

SPREP

B. P. D5
NOUMEA CEDEX
NEW CALEDONIA

CABLE ADDRESS:
"SOUTH PACOM" NOUMEA
TELEPHONE: 26. 20. 00
TELEX : 3139 NM SOPACOM
FAX : (687) 26. 38. 18



PROE

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NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIE

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PRO 59/4/2/1

With our compliments

Avec nos compliments

Mrs Marjorie Carr
Route 2, Box 906
MICANOPY
FL 32667
United States of America

Please find enclosed the 1990 Resolution recognising
Dr Archie Carr's Work.

Regards,

Paul Holthus
Paul Holthus *per EOR*
Project Officer (Scientist)

PH/mtb

cc: Mr George Balazs
US Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Library
2570 Dole St
HONOLULU. Hawaii 96822-2396

1990 RESOLUTION RECOGNISING DR ARCHIE CARR'S WORK

Recalling that the late Dr Archie Carr travelled to New Caledonia in 1979 to participate in and offer encouragement to an SPC sponsored workshop on marine turtles in the Pacific region,

Recognising that Dr Carr's life-long work on the conservation and research of marine turtles in the Caribbean constitutes the foundation for many similar efforts worldwide,

Realising that Dr Carr provided valuable assistance and inspiration to the initiation of certain marine turtle conservation activities in the Pacific,

Therefore be it resolved by the Steering Committee that Dr Carr's significant contributions to marine turtle conservation be gratefully acknowledged, and that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Mrs Carr and the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research in Gainesville, Florida USA.

It was agreed that if possible endorsement of these resolutions by the Intergovernmental Meeting on the SPREP Work Programme to be held 24-28 September 1990 should be sought.

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PRO 59/4/2/1

With our compliments

Avec nos compliments

Ms Kay Banner
819A Puunani Place
HONOLULU
Hawaii 96817
United States of America

Please find enclosed the 1991 Resolution Recognising
Mr Alan Banner.

Regards,

Paul Holthus

Paul Holthus
Project Officer (Scientist)

PH/mtb

cc: Mr George Balazs
US Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory
2570 Dole St
HONOLULU
Hawaii 96822-2396

SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
PROGRAMME REGIONAL OCEANIC DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

1991 RESOLUTION RECOGNISING MR ALAN BANNER

Recalling that during the early 1970's American Peace Corps Volunteer Mr Alan Banner vigorously worked at the village level on behalf of the conservation of marine turtles in the South Pacific region,

noting with deep regret that Mr Banner lost his life as the result of a sudden fatal shark attack while swimming ashore to conduct marine turtle conservation duties at Nuutele Island in Western Samoa.

The Steering Committee of the South Pacific Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme:

Resolves that Mr Banner's work be gratefully recognised and remembered.

SPREP

SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

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PROE

PROGRAMME REGIONAL OCEANIE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

B. P. D5
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NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIE

ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE :
"SOUTH PACOM" NOUMEA
TELEPHONE : 26. 20. 00
TELEX : 3139 NM SOPACOM
FAX : (687) 26. 38. 18

In reply, please quote

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO
THE DIRECTOR

PRO 59/4/2/1

Notre référence

VEUILLEZ ADRESSER VOTRE RÉPONSE
AU DIRECTEUR

Nooumea, 20 August 1991

**CIRCULAR LETTER TO: SPREP National Focal Points
SPREP Institutional Focal Points
Participants to the Second Meeting and
Workshop of the Regional Marine Turtle
Conservation Programme (RMTCP)**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Second Meeting of the SPREP Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme Steering Committee was concluded on 14 August following two days of discussion on the issues concerning turtle conservation in the South Pacific and the implementation of the Programme. The Steering Committee which included members from the current participating countries (Marshall Islands, FSM, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Palau and French Polynesia) and experts from Australia and the United States, passed a number of resolutions relating to turtle conservation in the region and these are attached for your information.

I would be grateful if you could bring relevant resolutions to the attention of other agencies and organisations in your country which may have an interest in promoting turtle conservation. I refer in particular to Resolutions 1-3 of the attached.

Yours sincerely,

Vili A. Fuavao
Director
South Pacific Regional
Environment Programme (SPREP)

Att.

**RESOLUTIONS OF THE SECOND MEETING AND WORKSHOP OF THE REGIONAL
MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME (RMTCP)**

(Noumea, New Caledonia, 12-14 August 1991)

1. RESOLUTION ON TURTLE EXPLOITATION IN INDONESIA

Recognising that green turtles are a highly migratory species and that available tag recapture data indicates movement of green turtles between the South Pacific Region and the South East Asian Region,

noting that there are very heavy levels of turtle harvesting and exploitation occurring in the waters surrounding Indonesia and that the Bali Turtle Market is one of the largest in South-East Asia, the Steering Committee of the South Pacific Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme,

urges the Government of the Republic of Indonesia to:

- (i) note its concern at the level of commercial trade in green turtles centred around Bali;
- (ii) enter into discussions at the regional level to develop co-operative arrangements for the management and conservation of green turtles in the South East Asian Region; and
- (iii) co-operate with the countries of the South Pacific region on inter-regional initiatives for marine turtle conservation and management.

2. RESOLUTION ON REGIONAL CO-OPERATION ON TURTLE CONSERVATION

Noting the resolution of the Fourth South Pacific Conference on National Parks and Protected Areas calling for the endorsement of the South Pacific Regional Marine Turtle Conservation and Management Programme by the 1990 SPREP IGM Meeting,

further noting the recent progress made with the development of a regional co-operative approach to the conservation and management of marine turtles in the South Pacific region through the South Pacific Regional Marine Turtle Conservation and Management Programme,

again recognising the highly migratory behaviour of marine turtles and the cultural and subsistence importance of these animals to the people of the countries of the South Pacific,

recognising also that the conservation and management of marine turtles require both national initiatives and international and regional co-operation,

The Steering Committee of the South Pacific Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme:

recommends

- (i) that consideration be given to the negotiation of a regional agreement for the conservation of threatened migratory marine species, particularly marine turtles, in the form of a protocol to Convention for the Protection of Environment and Natural Resources of the South Pacific (the SPREP Convention) by the Parties to that Convention.
- (ii) that the island countries of the South Pacific region give strong consideration to accession to the Washington Convention (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - CITES) which provides for the protection of five out of the six species of marine turtles occurring in the South Pacific.

3. RESOLUTION ON JAPANESE BEKKO TRADE

Recognising that the hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) is traditionally valuable for the countries of the South Pacific region,

noting that Japan is the largest importer of hawksbill turtle scales (known as bekko) in the world and that Japan has increased its imports of bekko from the South Pacific in recent years,

further noting that Japan has recently announced that it will stop importing bekko at the end of 1992.

The Steering Committee of the South Pacific Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme:

Congratulates the Government of Japan on its decision to end its imports of bekko, which will greatly assist the conservation of hawksbill turtles in the South Pacific region,

urges the Government of Japan to remove its reservations on the Appendix I listing of sea turtles under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) as soon as possible.

4. RESOLUTION ON ARNARVON WILDLIFE SANCTUARY IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

Recognising that the Arnarvon Island Group in Isabel Province, Solomon Islands is one of the largest and most important nesting sites for the hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) in the Solomon Islands, and a significant rookery for this species in the South Pacific region,

noting that there has been a decline in the number of hawksbill turtles nesting in this area in recent years and that hunting for commercial trade is likely to be a major contributor to this decline,

further noting that a wildlife sanctuary was previously established in the Arnarvon Islands group but now no longer exists,

acknowledging that the Solomon Islands has recently undertaken turtle conservation activities (with the support of SPREP) including turtle population surveys, education and the drafting of new legislation to control turtle exploitation.

The Steering Committee of the South Pacific Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme:

Expresses its support for the turtle conservation activities undertaken by the Solomon Islands and supports a continuation of these efforts,

endorses re-establishment of the Arnarvon Wildlife Sanctuary with the full support of the traditional landowners and national and provincial authorities,

urges that, as an urgent priority, international and regional conservation and development agencies assist the Solomon Islands to proceed with the establishment of the Arnarvon Wildlife Sanctuary as soon as possible.

5. RESOLUTION ON TURTLE CONSERVATION IN NEW CALEDONIA

Considering that New Caledonia and Dependencies is an important breeding ground for the following species of marine turtles:

Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)
Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)
Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*)

also considering that statutory protection for marine turtles already exists in New Caledonia, the Steering Committee of the South Pacific Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme:

Urges 'Association pour la sauvegarde de la nature néo-calédonienne (ASSNC)' to persevere with its research programme and information campaign for the conservation of marine turtles,

supports all action taken by ASNNC with the territorial authorities and the research bodies present in New Caledonia to combat poaching and secure the strict enforcement of statutory provisions relating to marine turtle conservation.

6. RESOLUTION ON INFORMATION ON FIJI TURTLE CONSERVATION

Recognising that Michael Guinea has surveyed the distribution of marine turtles in Fiji in the late 1970's, using his own resources,

noting that little detailed data on the distribution of marine turtles in Fiji is available in published reports.

The Steering Committee of the South Pacific Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme:

Invites Mr Guinea to submit a formal report of his Fiji turtle surveys to SPREP for consideration for publication.

7. RESOLUTION RECOGNISING MR PETER TOMAS

Recalling that Mr Peter Thomas has played a significant and fundamental role in successfully initiating and implementing the Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme,

noting, with regret, that Mr Thomas will be leaving the Programme to undertake professional pursuits elsewhere in the South Pacific region.

The Steering Committee of the South Pacific Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme:

Resolves that Mr Thomas be gratefully thanked for his substantial contributions to the Programme, and that he be wished continued success in his future endeavours.

8. RESOLUTION RECOGNISING MR ALAN BANNER

Recalling that during the early 1970's American Peace Corps Volunteer Mr Alan Banner vigorously worked at the village level on behalf of the conservation of marine turtles in the South Pacific region,

noting with deep regret that Mr Banner lost his life as the result of a sudden fatal shark attack while swimming ashore to conduct marine turtle conservation duties at Nuutele Island in Western Samoa.

The Steering Committee of the South Pacific Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme:

Resolves that Mr Banner's work be gratefully recognised and remembered.

South Pacific Commission
FAX Number (687) 26.38.18
Noumea, New Caledonia

Commission du Pacifique Sud
Numero de FAX (687) 26.38.18
Nouméa (Nouvelle-Calédonie)

F A X M E S S A G E

(808) 942 2062 Honolulu HAWAII

FAX No:

No. of Pages: ...3... (including this one)

To: George Balazs NMFS SW Fisheries Center

From: PETER THOMAS, SPREP

Date: 24 October 1990

File: PRO 59/9/3

Subject: Turtle Workshop Resolutions

Message:

Dear George,

I regret that I was not able to place the Workshop resolutions before the SPREP IGM. This means that SPREP will circulate them to it's member countries directly and urge that they work towards their implementation. It will still be appropriate for the resolutions to be referred to at the forthcoming meeting and I am attaching a clean copy as requested. I have also prepared a circular letter to all participants updating them on progress since the meeting and this will be accompanied by a copy of the draft meeting report. You should have this before the end of the first week of November.

Kind regards



Peter Thomas
Protected Areas Management Officer
South Pacific Regional
Environment Programme (SPREP)

Att.

**RESOLUTIONS OF THE FIRST MEETING AND WORKSHOP OF THE
REGIONAL MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME (RMTCP)
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 13-15 August 1990)**

During the course of the meeting a number of issues were identified which were considered of sufficient importance to warrant the adoption of resolutions by the Committee. These were:

RESOLUTION ON JAPANESE BEKKO TRADE

Recognising that the hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) is traditionally valuable for the countries of the South Pacific region,

Noting that there has been a significant decline in populations of the hawksbill turtle in many places as a result of trade in scales of the hawksbill (known as bekko),

Further noting that Japan is the largest importer of bekko in the world and that Japan has increased its imports of bekko from the South Pacific in recent years,

We urge the Government of Japan to assist the conservation of hawksbill turtles in the South Pacific region by considering a significant reduction in its imports of bekko from the South Pacific,

RESOLUTION ON BEKKO TERMINOLOGY

Noting that Japan is the major importer of the raw scales of the hawksbill turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata* and that import consignments of these raw scales are identified as "bekko" in Japanese trade statistics,

Further noting that national trade statistics currently use a variety of different and confusing terminology for bekko or do not have a distinct category for this material,

In order to better understand the trade factor adversely affecting the conservation of turtles, there is a need for a standardised nomenclature for export consignments of the raw scales of the hawksbill turtle,

We urge governments of the South Pacific Region to adopt as a standard the word "bekko" when referring to export consignments of the raw scales of the hawksbill turtle and to adopt a unique category for this material in their trade statistics,

RESOLUTION ON TURTLE EXPLOITATION IN INDONESIA

Recognising that green turtles are a highly migratory species and that available tag recapture data indicates movement of green turtles between the South Pacific Region and the South East Asian Region,

Noting that there are very heavy levels of turtle harvesting and exploitation occurring in the waters surrounding Indonesia and that the Bali Turtle Market is one of the largest in South-East Asia,

We urge the Government of the Republic of Indonesia to:

- (i) note our concern at the level of commercial trade in green turtles centred around Bali,
- (ii) enter into discussions at the regional level to develop co-operative arrangements for the management and conservation of green turtles in the South East Asian Region, and
- (iii) co-operate with the countries of the South Pacific region on inter-regional initiatives for marine turtle conservation and management.

RESOLUTION ON REGIONAL CO-OPERATION ON TURTLE CONSERVATION

Noting the resolution of the Fourth South Pacific Conference on National Parks and Protected Areas calling for the endorsement of the South Pacific Regional Marine Turtle Conservation and Management Programme by the SPREP IGM Meeting,

Further noting the recent progress made with the development of a regional co-operative approach to the conservation and management of marine turtles in the South Pacific region through the South Pacific Regional Marine Turtle Conservation and Management Programme,

Again recognising the highly migratory behaviour of marine turtles and the cultural and subsistence importance of these animals to the people of the countries of the South Pacific,

Recognising also that the conservation and management of marine turtles requires both national initiatives and international and regional co-operation,

Recommends that consideration be given to the negotiation of a regional agreement for the conservation of threatened migratory marine species, particularly marine turtles, in the form of a protocol to Convention for the Protection of Environment and Natural Resources of the South Pacific (the SPREP Convention) by the Parties to that Convention.

RESOLUTION RECOGNISING DR ARCHIE CARR'S WORK

Recalling that the late Dr Archie Carr travelled to New Caledonia in 1979 to participate in and offer encouragement to an SPC sponsored workshop on marine turtles in the Pacific region,

Recognising that Dr Carr's life-long work on the conservation and research of marine turtles in the Caribbean constitutes the foundation for many similar efforts worldwide,

Realising that Dr Carr provided valuable assistance and inspiration to the initiation of certain marine turtle conservation activities in the Pacific,

Therefore be it resolved by the Steering Committee that Dr Carr's significant contributions to marine turtle conservation be gratefully acknowledged, and that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Mrs Carr and the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research in Gainesville Florida USA.

It was agreed that if possible endorsement of these resolutions by the Intergovernmental Meeting on the SPREP Work Programme to be held 24-28 September 1990 should be sought.

RESOLUTION

~~DRAFTED~~
BY GEORGE BALAZS

= Recalling that the late Dr. Archie Carr traveled to New Caledonia in 1979 to participate ^{and offer encouragement to} in ~~an earlier~~ SPC-sponsored workshop on marine turtles in the Pacific region;

- Recognizing that Dr. Carr's life-long work on the conservation and research of marine ^{turtles} in the Caribbean constitutes the foundation for many similar efforts worldwide;

= Realizing that Dr. Carr provided valuable assistance and inspiration to the initiation of certain ~~the~~ marine turtle conservation activities in the Pacific, specifically those of Colin Limpus, George Balazs & Sylvia Spring ~~Senior~~;

Therefore be it resolved by SPREP that

Dr. Carr's significant contributions to marine turtle conservation be ~~deeply~~ ^{gratefully} acknowledged, and that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Mrs. Carr and the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research in Gainesville, Florida USA,