

# SEA TURTLE BALI CAMPAIGN

**The sea turtles in Bali need your help. Now!**

**PROJECT A.W.A.R.E.**

**by Kurt Amsler  
(Project Leader)**

Project A.W.A.R.E., the environment foundation initiated and supported by PADI, is engaged in conserving the underwater world. Thanks to the active support of environmentally aware diving centres and divers, Project A.W.A.R.E. is constantly able to successfully campaign for the interests of nature, that is to say, of the fauna and flora that are threatened by human carelessness.

For more than ten years now, Project A.W.A.R.E. has repeatedly centred attention on itself and thus aroused worldwide interest. Thanks to the active support of countless like-minded people, Project A.W.A.R.E. has been able to carry out the following measures:

- International beach clean-ups
- Buoy projects in Spain and Egypt
- Artificial reefs
- Protect the sharks
- International spotlight campaign on "Threatened marine animals"
- Cooperations with tour organizers and airlines
- International media work
- Interventions in support of the underwater world at a political level
- International Reef Balls project and many others.

With these and many additional schemes, Project A.W.A.R.E. has succeeded in drawing people's attention to what is for us the existential importance of an intact underwater world and thus giving us and our blue planet a chance.

The threatened sea turtles in Bali are the best proof that nature continues to depend on responsible people's attention to what is for us the existential importance of an



intact underwater world and thus giving us and our blue planet a chance.

The threatened sea turtles in Bali are proof that nature continues to depend on responsible people. Yet again, Project A.W.A.R.E. is not simply standing by and watching as thoughtless violators shamelessly murder these unique creatures. We have committed ourselves to protecting the underwater world and its inhabitants. And we shall continue to do this in the future.

You will see that, with your support, we will succeed in putting an end to these sad dealings of a

small section of our society. And thus our appeal to you:

## SEA TURTLES

Sea turtles have been in existence for more than 200 million years, they are highly developed animals and have astounding skills. Although they are protected in Appendix 1 of the Washington Convention on the International

Trade of Endangered Species, sea turtles are still greatly endangered and threatened with extinction. The majority are caught because of their great commercial



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value and killed in a cruel fashion. The Asian markets are the most important customers for this bloody slaughter.

Every year, thousands of sea turtles choke in trawler nets and in the fish traps of the shrimp fishing boats. Sea pollution makes them ill and the masses of plastic floating in our oceans is an agonizing death-trap. There is the additional problem that more and more turtles are being driven away from their breeding grounds as hotels are built on the sand beaches.

## **FOCUS ON INDONESIA**

It may be a sad coincidence that the very first campaign by Project A.W.A.R.E. was devoted to the survival of sea turtles. “SOS sea turtles” - that was the name of the

campaign at the time - concentrated on providing enlightenment and information about the extinction of threatened animals. The sensitivity that we created among divers and the public at large at the time had great repercussions.

However, nothing has changed on the island of Bali in Indonesia since then. More than 25,000 turtles are still slaughtered there every year. These statistics come from the most recent report from the Indonesian environmental organization “KSBK Conservation for Life” shows this. The turtles killed on Bali are “stolen” by the catchers not only in Indonesian waters but especially in Malaysia, Sipadan and even in Australia. In Bali you will find slaughter houses where the turtles are illegally and

and contrary illegally and contrary to the CITES regulations, they are shipped abroad.

The turtle trade and the slaughter houses are under the control of a single person, a Chinese man called “Wewe”. Actions have already been brought against him by KSBK.

Bright spot: A recently installed governor now has the say in Bali. Somebody responsible in government who condemns cruelty to animals and who has already confiscated some fishing boats and condemned two leaders of the turtle mafia to 18 months’ imprisonment. In other words: Things have never looked so good and that is precisely why we MUST and CAN act now.

## THE "SEA TURTLE BALI" CAMPAIGN

In view of the already low population, the killing of more than 25,000 animals annually means a drastic loss worldwide. This is precisely why we cannot be indifferent to this senseless murdering! The first step in this "Sea Turtle Bali" campaign is to collect thousands of signatures, protest cards and statements that we shall hand over to the Balinese government in the full light of the media and with the necessary vigour.

### AND THIS IS HOW WE INTEND TO PROCEED

But we need your support for this!

Right below, you will find a signature list. Please do the following with it:

- Copy this list and distribute it among your friends and acquaintances. Tell them about the sea turtle tragedy in Bali and ask them to collect signatures.
  - Pass your "list" around amongst your friends and acquaintances and collect further signatures.
  - Send your signature list and those of your friends and acquaintances to the following address:  
Project A.W.A.R.E., Oberwilerstrasse 3, CH-8442, Hettlingen (Switzerland), Fax +41 52 304 14 99.
- Give the sea turtles a chance with your signature!

### SIGNATURE SHEET

**I condemn the cruel slaughter of sea turtles.**

**With my signature, I call upon you to put an end to this bloody tragedy.**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Postal code/Town \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Send your signature list and those of your friends and acquaintances to the following address:**

**Project A.W.A.R.E., Oberwilerstr. 3, CH-8442 Hettlingen (Switzerland), Fax +41 52 304 14 99.**

### WHAT ELSE ARE WE GOING TO DO?

Signatures and statements are part of the campaign. In parallel to this, we will:

- expose the awful dark side of this dream island to the media,
- send the media an eye-opening information poster,
- support the Indonesian environmental organization KSBK Conservation for Life so that it can

take effective legal action against the dealers in sea turtles,  
- appear personally in the country and specifically state our aims.

As soon as we see that actual steps are being taken to combat the slaughtering of sea turtles facts not words we shall change tactics and embark on positive advertising. Then we shall be happy to show the sunny side of this country.

Help us to put an end to the

murdering of sea turtles. Collect signatures!

Further information  
Project A.W.A.R.E.  
Oberwilerstr. 3  
CH-8442 Hettlingen (Switzerland)  
Tel. +41 52 304 14 14  
e-mail aware@padi.ch

All donations to:  
Credit Suisse, sort code 4791,  
account 850 293-81,  
PADI A.W.A.R.E.

# “SEATURTLES BALI” Campaign UPDATE

Statement by Kurt Amsler -

“The PADI Project AWARE action to stop the slaughter of over 20,000 Seaturtles on Bali has triggered a lot of interest all over Europe. The brochure, which was sent out to all PADI Members in Europe, had the desired effect and inspired many members to collect as many signatures as possible.

Until the month of October 2001, we received already 22.000 Signatures!! But we need more, much more!!! This is why I am appealing to any divers to invest some of your time in order to save the lives of many thousands of sea turtles.

Ask for the “SEATURTLES IN BALI” brochure at your nearest PADI Dive Center and put your signature in it. Further brochures can be ordered through Project AWARE: aware@padi.ch

The slaughtering of Seaturtles in Indonesia concerns us all!!

Because this decimation of sea turtles further reduces the chance of survival of this species, worldwide extinction is threatened. The island of Bali is only the trading center for the animals, who are caught in Sulawesi, Malaysia, Java, Borneo, Flores and even in the waters of Australia.

Apart from these facts it is the creatures themselves we have to be concerned about. Can you imagine how the animals are suffering when they are being transported for months in fishing boats where they lie on their backs tied down with ropes without any food or water!!! The cruelty of the subsequent killing of the turtles - they are being cut open alive - is indescribable.

Divers CANNOT just ignore something like this!!

This is why Project AWARE have started this campaign and this is why we need your help so that we



can prove to the authorities that the rest of the world does care about the slaughter of Seaturtles in Bali.

We are convinced that we can achieve our goal, and everyone who supports us can be proud of having contributed towards ensuring the survival of Seaturtles in that region.

## **Action “SEATURTLES BALI” and the Indonesian KSBK**

The Indonesian animal protection organization “Conservation for Life” has become a valuable partner to Project AWARE in order to achieve our goal and end the slaughter of Seaturtles in Bali.

Thanks to this organisation two of the biggest dealers in Seaturtles have been convicted and have received lengthy prison sentences. Furthermore the organisation has good contacts with the government and they have agreed on a stricter application of the current law which bans the killing and marketing of Seaturtles.

This is demonstrated by two spectacular actions, which would never have been possible in Bali before. In July activists of the KSBK together with the police and the coast guards confiscated more

as 550 sea turtles in Sanur Bali and other places. The animals had been collected there and were destined for transport to Bali and for the slaughterhouses of Tanjung Bena.

All these turtles were set free and released into the open sea.

The Aware Project supported this action with letters to the Government and donations.

You can see for yourselves that the chances of ending the slaughter of sea turtles are good. The government is sensitised and does not want the image of the island to suffer, which is why it gives the police and KSBK free reign.

I would like to thank all of you for your support!

**Kurt Amsler, Project Leader**

