



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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June 1, 1982

His Excellency, Giordano
Bruno Reffi
Prime Minister
Republic of San Marino

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I am writing to ask you to consider having your Republic put out a set of postage stamps that feature sea turtles. San Marino is well-known among collectors as a source of fine and attractive stamps. The issuance of stamps with a theme involving the world's graceful sea turtles would undoubtedly be very popular.

As you may know, sea turtles have experienced serious population declines in recent years due to excessive exploitation for meat, shell and hides. Coastal development has also caused the destruction of important sand beaches where nesting takes place. Because of these various survival problems, many countries now have laws that protect sea turtles and restrict international trade in their products. Education can play an important role in helping to conserve these marine animals. Portraying them on postage stamps can represent a very positive step in this direction.

I have enclosed several illustrations and photographs of sea turtles to help you evaluate this suggestion. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist, and
Deputy Chairman IUCN Marine
Turtle Group

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Enclosures