

The slaughter of sea turtles in Bali and Indonesia

The Island of Bali in Indonesia has been the hub of the sea turtle trade for two decades. The buyers of turtle meat, shells and eggs are mainly found in the Asian markets as well as in Indonesia itself. Turtle meat and eggs are not going to feed the poor, instead they are a privilege of affluent societies. Turtle shell is being used for jewellery and ornaments, all unnecessary objects, for which hundreds of thousands of turtles have to lose their lives.

All eight species of sea turtles are threatened with extinction and therefore strictly protected by CITES, the Convention of International Trade of Endangered Species. Nevertheless, the number of animals - who have inhabited our oceans for over 150 million years - is constantly declining. Until four years ago, in Bali alone, an average of 25,000 sea turtles a year were brutally cut out of their shells alive! As a result of several action and campaigns by Indonesian and European animal welfare organizations, this number has dropped to around 3000 a year.

However, in view of sea turtles being threatened with extinction, every single life is important in order



to preserve the population. The killing of sea turtles in Indonesia is more than just a national problem: For decades, the sea turtles from Bali's waters, which would have supplied the market no longer exist. The animals being killed in Bali are caught all around Indonesia, Borneo, Malaysia, Sipadan and North Australia. After months of transportation, with their front legs pierced and tied up, lying on top of each other in the hull, with neither food nor water, they finally end up in Bali. Herded together in cages, they wait for their horrifying end. Depending on the orders, the turtles are killed, for the national or the international market. The brutality of the killing is unimaginable: With a sharp knife, they separate the lower tortoiseshell from the upper one (the animal is still alive!). Then, they slowly disembowel the turtle without paying any attention to the unbelievable pain of the tortured animal. The agony can last up to half



an hour; a total horror, when you consider that sea turtles have a highly developed nervous system – but they are unable to cry...

We need your help !!!!!!!

THE CAMPAIGN

The objective of our new campaign is to collect as many signatures, statements and letters of protest as possible. We want the relevant authorities of Bali and Indonesia to be aware that people from all over the world will again focus on Bali's sea turtles and call upon the government to stop it now forever. At the moment, Indonesia and Bali are both struggling for every single tourist. Tourism is very important for their economies, and anything that may harm their image is subsequently taken seriously. We can

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The objective of our new campaign is to collect as many signatures, statements and letters of protest as possible. We want the relevant authorities of Bali and Indonesia to be aware that European divers and tourists have not forgotten Bali's sea turtles. At the moment, Indonesia and Bali are both struggling for every single tourist. Tourism is very important for their economies, and anything that may harm their image is subsequently taken seriously. We can therefore be sure of obtaining the full attention of the authorities, although we intend to use more pressure and less diplomacy this time. The donations will again be used to support PROFAUNA-activists'

operations as well as Heinz von Holzen's breeding program.

We have chosen a new, more up-to-date means of communication to broadcast the present campaign and to transmit the signatures, statements and letters of protest. With the internet replacing the former brochures and petition sheets, everything can be done online! Everyone in the world will be able to get instant information about the BALI SEA TURTLE campaign through one mouse click, sign petitions and e-mail pre-printed statements straight to the relevant government organizations. We are convinced that using this means of communication, we will reach far more people and therefore get more signatures, more statements ...

AND THIS IS HOW IT WORKS:

In your browser, go to

www.sos-seaturtles.ch/Helptostop_english%20.htm

Scroll down to "Letter of protest" and click the GO !! link. This will automatically open up a preformatted letter in your e mail programme for you to send directly.

Secondly go to

www.antinea-foundation.org/pages/petition.asp

and sign their petition online

Finally you can even become an ambassador for sea turtles by mailing the corresponding links to friends and acquaintances and asking them to sign and become active too.

"One is only willing to protect that which one actually knows "

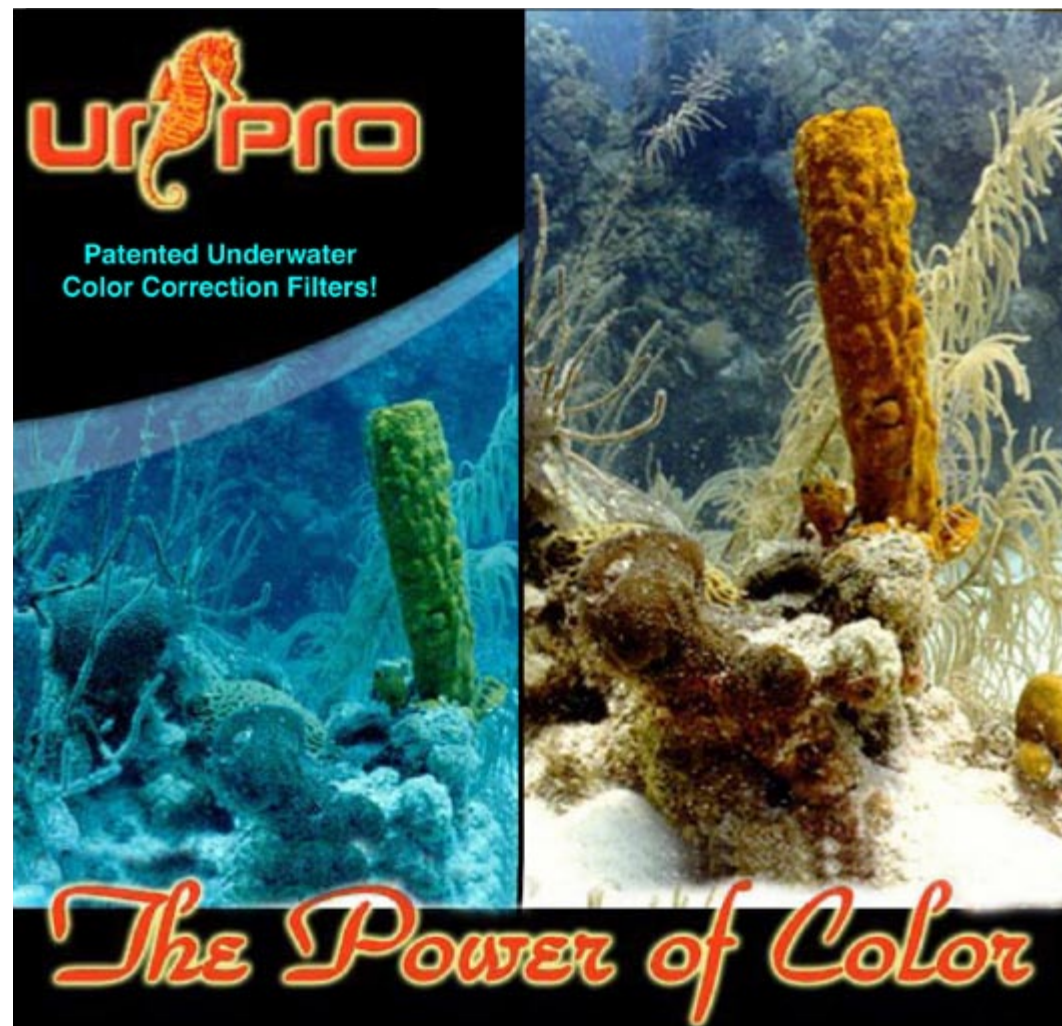
Thank you very much for helping us spreading the BALI SEA TURTLE CAMPAIGN across borders! The result will be reflected by hundreds of thousands of signatures and serve as a means to putting pressure to stop the sea turtle slaughter.

Kurt Amsler

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