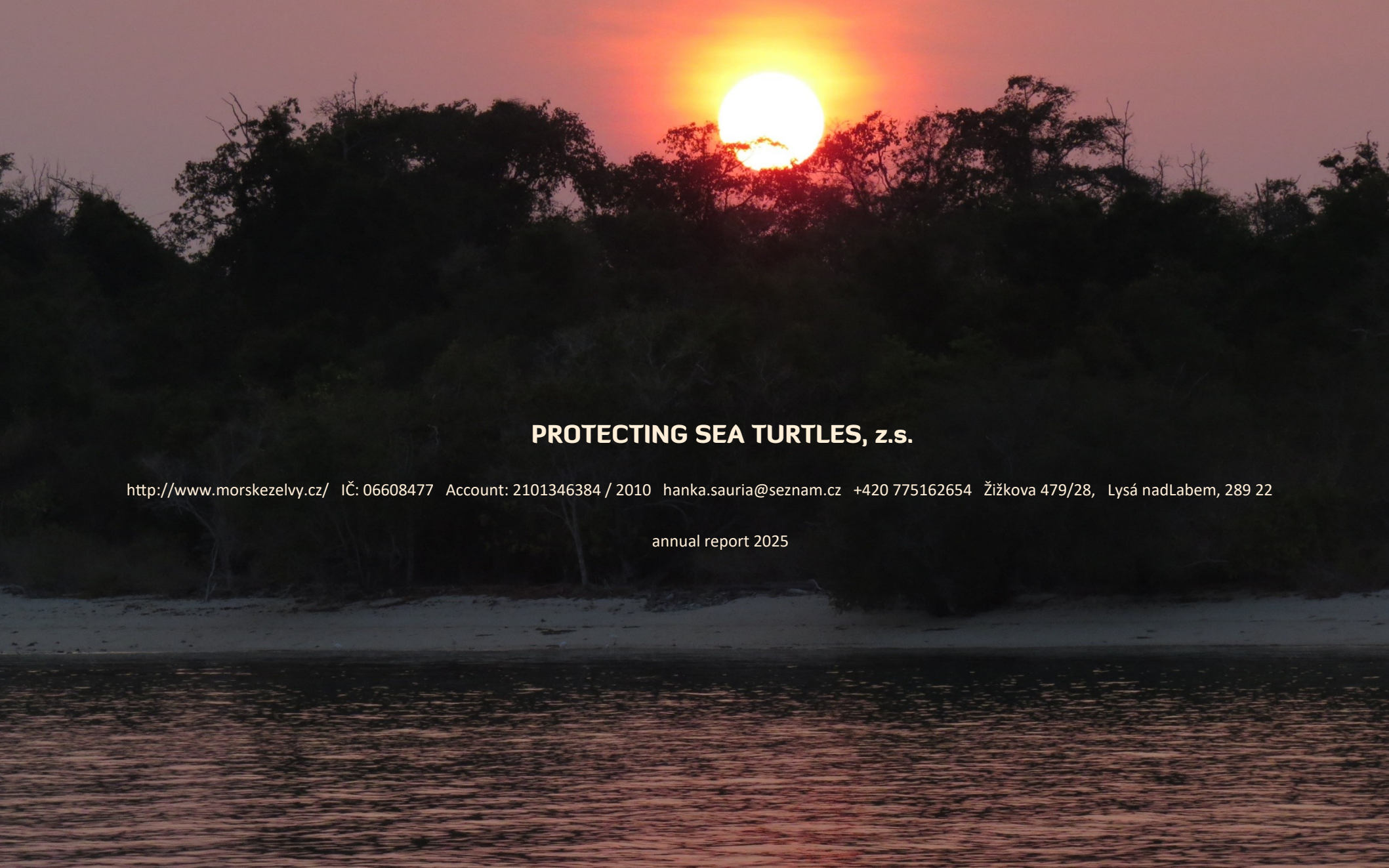
Big thanks to everyone who shops through Givt.cz to support us.

PHOTO:
Pamali Indonesia - 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 26, 27, 37, 53
Ivo Pardus - 3
Michal Pohanka - 4
Gayan – 5, 30
Sahabat Penyu Loang – 16, 24, 25
Martin Pelánek – 17, 46, 52
Herman Ayomi (UNIPA) – 18, 54, 59
Noval Suling (AlTo) – 19, 60
Schafer (AlTo) – 20
Laut Biru – 21, 22, 36, 39
Tonny Duwiri (UNIPA) - 23
CHMŽ - 28, 43, 49, 50
Mahesh – 29, 32, 33, 44, 45
Malitha – 31
Martin Vávra – 34, 35
Hermina Langoday (UNIPA) – 38
Barbora Hnátová – 40
Marcela Hovorková – 41, 51, 57, 58
Petr Jan Juračka – 47
Martina Pohanková - 48

Graphic design by David Vašina



It is a tremendous honor for me to see how much good is being accomplished thanks to your support. The resources you entrust to us are directed where they are needed most – to areas of the Indian Ocean where sea turtles are most endangered, and where they have already completely disappeared in many places. Every hatchling that safely reaches the sea is a confirmation for us that our collective effort truly makes sense. My sincere thanks go to the conservationists in Indonesia and Sri Lanka, the entire team in the Czech Republic, all the volunteers, and all of you who support turtle conservation. I immensely value your trust and cooperation. Big thanks to everyone who stands by us – thanks to you, sea turtles have a chance.



PROTECTING SEA TURTLES, z.s.

http://www.morskezelvy.cz/ IČ: 06608477 Account: 2101346384 / 2010 hanka.sauria@seznam.cz +420 775162654 Žižkova 479/28, Lysá nadLabem, 289 22

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