

GRAN HOTEL
Costa Rica
SAN JOSE

P. O. Box 527 - Teléfono 21-40-00

Cable: Hoteleica - Telex 2131

San José, Costa Rica

11 April 1979

Dear George:

Many thanks for your
communications postmarked
3 and 4 April.

I'm down here on
another hybrid mission - planning
the LOCARIBE conference, and
reconnoitering the Panama beaches.

To my surprise I read in the
newspaper that Mexico, Costa Rica
and Ecuador are going to meet soon
to discuss management plans for their
shared ridley populations. This is
a thing I suggested to René 18 months
ago; but coming now, after Suarez's
hints have been stirred, the
proposed meeting makes me
uneasy. Meanwhile I'm going ahead
with a proposal to have people on
Nancite this season.

Your proposed additions to the turtle
group seem good - providing you
accept the old list of members to
add to, and not the abbreviated

list as of Toronto meeting time. On that, Pritchard
was not recorded, as you know,

The arrangements for the
South Pacific meeting sound pretty
complicated. Hope they evolve without
troubles.

Your plan for preserving tidleys is
worth exploring. I suspect don't know
how aquarium people will
react. Annie's account of the
Orlando Kempi sessions
sounds like Alice in
Wonderland.

Have to be off

Con un gran abrazo

Guessely your
Archie

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

October 2, 1979

Sr. Antonio Suárez G.
Pesquería Industrial de Oaxaca, S.A.
Etzatlán 28 (Col. Maza)
Mexico 2, D.F.

Dear Antonio:

I want to thank you for making possible our recent visit there, and for the frank and open way in which you discussed your enterprise and showed us your plant. I went down to Oaxaca expecting to consort with the devil incarnate, but instead we were graciously entertained by an unbelievably attentive host. There were times when I suspected that you were purposefully entertaining us to the point of stupefaction just to soften us up; but I finally realized that you yourself probably live at that pace all the time.

Needless to repeat, I don't agree with some of your convictions, especially your faith in your ability to detect population decline in time to avert the dissolution of the *morriñas*. In fact, I honestly doubt that there will be *morriñas* at Escobilla by the 1990's.

But I am sure everybody is grateful for the exciting and enlightening visit that you arranged for us--down at the coast, in Oaxaca City, and in your beautiful home in Mexico City. The chief regret I brought away was not having had a tape recorder when you related the mind-shattering story of the wedding ceremony and dance going blithely ahead in the *ranchito* while a just-murdered corpse reclined in the rain, *en una postura muy extraña*. I've got to hear that story again some day. Meanwhile, please thank Mrs. Suarez for our delightful last evening in Mexico, and tell your daughter I was very sorry not to have had the opportunity of meeting her--and of begging her help in persuading you to ease up on the *golfinas*.

With regards and gratitude,

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr

Graduate Research Professor

AC/ljw

Encounter at Escobilla

During the last week of September twelve people convened at Puerto Angel, Oaxaca, Mexico, where PIOSA (Pesquería Industrial de Oaxaca, S.A.), the company known for its massive harvesting of the *golfinia* (olive ridley; *Lepidochelys olivacea*), has its slaughterhouse and packing plant, and a small laboratory building.

Puerto Angel is a half-hour jeep drive from Escobilla, the site of a huge nesting aggregation or *arribada*, known locally as *morriña*, of *Lepidochelys*, and a place made known to the world as the scene of intemperate exploitation by Tim Cahill in a sensational article in *Outside Magazine*.

The group assembled at the invitation of Sr. Antonio Suárez G., founder and owner of PIOSA. His motive was to establish communication with serious opponents of his exploitation of sea turtles, especially the *golfinia*.

The group comprised the following: George Balázs, Archie Carr, Tim Clabaugh, Kim Clifton, David Ehrenfeld, Richard Felger, Angie McGehee, Carlos Nagel, Peter Pritchard, Georgita Ruiz, Laura Tangley, and Jack Woody. All the participants paid their own travel expenses to Mexico City. From there on they were the guests of PIOSA, and all activities were arranged and attended by Sr. Suárez and his assistant Sr. Alfredo Martínez. The schedule was as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 25 Sept. '79
Tues. P.M. | (1) Arrival of participants in Mexico City
(2) Showing of movie on industrialization of Mexican sea turtles
(3) Dinner in Mexico City |
| 26 Sept. '79
Wed. | (1) Travel to Oaxaca and Puerto Angel
(2) Visit to Escobilla Beach
(3) Visit to PIOSA laboratory
(4) Visit to PIOSA slaughterhouse |
| 27 Sept. '79
Thurs. | (1) Boat trip along coastline off Escobilla, where thousands of ridleys were strung out for 8 km in a longshore <i>morriña</i>
(2) Historical sketch by Sr. Suárez
(3) Arrival of editors of magazine <i>DUMAC</i>
(4) Night trip to Escobilla to watch for <i>morriña</i> emergence, which failed to materialize; only six turtles nested |
| 28 Sept. '79
Fri. | (1) Return by some participants to research facility and slaughterhouse
(2) Departure <i>DUMAC</i> editors
(3) Meetings with Sr. Suárez |

- 29 Sept. '79 (1) Return to Oaxaca
Sat. (2) Return to Mexico City
(3) Dinner at Suárez residence
- 30 Sept. '79 (1) Dispersal of participants
Sun.

After many hours of meetings with and without Sr. Suárez in attendance, the participants expressed continuing doubt that the sea turtles of Mexico can withstand the current level of harvest. It was clear that Sr. Suárez believed otherwise, but it was hoped that this disagreement would not bar further discussion. A final meeting was held to see whether any principles could be agreed on. The points on which agreement seemed possible, together with Sr. Suárez's reaction to each, were as follows:

(1) A conference to instigate conservation of *L. olivacea* in an integrated way in the East Pacific was proposed. This would involve the principal countries with large ridley populations--Mexico, Costa Rica, and Ecuador.

Suárez: Agreed.

(2) The need to maintain an outside observer in future seasons at Puerto Angel and Escobilla was pointed out; and gratitude was expressed for the PIOSA money that supported Tim Clabaugh's work in that role during the past season. Future funding should be negotiated.

Suárez: Agreed.

(3) The need for careful study of migratory patterns of the East Pacific ridley, as grounding for conservation and management, was emphasized, and a substantial tagging program in Ecuador was recommended.

Suárez: Agreed

(4) Re beach patrols--in spite of the policy of total protection, enforcement by PESCA (Instituto Nacional de Pesca) had become lax and in some cases the marines assigned to the work had not been effective. It was hoped that Sr. Suárez would use his influence to improve the situation.

Suárez: I don't know what the status of protection is now--I'll explore it further. We are paying \$1000 per month for each group of marines--we want them to be effective. It is difficult to stop all illegal commerce--but, really, I feel that this is not heavy in Oaxaca.

(5) It was suggested that in the absence of a reliable population model, another technique to monitor population status--censusing nesting turtles annually--should be used. As a temporary rule-of-thumb, if the *morrina* of a given year is 20 per cent down, a moratorium should be declared; if it is ten per cent down, the harvest would be reduced by 50 per cent.

Suárez: Because of socio-economic and political factors such a process must come about gradually. I table the proposition, although I agree that any reduction would indeed be a cause for concern. Probably, if we should experience a clearly serious decline we would try to establish a moratorium, and to continue it until recovery.

(6) Sr. Suárez's support for a program of national beach reserves, with formal protection of beaches and the coastal zone behind them, was requested.

Suárez: It's an old idea, and nothing has been done about it. We should do it gradually, starting with the beaches only.

(7) It was pointed out that several joint, informal U.S.-Mexican sea turtle projects are afoot, and Suárez's support in formalizing and reinforcing these was asked.

Suárez: This is official business, at government level. It is my personal opinion, however, that if our relations here continue in a healthy way, such an advance is entirely possible.

Two features of our four days with Antonio Suárez were especially impressive. One was his unstinting hospitality. He is a man of vast energy. The round of inspection and sight-seeing that he had organized was so continuously unflagging that it seemed for a while that he was purposely wearing us down as adversaries. As it turned out, however, this could hardly have been the case, because the feverish schedule continued unabated after all the negotiations were over.

Another strong impression that we took away was that there was a curious lack of window-dressing. Some tidying had been done, especially at the laboratory, where, incidentally not much research seemed to be underway; and the slaughter session arranged was a mere demonstration of technique, with little of the shock power of the routine mass carnage. Otherwise, there was a surprising lack of effort to conceal the more unhappy aspects of an operation in which turtles are caught, landed, hauled, killed and dismembered by the tens of thousands.

The meetings at Puerto Angel were briefly attended by two members of the editorial staff of the Mexican magazine *DUMAC*, the bimonthly publication of Ducks

Unlimited, in which a translation of Tim Cahill's "*The Shame of Escobilla*" had just appeared. Antonio Suárez had invited the editors down from Monterrey on the grounds that, even though Ducks Unlimited is mainly concerned with game birds, its membership is made up of prosperous, leisured people who are strongly opposed to environmental loss in Mexico. An article on the Puerto Angel meetings will appear in the next issue of *DUMAC*. What its tone will be remains to be seen. Certainly *DUMAC* subscribes to the sustained-harvest concept, which constituted the main bone of contention between PIOSA and its conceptual adversaries at the meeting. However, the sincerity of Sr. Suárez's belief that *DUMAC* is the most substantial hope for conservation in Mexico cannot be doubted.

Besides the hours of group discussions, I had protracted private conversations with our host. During these I told him of my view that the controlling issue was not whether he may be returning significant numbers of hatchlings to the sea, in his oviducal salvage program; but rather that, since the 1960's, when the olive ridley became a theme for concern at meetings of the IUCN Marine Turtle Group, three and perhaps four *arribadas* of about the size of that at Escobilla had been destroyed. His reply to that was that it was just that kind of irresponsibility that he was preventing, by his disciplined exploitation and management. Then I told him that I personally opposed all international traffic in sea turtle products, and that the rapid spread of a brand new turtle leather industry since 1967 is an example of the ills that such traffic generates. Sr. Suárez replied that now it is precisely because of the growth of this profitable industry that he has exerted his influence in stopping the heedless destruction of the resource and in disciplining the fishery; and that if his two principles of operation: *explotación racional*, and *industrialización completa* are adhered to, the fishery can be stabilized and perpetuated. Otherwise, he said, effective management of East Pacific ridleys would quickly disintegrate.

In a concluding statement at the last group session Sr. Suárez repeated a remark that he had made several times before. It was this: "I will not go down in the history of Oaxaca as a person who has contributed to the decline of sea turtles--this would be one of the worst inheritances that I could leave for my daughter."

Archie Carr

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
225 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

October 22, 1979

Mr. Ross Witham
Florida Department of
Natural Resources
Marine Laboratory
P.O. Box 941
Jensen Beach, FL 33457

Dear Ross:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your reply to Peter Pritchard's comments on the uncertain origin of turtle tag AA196. Your implication that I persuaded Peter to denigrate the record is absurd. You know perfectly well that he could never be maneuvered into such a subservient role. The fact is, on hearing of the tag recovery, Peter recognized that a single return, though of no statistical importance, would stimulate unthinking people everywhere to put substantial portions of the reproductive potential of dwindling sea turtle populations into head-starting projects. He reasoned that premature or excessive publicity for a return that couldn't be wholly substantiated would be particularly harmful.

I happen to share that view. However, because of your hostility since the time of the Jensen Beach meeting, when I mildly criticized your choice of release-sites for your yearling turtles, I have been inclined to say nothing about the present problem unless questioned. When Peter called me about it I gave him the details as we had recorded them, as follows.

On June 20 we received a letter from Marcia L. Kartub and Craig A. Barsumian telling us that they had seen our tag AA196 on a loggerhead nesting on Jupiter Island. We sent you a copy of that letter. The people here were puzzled because we had no record of having ever used a double-A tag. I was away in Venezuela at the time. When I returned I found that you had discussed the problem with Anne Meylan, and that still no clear picture had emerged. Accordingly, I telephoned Ms. Kartub and Mr. Barsumian. They told me that after speaking with you they decided the tag prefix might have been a single-A, and not a double-A. When I asked them why they communicated with us in Gainesville, they said because the inscription so directed. ←

With no tag in hand, there seemed nothing more that could be done, and because of the peculiarly defensive--now actually vindictive--attitude that you and Futch have adopted, I decided to let the matter drop. It was about that time that Peter decided, wholly on his own, to set the record straight, if possible. And at almost the same time, Frank Lund, who had just re-registered at the University here, came into the lab, learned of the trouble

Mr. Ross Witham
Florida Department of
Natural Resources

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10/22/79

we were having over a tag found on the beach where his tagging is done, and reminded me that we had once given him a set of A-prefix tags that duplicated a run being used at Ascension Island and that he had hand-stamped these with a second A after the first. I should have remembered this, but Frank had sent us no written record and I simply forgot. Frank has now located some of his record sheets for that series, but not that giving the history of AA196. He is still looking for it. Meantime, because double-A tags were once used on Jupiter Island turtles, and because the troublesome tag had our address, the record seems bound to retain some uncertainty.

I suppose I should have told you at the beginning that I had no intention of proclaiming this uncertainty from the rooftops. It is possible that a valid return occurred that night. Under the given circumstances, I expect to answer any inquiries by saying that I have to reserve judgment.

For some years now I have remained relatively quiet about your practice of extracting a large percentage of the eggs of the vestigial Florida green turtle colony for use in an experimental rearing project the only proven value of which is that it generates some public approval. I have repeatedly quieted other people when a general protest by national and international conservation organizations has been urged. I did this partly because we have been friends, and I was in a way responsible for getting you into the exercise to start with; and partly because you had put so much effort and talented turtle culture into your project and had so much at stake. So now when you speak of mobilizing against me enemies that I have developed by my peculiar habit of sticking to certain convictions, you make me question my wisdom in having discouraged a broad-based protest that would have generated unpleasant repercussions for us all here in Florida.

I sincerely hope, Ross, that you and Futch can get a grip on yourselves and try to understand that the difference between us does not stem from personal animosity on my part. The uproar over tag AA196 is really a tempest in a teapot. I wish it were demonstrably authentic, but even if firmly substantiated the return would be a pleasing sign, but no more. I wish, probably even more than you, that head-starting could be quantitatively proved to be an effective practice, and one in which one could predict cost-benefit quotients. This is not the case. We know intuitively that yearling turtles fit fewer predator mouths than hatchlings do; but only massive testing can show whether taking eggs for head-starting is beneficial or harmful to the particular population from which the eggs are taken. This is a purely statistical prediction, and one that can only be made from voluminous data. Meanwhile, the only sure way to help a diminished sea turtle population is to control exploitation and protect eggs from predation.

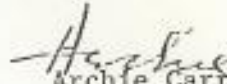
Mr. Ross Witham
Florida Department of
Natural Resources

- 3 -

10/22/79

Perhaps experimentation with the Florida loggerhead population is defensible. So would be rearing and releasing 5,000-10,000 Tortuguero green turtles a year. Such work with the ridleys at Escobilla or the leatherbacks at Organabo would be admirable. Until we know that a substantial percentage of head-started turtles live to maturity and then breed on the shore from which they were taken, pen-rearing Florida green turtles seems to me unwise. That is our disagreement--not whether a single loggerhead recovery is authentic.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carl
Graduate Research Professor

AC:s

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
225 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

January 16, 1980

Dr. S. E. Cornelius
Department of Biology
Texas A & I University
Kingsville, TX 78363

Dear Steve:

Please excuse the delay in my answer to your request for an opinion of the project proposal for Nancite and Ostional. I see nothing to complain about. The idea of two field stations--rather than one--being financed by the CCC may startle Mr. Phipps. I judge there is no implication that the cost might exceed the sum that he had earlier agreed to.

I would hope that whatever is installed at Nancite can be kept as modest and as unobtrusive as possible. I hope the job of saving it will involve as few people coming in as possible. As the only "intact" nesting assemblage of *olivacea* in the world (intact in the sense of no trouble at the rookery), Nancite is one of the wonders of the natural world. I judge you share this view.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

AC:lw

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

January 17, 1980

Dr. Robert Scott
IUCN
Avenue du Mont Blanc
CH-1196 Gland
Switzerland

Dear Dr. Scott:

After re-consideration of the list of members proposed for the Marine Turtle Specialists Group I would like to propose minor revisions. As far as I know, no announcement of the makeup of the new group has been made, so I trust that these changes will not present any problems. I have discussed the revision with Wayne King and George Balazs and they are in agreement. The suggested changes are as follows:

Delete: Mr. Tho Yow Pong
3 Jalan Onawan
Road 15 Section 6
Petaling Jaya
Selangor, Malaysia

Add: Ms. Sylvia Spring
Wildlife Division
Department of Lands and Environment
P.O. Box 2585
Konedobu, Papua New Guinea

Dr. Huang Chu-chien
Peking Institute of Zoology
Academia Sinica
Peking, China

Change Address as follows:
Dr. Karen Bjorndal
Department of Zoology
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida 32611

If letters have already been sent to members, please leave Mr. Pong on the group, and just make the additions.

I trust that this request causes you no inconvenience, and hope you will notify me when letters to the group members have been sent by your office.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

xc: George Balazs
Patricia Chable
Jane Fenton
Wayne King

Archie Carr
Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

February 4, 1980

Dr. Robert Scott
IUCN
Avenue du Mont Blanc
CH-1196 Gland
Switzerland

Dear Dr. Scott:

I would like to make one more addition to the list of members for the
Marine Turtle Specialist Group:

Dr. Leo D. Brongersma
Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie
Raamsteeg 2
Postbus 9517
2300 RA Leiden
The Netherlands

Sincerely yours,

Archie Carr
Archie Carr
Chairman
Marine Turtle Group, IUCN

AC/lw

cc: George Balazs
Patricia Chable
Jane Fenton
Wayne King

→ please address
to air envelopes

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

February 13, 1980

Mr. Robert Scott
IUCN
Avenue du Mont Blanc
CH-1196 Gland
Switzerland

Dear Mr. Scott:

The Senegal grant proposal arrived the other day and I noticed that George Balazs was not listed as a recipient. My understanding was that he, as Deputy Chairman of the Marine Turtle Group, would have the opportunity to review all proposals. If this seems appropriate there I hope you will arrange for these to be routinely sent to George. Meanwhile, to avoid any unnecessary delays, I have sent him a Xerox copy of the Senegal proposal.

Thank you for your attention to this and best regards.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr
Chairman
Marine Turtle Specialist Group

AC:ljw

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

February 18, 1980

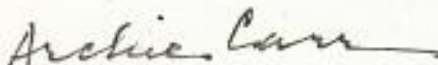
Executive Secretary
Air Traffic Conference of America (ATC)
1709 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is a preliminary request for the assistance of your organization in informing air carriers of the conservation problems of sea turtles and the laws prohibiting international commerce in products derived from them. As a result of the recent World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation held in Washington, D. C., the Marine Turtle Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has undertaken a program aimed at educating both the general public and the airline industry of these aspects. It has been suggested that IATA might be willing to provide assistance in this endeavor, possibly through placement of informative articles in newsletters or other trade publications. The specific type of cooperation would, of course, be dependent upon the resources of your organization, on either a non-cost or very low cost basis.

I shall look forward to hearing from you on this matter at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,



Archie Carr
Chairman
Marine Turtle Specialist Group, IUCN/SSC

Enclosure (*Newsweek* article, Jan. 14, 1980)

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

February 18, 1980

Executive Secretary
International Air Transport Association (IATA)
1155 Mansfield Street
Montreal 113, P.Q.
Canada

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is a preliminary request for the assistance of your organization in informing air carriers of the conservation problems of sea turtles and the laws prohibiting international commerce in products derived from them. As a result of the recent World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation held in Washington, D.C., the Marine Turtle Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has undertaken a program aimed at educating both the general public and the airline industry of these aspects. It has been suggested that IATA might be willing to provide assistance in this endeavor, possibly through placement of informative articles in newsletters or other trade publications. The specific type of cooperation would, of course, be dependent upon the resources of your organization, on either a non-cost or very low cost basis.

I shall look forward to hearing from you on this matter at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,



Archie Carr
Chairman
Marine Turtle Specialist Group, IUCN/SSC

Enclosure (*Newsweek* article, Jan. 14, 1980)

Telephoned 2/16/80

Sample

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

February , 1980

Dr. John Parmenter
Applied Ecology
Woden A.C.T.
Australia

Dear Dr. Parmenter:

I am writing to invite you to become a member of the newly constituted Marine Turtle Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. The group is composed of 28 members, widely dispersed throughout the world.

A principal purpose of the organization is to establish a system of communication among members that will disseminate understanding of the biology and survival positions of the sea turtles of the world, and will provide a means of mobilizing rapid and effective intervention on their behalf. This will be accomplished partly through correspondence, and partly through our Marine Turtle Newsletter. In order to improve coordination of our efforts, and promote group understanding of local conditions, please let us know of special turtle conservation problems that you may recognize in your area. I hope also that you will send this office copies of any recent publications by yourself or colleagues. The titles and authors of proposals for sea turtle research now under way or in preparation there would also be helpful.

I enclose a list of members of the newly constituted Group. The Conservation Strategy adopted at the recent World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation has now been drafted in semifinal form, and a copy of this will be sent to you in the near future.

It is a pleasure to be able to welcome you to membership in our Group, and I sincerely hope you will find the association rewarding.

Sincerely yours,

Archie Carr
Chairman, Marine Turtle Specialist Group
IUCN

AC:mjr

enclosure

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

March 6, 1980

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

Dr. René Grandperrin
South Pacific Commission
P.O. Box D5
Noumea Cedex
New Caledonia

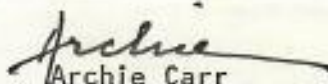
Dear René:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the Sea Turtle Conservation Strategy formulated at the recent World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation in Washington, D.C. You will no doubt find this of interest, and I have heard from George Balazs that you may wish to print it in your newsletter for wider circulation in the SPC area. If so, you should feel at complete liberty to do so.

Let me repeat my thanks for your consideration and hospitality during the recent conference--and my regrets that I was not able to make the epochal post-conference turtle flights with you.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,



Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor
Chairman, Marine Turtle Specialist Group,
IUCN/SSC

cc: George Balazs

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

March 17, 1980

Dr. George R. Pisana, Editor
Division of Biological Sciences
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas 66045

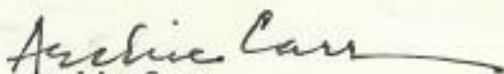
Dear Dr. Pisana:

One of the goals defined at the recent World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation held in Washington, D.C., was to increase public awareness of endangered sea turtles. To this end, we have petitioned the U.S. Postal Service to create a series of commemorative stamps featuring four species of sea turtles that occur in U.S. waters.

I am writing to ask whether you might consider it appropriate to solicit the support of your Herp Review readers for this proposal. If so, letters of endorsement sent to Mr. William Bolger, Postmaster General, Washington, D.C. 20260 would be extremely helpful in convincing the U.S. Postal Service of the desirability of such a stamp series.

I would greatly appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Archie Carr
Chairman
Marine Turtle Specialist Group, IUCN

AC/ljw

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
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16 May 1980

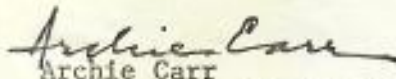
Mr. Paul Watson
Expedition Leader
Sea Shepherd Fund
P.O. Box 48446
Vancouver, B.C.
Canada V7X 1A2

Dear Mr. Watson:

George Balazs has sent me a copy of your very important sea turtle observation in the Atlantic west of Portugal. Your transect count is the most significant open-sea information on turtles that has come to my attention, and it supports sightings of other smaller groups of loggerheads in the same general area. Aggregations of sea turtles, other than *Lepidochelys*, in open ocean are extremely rare and, despite much attention, our knowledge of their migrations is still meagre.

I was delighted to learn of your experience and hope you will tell us of any further such observations.

Sincerely yours,



Archie Carr
Chairman, Marine Turtle Specialist Group,
IUCN

cc: George Balazs

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

June 10, 1980

Mr. George H. Balazs
Box 1346
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Dear George:

I hope you are committing a tremendous lot of turtle biology out at FFS. I envy you being there.

I forget whether it was I or one of my colleagues who you wrote about your prospective job with NMFS, and your uncertainty about the compatibility of that function and the SSC Deputy Chairmanship. As I see it, there is no problem there--providing you are prepared to stick to your convictions even when an issue might conflict with a Department of Commerce move. I can't imagine you doing otherwise, so there is no problem and I'm glad you are getting the support from them.


The SSC meetings were only minimally involved with sea turtles--far more with elephants and rhinos. In fact, I was the only Turtle Group member there, and the only turtle-oriented participants were Wayne, Margie and Ralph Daly. I gave them a 45-minute spiel, mainly about the Washington Conference (the world's most fantastic Specialist Group meeting in itself); but also about the rest of the spate of meetings of the past year, and also about you being the new hope for new life in the Group, and the only living human who might, without violence, one day manage to get the Mailing List from Mrosovsky. I told them some more stuff too but you know it all. And then we stopped over in N.Y. for the CCC meeting and told them the same general kind of things. The angels came up to that meeting and they stole the show, though Wayne gave the group a detailed account of the events and significance of the Washington Conference. Karen is editing madly; Jeanne is working in passionate fits and starts on her doctoral dissertation; Anne is in Bocas and Chiriqui trying to decide whether hawksbills might get her a Ph.D.

Little Man, the one successful hatchling in the batch of black turtle eggs that you and P.P. brought is an outstanding young turtle. Put the tips of your thumbs and index fingers together and contemplate the space within them--he's that size.

Keep your eye out for Tortuguero tags out there and have a good time.

Best regards from all here.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

*P.S. The stamp project
keeps looking
better and better.*

AC/lw

July 22, 1980

Mr. Robert Scott
IUCN
Avenue du Mont-Blanc
CH-1196 Gland
Switzerland

Dear Bob:

The list of people who have been invited to membership (or to membership renewal) in the Marine Turtle Specialists Group is as follows: George Balazs, S. Bhaskar, Karen Bjorndal, Leo Brongersma, David Ehrenfeld, Jacques Fretey, Harold Hirth, Huang Chu-chien, George Hughes, Colin Limpus, Anne Meylan, Rene Marquez, Edward Moll, Jeanne Mortimer, Nicholas Mrosovsky, Larry Ogren, John Parmenter, N.V.C. Polunin, Peter Pritchard, J.P. Ross, Joop Schulz, G.S. de Silva, Kuan Two Siow, Sylvia Spring, Njoman Sumertha, Ismu Sutanto Suwelo, and Itaru Uchida.

Most of these have sent written acceptances, but a few have not written us here. It has occurred to me that some of them may have replied to you, instead. As a general policy do you send an official invitation to appointees as in the case of Leo Brongersma? If not, we will make a second effort to get replies from the handful of people who haven't answered our invitation.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Archie Carr
Chairman
Marine Turtle Specialists Group

cc: George Balazs
Wayne King

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

January 15, 1981

Mr. George Balazs
P.O. Box 1346
Kaneohe, HI 96744

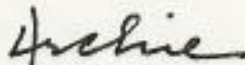
Dear George:

I enclose some notes for a possible turtle-farming proposal. I won't try to polish this up till I see what you think of the ideas at this stage. I've left the budget wholly up to you, because expenses in Hawaii will be the main part, and I can't estimate what they might amount to. Maybe space for 25 turtles from each of five localities for at least a year could be taken as one approximate production figure for part of your calculations. 125

May I saddle you with another chore? A very important one, and one that as Anne suggests, I will surely shirk. It is to start trying to generate interest in our next turtle group meeting, and to conceive and explore possible sources of travel funds - without which there will not be any meeting ever. I'll do some things along the way, but you do the rabble-rousing, O.K.?

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,



Archie Carr
Chairman, Marine Turtle Specialist Group

AC/lw
encl.

23 February 1981

Dr. Archie Carr
Department of Zoology
University of Florida

Dear Archie:

I'm obviously tardy in responding to you about the draft "Speciation" proposal that you mailed to me on January 15th. I have two excuses to offer- 1) that I was in a mild state of confusion preparing for, and carrying out, my study visit to Western Samoa; and 2) after initially reading the draft, I wanted some time to carefully think over the ramifications of doing this work in Hawaii and eventually dispatching turtles for distribution to museums. I won't trouble you with all of the pros and cons that have gone through my mind, but will simply tell you that I recognize the great potential value of the work, and definitely want to do it with you.

Another problem that has caused me some delay since returning to Honolulu on February 19th is the Reagan budget cuts for NMFS. I had intended to carry on for one more year (June81-June82) under this University of Hawaii-NMFS contractual arrangement. It has been very advantageous to me, and quite frankly, I don't have many other options available to me right at this time. The extension of the contract may still proceed as planned, but some uncertainty does now indeed exist. I will keep you posted.

I'm still working on the proposal's budget, but assuming my salary is derived from elsewhere, the cost should be something under \$20,000. As you know, it is by no means cheap to raise turtles when you consider food, student helpers, facilities improvement, as well as shipping costs and photography supplies.

My other general and brief comments are:

- 1) You would have to be listed as the Principal Investigator- my name as co or secondary project leader. This is the only way it will get funded, in my opinion.
- 2) We should solicit funds from three sources- NSF, National Geographic, and WWF-USA. FWS and NMFS should only be approached as a last resort (they will be broke anyway, from Reaganomics).
- 3) I anticipate some tough federal permit problems due to our plan to dispatch turtles. However, I feel confident that this bureaucratic obstacle can be overcome.
- 4) If our hatchlings/eggs are received at different times from each of the areas (as seems highly likely), our rearing conditions will not be absolutely identical due to changing weather conditions here in Hawaii. Obviously there's little, if anything, we can do about this. I wouldn't expect it to be a substantial problem- would you?

That's about all I can say right now. I'll work on this some more and get back to you in the very near future.

Aloha,


George Balazs

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
225 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

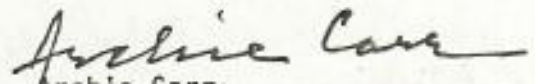
March 20, 1981

Ms. Felicia C. Coleman
25 Legare Street
Charleston, SC 29401

Dear Ms. Coleman:

Please excuse the delay in my reply to your letter of February 15. I have circulated word of the disturbing violations of the laws protecting sea turtles in Florida waters, and also of your wish to generate an alliance among shrimpers and fisheries agencies. Your letter to me has been copied and sent to selected offices and I'll let you know what comes of this. I'm confident it will yield some helpful results.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

AC:ljw

26 March 1981
Box 1346
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Dear Archie:

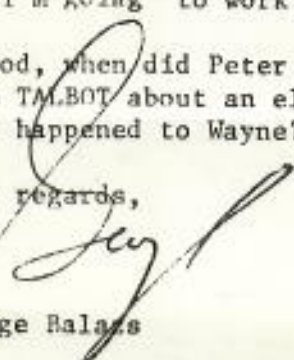
I still don't have my signed employment contract in hand for 1980-81, but it seems likely that it will be forthcoming. I have therefore proceeded to make a few comments and additions to the "speciation" proposal, and to prepare a draft budget for your consideration. I regret that it's taken me so long to get this back to you, but I did want to make sure that my position would be continued before proceeding further with the joint proposal. As I stated in my letter to you of February 23rd (copy attached), you will need to be listed as the project leader- I will be your associate or "agent" on the scene here in Hawaii where we can undertake the turtle rearing with much less difficulty than in Gainesville.

On a completely separate matter, Limpus telephoned me from Australia a few weeks ago. He does this every so often after ignoring my letters for months on end. Anyway, I took the opportunity to mention the need for a turtle group meeting. He responded by saying that his agency still might be interested in hosting the affair. What do you think- would Australia (Heron Is.?) be a good place for us to meet? I suggested Sarawak to you in one of my earlier letters (note letter from Lucas Chin that I sent to you a few days ago).

I haven't talked to you by telephone for some time now because it's becoming increasingly harder at both Univ. Hawaii and NIPS to get approval for such expenditures. There was a time when all of the telephone vouchers were simply rubber-stamped. Nevertheless, we do need to talk more frequently, and I'm going to work on the problem.

My God, when did Peter Scott resign as Chairman of SSC? I just got a notice from TALBOT about an election and the fact that G. Lucas is now Chairman. What happened to Wayne?

Best regards,



George Balass

Budget

WAGES

Technician, 12 months, 30 hours/wk @ 5.50 hour -	\$7920.
Fringe benefits (9.8%) -	776

EXPENDABLE SUPPLIES

Food for turtles -	2400
Renovation of rearing tanks -	1500
tags -	50
Medication -	150
Photographic supplies & processing -	250

TRAVEL AND SHIPPING

Honolulu-Maruaata Bay, Mexico (round trip)	900
Gainesville-Honolulu (round trip) -	1200
Air Express shipping -	450

OTHER

Telephone calls -	150
Indirect costs (University of Hawaii 32% of 7920)	2535

TOTAL -	\$18,281
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Speciation in Separately Breeding Populations of *Chelonia*
As Shown by Characters of the First Year Young

Co-Principal Investigators: George Balazs, University of Hawaii;
Archie Carr, University of Florida

The aim of this project is to investigate speciation in *Chelonia* by rearing young from different populations under identical conditions and thus providing material for comparative analyses of characters which undergo ontogenetic change or disappear with age.

Background and Justification

Although sea turtle research has accelerated markedly in recent years, aspects of the biology of the group are still very poorly known. A conspicuous example is our desultory taxonomic knowledge of sea turtles. This is obviously an obstacle to both biologic research and conservation practice. If it is not known how many species and subspecies one is working with, to understand their ecologic geography or provide adequate programs of protection or management for them is obviously not possible. One reason for the elementary state of sea turtle systematics is that most studies have mainly been based on big, mature specimens, and because of storage difficulties specimens have always been few in museum collections. Another cause of confusion is that characters useful in systematics are not for the most part as well expressed in old sea turtles as in young of the first few weeks or months. As in some emydid turtles, notably *Pseudemys*, most of the good characters occur, or are most clearly expressed, in the young stages; because in older turtles markings diffuse, change in size and shape, fade, or are hidden by melanism.

The East Pacific populations of *Chelonia* show this plainly. There is no trouble distinguishing *agassizi* on the coast of Mexico or Costa Rica from *mydas* on the Caribbean shore. However, two names have been proposed for populations of East Pacific *Chelonia*, with type localities respectively in Mexico and Guatemala. Nobody has been able to point out clear differences between the two, so they are usually grouped under *agassizi* because they share a markedly elevated carapace and black upper parts and bluish suffusion of the plastron. So, however, do the populations that breed in the Galapagos and Hawaiian Islands.

Preliminary examination of post-hatchling and yearling specimens of *Chelonia* from the Pacific coast of Mexico, French Frigate Shoal and the Galapagos suggests that the three can be distinguished by color pattern-- not merely color, but patterns and figures. In all three these features appear to change markedly as the little turtles grow, however; and what now is needed is a rearing program in which the ontogenetic progression of pattern changes, and of related morphometric features, can be systematically recorded. The reason that such analyses have not been made previously is that the useful characters are best expressed during the year or so following the first month of life. Because sea turtles of all kinds disappear during that stage, specimens of that age are very scarce in museum collections. Some collections have series of newly hatched turtles taken at the nest, but the good characters have not yet appeared in these, and a rearing program is clearly needed. The results of such a study will of course leave adult characters unrevealed, but this is irrelevant. The proposal is not for a definitive taxonomic analysis of *Chelonia*. It is rather to use juvenile characters to advance knowledge of speciation in the genus.

Phenotypic variation in color and coloration is in some populations bewildering. It is well illustrated by Jack Frazier's series of color prints of Aldabran turtles. Peter Pritchard has seen extreme variation in Papua-New Guinea. Such diversity within populations not only confuses studies of geographically correlated variation--and thus of speciation within the complex--but also makes it impossible to confirm or disprove the occurrence of sympatry in some colonies. Since Carmen Angermeyer (*in litt.*) first began telling of two forms of *Chelonia*--a yellow turtle and a black turtle--in the Galapagos Islands, bits of evidence that the same thing occurs in numerous other Pacific localities have accumulated. Besides a main stock, the dark, high-shelled *agassizi* type, there occur also isolated individuals very like *mydas* in appearance. One such place is the Pacific coast of Mexico. Here some of the local people consider the *mydas*-like form to be a separate species, while others say it is merely an age-related stage. Comparison of series of young from different populations as proposed in this project will thus bear on two problems of sea turtle taxonomy: 1) the degree to which separate breeding populations are genetically different; and 2) the possibility of the sympatric occurrence of *agassizi*-like and *mydas*-like forms through parts of the Indo-Pacific. Without going into further documentation, it can be said that the problem might be relieved by such a rearing program as is here proposed.

Procedure

After the appropriate permits have been obtained, and as the nesting season of each colony begins, samples of eggs or very young hatchlings will be taken at the following localities: 1) Maruata Bay, Mexico; 2) San Jose, Guatemala; 3) Naranjo, Costa Rica; 4) The Galapagos Islands; 5) The Hawaiian

Archipelago (French Frigate Shoal). The sample from each locality will include young from several nests--say, ten turtles from each of five egg complements. Where hatchery programs are under way, young turtles will be taken; otherwise eggs will be taken. With minimal delay, all hatchlings will be sent to Honolulu and installed in tanks. Constant, homogeneous conditions will be provided for the turtles and they will have the same diet and feeding schedule. On arrival all will be photographed in dorsal, ventral, lateral and frontal view; and thereafter standard photographic and morphometric sampling will be repeated at the following ages: one month; three months; six months; nine months; one year. If accelerated changes appear to be occurring in any intervening period, additional measurements and photographs will be made. If, after nine months, change has slowed down markedly, the samples being reared will be cut down to more manageable size. As turtles are no longer needed for continued study they will be: (1) sent to localities within the range of the population from which they were taken, and released there; (2) given to marine aquariums; or (3) placed in the taxonomic collections of selected museums. The project seems sure to reveal taxonomic differences that justify revival of available taxonomic names for some of the stocks; if so, museums everywhere will be interested in acquiring series of the different forms for their research collections. If possible under the operative permit regulations, this would be a useful disposition and one consonant with the basic aim of the project.

Personnel

The project will be directed and supervised by the Co-Principal Investigators, George Balazs and Archie Carr. The routine care and feeding of the turtles will be provided by a Technical Assistant from the University of Hawaii.

Budget

George, please figure this out. Include one trip to Michoacan from here (or there), a small sum for local fees for collection, packing and shipping of eggs and hatchlings, and a reasonable amount for air express (Costa Rica - Gainesville; Gainesville - Honolulu; Galapagos - Honolulu; etc.).

If you want a partial salary from the grant, and know of a source that might provide it, stick that in, too. Also, exercise imagination and come up with a fund for turtle feed. And whatever else you think of. Telephone calls, for instance.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

May 18, 1981

Shire Clerk
Woondara Shire Council
Barolin Street
Bundaberg, Australia

Dear Sir:

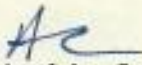
I have had word that the Shire Council has received a petition for a permit that would allow development along the beach at Mon Repos. I am writing to express alarm at this prospect and to urge the Council to give the most careful consideration to the probable deleterious effects of the proposed development on the famous Mon Repos sea turtle rookery. The nesting ground there is the largest on the mainland of Eastern Australia, and the population of the loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) breeding there is larger than any other on the Pacific Coast of your country. The shore also is visited by the southernmost nesting contingent of the unique flatback turtle.

Over and above its importance as a refuge for endangered species of marine turtles, the population there has been the object of protracted systematic study by scientists of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Information being gathered there is of great importance to our understanding of the ecology of marine turtles, not only augmenting natural science but also reinforcing the basis for successful management and conservation of sea turtles in other parts of the world.

Besides the direct yield to science and conservation, the Mon Repos turtle project, under a program of disciplined visitation by tourists and local people, has generated public good will for the whole field of wildlife maintenance in Australia, and if the colony is carefully protected this valuable contribution can be expected to continue. There can be no doubt whatsoever that, if the building permits being solicited are granted, the resulting artificial illumination on the foreshore will impair nesting, both by repelling the nest-bound adults and by disrupting the seaward travel of hatchlings across the beach.

I beg you, therefore, to stand firm against any persuasion in your assessment of the petition that has reached you.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr, Graduate Research Professor
Chairman, Marine Turtle Specialist Group,
International Union for the Conservation
of Nature

AC/lw

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

June 11, 1981

Dr. H. R. Bustard
Chief Technical Adviser
Crocodile Breeding and Management
Project
Central Crocodile Breeding and
Management Training Institute
19-4-319, Lake Dale, Rajendranagar Road
Hyderabad-500 264, A.P.
India

Dear Bob:

I regret the delay in my answer to your previous letter. I just returned from a trip to Papua New Guinea, and that was preceded by three other journeys.

As to the first of your questions--that concerning official IUCN policy on turtle farming--I believe that is a firm withholding of endorsement, with exceptions. Nobody seems to be actively opposing farms, but then there was never much of that. The fuss was mostly caused by the dogged, single-track insistence of turtle farmers that their virtues and good deeds deserved, and must be given, the endorsement of sea turtle conservationists. We all wasted vast amounts of time resisting that preposterous demand. I remain convinced that there should be no international traffic in depleted or vulnerable species, and that farming feeds international traffic by generating and extending markets. Why then should I endorse farming for international trade?

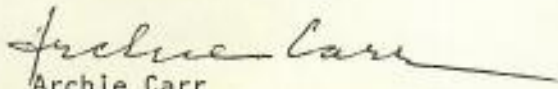
Our trip to Papua New Guinea involved a National Academy of Science panel of eight people sent to assess the potential for good, evil, or both, of the crocodile and bird-butterfly farming that is going on apace out there.

As to the status of your erstwhile membership on the Marine Turtle Group, all memberships were terminated at the time of the World Conference. A new slate was selected, for terms of three years. A new group will then go in. There is no reason why you would not be considered then. You probably have noticed, however, that concern over turtles, and research by very competent people, have been burgeoning these last few years. Unless the idea of universal membership is embraced, choosing a small number from that new multitude is not going to be easy.

Meanwhile, I hear you have had notable successes with gavials. Felicitations.

Regards.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr
Chairman
Marine Turtle Specialist Group

AC/1jw

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

September 10, 1981

Mr. Colin Limpus
National Parks and Wildlife
Service
Pallarenda
Townsville. 4810
Australia

Dear Colin:

(Many thanks for your letter.)

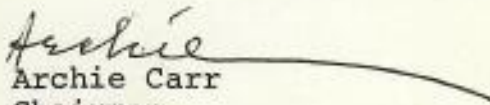
I'll send a formal proposal and request for an invitation to hold the Turtle Group meeting in Australia when I return from Tortuguero in ten days.

The turtle season was very poor this year; not the worst, but among the lean ones in the 26-years of our project. And, as you may recall, last year was the best. What do you make of it?

Hope your turtle courting and cooting studies go well this season.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr
Chairman
Marine Turtle Specialist Group,
IUCN

xc: George Balazs
F. Wayne King

AC/ljw

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

6 October 1981

Mr. George Balazs
P.O. Box 1346
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Dear George:

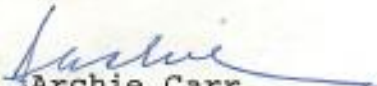
Many thanks for your letter, with the copy of your critique of the Nancite-Ostional proposal. Your assessment seems good to me, though I wish I knew more about the Ostional part, and also about what the ultimate fate of the data in the UCR computer will be.

As to the confusing consecutively numbered leatherback tags, they were not recovered tags, just tags applied. They were put on by my son Tom and colleagues in Rhode Island, who used consecutive numbers because that's the easiest way to get them off of the bar. I'm pretty sure you do the same; but if not please tell me why not. Is it some weird Hungarian fetish, or what? No, seriously, I can't understand how the report ever got worded so erroneously. Incidentally 21 turtles have been tagged off Rhode Island by Shoop, Tom, et. al. - a few more leatherbacks than loggerheads. Most were from a huge fish trap some miles offshore.

We just got back from a weed-line survey on the R.V. Bellows. We traced it, unbroken, from off Key Biscayne to off Palm Beach Inlet. There a front came through, and the chop broke up the line. It failed to reform during Sunday and we came home. Located no little turtles but I hardly expected to in that southernmost section. I took with me four 6-weeks-old loggerheads. Though totally unfamiliar with sargassum, they seemed overjoyed when we released them near clumps. They entered these straightaway, and even began eating the leaves and floats.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

AC/lw

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

December 10, 1981

Dr. Russell Train
President
World Wildlife Fund
1601 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Russell:

This is a brief summary of my impressions of the fantastic Clifton black turtle project.

First of all, I believe that what Kim is doing is shielding the Michoacan colony of *Chelonia agassizi* from certain and prompt destruction, and that he is virtually the only force at work toward that end.

Kim's active participation in seizures and arrests makes me uneasy for his safety, and is at least in part illegal. I'm happy that he has done this, but it's Alice-in-Wonderland stuff, and very dangerous, and hard for Mexico City to stomach. It probably ought to be soft-peddled. I think we are agreed in that regard.

The policy of buying eggs and installing them in hatcheries is sound and successful. Despite some official objection in Mexico City, many thousands of hatchlings that would otherwise never have seen the light are going into the sea. This ought to continue indefinitely if Pesca can be placated.

The data-gathering aspect of the work ought to be augmented. What I missed badly was a systematic tagging patrol of the magnificent Tulola nesting beach. I don't know whether this could be done in what remains of the current season, but I wish it could be. Kim ought to mark off a manageable section of Tulola by placing conspicuous, numbered posts on the upper beach, and then resume tagging there, consistently patrolling the entire study section every night, taking overall carapace lengths of the turtles tagged, and recording their location on the beach. Only turtles known to have completed nesting should be tagged. It made me drool to see all those untagged, easy-to-tag turtles nesting there the night we visited Tulola. They really ought to get careful attention. We spoke of the diverse reasons why they ought to be tagged, and I'll expatiate again if you want me to. To do so in the way I suggest would produce data directly applicable to the conservation and management of *agassizi*.

The other important data-gathering opportunity that is not being fully realized is that of making periodic aerial track counts along the whole black turtle shore section - some 40 miles. Since Kim has the Audubon airplane there I wish he would at once begin making weekly, or preferably twice-weekly, early-morning flights along all the separate beaches on which black turtles nest, recording the numbers of fresh tracks on each. We are trying to do this

Dr. Russell Train
December 10, 1981
Page 2

with NMFS support all around the Caribbean, because it is one of the only approaches to population estimates. In conjunction with the systematic, nightly ground patrols on Tulola, these surveys would yield the first trustworthy approximation of the actual numbers of females that nest in Michoacan, which is the principal remaining reservoir of the species on mainland America.

Data from both the aerial surveys and the tagging patrols ought to be sent regularly to Rene Marquez at the Instituto, and you or Carlos should talk with Rene about the scientific aspects of the work, explaining exactly what Kim is doing and pointing out that the project should be joined by young Mexican counterparts who could continue the tagging after Kim's exercise is phased out. Explain also that Pesca ought by rights to be sending Kim notification of any tags put on by his people and sent in to the Instituto. Only thus will Kim have any way of knowing, or reporting, what his tagging is accomplishing.

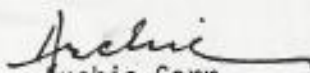
I was so struck by the opportunity of advancing knowledge of black turtle ecology at Tulola that if Kim were not working there, and if there were prospects of getting the necessary permit from Pesca, I would try to find funding to set up a protracted, seasonal tagging camp there. It is the best opportunity for such work anywhere in the East Pacific.

I can't foresee what the future of Kim's operation will be, but he deserves vast credit for having done a spectacular job, which few others could have accomplished. I wish there were a way to attach him permanently to some international conservation group, as a storm trooper who could be sent out on critical enterprises, demanding extraordinary guts, energy, tact, dedication, and an ability to live smoothly with any kind of people. Kim is worth a great deal to wildlife conservation. Think over possibilities.

I enjoyed the chance to be in the field with you, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to visit the fabulous, tormented Michoacan shore.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,



Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

AC/ljw

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

December 16, 1981

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group
FROM: Archie Carr, Chairman *AC*
IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group
SUBJECT: Reappointment to Membership

I am pleased to invite you to serve for another term of three years as a member of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group. Plans for a Group meeting at an as yet undetermined date are underway. You will be notified as they materialize. I hope you will be willing to continue your membership in the Group, and that you will be willing to keep this office in touch with events important to sea turtle survival in your area.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

December 16, 1981

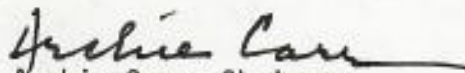
Mr. Mike A. McCoy
Yap Institute of Natural Science
c/o Micronesian Maritime Authority
P.O. Box D
Kolonia, Ponape
Eastern Caroline Islands 96941

Dear Mr. McCoy:

I am writing to invite you to become a member of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. The Group is composed of members widely dispersed throughout the world. A principal purpose of the organization is to establish a system of communication among members that will disseminate understanding of the biology and survival positions of the sea turtles of the world, and will provide a means of mobilizing rapid and effective intervention in their behalf. In order to improve coordination of our efforts, and promote Group understanding of local conditions, please let us know of special turtle conservation problems that you may recognize in your area. I hope also that you will send this office copies of any recent publications by yourself or colleagues. The titles and authors of proposals for sea turtle research now under way or in preparation there would also be helpful.

It is a pleasure to be able to welcome you to membership in our Group, and I sincerely hope you will find the association rewarding.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr, Chairman
Marine Turtle Specialist Group
IUCN

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

December 16, 1981

Sr. Mario Hurtado
Instituto Nacional de Pesca
Box 5918
Guayaquil, Ecuador

Dear Sr. Hurtado:

I am writing to invite you to become a member of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. The Group is composed of members widely dispersed throughout the world. A principal purpose of the organization is to establish a system of communication among members that will disseminate understanding of the biology and survival positions of the sea turtles of the world, and will provide a means of mobilizing rapid and effective intervention in their behalf.

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Sincerely yours,

Archie Carr
Archie Carr, Chairman
Marine Turtle Specialist Group
IUCN

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

January 4, 1982

Dr. Jeanne A. Mortimer
c/o Department of Agriculture
& Land Use
P.O. Box 54
Port Victoria, Mahe
Republic of Seychelles

Dear Jeanne:

Many thanks for your letter of 11 December, with the latest news of your intercourse with Indian Ocean chaps. Kopp sounds pretty bad. I can't think of a worse fate for a young woman such as yourself than being marooned for eight days on a little island with a guy you simply couldn't stomach.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter Veevers-Carter sent me in 1964 after some years of my procrastinating in accepting an invitation to go to the Seychelles. I also enclose his report, in the chance that you may not have seen a copy. Still another enclosure is a copy of my letter recommending Karen as your replacement on the French turtle-farm expedition. Sorry you couldn't work it in.

Please try to find some hatchling and yearling turtles and photograph them from all views, especially ventral.

We've been working on the two WAS reports, prettying them up, putting them together with a running table of contents and one set of covers, and getting the manuscript word-processed for publication as an NMFS report. Authors are you, me, Anne, Karen, and Tom Carr. This ought to be out in a month or so.

You ought to write more often. There have been long gaps in our correspondence and this has grieved me, and I'm sure it must have handicapped you in your intellectual growth.

Love,

Dr. Carr

enclosures:

xc letter of rec. for KAB
Veevers-Carter letter/report
clipping from The Torch, Jan. 82

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

January 4, 1982

Dr. Jaques Berney
Acting Secretary General
Convention on International Trade in
Endangered Species of Wild Fauna
and Flora
c/o IUCN
Avenue du Mont-Blanc
CH-1196 Gland
Switzerland

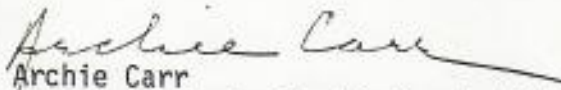
Dear Jaques:

I was sorry to learn that because of conflict with an inflexible schedule of boat trips to islands that she is bound by her contract to visit, Jeanne Mortimer will not be available for the farm inspection expedition to Europa and Reunion.

I am glad to say, however, that Dr. Karen Bjorndal, another former graduate student of mine, will have time free from her work during the period planned for the trip, and that I can recommend her with no less enthusiasm. Karen's doctoral research was in the nutritional ecology of the green turtle. This was partly laboratory work, but another part was carried out under difficult field conditions in the southern Bahamas and the Miskito Cays area of Nicaragua. Karen is a most extraordinarily well-rounded, enterprising and capable scientist. She has a pleasing and agreeable personality that makes of her an ideal colleague in field work. She thoroughly understands the ramifications of the relationship between aspirant turtle farmers, biologists and conservationists, and she can be expected to make judgments in that field with restraint and perspicacity. It seems to me, therefore, that Dr. Bjorndal is in every respect well prepared to carry out the mission that is planned, and I hope that her candidacy will be favorably reviewed and approved.

Please communicate with me if more information should be required.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr
Chairman, Marine Turtle Specialist
Group, IUCN

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

January 14, 1982

Mr. Kim Cliffton
Apartado 124
Tecoman
Colima 28100
Mexico

Dear Kim:

Many thanks for the copy of your very helpfully annotated map showing sea turtle nesting activity there. All this was too much for me to pick up from your verbal accounts.

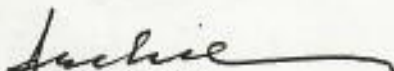
Please tell again, at your earliest convenience - preferably by calling me collect at my office [(904)392-1250] or at home [(904)466-3231] - what you told me about macroplankton collecting in bands along shear lines that form when the wind changes, and pushes Pacific water in till it meets longshore river water. The lack of any sargassum off the coast there makes this seem an important ecologic virtue of the beaches there - as you know. Does the wind-change correspond to the hatching season pretty closely? About when does it occur? Is the change in prevailing direction from westerly to southwesterly? What are the principal plankton organisms that accumulate in the bands? Have you, or has anybody you know, ever seen the stuff being eaten? If you don't know what the main creatures in the driftline are, could you get some of them pickled - in guaro or something - and send them to me? I'm trying to explain to the WWF in Gland how longshore shears and driftlines bear on hatchling ecology and the "lost year," and your information would be very interesting to them.

In a letter to Russell I made a few suggestions regarding the data-taking aspects of your extremely important and stirring project there. I believe Russell is sending these on to you - for whatever feasibility they may have at this late time in the season.

Many thanks for making my visit there so stimulating. I was really very deeply impressed by what you are accomplishing, and I just hope to hell you don't get shot. Eva and George likewise - and to them my very best regards. Also to the Little Angel.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

AC/lw

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

January 14, 1982

Biol. Rene Marquez M.
Instituto Nacional de Pesca
Apartado Postal 79-052
Col. Doctores
Mexico 7, DF
Mexico

Dear Rene:

Many thanks for your letter. I'm glad you are willing to continue as a member of the Marine Turtle Group.

I was really very sorry that you found it impossible to join us in the visit to Maruata. I was impressed by the work that Kim and his colleagues are doing there. Buying eggs from potential poachers seems like peculiar management - but what else can you do? Because of the egg purchases thousands of hatchlings that otherwise would not have been hatched, are going into the sea every night. Kim's participation in road-blocks and other efforts to stop the *contrabandistas* also seems unusual behavior for a gringo, and one likely to get him shot - but, frankly, I don't believe the local officials have the motivation to do it. With the road now finished, the poachers can get \$300 or even more for a turtle in Acapulco, Tijuana or San Diego. To try to stop a trade as lucrative as that is very hard, as you know - and probably pretty dangerous. Anyway, the day I arrived at Maruata they recalled the marines, and I freely admit that I was pretty damn uneasy for a while.

Two things I wish. One is that they could keep the Florida Audubon airplane down at Maruata long enough to make twice-weekly, early morning track counts along the whole coast where the black turtles nest. This would give you better data for population estimates. The other is that Colola beach could be marked off in 200-meter sections and, every night, all - not just some - nesting turtles could be tagged, measured, and their exact positions on the beach noted. This would provide very useful information for management proposed, and also for interesting comparison with similar data from Tortuguero. A third wish of mine is that more Mexicans were participating in the program down there, so as to insure continuity and permanence for the work when Kim leaves.

Colola seems to me an ideal place to work on the black turtles, but the two Mexican girls who live out on the beach are too busy with the hatchery work to have time to do thorough tagging. It almost broke my heart to see dozens of black turtles going back into the sea without tags.

Would you please advise me about a question that has arisen in our relations with Cuban tag returns?

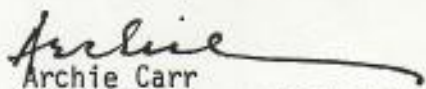
Biol. Rene Marquez M.
January 14, 1982
Page 2

Dr. Gustavo Gotera Gonzalez has just returned three tags. He says no reward is desired, but instead he wants publications, including my book *So Excellent a Fish*. I'm afraid the publications, especially books, would be held up in the *aduana* there. What do you think? If I should send them to you - as with the reward checks - would you be willing to forward them for us, and do you think they would get by customs all right? I'll be happy to hear from you in this respect.

I hope you can get down to Maruata before Kim leaves.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

AC/lw

P.S. The last that Karen heard about the World Conference book was that it ought to be out in a couple of months.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

January 21, 1982

Dr. Jaques Berney
Acting Secretary General
Convention on International Trade in
Endangered Species of Wild Fauna
and Flora
c/o IUCN
Avenue du Mont-Blanc
CH-1196 Gland
Switzerland

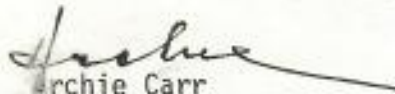
Dear Dr. Berney:

In reply to your letter of January 15, 1982, Dr. Karen Bjorndal's address is: Department of Zoology, University of Florida, 223 Bartram Hall, Gainesville, Florida 32611.

As to my opinion of the Suriname proposal to change the status of their green turtle population from Appendix I to Appendix II, I am opposed to the idea even though I can readily understand the socio-economic pressures that generate it.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,



Archie Carr
Chairman
Marine Turtle Specialist Group, IUCN

AC/ljw

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

January 28, 1982

Mr. George Balazs
P.O. Box 1346
Kaneohe, HI 96744

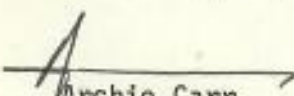
Dear George:

In re the film referred to in Monitor it is the same Jane Frick memorial film you saw in Washington. It's good, although I do too much of the talking in it. It has just been translated into Spanish and we're going to see that version Saturday.

Do you have any reason to want to see the English edition again?

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

*I enclose documents you
ought to see and maybe
react to.*

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

January 29, 1982

Dr. R.S.B. Wickramasinghe
Dr. T.S.U. de Zylva
Sub Committee Turtle Conservation
Wildlife & Nature Protection
Society of Sri Lanka
Chaitiua Road
Marine Drive, Fort.
Sri Lanka

Gentlemen:

Thank you for your letter of 6 January with information on the sea turtle project being developed there.

In offering answers to your various queries about hatchery procedure, I am following the sequence of your numbered questions, as follows:

1. I see nothing wrong with your treatment of your eggs - at least in respect to the size and depth of the nest chambers you construct.
2. I am not able to answer this usefully because I have had no experience with a "cement-lined" hatching plot. Why do you consider it advisable to "line" the area? It seems to me that it would be much preferable merely to fence off the plot, and so maintain the moisture regimen of the natural beach. In such a case, as shell fragments accumulate the hatchery can easily be moved to a new clean site.
3. The moisture regimen should not vary markedly from that of the rest of the beach. Its level is not very critical - the sand should simply be moist - not dry, and not sloppy wet.
4. Hatchlings have the same scale characters that are used in identifying the mature turtles.
5. Hatchlings must be killed and carefully dissected and microscopically examined to be sexed.
6. During the night or very early morning - preferably during the night of their emergence.
7. Allow them to move down the beach to the water.
8. Only by increasing the care with which the eggs are handled.
9. Head-starting is a purely experimental management technique, of as yet unproved value. Where hatchlings are very abundant it may be justifiable to rear some to 2 year's age for experimental tagging and release.
10. Hatchlings cannot be tagged for recognition as adults. Two-year-old turtles can be tagged with an inscribed tag that might last to maturity. This may, in some cases, justify the head-starting tests mentioned above.

Dr. Wickramasinghe
Dr. de Zylva
January 29, 1982
Page 2

11. Enclosed find a sheet of tagging instructions.

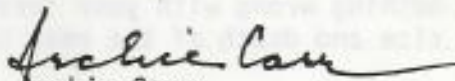
12. I enclose a list of persons with whom you may wish to communicate concerning tagging.

13. Only in the writings of Dr. P.E.P. Deraniyagala, and these must be available there.

14. It might be worthwhile for you to send a project proposal to the World Wildlife Fund in Switzerland (Avenue du Mont-Blanc, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland).

I enclose some publications that may be of interest. I wish you all success in your work, and hope that if other questions arise you will communicate with me.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

AC/ljw
encls.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

February 4, 1982

Dr. Grenville Lucas
Chairman
Species Survival Commission
IUCN
Avenue du Mont-Blanc
CH-1196 Gland
Switzerland

Dear Grenville:

Thank you for your letter of December 17, 1981 with the suggestion that I accept the chairmanship of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group for a new three-year period. By rights I should ask you to find a more youthful and dutiful candidate, but with George Balazs as Deputy Chairman and Anne Meylan as Agenda Officer, maybe it won't be reprehensible for me to accept reappointment. So I do, and am happy that you tolerate the thought.

With funds on the wane as they are, I'm very uncertain as to how we are going to get together a quorum for any Group meeting in the near future - especially the one we aspire to on the Barrier Reef, where the Australian government has invited us.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Archie
Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

AC/ljw

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

February 10, 1982

Dr. Jacques Berney
Acting Secretary General
CITES
% IUCN
Avenue du Mont-Blanc
CH-1196 Gland
Switzerland

Dear Dr. Berney:

Your letter of 4 February saying that France has agreed to finance Dr. Karen Bjorndal's travel as a member of the turtle farming inspection mission came as a surprise. When previously I received your telex telling of the approval of her participation I asked Dr. Bjorndal to telephone you, confirming her acceptance and asking for details of the scheduling of the trip. She was astonished to hear from an individual in your office that you had decided to look about for someone closer to the scene of the expedition, who could be sent more economically. The person there also suggested that "Professor Carr had funds" that might help defray expenses, and so on. Dr. Bjorndal was nonplussed, because she had made rather complicated arrangements to fit the mission into a scheduled recess in her research program. I hope, therefore, that you will reassure us once more that all is now in order.

In respect to the brevity of my reply to your request for an opinion on the Surinam turtle farming proposal, I made it short because my opinion is simple. My objection is by no means directed toward Surinam alone but

Dr. Jacques Berney
February 10, 1982
Page 2

toward the whole concept of international trade in endangered species. It is based wholly on the premise that until a natural species can be given complete protection by appropriate laws that are adequately enforced, products from that species - farm-raised or natural - should not go into international commerce. Until immunity for natural stocks is insured, markets should be killed, not extended.

That is the point at which my views and those of farm-minded people collide. They say their activities do not extend markets, but rather glut them. That is simply not true. Their customs immunity opens doors for poaching and contraband trade. Their propaganda extends desire for the products beyond the traditional seaside and gourmet outlets to an insatiable new clientele. The same things are happening, on a smaller scale, in Florida because of the ill-advised sale of alligator meat, derived from the state's ridiculous "nuisance-gator" control plan.

Naturally, the farm-oriented people don't accept my view on this. They say, rightly, that I am not an economist. But economics is not involved - only common sense and a longtime familiarity with trends in the traffic in, and use of, sea turtle products. I am telling you this, not because I believe the information will be of any use to CITES in its deliberations, but merely to indicate why I, personally, deplore the efforts of people to make money out of endangered species. I should emphasize that the Marine Turtle Specialist Group includes members who

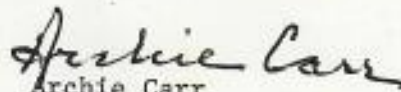
Dr. Jacques Berney
February 10, 1982
Page 3

do not share my views, so this letter should be seen as a purely personal opinion.

So my objection applies to the whole idea of delisting local populations of an endangered species for localized reasons. CITES is now committed to such a course, however, and from here on it will simply be judging the merits of each separate proposal for regional delisting.

I enclose a copy of the Conservation Strategy approved by the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation in Washington in 1979. Please see the marked section on page 9.

Sincerely yours,



Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

AC/prn

cc: G. Lucas, Chairman, SSC
R. Scott SSC Officer

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

March 9, 1982

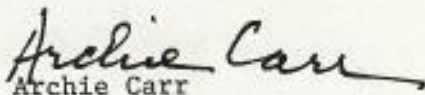
His Royal Highness Rainer III de Monaco
Palais Princier, Place du Palais
MC - MONACO-VILLE (Principaute de Monaco)

Your Royal Highness:

Knowing of your concern with both the conservation of wild species and the quality of the postage stamp issues of your Principality, I am writing to give my strong endorsement to the suggestion of Mr. George Balazs of Honolulu that a series of stamps depicting sea turtles would not only be consonant with the traditional beauty and liveliness of Monaco philately, but also would help to extend public concern over the survival outlook of these endangered species. I trust therefore that you will give Mr. Balazs's proposal your serious consideration.

You will perhaps be interested to know that a young ridley turtle (Lepidochelys kempi) that was tagged and released on the Gulf Coast of Florida last year has just been retaken at Biarritz.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor
Chairman, IUCN Marine Turtle
Specialist Group

xc: George Balazs

AC/af

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

March 17, 1982

Mr. George Balazs
P.O. Box 1346
Kaneohe
Hawaii 96744

Dear George:

It is becoming urgent for us to start planning a meeting. I've been in a quandary as to how to find ways for the members to finance the travel, and want to ask for your suggestions. Some members can expect travel grants from their governments, but perhaps not many. Australia is at the moment the most attractive prospective location for a meeting, and Colin Limpus has kindly offered to request help with domestic costs from the government there. However, with funds as scarce as they are, I can't see much evidence that we could expect to assemble a quorum out there. Hawaii or Europe would be cheaper for a lot of members, but I have no constructive suggestions for those who couldn't count on government or organizational help with the fare. Nobody likes the idea of another meeting in the U.S., both because it shifts the burden to the Old World folk, and because our last two sessions have been on this continent. Some time ago Wayne King suggested that responsibility for finding funds be left to each individual member - even if he or she had to set up a little savings account for it. That seems a bit rough, but I have decided to canvass the membership to learn what you-all think of the idea - or what alternative suggestions you might have.

Meanwhile, Wayne has told me that IUCN in Gland urges that we combine a regional Group meeting with the World National Parks Congress that will convene in Bali next October. They have even left a slot open in the agenda for this. They think it is vital for us to come to grips with the long delayed negotiations between Sabah and the Philippines over the Sulu Sea sanctuary, and they are right. I'll be going to Bali, because I'm presenting a paper. The regional meeting would probably be attended mainly by Asiatic folk, although all members would obviously be welcome. In any case, we ought to start making definite plans for a full meeting at some later time. I hope you will share with us here any ideas you may have.

Sincerely yours,

Archie Carr

Archie Carr
Chairman, IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist
Group

AC/TW

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

GAINESVILLE, 32611
April 23, 1982

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

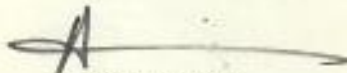
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

Mr. George Balazs
P.O. Box 1346
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Dear George:

I hope you will find time to give the enclosed
some careful criticism. In view of the poor
survival outlook of the hawksbill, this is a
potentially important document. *Maybe the
most important of all.*
Best regards.

Sincerely yours,



Archie Carr

PS. Just returned from a
three-week circumnavigation
of Baja. The black turtles
ridleys and hawksbills of the
Gulf are almost gone. Pitiful.
But saw many whales, includ-
ing blue whales - cow and
calf, nursing babies and all very
close. Good. A.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-382-1107

May 3, 1982

Dr. Brian Groombridge
IUCN
Species Conservation Monitoring Unit
219(c) Huntingdon Road
Cambridge CB3 0DL
United Kingdom

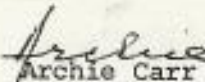
Dear Brian:

Your letter to Perran Ross suggests that in assessing need of species for protection, you feel constrained to use precisely the same sets of measures and criteria in determining the category designation for all species. This impractical stricture has from the start been my main complaint with the system. I believe, for example, that it is generating serious reverses in the treatment that CITES gives the species. The "endangerment" of some species comes principally from exploitation, and international commerce is by far the most deadly factor. With an Appendix I designation, international commerce becomes illegal; with Appendix II designation, it can occur. So in this case, a vital factor in the survival outlook of the species is the threat of degradation to Appendix II by CITES, an organization originally chartered for the function of saving organisms from extinction. Unless you and the IUCN and CITES are willing to recognize trends and dangerous potential as criteria for maximum-protection status, and if you insist on proof of imminent obliteration as the only grounds for endangered designation, we are going to pick away at the system until no real protection is being given anything.

Sorry to be disagreeable, but I am pretty sure I'm right.

Regards.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr

Chairman, Marine Turtle Specialist Group

AC/lw

P.S. Anne is giving the hawksbill Red Book account close scrutiny and I'll put in my bit when she's finished.

cc: Wayne King
George Balazs

1 September 1982

Ms. Fransine B. Manginsela
Bogor Baru B II/3-4
Bogor
Indonesia

Dear Ms. Manginsela:

Mr. George Balasz has sent me a copy of the report you sent him on your work with green turtles.

In response to your request for suggestions, I see nowhere a statement of the method of taking the total length of the carapace. You should say clearly whether this measurement was taken from notch to notch in the fore and hind marginals, or whether you measured the extreme extension of the anterior and posterior marginals. Unfortunately, some people use one method, some the other, and often they don't say which. This uncertainty is an obstacle to making taxonomically useful comparisons of ratios in different populations. I would be most grateful if you would let me know which measurement you used--notch-to-notch, or over-all greatest length.

As to how to present your data, it would be helpful if you calculated length-into-width, length-into-depth and length-into-greatest-bony-width-of-head, and segregate the measurements into two groups, male and female, after deciding whether each specimen was mature or immature. Then you might make a table listing numbers, means, and standard deviations.

The little sac joining the cloaca is the urinary bladder.

I wish you success in your work and will look forward to hearing from you regarding the total-length measurements.

Sincerely yours,

AFC/gmr

Archie F. Carr
Graduate Research Professor

cc: Mr. George Balasz

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

7 September 1982

The Secretariat
CITES
c/o IUCN
Avenue de Mont-Blanc
CH-1196 Gland
Switzerland

Gentlemen:

I am writing to urge you to give careful consideration to the three suggestions made by TRAFFIC (USA) for "implementation of the Convention with respect to sea turtles" at the meeting of the CITES parties in Botswana in April, 1983. The failure of signatories to comply with their obligations to suppress trade, combined with the reservations taken by major exploiters, is weakening the Convention in its effort to help save the marine turtles. I also hope you will agree that any turtle ranching operation should be required to give an accounting of its activities in a detailed annual report, and I join with TRAFFIC in asking you to insist that France remove its reservation if the proposal it is submitting for a turtle ranching project in Reunion is approved.

I personally believe that the Convention insured endless troubles for itself when it decided that the concept of "ranching" was worthy of indulgence. As regards the most serious threat to sea turtle survival--that of market expansion in international trade--there is no difference whatever between ranching and farming. I hope you will do everything possible to stem the blood-letting that the dispensation insures.

Sincerely yours,

Archie Carr
Archie Carr

AC/gmr

cc W. King
G. Lucas
B. Scott
G. Balazs ✓
D. Mack

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

27 October 1982

The Editor

The New York Times Magazine
229 West 43rd Street
New York City, New York 10036

Dear Sir:

John McLean (letters, Oct. 24) writes that sea turtle "farming" is an example of species preservation for profit, and pleads for a relaxation of the regulations that currently keep all sea turtle products out of the U.S. We disagree--not with the idea of preservation for profit, but with the idea that sea turtle "farming" has anything to do with preservation. In fact, these "farms" (which rely heavily on wild-caught animals to maintain their egg production) are more likely to be the last nail in the coffin of the green turtle and perhaps other species of marine turtles.

There are many reasons why sea turtle "farms" are not the conservation boon they claim to be, but one is overriding. In order to sell their products, these "farms" must stimulate world-wide demand for expensive sea turtle products, and there is no effective way to prevent poachers from then capitalizing on this demand and filling it with wild-caught animals from rapidly dwindling stocks.

Unlike alligators, which recover rapidly from persecution and which live in the U.S. where protection is possible, sea turtles take as long as 30-40 years to reach breeding age, are scattered among many countries and in international waters, and are very vulnerable to poaching nearly everywhere. Conservationists cannot fight the demand for turtles stimulated by turtle "farms", nor can we fight all the misinformation about sea turtle conservation put forth by those trying to sell "farmed" turtles.

Perhaps by some time next century, some sea turtle stocks will have recovered to the point where limited exploitation for luxury markets will be possible. For now, we hope that the U.S. Government will keep its wise ban against the importation of "farmed" sea turtle merchandise, and we urge American citizens to refrain from buying sea turtle products--meat, soup, oil, shell, eggs, or leather--legal or illegal, wherever they may be offered for sale.

Archie Carr

Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor
Department of Zoology
University of Florida
Technical Director, Caribbean
Conservation Corporation
(904-392-1250)

David Ehrenfeld

David Ehrenfeld
Professor of Biology
Rutgers University
(201-932-9553)

George Balazs

George Balazs
Hawaii Institute
of Marine Biology
(808-247-6631)

Wayne King
Wayne King
Director,
Florida State
Museum
(904-392-1721)

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 SARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

15 November 1982

Editor
New York Times Magazine
229 West 43rd Street
New York City
New York 10036

Dear Sir:

In reaction to John McLean's recommending species preservation for profit (Letters, Oct. 24) I enclose a letter from four individuals who have for a long time been involved with problems of marine turtle conservation. Three of these people are members of the Marine Turtle Specialists Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. I hope you will be able to find space for our views.

Sincerely yours,

AC/gmr

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Archie Carr".

Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor
Technical Director,
Caribbean Conservation Corporation
Chairman, Marine Turtle Specialists
Group, IUCN

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

30 November 1982

MEMO

To: Members, IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group
From: Archie Carr, Chairman *Archie Carr*
Re: Meeting July 25-26, 1983, in San Jose, Costa Rica

A meeting of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group has been scheduled for 25-26 July 1983, in San Jose, Costa Rica. The date and location have been chosen in order to take advantage of the attendance of many Group members at the Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium, a Caribbean-wide conference sponsored by IOCARIBE and the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service. Details regarding the meeting and accommodations in San Jose will be furnished at a later date.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

March 11, 1983

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi
The Office of the Prime Minister
South Block, Gate #6
New Delhi 110 011
INDIA

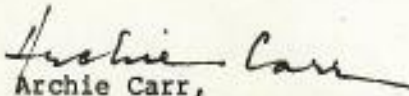
Dear Madam Prime Minister:

I am writing to beg you to instigate an inquiry into the status of the olive ridley sea turtle, Lepidochelys olivacea, in India. After being almost obliterated by overexploitation on the Mexican Coast, formerly believed to be the main breeding ground of this species, other huge nesting assemblages were discovered in India, on the Orissa Coast and in West Bengal. No sooner had this welcome news reached us, however, than word came that heavy overuse was in progress there.

The reports were somewhat contradictory, and it was impossible to get a reliable picture of the situation. In the Marine Turtle Newsletter, the editors (N. Mrosovsky, P. Pritchard, H. Hirth) admonished readers to address letters to you urging that you authorize an investigation of the situation by reliable agents. In a taped interview for the BBC I made the same plea.

Now, as Chairman of the Marine Turtle Specialists Group (IUCN) I am writing to express the concern of the members of our Group over the survival outlook of the olive ridley and our hope that your government will endeavor to bring out reliable information regarding the alleged inroads on Indian populations. None of us would suggest that poor coastal people of a region should be denied all access to a thriving sea turtle population as a food source. The line between rational use and degradation can be very fine, however, and should be drawn only after careful assessment of the populations to be used. We trust that in the present case an appropriate agency of your government can be detailed to make such an investigation and will look forward to word of any results.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr,
Graduate Research Professor
Chairman, Marine Turtle
Specialist Group (IUCN)

20 April 1983

Dr. Brian Groombridge
IUCN
Species Conservation Monitoring Unit
219 (c) Huntingdon Road
Cambridge CB3 0DL
United Kingdom

Dear Brian:

Many thanks for your letter. I agree with you that the RDS designations must have a place on the agenda of the Marine Turtle Group meeting in San Jose and can assure you that we will give this difficult matter all due attention. I can't, however, promise that anything useful will come out of our deliberations. Even when Anne, Karen and I sit down to ponder the matter quietly we find it impossible to reach a consensus in some cases. Nevertheless, I really agree that no subject for discussion at the San Jose meeting will be of greater importance, and wish we could look forward to constructive solutions.

I haven't seen Mrosovsky's book but have had cryptic notes from him forecasting great unrest when it comes to light.

What is the trouble he creates?

Sincerely yours,

Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

AC/gmr



Caribbean Conservation Corporation

25 April 1983

Dr. Archie Carr
University of Florida
College of Arts & Sciences
Department of Zoology
Room 223, Bartram Hall
Gainesville, Florida 32611

Dear Archie:

Congratulations and cheers for you and Marjorie on becoming proud grandparents! I can well imagine the rejoicing of the whole Carr clan with this happy event, and rightly so.

As I mentioned on the telephone, during the last IOCARIBE meeting it was stressed that the last two sessions of W. A. T. S. next July to be held here in Costa Rica, would be the most controversial since the floor would be open to both scientists and the general public which means that the merchants and depredators responsible for massive slaughter of our Chelonians will be present for the first time, in Costa Rica, at the open debate. The political powers and the interests of alien currents make me believe that these debates will be demagogic debates and politicians will stubbornly argue of the necessity of establishing something similar to Cayman. This is nothing more than intuition since this type of movement utilizes the prevailing critical situation as a shield, taking advantage of the circumstances, while the politicians, even though aware of the damage they can cause, adhere to ideas which are more politically appealing inspite of disrupting any responsible and important program as ours is, has been and always will be.

I am enclosing copy of document disclosing ideas and offers presented on 22 October 1982 to Vice President Alberto Fait, who seems to be the person making this type of negotiations with the Japdeva people, by this I am referring to the fact that he is the President's representative to negotiate for the Administration with the conflictive citizens of the Limon

25 April 1983

Dr. Archie Carr:

province. More or less along these lines is where I believe Joshua Powers or his office in New York could help us out.

I am also enclosing the proposed program where I have marked the sessions that Dr. Murillo thinks will be "stormy".

By the end of May or early June a letter or a telephone call to individuals such as Mario Boza, José María Rodríguez, Alvaro Ugalde would be worthwhile to use as feelers in order to know if we will have their cooperation or if they will be backing Japdeva's programs.

Graciela and Marianela join me in sending our most sincere and heartfelt congratulations to the new grandparents.

With best wishes,

Billy Cruz

GCB:ab

Enclosures

P. S.

Appended also are two clippings which may interest you.

6CB

Nº 14378-A

EL PRESIDENTE DE LA REPUBLICA
Y EL MINISTRO DE AGRICULTURA Y GANADERIA,

En ejercicio de las facultades que les confiere el artículo 140, incisos 3) y 18) de la Constitución Política y de conformidad con lo dispuesto en los artículos 2º, 10 y 18 de la Ley Forestal Nº 4465 de 25 de noviembre de 1969 y lo establecido en los artículos 3º, 8º y 15 de la Ley de Conservación de la Fauna Silvestre Nº 4551 de 15 de abril de 1970, y

Considerando:

- a) Que en la región conocida como Curú de Paquera, provincia de Puntarenas, se encuentra un área rica en vegetación que contiene especies maderables en peligro de extinción, sometida al Régimen Forestal que a la vez sirva de abrigo a especies de fauna silvestre en peligro de extinción como monos congos, monos cariblanco, gavilanes, halcones, águilas, pavón, curré, pato real, tinamús, boas, caucel, manigordo, pumas y león breñero, además de que en la zona marítimo-terrestre, desovan tortuga leud y la lora, especies también en peligro de extinción. En esta zona marítimo-terrestre se encuentra una manada de monos carablanca de las más considerables a nivel nacional, lo cual reviste vital importancia para fines de investigación y conservación de especies en peligro, en concordancia con la Convención sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Flora y Fauna Silvestre, firmada y ratificada en Washington, por Costa Rica el 3 de marzo de 1973.
- b) Que en estos terrenos, en especial en la zona marítimo-terrestre se están realizando estudios de fauna y flora por parte de la Universidad de Costa Rica y la Dirección General Forestal sobre fauna marina y fauna silvestre en peligro de extinción, además de servir de laboratorio natural para los cursos universitarios de los Centros de Educación Superior; y
- c) Que se hace necesario conservar y establecer regulaciones en áreas que revisten importancia para la conservación de la fauna y flora en el país.

Por tanto,

DECRETAN:

Artículo 1º—Créase el Refugio Nacional de Vida Silvestre Curú en la zona marítimo-terrestre que según la hoja cartográfica Tambor Nº 3245 III del 16 N se localiza desde Punta Quesera (coord. horizontal 198-175, vertical 437525) 200 metros de ancho medidos horizontalmente a partir de la línea de pleamar ordinarios hasta Punta Curú (coordenada horizontal 196-575 y vertical 435525). Dicho refugio estará bajo la administración del Departamento de Vida Silvestre de la Dirección General Forestal.

Artículo 2º—Queda prohibida la caza en esta área así como cualquier alteración de las condiciones naturales del lugar. La visita de particulares a este refugio requerirá de un permiso escrito del Departamento de Vida Silvestre de la Dirección General Forestal.

Artículo 3º—Las personas residentes en el lugar podrán continuar con sus actividades cotidianas siempre y cuando concuerden con los fines que la creación del refugio conlleva.

Artículo 4º—Rige a partir de su publicación.

Dado en la Presidencia de la República.—San José, a los veinticinco días del mes de febrero de mil novecientos ochenta y tres.

LUIS ALBERTO MONGE

El Ministro de Agricultura y Ganadería,
FRANCISCO MORALES HERNANDEZ.

aprobado por el presidente

Violación de ley que protege tortugas

No concretar un vasto plan para la explotación de la tortuga verde pidió al Gobierno el biólogo Eduardo López, jefe del Departamento de Vida Silvestre del Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería.

El funcionario mostró su preocupación porque se pueda llevar a cabo un proyecto de este tipo, con base en una publicación del periódico La Gaceta que establece prohibición para mantener animales en cautiverio, salvo en los zoológicos autorizados por el Ministerio de Agricultura.

López, al igual que un destacado grupo de expertos en conservación se opone al proyecto, que cuenta con el respaldo del vicepresidente Alberto Fair, por considerar que con la explotación se estaría violando la convención sobre el comercio de especies en vías de extinción, ratificado por Costa Rica y se violarían además las leyes nacionales que protegen las tortugas marinas.

Al criterio de López se suma el del profesor Archie Carr, quien en una nota dirigida al presidente Monge le insta también a abandonar un proyecto de esta índole, tomando en consideración que sólo serviría para amenazar la existencia de la tortuga verde, con el fomento de su explotación.

Lo anterior significaría también contribuir a ocultar la caza furtiva en Tortuguero y el contrabando de los ilegales productos de tortuga en Costa Rica.



Caribbean Conservation Corporation

Tel. 25-23-33
Apartado 2259
San José, Costa Rica

22 de octubre de 1982

Señor Ing.
Alberto Fajó Lizano
Primer Vicepresidente de la República
Su Despacho

Estimado señor Vicepresidente:

Con verdadera sorpresa me he enterado por la Prensa Libre del miércoles 13 de los corrientes, por la radio y en conversación sostenida el sábado 16 del presente mes en forma ocasional con el Lic. Armando Arauz con motivo de la inauguración en la Plaza de la Cultura del Día Mundial de la Alimentación, que de nuevo se ha vuelto a hablar de hechos infundados respecto a la conservación de las tortugas marinas, específicamente de la tortuga verde (*Chelonia Mydas Mydas*). Esto ha sucedido así con casi todos los períodos de gobiernos que se inician.

La conservación de la tortuga verde en Costa Rica le ha dado mucho prestigio al país a nivel local en centros científicos tales como Colegio de Biólogos, Conicit, M.A.G., Ascona, O.T.S., Centro Científico Tropical y muchas otras instituciones que a lo largo de 26 años nos han ayudado en este humilde pero gran programa de conservación, que sin ningún interés y en forma voluntaria y sin miras de lucro, opera en el país bajo el nombre de Caribbean Conservation Corporation, y al cual con mucho orgullo he representado en Costa Rica a través de los años. La Caribbean Conservation Corporation aparece inscrita en la Sección de Personas del Registro Público en el tomo 50, folio 121, asiento 267 a partir del 3 de noviembre de 1964. Todo esto amparado a un convenio vigente con el M.A.G. - Caribbean Conservation Corp. y créame, señor Vicepresidente, que es muy difícil concebir en un ambiente como el nuestro que existan grupos formados por personas de una sólida integridad cívica, sobretodo en esta época de tremenda crisis y de un materialismo casi total, que un grupo de hombres de ciencia se dediquen en forma puramente voluntaria y sin miras de lucro, a una tarea de conservacionismo. Sobre todo que esto se logre entender sin malas y maliciosas interpretaciones.

Este y no otro el fin que ha perseguido mi representada desde su establecimiento en el país hace 26 años. Tratando desde un principio el hacer conciencia para la protección de la especie (*Chelonia Mydas Mydas*) o Tortuga Verde amenazada a desaparecer, como ha sucedido en el resto del Caribe y como sucederá eventualmente si no se toman medidas de protección apropiadas.

Hemos dicho y lo repetimos ahora, convencidos los integrantes de la conocida hermandad de la Tortuga Verde o Caribbean Conservation Corp., que al extenderse el conocimiento de las grandes dificultades que nos venido afrontando las tortugas marinas por su inmisericorde devastamiento y estando convencidos de que la forma silviculture no puede sobrevivir al crecimiento del comercio, nuestras recomendaciones han sido las siguientes:

22 de octubre de 1982

Sr. Ing. Alberto Fait. L.

Página 2

- 1) Su protección
- 2) Divulgación de los sistemas proteccionistas
- 3) Que se cumplan las leyes que para esta materia existen, y
- 4) Ver la posibilidad de que los sitios donde la arribada de tortugas llega a anidar sean cerrados a la explotación.

Todo lo anterior basado en estudios científicos realizados a través de largos años y por verdaderos técnicos en la materia, quienes con el respaldo de investigaciones científicas de las entidades más serias del mundo para estos menesteres, se atreven a recomendar lo más lógico y sencillo a seguir para la conservación de una especie en vías de extinción. Naturalmente, estas recomendaciones en lo que concierne a Costa Rica desde el inicio de nuestras labores en 1955, han sido coordinadas por medio del Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería en el Departamento de Pesca y Caza Marítima y en la actualidad bajo la Dirección General de Recursos Pesqueros y de Vida Silvestre, así como también a nivel del Colegio de Biólogos de Costa Rica, quienes pueden dar fe de que nuestra actitud y labor realizada es inminentemente científica y nunca ha tenido ni tendrá absolutamente nada que ver con aspectos comerciales.

Nuestras recomendaciones hacia estas entidades de los gobiernos son de un grupo que como lo decimos al principio, se desvela por la conservación de esta especie, y si las autoridades costarricenses han respaldado un programa puramente científico, el cual a nivel mundial nos ha dado un prestigio inigualable dentro de la coordinación que siempre ha existido entre las autoridades científicas nacionales y nuestro grupo.

Nuestras recomendaciones también han sido aceptadas en muchas otras partes del mundo, ya que es una ayuda espontánea y repito, sin miras de lucro y en beneficio de un recurso marino con tendencias comprobadas a desaparecer, si estas recomendaciones son aceptadas en buena hora; pero si por el contrario estas autoridades desoyen estas recomendaciones y, alejándose de la realidad científica del caso desean dar al traste con la especie, es cosa exclusiva de las autoridades en la materia y no de nuestro grupo, ya que sólo deseamos cooperar en estos menesteres, y sobre todo de poder acumular como en nuestro caso, una valiosísima cooperación científica, por la autoridad de los hombres que respaldan nuestro programa y sobre todo por la autoridad del Director Técnico del Programa, doctor Archie F. Carr, quien es la autoridad número uno en Tortugas Marinas en el mundo.

Podría extenderme en forma mucho más amplia en esta comunicación, pero solamente he querido establecer nuestros puntos de vista respecto a la materia de Tortugas Marinas, principalmente en la zona Atlántica y cual es la veracidad de la situación.

Tenemos a mano un documento fílmico de escasos 30 minutos en 16 mm. y a color, filmado con el fin de contar la "historia de la Tortuga Verde". Creo personalmente que sería de gran valor que usted pudiera verlo y así evaluar la realidad

22 de octubre de 1962.

Sr. Ing. Alberto Fait

Página 3

de este tema de tanta importancia nacional y con el cual Costa Rica tiene compromisos creados a nivel internacional, en la certeza de que es una especie en vías de extinción. Como voluntario de este grupo me pongo a sus órdenes para que usted y las personas que a bien disponga, vean este documental antes de la visita anunciada en la prensa por JAPDEVA a la ciudad de Limón a fin de mes. Tenemos proyector y podemos operarlo en el lugar y hora que usted disponga. Personalidades como don José Figueres, don Daniel Oduber, don Fernando Batalla, don Abundio Gutiérrez, los extintos don Francisco Orlich y don Elías Soley promulgaron el primer decreto proteccionista para la especie, lo que nos coloca en un mundo de avanzada y de gran renombre a nivel mundial ya que por medio de nuestro sistema de Parques Nacionales y reservas biológicas, el señor Presidente don Luis Alberto Monge A., usted y miembros de un gobierno de mente clara ratificaron recientemente la ley que crea los parques nacionales y entre éstos está el Parque Nacional de Tortuguero, el cual bajo la ley 5680 del 13 de noviembre de 1975 fue establecido y es claro en su artículo 8, inciso c) en lo que respecta a la protección de la tortuga.

Es por demás mencionarle que estamos a sus órdenes para cualquier aclaración futura que fuere necesaria. Nuestros campamentos de trabajo en Boca de Tortuguero abren a finales del mes de junio y la operación de investigación científica se lleva a cabo hasta mediados del mes de octubre. Durante esta época sería muy conveniente que si usted a bien tuviera nos acompañara para ver la realización de las labores que se efectúan directamente en el campo.

Muy cordialmente,

CARIBBEAN CONSERVATION CORPORATION

Guillermo Cruz Bolaños
Guillermo Cruz Bolaños

ESQUERRE
1-77

GCE:mee

Alcance N° 186 a La Gaceta N° 216

DIARIO OFICIAL

San José, Costa Rica, jueves 12 de noviembre de 1975.

ASAMBLEA LEGISLATIVA

N° 560

LA ASAMBLEA LEGISLATIVA DE LA REPUBLICA DE COSTA RICA, DICTA:

Artículo 10.—Declárase Parque Nacional de Tortuguero la zona comprendida entre los siguientes límites, según los mapas lámina escala 1:50,000 del Instituto Geográfico Nacional: partiendo de un punto situado en las coordenadas 20000 N y 50000 E, se traza sobre la coordenada 20000 N una línea paralela hasta encontrar el Rio Tortuguero (coordenadas 20000 N y 50000 E). De este punto continúa el límite por una línea paralela al Rio Tortuguero equidistante del mismo cien metros y que sigue su curso aguas arriba hasta encontrar la confluencia con el Rio Agua Fria. De este punto continúa el límite sobre el Rio Agua Fria aguas arriba hasta un punto situado en las coordenadas 20000 N y 50000 E. Sigue sobre la coordenada 20000 E una línea paralela hasta encontrar el Rio Sierpe, por el cual continúa el límite, aguas abajo hasta el punto donde desagua el Rio Sierpe Viejo. Continúa luego el límite aguas arriba del Rio Sierpe Viejo hasta encontrar la coordenada 20000 E por la que comienza una línea sur hasta el Cerro Calabana. Sigue entonces el límite aguas abajo del Cerro Calabana hasta su confluencia con el estero Paracana primero y Cerro Negro después. Continúa el límite por el Cerro Negro hasta el Norte, hasta un punto situado 300 metros de la margen Norte de la Laguna Jairoa. Finalmente sigue el límite del Parque por una línea paralela a la margen Norte de la Laguna Jairoa, distante siempre 300 metros hasta encontrar el mar.

Por el lado Noroeste, desde el mismo punto situado 300 metros al Norte de la Laguna Jairoa y hasta el punto inicial (coordenadas 20000 N, 50000 E), inscribiéndose al Sur del punto de Tortuguero, el límite del Parque lo será el Mar Caribe, quedando incluido dentro del mismo la porción del mar que corresponde a las aguas territoriales de Costa Rica.

Artículo 11.—Se declaran inalienables todos los terrenos de reserva nacional, que se encuentran dentro de los límites de este parque.

Artículo 12.—Corresponde al Director de Parques Nacionales del Ministerio de Agricultura y Cosecha la administración en el terreno de este parque nacional, así como la administración, promoción y desarrollo del mismo. El Servicio de Parques Nacionales ha creado un departamento para administrar, promover, desarrollar, conservar y proteger el parque, el cual será conocido con el nombre de Centro de Parques Nacionales del Parque Nacional Tortuguero, bajo la coordinación de JAPIDEVA, integrado por un representante de cada una de las siguientes organizaciones: JAPIDEVA, Instituto Costarricense de Turismo, Servicio de Parques Nacionales.

Artículo 13.—La Intendencia General Forestal, una vez aprobada esta ley, realizará un censo y estudio de sus terrenos sometidos a ocupación.

Artículo 14.—Las explotaciones agropecuarias en terrenos de particulares, nacionales o no en el Registro Público de la Intendencia, situadas dentro del parque, que existieren a la fecha de vigencia de esta ley, quedan automáticamente sometidas al Registro Forestal. Las labores que se realicen en ellas deben ser las necesarias para asegurar la producción y asegurar que no impidan la tala de algunas áreas.

Artículo 15.—El Servicio de Parques Nacionales, gestionará la empresa directa o por explotación de las fincas, nacionales o no inscritas en el Registro Público, comprendidas dentro del parque y que se consideren indispensables para la conservación y desarrollo de este. Tanto en el caso de fincas nacionales como en el de las fincas, un usufructo, siempre y cuando las referidas fincas estén en posesión jurídica que establece la ley o leyes respectivas, se pagará de conformidad con el valor del terreno, su productividad o de poseerlos, según análisis de peritos de la Intendencia General de Tributación Directa. El usufructo de posesión, en la categoría de terrenos, no será devuelto al pago. La explotación se realizará de conformidad con los artículos 157 y siguientes del Código Municipal.

Artículo 16.—El Ministerio de Agricultura y Cosecha deberá, a partir del 1976 en su primer período ordinario, las áreas necesarias para adquirir los terrenos de reservas particulares comprendidos dentro del parque, así como las parcelas para la protección, desarrollo e investigación en el terreno. Asimismo se otorga al Ministerio de Agricultura y Cosecha a contar, a partir de 1976, un agente especial para asegurar la protección de este parque, en administración de parque nacional, así como el desarrollo de labores forestales y de caza. Además se otorga facultades para la construcción de caminos y canales de riego de irrigación para labores de explotación.

Artículo 17.—Dentro del área que comprende este parque nacional queda prohibido:

- 1) Talar árboles o extraer productos forestales de cualquier clase, excepto la explotación comercial y autorizada de los cuernos la cual queda a criterio del Servicio de Parques Nacionales.
- 2) Cazar o capturar animales silvestres u obtener cualquiera de sus productos o derivados, con la excepción que se establece en el artículo 177 de esta ley.
- 3) Fumar o usar cualquier materia de cualquier especie o recuperar o recoger sus heces o derivados. Esta prohibición se extiende desde la desembocadura del Rio Marina a la desembocadura del Rio Cidrasa y hasta el límite de las aguas territoriales de Costa Rica dentro del Mar Caribe, y finalmente a cualquier especie de caza silvestre o doméstica.

Artículo 18.—La zona de reservas sometidas a dominio dentro de los límites del parque nacional, quedará sujeta a las condiciones que establece el Servicio de Parques Nacionales, previa consulta a CONICIT.

Artículo 19.—La Junta de Administración Portuaria y Pesquera, Intendencia de la Verónica Asensio sumará la administración de la zona acuática dentro de los límites de este parque y ratificará las disposiciones que emita para el control de caza, procurando causar el menor daño al aspecto marino costero y no perjudicar la explotación.

Artículo 20.—El terreno de caza que será explotado por la Junta de Administración Portuaria y Pesquera, Intendencia de la Verónica Asensio.

Artículo 21.—Para otorgar los gastos que demande la construcción y desarrollo del parque, se establece un porcentaje del 20% del destino de parte a favor de la zona acuática del canal, el cual debe entregarse al fondo de Parques Nacionales, exclusivamente. Si del 10% restante, que se asigna al mantenimiento de los canales, se pagare algún sueldo, este será invertido en el desarrollo del parque.

El Servicio Nacional de Parques queda autorizado para cobrar derechos de acceso y uso del parque y sus instalaciones, todos los cuales serán destinados para el mantenimiento con carácter de zonas de conservación con los artículos 47 y 50 del Código de Normas y Procedimientos Tributarios.

Las percepciones y administraciones de estas zonas estarán a cargo de la Junta de Administración Portuaria y Pesquera, Intendencia de la Verónica Asensio.

Artículo 22.—El Servicio de Parques Nacionales podrá solicitar financiamiento a JAPIDEVA, Instituto Costarricense de Turismo y otras instituciones nacionales e internacionales para la conservación, promoción e investigación científica dentro de este parque.

Artículo 23.—El Parque Nacional de Tortuguero se establecerá sin perjuicio de la posibilidad de que se añada otras fincas en su territorio, para labrar otras zonas silvestres, por la Junta de Administración Portuaria y Pesquera, Intendencia de la Verónica Asensio, o por terceros mediante autorización de la misma en cada caso, previa aprobación del Servicio de Parques Nacionales y de CONICIT.

Artículo 24.—La Procuraduría General de la República, hará inscribir este parque en el Registro Público, como finca individualizada del Estado.

Artículo 25.—El límite de la zona comprendida entre la desembocadura del Rio Marina y la desembocadura del Rio Cidrasa y desde el Mar Caribe hasta un kilómetro al norte el canal principal de navegación, exceptuando el área comprendida dentro del Parque Nacional de Tortuguero, el uso de la tierra y el aprovechamiento de todos los recursos naturales, estará regulado por JAPIDEVA, previa consulta al CONICIT, y con todas las reservas a cargo a cargo con la aprobación de esta asamblea.

Artículo 26.—Esta ley debe ser publicada y derogada o modificada en la primera oportunidad que surja ocasión.

Transitorio I.—Hasta que termine el artículo 10 JAPIDEVA, con el asesoramiento de CONICIT, en un plazo no mayor de diez meses a partir de la vigencia de esta ley, el modo de explotación del uso potencial de la tierra y los recursos naturales a cargo de los particulares poseedores se ajustará conforme a las normas. Mientras se efectúa este estudio el uso de la tierra queda sometido a su situación actual.

Transitorio II.—JAPIDEVA, previa consulta con el ITCO, en el término de un año procederá a entregar títulos de propiedad provisionalmente inscritos en el Registro Público a todos los poseedores de zonas rurales de sus parcelas que se encuentran en la zona delimitada en el artículo 10, exceptuando a las que estén dentro de los límites del Parque Nacional de Tortuguero— que reúnan los requisitos que establece la Ley de Interoportunidad Forestal.

Los títulos que otorgue JAPIDEVA llevarán noticia de sus intenciones que existen en ley, que en cuanto a la venta se ajuste en cinco años, las que serán el artículo 10 de la presente ley, en relación al uso de la tierra y los recursos naturales.

Los datos consignados en esta autorización los documenta dentro de diez meses siguientes, a partir de la promulgación de esta ley, las zonas protegidas establecidas por la ley 4463 (Ley Forestal).

Transitorio III.—Se autoriza al Poder Ejecutivo para otorgar la Solución de un Parque Nacional a la categoría de Intendencia turística.

Artículo 190.—San José, a los diecisiete días del mes de abril de mil novecientos setenta y cinco.

ALFONSO CARRO ZURICA

Presidente

ROBERTO DANIELA GAMBIA JOSÉ MIGUEL CORRALES MOLANDÓ
Primer secretario Segundo secretario

Asamblea Legislativa de la República de Costa Rica.—San José, a los veintidós días del mes de octubre de mil novecientos setenta y cinco.

En sesión de esta fecha se discutió el Proyecto de Ley de Interoportunidad en el caso de zona silvestre reservada por más de un terreno de riego del total de las superficies de la Asamblea Legislativa el interior provincial y en consecuencia, de acuerdo con el artículo 127 de la Constitución Política se aprobó, después de haberse leído esta ley de la República.

Comisionado al Poder Ejecutivo

ALFONSO CARRO ZURICA

Presidente

HAYAL ANGEL NOJAS JIMENEZ CARLOS LUIS RODRIGUEZ HERNANDEZ
Primer secretario Segundo secretario

Casa Presidencial.—San José, a los tres días del mes de noviembre de mil novecientos setenta y cinco.

Concedido este proyecto de ley por la Asamblea Legislativa y aprobado de forma por uno de los tercios de voto del total de sus miembros, de conformidad con el artículo 127 de la Constitución Política.

Palenque

DANIEL GONZALEZ



COMISION OCEANOGRAFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL
ASOCIACION PARA EL CARIBE Y REGIONES ADYACENTES
INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARIBBEAN AND ADJACENT REGIONS

cable: IOCARIBE, San José

c/o UNDP, Apartado 4540
San José — Costa Rica

teléfono: 24-92-94

Your reference:

In reply refer to:

SIMPOSIO DE TORTUGAS MARINAS DEL ATLANTICO OCCIDENTAL (STAO)

Marzo 14, 1983
0900 a 1030
UCR



Miembros Presentes:

Dr. Manuel M. Murillo
Dr. Robert R. Lankford
Sr. Frederick H. Berry
Sra. María Teresa Koberg
Sr. Alvaro Ugaldé
Sr. Mario Boza
Sr. Richard Dyer
Sr. Michael Kaye
Sr. Eduardo Bravo
Sr. Roberto Chaverri (IOT)
Sr. Orlando Castro (CR EXPRESS)
Sr. Peter Day (WEST TRAVEL)

Sr. Max Alvarado (CR EXPRESS)
Sr. Maxwell Kennedy (JAPDEVA)
Sr. Juan Rafael González (IDA)
Sra. Victoria Calzada (CONICIT)
Sr. Guillermo Cruz (CCC)

Miembros ausentes con excusa:

Lic. Guido Fernández
Ing. Alvaro Cordero

INFORME

1. El señor Fred Berry relata como se originó el STAO, a partir de 1979 y explica la estructura de la reunión (diagrama adjunto).

Agradece a los miembros del Comité Local su participación en el Simposio y les pide su colaboración específica.

2. Se confirma en esta reunión lo siguiente:

LUGAR Y FECHAS DEL STAO: San José, Costa Rica
Julio 17 al 23, 1983
SEDE: Gran Hotel Costa Rica

REUNION AD HOC SOBRE TORTUGAS MARINAS DEL PACIFICO: Julio 23, 1983.

TRANSPORTE AEREO RESERVACIONES DE HOTEL Y OTROS ASPECTOS GENERALES:

Las agencias de viajes, COSTA RICA EXPRESS y WEST TRAVEL, tendrán a su cargo estas actividades para el STAO.

GIRAS ANTES Y DESPUES DEL SIMPOSIO: COSTA RICA EXPEDITIONS será responsable por la organización, ejecución y contabilidad de estas giras, independientemente.

3. El señor Alvaro Ugalde informa que estará ausente del país por lo menos durante abril y mayo, posiblemente por más tiempo, y solicita se nombre en su lugar en el Comité Local al Director a.i. del Servicio de Parques Nacionales, señor José María Rodríguez.

4. El señor Maxwell Kennedy de JAPDEVA ofrece tentativamente el uso de los lanchones de JAPDEVA para colaborar en el transporte de los participantes en las giras antes y después del STAO a Tortuguero (de Moín a Tortuguero).

Esta oferta fue confirmada en horas de la tarde de hoy por el Presidente Ejecutivo de JAPDEVA, Lic. Rafael Barrientos H.

5. El Dr. Murillo informa al Comité Local que éste será convocado nuevamente a finales de marzo o principios de abril de 1983.

=====

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-382-1107

10 May 1983

Mr. George Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
University of Hawaii at Manoa
PO Box 1346
Coconut Island
Kaneohe
Hawaii 96744

Dear George:

→ Many thanks for the copy of your paper on the proposed change in Hawaiian turtle legislation. I now feel more confident in my ability to send in a proper letter on the subject.

We just got back from the yearly CCC meeting in New York. Good meeting. Plans for the Information Kiosk at Tortuguero were presented by Pip and Doc and Karen and Newt orated with customary brilliance.

I enclose some evidence of uneasiness on the part of Billy Cruz over events we all ought to keep our eye on.

Best regards,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Archie Carr".

Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

AC/gmr

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

19 May 1983

Mr. George Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
University of Hawaii at Manoa
PO Box 1346
Coconut Island
Kaneohe
Hawaii 96744

Dear George:

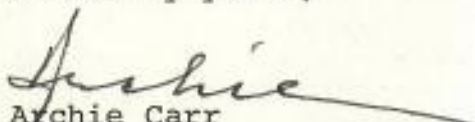
We just returned from a meeting in Miami with Berry, Bacon, and Dodd to iron out remaining ominous items in the WATS protocol and agenda. Things look a little more agreeable. Karen, especially, was very tough. She really frightened the chaps. There's still a possibility that the Limon faction will rise en masse during the audience-response period and demand support for their petition to kill Tortuguero turtles and set up a farm--on the grounds that Costa Rica is a democracy.

My child Mimi is going to be in Honolulu for a couple of weeks with her theatre group, and wants to see a piece of reef. They're going to be on the stage every day, but Mimi insists on taking snorkling gear anyway. She'll be calling you to ask whether there is any rewarding bit of snorkling reef within quick driving distance of town.

The subsistence-use testimony for Hawaii and Maui is fascinating. As usual, however, one doesn't get grounds for judging what a consensus of the locality represented might be. What would it be? Incidentally, what basis could there be for Alike Cooper's statement that turtles have increased in numbers? Any?

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

AC/gmr

fitte
old letter
wishful thinking

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

19 May 1983

Dr. Jaques Fretey
Laboratoire de Zoologie
Reptiles et Poissons
Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle
57, Rue Cuvier 75005
Paris
France

Dear Dr. Fretey:

I am writing to tell you of my appreciation of your effective collaboration in assembling information to be used in the recent CITES deliberations on proposals for ranching green turtles in the Indian Ocean. I have been told that your contribution was a major factor in the constructive decisions reached at Botswana, and many members of the Marine Turtle Group, including me, consider themselves in your debt.

Sincerely yours,

Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor
Chairman, Marine Turtle Group IUCN

AC/gmr

cc: ✓G. Balazs
W. King
G. Lucas

CC-G. Galvez

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-382-1107

30 June 1983

Biol. Rene Marquez M.
Apartado Postal 695
Manzanillo, Col.
Mexico 28200

Dear Rene:

In answer to your letter of 17 June, I am very sorry to say that there is no possibility that any of us in the Turtle Group can expect to be reimbursed by the IUCN for travel or per diem related to the Group meeting in San Jose. We scheduled the meeting to coincide with the WATS Symposium in order to take advantage of the windfall of travel support for those sessions, and I see no other source of per diem anywhere in the offing. This problem of financing travel to meetings is a perennial obstacle to group activities, and under present economic conditions there seems little hope for any improvement.

I nevertheless sincerely hope you can manage to attend the meeting and look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely yours,

Archie Carr
Archie Carr

Graduate Research Professor

AC/gmr

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

July 29, 1983

Dr. Brian Groombridge
IUCN Species Conservation Monitoring Unit
219(c) Huntingdon Road
Cambridge CB3 0DL
United Kingdom

Dear Brian:

We have just concluded a meeting of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group, during which we naturally spent considerable time discussing the categories for sea turtle status, and the new Red Data Book generally. A clear consensus emerged that you had done a superb job of assembling information on sea turtle biology, distribution, and survival prospects, and had provided a major service to sea turtle conservation.

We also commiserated with you over your near-impossible task of conforming to a system of single-word descriptions of the status of the different species. This was work that would have been impossible to perform to everyone's satisfaction, not only because the status of each species is too complex to describe accurately in such simple terms, but also because the Specialist Group as a whole is varied in its perceptions of the survival prospects of different sea turtle taxa. We are particularly concerned that it be made clear to any critics of the designations that they were not unilateral judgements of your own but expressions of a consensus of your consultants.

For future editions of the Red Data Book, it is our firm conviction that the classification system should be altered to accommodate the complexities presented by the shadings of status of these largely circumglobal species. We have appointed a subcommittee that will elaborate the details of this system, and will inform you of this as soon as it is ready. If our suggestion is approved by IUCN, we will then proceed with the filling in of the category descriptions for each population.

We also recommend that the flatback turtle be re-inserted in the next edition of the Red Data Book. Information from Australia indicates that this species is exposed to potential or actual stresses, and merits inclusion as much as several other forms.

Again let me emphasize the gratitude of the members of the Group for the important contribution to the biology and conservation of sea turtles that you have made.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Archie Carr".

Archie Carr

Chairman, IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle
Specialist Group

AC/gmr

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611



August 3, 1983

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

Dr. Edgardo D. Gomez
Marine Sciences Center
University of the Philippines
Diliman, Quezon City
Philippines

Dear Dr. Gomez:

I am writing to ask your opinion as to the most appropriate means of reawakening the interest of the Philippine government in our old idea of establishing a sea turtle reserve in the Sulu Sea. The members of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group are still unanimous in the belief that an agreement between your government and that of Sabah creating a protected area in the region would be a tremendous contribution to the conservation on Chelonia, and one that would serve as a model for international cooperation in sea turtle conservation elsewhere.

At our recent Group meeting in Costa Rica this recommendation was given high priority, and a possible source of funds to support the travel of a representative to meet with you and Dr. Silva to plan a campaign was identified.

If you believe this vital move might be revived I would be extremely grateful for your counsel.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Archie Carr".

Archie Carr
Chairman
IUCN Marine Turtle
Specialist Group

AC/jp

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-332-1107

August 20, 1983

Ms. J. Vijaya
Madras Snake Park Trust
Deer Sanctuary
Guindy, Madras 600 022
INDIA

Dear Ms. Vijaya:

During our recent meeting in Costa Rica, the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group authorized me to write to you to express our thanks for your important efforts in monitoring the status of Indian populations of marine turtles, and for keeping us informed. We are concerned that there is insufficient information available from which to judge the effects of the present levels of exploitation. We hope that you will find it possible to continue your surveillance of the populations, and that you will send us any re-evaluations of the status of the populations that you may make from time to time.

Meanwhile, we thank you again for your continuing efforts in the conservation of the sea turtles of India.

Sincerely yours,

Archie Carr
Archie Carr, Chairman
IUCN Marine Turtle
Specialist Group

AC/am

A similar letter was also sent to:
S. Bhaskar
Ed Mall
S. Biswas
C. S. Kar
R. Whitaker

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-332-1107

August 20, 1983

Lic. Dalva Arosemena
Departamento del Investigacion y Evaluation Pesquera
Direccion General de Recursos Marinos
Ministerio de Comercio e Industria
Panama, Republic of Panama

Dear Lic. Arosemena:

At its recent meeting in Costa Rica, the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group agreed unanimously to endorse the newly formed coalition of parties concerned with research and conservation of marine turtles in the Eastern Pacific. The creation of such a group will greatly reinforce the coordination of efforts to learn more about these widely ranging species, and seems certain to enhance efforts to achieve conservation and management goals.

The Marine Turtle Specialist Group offers you its support and cooperation in this very worthwhile endeavor. We hope that you will keep us advised of the activities of your group.

Sincerely yours,

Archie Carr
Archie Carr, Chairman
IUCN Marine Turtle
Specialist Group

AC/am

*A similar letter was also sent to:
Ricardo Mier Ayala - Mexico
Mario Hurtado
René Márquez M.
Guillermo A. Carassa - Costa Rica*

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

August 22, 1983

Lic. Pedro Ojeda Paullada
Secretario
Secretaria de Pesca
Av. Alvaro Obregón 269-6° piso
México 06700, D.F.


Dear Lic. Ojeda:

I am writing to ask you to consider instigating a campaign to introduce the newly perfected sea turtle excluder device into the shrimping industry of your country. Mexico is, in a manner of speaking, the sea turtle capital of the world, with both more species and bigger aggregations than any other country. At the present time great damage is being done to Mexican turtles by incidental capture in shrimp trawls. After a three-year period of design and testing of equipment to prevent this, the National Marine Fisheries Service has produced TED - Turtle Excluder Device - which not only keeps turtles and other large objects out of the bag of the trawl, but even appears to bring about a slight increase in the catch of the shrimp.

NMFS has now accepted responsibility for the technology transfer that will extend the use of this important device to other countries requesting such help. A descriptive film showing TED in operation has been made and NMFS personnel are available to travel to localities where adoption of the device is contemplated.

The members of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group of SSC/IUCN sincerely hope that your government will consider collaborating in this extremely important advance.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr
Chairman
IUCN Marine Turtle
Specialist Group

AC/jp

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-382-1107

September 21, 1983

Lic. Pedro Ojeda Paullada
Secretaría de Pesca
Alvaro Obregón 269
Mexico, D.F. 06700
Mexico

Estimado Lic. Ojeda:

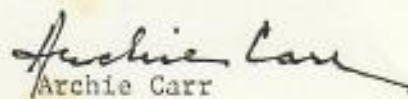
I am writing to affirm the continued interest of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group in the plan conceived some years ago to establish a series of Reservas Naturales at localities of special potential importance to the survival of marine turtle populations in your country. Nowhere else in the world are sea turtles found in greater abundance and diversity than in Mexico. As elsewhere, however, intensive exploitation has depleted the numbers of all species to the point that their future importance as a resource is threatened, and even their survival is in doubt. As a means of averting this sad development, the Marine Turtle Specialist Group strongly endorses the proposal submitted some time ago by Biol. Rene Marques M. but never put into effect by the necessary decrees, to create a system of sanctuaries.

The localities at which reserves are considered most strategically necessary are the following: La Escobilla, Morro Ayuta y Chacahua in Oaxaca; Piedra de Tlacoyunque in Guerrero; Mexiquillo, Colola and Maruata in Michoacán; and Mismaloya - La Gloria in Jalisco.

This project was urgently important when it first was proposed to your agency six years ago. Today, the accelerating decline of the marine turtles in Mexico, and of the world in general, make the proposed sanctuaries even more vital.

The members of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group join me in the hope that you will find it possible to implement this very worthy project.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr
Chairman
IUCN Marine Turtle
Specialist Group

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

December 7, 1983

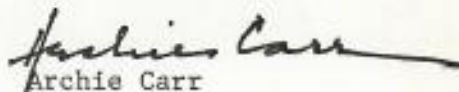
Mr. Tritsis
Minister of the Environment
Poulin Street No. 8
Athens, Greece

Dear Mr. Minister:

I have just learned that a move is afoot to begin intensive development along 18 kilometers of the shore of Lagnas Bay on Zanté Island, one of your Ionian islands. This possibility is disturbing to me, as Chairman of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group of IUCN, because a large colony of the threatened loggerhead turtle, Caretta caretta, perhaps the biggest in the Mediterranean, is reported to be using that beach as its nesting ground. With the depletion that sea turtles are suffering throughout the world and their near extirpation from Mediterranean waters, any threat to the Zanté Island colony is distressing. I am writing to urge you to use your influence to insure against any disruption of the Lagnas Bay shores that would interfere with the nesting of the loggerhead there.

I sincerely hope that you will be willing to intervene in this important threat to the survival outlook of a remarkable population of Caretta in the Mediterranean Sea.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr
Chairman
IUCN Marine Turtle
Specialist Group

AC/jp

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32511



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

December 13, 1983

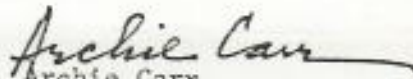
President Ferdinand E. Marcos
Office of the President
Manilla
Republic of the Philippines

Dear President Marcos:

For years it has been growing increasingly more evident that the chief hope for controlling the decline of the marine turtles of the world is international collaboration in creating reserves and sancturaries wherever important areas of sea turtle habitat are located on both sides of international boundaries. One of the most important such areas on earth is the region of the China Sea shared by the Philippines and Sabah. Previous steps toward negotiating agreements for the designation of a sanctuary there have been made but for one reason or another they have languished.

In the opinion of the members of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the creation of a joint Philippines-Sabah Sea Turtle Sanctuary would be perhaps the most momentous and effective move toward perpetuating a marine turtle species that has ever been made. Accordingly, we are hoping that you might be willing to grant an emissary from our group a short period of time for a brief conversation concerning the possibility that negotiations for the joint turtle sanctuary might be reopened. I would be most grateful for your consideration of this suggestion.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr
Chairman
IUCN Marine Turtle
Specialist Group

AC/jp

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

December 23, 1983

MEMO

To: Members of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group

From: Anne Meylan, Agenda Officer, for A. Carr *AM*

Regarding: Turtle conservation issues in Senegal, Greece and the Philippines

Nicholas Mrosovsky has forwarded correspondence to Dr. Carr from A.R. Dupuy (copies attached) concerning problems in sea turtle conservation in Senegal. Monsieur Dupuy is seeking outside assistance in making the President of Senegal aware of the threats to marine turtles posed by the illegal internal market, the increasing trade in polished carapaces to tourists, and the alternation of nesting beaches through construction of hotels. Monsieur Dupuy reports that, in spite of educational campaigns aimed at fishermen and tourists, illegal commerce in turtle products continues and is perhaps even increasing. Letters to the President are encouraged (correct salutation: Son Excellence Abdou Diouf, Président de la République du Sénégal, Présidence, Dakar, Sénégal), thanking him for his past efforts to conserve Senegal's wildlife, and drawing his attention to the problems that threaten sea turtle populations in Senegal today. More rigorous enforcement of existing legislation is badly needed. A letter from Nicholas Mrosovsky to the President is enclosed for your reference. Monsieur Dupuy requests that copies of any correspondence to the President be sent to him.

Other enclosures are self-explanatory.

GBalays

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-352-1107

10 February 1984

Dr. Nicholas Mrosovsky
University of Toronto
Ramsay Wright Zoological Laboratories
25 Harbord Street
Toronto M5S 1A1
Ontario
Canada

Dear Nicholas:

Jenny Powers tells me that you called yesterday, asking for word of the Gland reaction to the suggestion that the IUCN finance the Newsletter. I can understand your interest, but I imagine your anxiety over the future of the Newsletter diminished when you heard Nat Frazer's news from the Wider Caribbean Conference. He surely will have told you that he was successful in getting promises of support from three separate patrons down there.

This news has relieved a quandary for me, and I'll tell you frankly why. A small sum of money was recently sent here with an enclosed slip indicating that it should go toward supporting the Newsletter under its new editorship. The request for help had gone to Switzerland at a time when all of us who attended the Tortuguero meeting were under the impression that you were going to give up the job. When you reconsidered and decided not to do this, I was put in the position of either withholding money from the Newsletter, or using it in a way not authorized by the donor. So the solid new fiscal outlook for the Newsletter was good news. I am returning the spot of cash and hope that the Newsletter will go on as now--complementary to the Specialist Group, but not organically conjoined.

Felicitations for the Nat Frazer news.

Sincerely yours,

Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

AC/gmr
cc: Nat Frazer

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

February 21, 1984

Señor Antonio Carcedo Ferrer
Director de Relaciones Internacionales
Ministerio de la Industria Pesquera
Cuidad de la Habana
Cuba

Estimado Señor Director:

I have just received your letter of 5 October, 1983, together with the National Report prepared by Messrs Gonzalo Nodarse Andreu and Félix G. Moncada Gavilán for the West Atlantic Turtle Symposium held in San Jose, Costa Rica last July. We were all disappointed that this report could not be presented personally at the time of the symposium, but I am delighted to see it now, and am wondering whether you and the authors would be willing for us to send a copy to the editors of the Symposium proceedings volume for publication there. Please let me know at your earliest convenience whether this would be permissible.

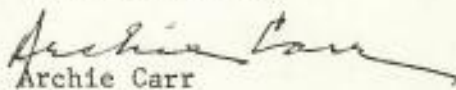
I would also be grateful if you would give me instructions for sending you a number of publications on sea turtle biology and conservation--including both books and pamphlets--in a way most likely to take them through Havana customs without delay. Such shipments to correspondents in the past have evidently failed to reach their proper destination.

I was extremely gratified by your expression of interest in developing contact between sea turtle people here and in Cuba. I can assure that we, here, and the membership of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group, share your wish that this might take place.

It occurred to me that you might be interested in seeing a list of turtles that have been tagged while nesting on Tortuguero Beach, at our research station in Costa Rica, and later recovered in Cuba by people who have returned the tags to us. Such a list is enclosed. Our most recent return was a leatherback (Dermochelys coriacea) tagged in 1979 and recovered last fall by a Cuban fishing vessel near Casilda. This is a particularly interesting recapture, because there have been only seven long-distance recoveries of this species in the Caribbean. If questions concerning it or any of the other data occur to you please let me know.

Again, let me express our thanks for the interesting national report. We will be awaiting instructions for sending publications to you and your colleagues.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr
Chairman
IUCN Marine Turtle
Specialist Group

AC/jp
Enclosure



Front row, kneeling, from left to right: Jacques Fretey, France; Anne Meylan, United States; Mario Hurtado, Ecuador; René Márquez, Mexico; Peter Pritchard, United States.

Back row, left to right: Harold Hirth, United States; Larry Ogren, United States; George Hughes, South Africa; George Balazs, United States (Hawaii); Perran Ross, United States; David Ehrenfeld, United States; Nicholas Mrosovsky, Canada; Njoman Sumertha Naitja, Indonesia; Colin Limpus, Australia; Leo Brongersma, The Netherlands; Karen Bjorndal, United States; Archie Carr, United States.

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223 BARTRAM HALL
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February 24, 1984

To: Members, IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group
From: Archie Carr, Chairman *Archie Carr*
Re: Information items

The enclosed letter from Dr. Jorge Carranza Fraser indicates that the Instituto Nacional de la Pesca in Mexico has approved the refuges for Pacific populations of sea turtles that have long been hoped for by René Márquez, and which were given high priority by the Group at our Tortuguero meeting. This is a creative step towards protecting Mexico's sea turtles, and we will await word of its implementation with the greatest interest.

We have learned that Dr. Huang Chu-Chien, our representative in China, has translated and had published a Chinese version of the Conservation Strategy of the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation. With this translation, the document is now available in four languages. This is an extremely important contribution that Dr. Huang has made and I extend to him the Group's appreciation of his efforts.

The enclosed request from the Brevard County (Florida) Commission, for self-regulation in beach-front lighting, is a small step forward and a hopeful sign that county commissions have consciences. The beaches in southern Brevard County are among the very best loggerhead nesting places in the world.

A more-or-less self-explanatory letter from the Chairman to Antonio Carcedo Ferrer of the Cuban Ministry of Industrial Fishing goes to you herewith for your information. Nobody could help but be delighted over Sr. Carcedo's overture.

Another enclosure is a picture that was taken at the meeting of the Group at Tortuguero, Costa Rica, this past July.

AC/jp