

April 6, 1982

Dr. Archie Carr
Chairman, IUCN Marine Turtle Group
Department of Zoology
223 Bartram Hall
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

Dear Archie:

I was happy to receive your letter of March 17th which seeks to poll all Turtle Group members about the possibilities and problems of holding a Group meeting. It is good that you have done this, and I am anxious to learn what sort of responses will be given. The early one from Dr. Hirth that you sent me certainly was thoughtful. The "half-funding by IUCN" idea seems worthy of pursuit.

A few days after I received your letter, Wayne also wrote to me and mentioned the regional meeting of the Turtle Group tentatively scheduled for Bali in October of this year. This "regional" meeting concept comes new to me, but it sounds like a great strategy, assuming major decisions aren't made on controversial issues thereby opening the door for complaints by non-regional Group members who don't attend. As the situation stands right now, I think it highly unlikely that I would want to or be able to, attend. I need to save my potential funding sources (and bank account) for the full Group meeting which is now destined to occur within 12 months, or so I predict. If you plan your trip with a one-day stopover in Hawaii on the way out, that would give us a nice opportunity to meet and exchange views. Presumably this would make up in part for my absence at the meeting. I hope that your travel schedule will allow this to be possible.

And speaking along those lines, I still cast my vote for Australia, in collaboration with Limpus' offer, as the location for a full Group meeting. If Limpus' offer for some reason can't be fulfilled, then my second choice would be Sarawak and/or Trengganu. Having sessions held at two locations might have merit and shouldn't be all that difficult to arrange. At least it's an idea to consider.

Don't be too surprised if you raised some eye brows by saying in your letter that "our last two sessions have been on this continent" (N. America).

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Both the ad hoc gathering in Miami, and the Toronto group, were "limited-entry" sorts of things. I know that some Group members contend that a full meeting hasn't been held for over a decade. Depending how it's viewed, this may be true, but it fails to take into consideration the many good things that have been accomplished in the Group's name over these years.

I really enjoyed reading that nice piece in National Audubon. You should be very proud of the article.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md