

18 PART 2 of 2

1981-1982 INCOMING  
HIMB G.H. BALAZS LETTERS



1601 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009  
CABLE: PANDAFUND TELEX: 64505  
TELEPHONE: (202) 387-0800

Dec. 17, 1981

Mr. George Balazs  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

Dear Mr. Balazs,

You recently sent Nancy Hammond a wonderful postcard of a monk seal lying cozily by a green turtle on a beach. It is now on our bulletin board and I'm writing to find out if you maintain a file of other fine photos like this one.

We are in the process of developing new sources of photos for use in our publications. We can pay much more than mailing charges and duplicating costs, but we would appreciate knowing if you have anything available for our organization to use of Hawaiian or other species. We are most interested in black and white photos but we can convert a color slide to B/W if necessary.

I would also be interested in knowing more about your institute if you have a pamphlet. Thank you for sending this information on to us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pamela S. Cubberly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Pamela S. Cubberly  
Production Editor

University of Toronto

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

RAMSAY WRIGHT ZOOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
25 HARBORD STREET  
TORONTO M5S 1A1, ONTARIO, CANADA

December 18, 1981

Mr. George Balazs  
NMFS/NOAA  
P.O. Box 3830  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812  
U S A

Dear George,

Thank you for the revised version of your tagging article. This did not go anywhere near to putting your views across in half the number of words, but I am accepting it, largely to avoid delay and messing everyone around. I should have been tougher in my previous letter, but instead will say for the future I may reject your articles if they are so wordy. I think you could have reduced it considerably without losing important points. I am having to reject an increasing number of articles. Despite this carping, I think the table and information in your article will be valuable to readers.

At the Washington conference I gave you technical reasons why I have not opted for photoreduction. It would be more useful if instead of sending a stream of suggestions about how I should run things, you took a more positive approach to the MTN. Instead of getting absorbed by these minor details, why not raise some support from WWF or IUCN for helping us along? You are lucky to have a newsletter at all. It has published plenty of your articles. But you were very negative at the '79 Washington meetings, and later turned down an offer to be associated with it. OK, OK, you are entitled to your views, but please stop dwelling on minutiae.

Yours,



Nicholas Mrosovsky

PS: I have removed the word "flipper" from the title, to make sure it fits on one line.

For similar reasons, I have removed "for sea turtles" from the table legend.

If you object strongly, please write express or wire. If I hear nothing, I'll assume it is OK.

cc; Pritchard

NM/rs

4 Jan 1982  
NMPS- Box 3830  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

Dr. Nicholas Mrosovsky  
University of Toronto

Dear Nicholas:

Thank you for your letter of December 18th indicating acceptance of my note on metal tags. The changes mentioned in your PS are fine with me.

Since you sent a cc of your letter to Peter, I feel a need to give some additional perspective on your comments regarding the newsletter.

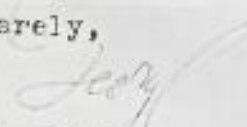
- 1) In reviewing my correspondence records, I find no indication that I have sent you "a stream of suggestions" about how to "run things". I don't understand why you hold this impression. I have, however, regularly sent you news articles, reprints and other informational materials on sea turtles to hopefully aid you in preparing the newsletter. I certainly view this as a positive approach. My negative words to you at the Washington conference dealt with the mailing list and that one editorial which I felt was inappropriate. My long-standing suggestion on photoreduction to cut costs and get more words per page is about the only mention I've made on how you should run things- if it could even be called that.
- 2) Philosophically, I consider a publication like MTN to convey benefits in multiple directions. Yes, I am appreciative that you have published my articles. But at the same time, please remember that there wouldn't be (or have been) much of a newsletter if readers such as myself didn't contribute.

Anyway, enough said- I hope this helps to clarify things. Our views obviously differ, but there are still many areas we can work together on behalf of sea turtle conservation and inquiry.

Yes, I'm the one that sent you "The Present Status of Japanese Tortoise Shell Product Industry". I received a few copies from Mr. Uchida about four months ago. Sorry, but I don't know any more about it than what's presented in the text and on the cover.

Best regards for this New Year.

Sincerely,

  
George Balazs

cc Peter Fritchard



IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

SE

POST OFFICE BOX 1306  
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87103

January 4, 1982

George Balazs  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
P.O. Box 3830  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

George:

Sorry about the delay in responding and I do appreciate the information you made available to me. I really can't believe that solicitors for NMFS have taken the position that the data base for the fisheries management plans (spiny lobster) are not subject to the FOIA. I can't believe this would hold up under legal challenge.

I have been involved or have knowledge of a number of FOIA requests over the years, and within Interior there is little, if anything, that can be withheld. Certain law enforcement information and records naturally, but beyond that we make it available--even personnel field diaries have been sought and given. Counsel for NOAA cites the Magnusan Fishery Conservation and Management Act (FCMA) as the basis for denial of information (except by court order), but if the question of concern is an endangered species, then it should be pushed to not only bring forth the facts needed, but also to see how long NOAA can withhold data from the public. Looks like a direct conflict is possible between ESA, FOIA and NOAA's FCMA--whatever that is. I think NOAA will provide the information if the question/request is specific and could not be dismissed as a "fishing expedition."

Miami NMFS and my office (Albuquerque FWS) are jointly funding Frazier's aging technique efforts. The NMFS put up about \$15,000 and FWS the same. In addition, I personally borrowed advance money from The Nature Conservancy to send Jack to Oaxaca to collect material, furnished the permits, and paid the shipping cost of many boxes of bones from Mexico to the Smithsonian. I'm not jumping for joy with his progress. I know it is not a simple question, but I also have the uneasy feeling that Jack is not devoting the time to this problem that I feel is necessary and required. Maybe I am wrong.

I have not seen any articles on the Suarez case. I don't even know the outcome, if any. I'll check with our chief cop. I do know that Suarez is bitter and believes "we" set him up while he was acting in good faith with us. There is some truth to this; as you know Peter did obtain

materials in Oaxaca and turned them over to enforcement, knowing full well what it was tied to. The passing of Suarez from the turtle scene in Mexico has not been a blessing--things are certainly no better, and probably worse, with no central figure to focus on as was possible with Suarez.

The entire sea turtle situation in Mexico remains bleak. Clifton is working two beaches--Colola and Maruata while the other beaches are plundered of both eggs and turtles. Kim can't/won't go much longer--maybe one more season and after that I see no real indication of Mexico maintaining even these two small nesting beaches for those greens that still remain. World Wildlife may be able to do something, but it should be Mexico and Pesca. A new president and administration takes office next fall and although it's cut and dried as to the president and his major policies, there will be many changes in agency personnel--this could bring about change. Mexico's national policy is to develop and produce energy resources and provide food and fiber to the people. I am afraid that conservation and sound resource management are not an integral part of this policy.

Cornelius is back from Costa Rica and I am anxiously awaiting his project report. They have tagged about 30,000 nesting ridleys in the two seasons and I understand tag returns are good and quite interesting. Nesting is occurring all year. He should have a considerable amount of good data--I'll get copies to you as soon as possible.

This is another project that should continue for a few more years, but I don't know if Steve will want to go back (his wife is pregnant again), or if a Costa Rican group is ready to take over, and I don't know if I can continue to obtain funds to support it. We do have some money in it for next season and WWF will probably put in some. At least there does not appear to be any immediate threats to this relatively large population, but this could quickly change. I just hope Costa Rica and the government can stay on a stable basis. Radical changes in Costa Rica could change the whole picture rapidly.

The Kemp's work is going relatively smooth--Mexico doesn't make it easy and I find I have to bite my tongue and smile. It is really trying to work with them.

Thanks for the copy of the WWF letter regarding Kim's project. Between WWF, my office, and some bucks from the Center for Environmental Education, there is almost \$100,000/year going into that project--that's a bunch of bucks, and I'm not sure it couldn't be reduced and still do the same work. I intend to discuss it with WWF and Kim this spring. I hope Archie can be present also.

Hope your holidays were happy and you didn't get too much snow. Thanks.

Best regards,

Jack Woody

THE FLORIDA STATE MUSEUM  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



the florida  
state museum  
museum road  
university  
of florida  
gainesville  
32611  
904/392-1721

28 December 1981

Dr. George Balazs  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
P.O. Box 1346  
Coconut Island  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear George:

I know this letter arrives too late to have any effect on the Hawaii Audubon Society (HAS) board elections on 18 December. However, I feel I owe you any explanation of my expression of concern about McKeown.

Do not blame Wayne Gagne for my interest in McKeown. I am the one that approached Wayne, not the other way around. At the IUCN General Assembly in New Zealand, I asked Wayne what he could tell me about McKeown. I indicated I had heard he established two species of day gecko, Phelsuma, on the grounds of the Honolulu Zoo. Wayne indicated he believed it to be true. My first information came from my zoo contacts. As you are probably aware, most zoo reptile curators and keepers are amateur snake collectors, lizard fanciers, frog breeders, etc. Most know each other and each other's quirks. The Phelsuma fanciers are a distinct subgroup of the reptile keepers which has its center in the Federal Republic of Germany. There dealers and fanciers buy, sell, and trade virtually all the species of Phelsuma -- including the CITES protected endangered species. One of these people in Europe told me McKeown had established populations of two species of Phelsuma in and around the Honolulu Zoo. I was also told he has several other species in his personal collection.

That is the extent of my knowledge about McKeown. I lack substantive evidence that could be used to prosecute him for releasing exotic species in the U.S. If I had that sort of information I would turn it over to the Law Enforcement Division of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I do have the names of the two species that are established at the zoo, but I lack the release dates, the import dates, and other pertinent data.

I did my PhD research on competition between native and exotic reptiles in Florida so I may be a bit sensitive on the subject. But you have only to look around you to see the problems that exotics have caused in Hawaii.

Dr. George Balazs  
28 December 1981  
page 2

Sorry I did not get this to you sooner. I had to fire my incompetent secretary two weeks ago and things have piled up during the holidays. I should have a new secretary aboard by next week.

I will be in Hawaii from 21 May through the first week in June. If you wish to have a little fun, I propose we visit the Honolulu Zoo to collect a few free-living Phelsuma. That would prove whether or not the stories I have heard have substance.

Sincerely,



Wayne King



# FAUNA PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Patron Her Majesty the Queen

c/o ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON REGENT'S PARK LONDON NW1 4RY

Tel 01-588 0872

Cables: Faunasoc London NW1

President Professor Lord Zuckerman OM KCB DSc FRB

Honorary Secretary R S R Fizer

Chairman of Council Sir Peter Scott CBE DSC

Editor of Oryz Mrs M S Fitter

15. 12. 87

Dear George

Many thanks for the beautiful postcards - just wish I had some colour in 'Oryz'.

A new editor takes over -

January - though I think "retirement" is not quite the word to describe my situation!

She is Dr Jacquie Harris -

I hope you will continue to send her "stuff" about Hawaii - much appreciated  
I assure you.

Yours  
Gavin

FAUNA PRESERVATION SOCIETY

TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
FROM: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

TV FIRST FOLD HERE

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS



FAUNA PRESERVATION SOCIETY  
c/o ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON  
REGENT'S PARK  
LONDON NW1 4RY  
ENGLAND

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SECOND FOLD HERE

BY AIRMAIL  
AIR LETTER



Be properly  
addressed



HELP US TO ...



HELP THEM!

## HAWAIIAN HUMANE SOCIETY

2700 Wai'alae Ave. - Honolulu, Hawaii 96826 - Telephone 946-2187

January 8, 1982

Mr. George H. Balazs  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
P.O. Box 1346  
Coconut Island  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Dear George:

It was so nice to hear from you - and to know that you like Humane Hints. I have written the copy and Shannon Stewart at This Week arranges for the artwork and printing. I'm enclosing copies of the ones that have been printed so far and I'll call you to discuss other messages we would like to get across to the public.

Your postcards are marvelous. I hope they will be sold at the aquarium or the zoo - someplace we can refer people to. If we set up a gift shop in the future (we have been discussing the idea for some time) perhaps we can sell them as well.

Happy New Year,

*Cathy*

Cathy Goeggel  
Humane Education Specialist

## Humane Hints



During the rainy season in Hawaii (December through February) many birds become water logged and are unable to fly. If you find a bird in that condition you can help by placing the bird in a warm, dry place with food and water. When the weather clears and the bird's feathers dry, you can release him.

This message is presented courtesy of the Hawaiian Humane Society. For more information, call 946-2187.

## Humane Hints



Birds in Hawaii breed throughout the spring and summer and frequently babies either fall or are blown out of the nest. If you find a baby bird, look about for the parents. They will usually be near by. If you can place it back in the nest do so. The parents will accept it. If this isn't feasible gently place the bird in a small container with air holes; keep warm and dark.

This message is presented courtesy of the Hawaiian Humane Society. For more information, call 946-2187.

*I thought you'd enjoy what we've been running!*

## Humane Hints



Those ugly toads in Hawaii's yards are in fact good friends of homeowners. The toads, aka Bufo marinus, are toothless and nailless—they are, moreover, excellent at catching insects with their marvelously engineered sticky tongues. Their diet consists of mosquitoes, roaches, termites, bees, centipedes and should be welcome in Hawaiian gardens. One caution—the toads' defenses include paratoid glands whose liquid contents can harm small predators who bite them; therefore, train Fido to stay away from toads.

This message is presented courtesy of the Hawaiian Humane Society. For more information, call 946-2187.

Plastic six-pack holders can be fatal to Hawaii's sea animals. Turtles and birds frequently become tangled in them and drown. Please dispose of all litter properly—cut open the loops and deposit in refuse containers.



## Humane Hints

This message is presented courtesy of the Hawaiian Humane Society. For more information, call 946-2187.

Hawaii's animals, both wild and domestic, are precious and receive protection from the city, state and federal governments. If you have a question about animal abuse or see an animal in need of help please call the Hawaiian Humane Society at 946-2187. We will contact the proper agency to respond to animal emergencies.

## Humane Hints



For further information, call the Hawaiian Humane Society at 946-2187.

It's amazing what birds can get into—people who brush their hair in parks and at beaches often throw it on the ground it is picked up by birds searching for nesting material. The hair frequently becomes entangled in beaks and feet and can cause birds serious harm. Please dispose of hair in rubbish receptacles.

## Humane Hints



This message is presented courtesy of the Hawaiian Humane Society. For more information, call 946-



## Humane Hints



The loud smacking sound you may hear in your room at night is probably the gecko, a small lizard whose family members range in color from gray to speckled to brown and whose voices belie their size. These acrobatic creatures walk on ceilings and searching for insects to eat. They are harmless to humans and provide a terrific service in munching up unwanted bugs around our homes. Please don't hurt them.

This message is presented courtesy of the Hawaiian Humane Society.



GOBIERNO DE RECONSTRUCCION NACIONAL

INSTITUTO NICARAGUENSE DE RECURSOS NATURALES Y DEL AMBIENTE

Managua, 17 Diciembre 1981

Dr. Archie Carr  
Graduate Research Professor  
Department of Zoology 223 Bartram  
Hall, Gainesville  
Florida 3211, U.S.A.

Estimado Dr. Carr:


Una vez más queremos agradecer su valiosa ayuda. Referente al envío de las marcas puede hacerlo a nombre del Departamento de Fauna Silvestre, IRENA, km. 12 1/2 carretera norte, Managua, Nicaragua, C.A.

Nosotros ya hemos iniciado contactos y consultas para los tramites aduanales y creemos que no va haber ningún problema al respecto.

La propuesta para la creación de un refugio en los Cayos Miskitos ha sido incluida dentro de un plan de desarrollo integral de recursos naturales para el Nor-Este de la Costa Atlántica, elaborado por IRENA - el cual va ser presentado para su aprobación y luego buscar el financiamiento.

Aprovecho la oportunidad para saludarle y de nuevo reiterar nuestro agradecimiento.

Fraternalmente,

  
Reynaldo Ayostegui M.  
Resp. Depto. Fauna  
I R E N A.

cc: Archivo.

RAM/arc.



NATAL PARKS, GAME AND FISH PRESERVATION BOARD



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LEGS BESPREKINGS }

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS } "FAUNA"  
TELEGRAMADRES }

TELEPHONES } 51221/5  
TELEPHONE }

RAAD VIR DIE BEWARING VAN NATALSE PARKE, WILD EN VIS

P.O. BOX/POSBUS 662

PIETERMARITZBURG

3200

YOUR REFERENCE  
U VERWYSINGSNOMMER

PLEASE QUOTE  
OUR REFERENCE  
MELD ASSEBLIEF  
ONS VERWYSINGSNOMMER

E. 6/1

5 January 1982

George Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
P O Box 1346  
Coconut Island  
Kaneohe  
HAWAII 96744

Dear George,

Thanks for the note from Louis Henry. I had been led to believe that they were in production but didn't know that they had started.

You are clearly suffering under a mild misconception. I do not consult for Reunion. In fact I have informed them that I cannot even actively support their venture (although I sympathise with them) because of my committment at Washington when we agreed not to pursue additional farming ventures until the Cayman Farm did one thing or another. In fact I have never 'consulted' for Reunion nor had anything to do with the establishment of CORAIL. In the beginning (Genesis you know) I suggested, following my first visits to Europa and Tromelin, the use of excess or non-contributory stock but never got involved with any commercial venture.

There was a company going to start in the Seychelles and I was asked and agreed to consult for them back in 1978 but that collapsed.

Truly I wish I could give an overview of the operation but apart from some pictures of the operation sent me about a year ago I have probably no more knowledge than you.

May I wish you all cheer.

Yours sincerely,

*George*  
for DIRECTOR

GRH/ta

Please address all communications to the Director  
Gatiewe alle briefwisseling aan die Direkteur te rig

PER LUGPOS  
BY AIRMAIL  
PAR AVION



**AËROGRAM  
AEROGRAM**

**AAN  
TO**



George Balazs

Assistant Marine Biologist

University of Hawaii at Manoa

P O Box 1346

Coconut Island, Maneohe

HAWAII 96744



TWEEDE VOLG—SECOND FOLD

**NAAM EN ADRES VAN AFSENDER  
SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS**

**NATAL PARKS, GAME AND FISH PRESERVATION BOARD**

**RAAD VIR DIE BEWARING VAN NATALSE PARKE, WILD EN V**

**P.O. BOX/POSBUS 662**

**PIETERMARITZBURG**

**SOUTH AFRICA**

**INSLUITINGS WORD NIE TOEGELAAT NIE  
ENCLOSURES ARE NOT PERMITTED**

**3200**

—ERSTE VOLG—FIRST FOLD

There was a company going to start in the Seychelles and I was  
sued and asked to commit for them back in 1975 but that  
collapsed.  
Truly I wish I could give an overview of the operation but  
apart from some figures of the operation sent me about a year  
ago I have probably no more knowledge than you.  
May I wish you all cheer.

Yours sincerely,  
  
George Balazs  
for [unclear]  
GMB/28



PROGRAMA TORTUGAS MARINAS  
INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE PESCA

FECHA 29 Dic 81

UNTO Marine Turtle Specialist Group

Dear Dr. Carr:

Sorry because we were not able to meet during your visit, I hope your visit was interesting, I will like to know your impressions about the sea turtles status, here.

Thanks for my reappointment to the working group, I hope to do better than before.

Do you know something about the printing of the World Sea Turtle Conference and we know any information that do you use on it?

Best wishes for

Biol. RENE MARQUEZ M. M.C. S. C. G. M.

821

AIR MAIL

To dear Dr. A. Carr

Thank you very much for your request to continue membership of IUCN. I would very much appreciate your request. Best wishes to your successful research on your turtles.

Sincerely  
I. Uchida *I. Uchida*  
Himeji City Aquarium,  
Nobusue, Tegarayama, Himeji  
City 670, Japan

Dr. Archie Carr  
Dept. of Zoology  
223 Bartram Hall  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, 32601  
Florida,  
U. S. A.





**RUTGERS**  
THE STATE UNIVERSITY  
OF NEW JERSEY

COOK COLLEGE • DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE AND FORESTRY  
P.O. BOX 231 • NEW BRUNSWICK • NEW JERSEY 08903

December 21, 1981

Dr. Archie Carr  
Chairman, IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group  
Department of Zoology  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, Florida 32611

Dear Archie:

Thank you for inviting me to serve for another term of three years as a member of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group. I will be happy to continue my membership in the Group, and will keep your office informed of events important to sea turtle survival in my area.

Sincerely,

David Ehrenfeld  
Professor of Biology

SINCE NINETEEN-HUNDRED



"THE VOICE OF CONSERVATION"

December 21, 1981

Dr. Archie Carr  
University of Florida  
Department of Zoology  
223 Bartram Hall  
Gainesville, Florida 32611

Dear Archie:

Thanks so much for your invitation to serve for another term as a member of the IUCN Sea Turtle Specialist Group. I am delighted to accept, and look forward to a Group Meeting at any time it can be arranged.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter C.H. Pritchard'.

Peter C.H. Pritchard, Ph.D.  
Vice President - Science and Research

FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY

THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF UTAH

23 December 1981

207 BIOLOGY BLDG  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84142  
801-581-6817

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

Dear Dr. Carr:

Thank you for your memorandum of 16 December 1981 concerning my reappointment to the Marine Turtle Specialist Group. I hereby accept the appointment and look forward to working with the group for the next three years. Based upon my international work and contacts in various countries, I believe the next few years will be crucial for the protection of sea turtles. In spite of the worldwide strategy meeting and progress in "CITES" there seems to me to be an international fervor for economic development, and it is led by the U.S.A. Sea turtles will need some help if they are to survive.

Best regards,

*Harold F. Hirth*  
Harold F. Hirth  
Professor

HFH:nmf

MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY

The Agassiz Museum



HARVARD UNIVERSITY · CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138 · TEL. 617 495-2466

27 Dec 1981.

Dear Dr Carr,

I am, of course, delighted to accept another term on the turtle group. Over the past year I have had correspondence concerning sea turtle conservation issues with:-

Felicidad Selda Martillano	-	Philippines
Merio Hurtado	-	Ecuador
Aban Kabraji	-	Pakistan
Mortha Heath	-	U.C. San Diego
David Herman	-	San Salvador
John Parmenter	-	Australia

as well as other members of the group including Dick Moscovsky, Peter Pritchard, George Balogh and Sylvia Spring. I sent letters of support for conservation action at your request to the U.S. fish-wildlife service and at Jose Ottenwaller's request to the Secretary of Agriculture in the D.R.

I have also been corresponding with Brian Groombridge of the Red Data Sheet group and I assisted Jim Storzberg extensively with his recently published *Distribution of Sea Turtles*.

I was unable to visit Oman this year but Mohamed Barwani assures me he is working to get funds approved for a visit in 1982 and I hope to collect specimens for investigation of the sex ratio problem in Oman.

I continue to work on preparing previous results from Oman for publication and have manuscripts on 'Green Turtle Feeding'

'Green Turtle adult sex ratio' and 'Loggerhead breeding biology'  
in an advanced stage of completion.

I have been using my position on the r.v. Regine Davis  
to look for juvenile sea turtles in the central and southern  
Sargasso sea. Combined careful observations <sup>in Nov-Dec and April-May</sup>, totalling about  
12 hours spread over 2 years have failed to reveal any  
juvenile turtles. They are certainly not as common as in you  
report in your recent note with Annie. I received no encouragement  
for my proposal to NMFS for a more detailed study and  
now feel that a ship search for juveniles is not a productive  
way to approach the problem in the Atlantic. A more careful  
consideration of currents and source areas of juvenile turtles  
might reveal where a search would be more productive.

While visiting in Bermuda over the past 2 years I have found  
that in addition to the ~~sub~~ sub-adult greens that are well reported,  
there are numerous reports of both loggerheads and hawksbills in  
the 12"-24" carapace size class. The Bermuda aquarium holds  
several of these live and many others have been released or wash  
up dead.

Hope these notes are of interest. Keep me informed of the ~~status~~  
planned group meeting. Best wishes to you and the family

Regards  
Lemon Ross.

Date: 30th December, 1981

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



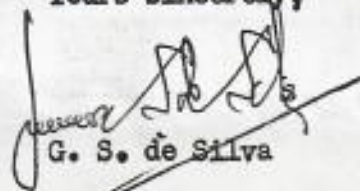
Dear Archie,

Marine Turtle Specialist Group

Many thanks for your letter of 16th December,  
1981.

I am very pleased to accept your invitation  
to serve for another 3 years as a member of the IUCN  
Marine Turtle Specialist Group.

Yours sincerely,

  
G. S. de Silva



Dr. Archie Carr,  
Chairman,

IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group,

Department of Zoology,

223 Bartram Hall, Gainesville 32611,

University of Florida,  
U. S. A.

← Second fold here →

Sender's name and address: Turtle Islands National Parks

P. O. Box No: 768 Sandakan,

Sabah, East Malaysia



Air Letter

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY  
ENCLOSURE: IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED  
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Bogor, January 2, 1982.

Dr. Archie Carr,  
Depart. of Zoology.  
University of Florida.  
Gainesville, 32611.  
USA.

Dear Dr. Carr,

I have received your letter (memorandum) of December 16, 1981. Of course, I always to help you of membership in the Group, especially in my working of the management of sea turtles in Indonesia. In 1982 - 1983, I have plan the tagging program of the population sea turtles on the Sukomade beach, Meru Betiri Reserve, East Java. Also I am working in the development on sea turtles hatcheries at the Citirem, West Java (near Bogor, about 150 km. from Bogor City).

In my oportunity, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, 1982. Many thanks for your cooperation in the Group, and best regard of Njoman.

Sincerely yours,



I Njoman S. Naitja.



# STICHTING NATUURBEHOUD SURINAME (STINASU)

FOUNDATION FOR NATURE PRESERVATION IN SURINAME

Paramaribo, 8 January, 1982

P.o.box 436  
Paramaribo  
Suriname  
Tel. 75845/71856

Bankrekening  
nr. 11.42.488  
De Surinaamsche Bank  
Paramaribo

Uw kenmerk  
Your reference

Ons kenmerk  
Our reference

Mr. George Balazs  
University of Hawaii @ Manoa  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
P.O. Box 1346  
Coconut Island, Kaneohe  
Hawaii 96744 USA

Dear George:

Thank you for your note, postcards and wishes for 1982. Herewith my best wishes to you for 1982.

With regard to the postage stamps featuring turtles, we have not been idle. The proposal was accepted by the postal service very early in 1981 and the date of issue is to be sometime in 1982. We could not get a firm date on the issue of the stamps, so for all I know it may be December, 1982! At any rate they are to be (or are now being) printed in The Netherlands since Suriname does not have the quality of printing necessary for postage stamps. I'll let you know when they come out.

We are giving ourselves for the coming turtle season which should get into high gear by mid-February. I have been in touch with the French Guianese officials on their work and they are finally getting serious (I hope!) about protecting their beaches. This means no more cars driving onto the beaches, no more flashlights, and no more bronco-busting activities on top of the nesting leatherbacks. I have promised them all the help we can give them. This means that some of our people will cross the Marowijne River to show them how, and for their people to come to Galibi to observe. They've got two young men in charge who don't know turtles but who seem eager to learn. I hope this will be the start of a new era in Guiana seaturtle conservation.

Take care and stay in touch.



9 December 1981

Dr. George H. Balazs,  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Hawaii Area Fishery Research Centre  
2570 Dole Street,  
P.O. Box 3830  
Honolulu  
Hawaii 96812

*sent*  
*12-18-81*

Dear Dr. Balazs,

I'm writing to ask yet another favour from you - I have just seen a reference to a joint paper by yourself and M. Nozoe, 1978, "Preliminary report on the Hawksbill turtle in Indonesia, (etc)". I am working on the Hawksbill RDB account right now and would much appreciate a copy of this report if available.

Many thanks,

Best wishes,

*Brian*

Brian Groombridge.

By air mail Air letter  
Par avion Aerogramma



1874-5

Dr. George H. Balazs,  
National Marine Fisheries Service,  
Hawaii Area Fishery Research Centre  
2570 Dole Street,  
P.O. Box 3830 Honolulu  
HAWAII 96812

Sender's name and address

Brian Lproombridge

Conservation Monitoring Centre

219 (c) Huntingdon Road,

CAMBRIDGE

UNITED KINGDOM

Postcode CB3 0DL

An air letter should not contain any enclosure

To open slit here

To open slit here

CABLE ADDRESS :

" SOUTH PACOM " NOUMEA  
TELEPHONE : 26.20.00  
TELEX : SOPACOM 139 NM

ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE :

" SOUTH PACOM " NOUMEA  
TELEPHONE : 26.20.00  
TELEX : SOPACOM 139 NM



SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

POST BOX D 5  
NOUMEA CEDEX  
NEW CALEDONIA

COMMISSION DU PACIFIQUE SUD

BOITE POSTALE D 5  
NOUMEA CEDEX  
NOUVELLE-CALEDONIE

*In reply, please quote* PRO 7/14

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO  
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

7 December, 1981

Mr G.H. Balazs  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration,  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Hawaii Area Fishery Research Centre  
P.O. Box 3830  
HONOLULU  
Hawaii. 96812

Dear George,

Many thanks for your letter of 26 November which arrived today. I hope you have by now received my letter of 24 November.

I am delighted that you have completed the map of sea turtle migrations and look forward with great interest to receiving it. With your map and a number of other interesting articles we have obtained, the next Fisheries Newsletter should certainly be a bumper issue!

Regards and season's greetings,

Mark Gentle  
Assistant Fisheries Officer

MG/vmr.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY  
223 BARTRAM HALL  
804-392-1107

8 Dec. 1981

Dear George:

Thanks for your last letter regarding turtle stamps. \$25 is a little steep. I only have a ridley stamp, with no accompanying map of Nicaragua etc. I got it off a letter that Arostegui sent Archie. It shows two ridleys under water with the Olympics insignia over their heads. Annie has a leatherback stamp, from the same source, but I've never seen it. So unfortunately, I can't help you with the price from Nicaragua. I was planning, because of your advice, to try writing to them to see whether the set was still available. Were you ever able to get the Cuban green turtle stamp? I have never received the Bermuda or the Maldives (except the recent Maldives stamp you sent me, I'm talking about the first set) stamps, and I wrote for them in May. Money down the drain, I guess.

I didn't know you had a 9" olive ridley. Where did you get him? I hope you and Linda and Christian have a wonderful Christmas. Alan's parents are coming down from New Jersey, so we'll all have a good time.

Best regards,

*Karen*

Karen Bjorndal



QUEENSLAND  
NATIONAL PARKS  
AND WILDLIFE  
SERVICE

Office Northern Regional Centre,

Address Marlow Street, Pallarenda,  
Townsville. QLD. 4810.

Date 24th November, 1981.

Telephone 74 1411.

George H. Balazs,  
Assistant Marine Biologist,  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology,  
P.O. Box 1346,  
Coconut Island,  
Kaneohe, Hawaii. 96744.

Dear George,

Thanks for your recent letters and the postcards. I am back in the lab for four weeks before moving back to the beaches. Our nesting is in full swing now with Mon Repos, Heron and Raine being monitored extensively. Over 1000 greens per night ashore on Raine in late November suggests a big season for greens this year. *P.S. Radio message just to hand said 2500 g.s ashore last night!*

Thanks for your comments on the manuscript on "Sea turtles of the Capricornia Section .....". I note your comments re sparse reference to work elsewhere. The paper was presented to a seminar specifically on the Capricornia Section of the Great Barrier Reef and the emphasis was to describe "past present and future" work for that area. Hence where possible I confined my comments to work done in that area - especially Heron - even then I have left out or reduced some of my own areas of work because of the time/space limitations placed on me e.g. none of my Mon Repos work was mentioned. I would hope that the general reviews listed in the introduction would be adequate to lead the reader into the broader literature.

Re: My comment on shifts in habitat through growth. This is an interpretation based on observation of differences in size classes of turtles in different habitats. It is most obvious in my caretta on the reef, 40-65 cm CGL individuals are absent from my reef study site but occur about 70-100 km away over near the coast. See my Figure 6b. The new recruit Caretta (about 5 each year by the look of it) that we record into the study site are usually 70-85 cm CGL. Similarly I have areas with predominately big adult greens and other areas with predominantly immature greens. This to me implies shifts between habitats with growth. So far I have few tag recoveries to support the idea. It may be a problem of not sampling the right areas.

Attached is a copy of a recent paper on the Peak Island Flatback rookery. John Parmenter is monitoring this rookery this summer.

Yours sincerely,

C.J. LIMPUS.

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS 61920

Division of  
Life Sciences

Botany Department 217-581-3624  
Environmental Biology 217-581-3011  
Zoology Department 217-581-3126

8 December 1981

Dear George:

Thankyou for your letter of 1 December  
and the enclosed post cards. Enclosed  
is a check for \$11.07.

In addition to your letter of  
support for the Lindbergh grant, I  
also had letters from Archie, Wayne King  
and Siow so it was thoroughly  
recommended.

I will not know for awhile  
what my plans will be for summer  
but if I do go to Malaysia. I will  
try to spend a day or more in Hawaii either  
coming or going. Thanks again,  
E

# Hyatt's Hawaii

Box 88064, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815 (808) 531-9096

December 10, 1981

Mr. George Balazs  
992-A Awaawaanoa Place  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

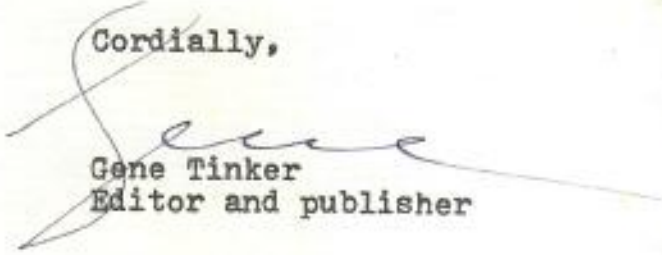
Dear George:

Four copies of the new issue of HYATT'S HAWAII are enclosed. Your story and photos are on pages 4 through 7. It's a fine story and adds a good deal to this issue.

I'll return your photos soon as I get them back from the printer. Usually takes another week.

Now, for your next act???

Cordially,

  
Gene Tinker  
Editor and publisher

encls.





ZOO ZÜRICH

ZÜRICHBERGSTRASSE 221  
CH-8044 ZÜRICH  
TELEFON 01/251 54 11 POSTCHECK 80-1818  
TELEGRAMME: ZOOZURICH  
BANK: SCHWEIZ. KREDITANSTALT  
DEPOSITENKASSE SEEFELD ZÜRICH  
BAHNSTATION: DÜBENDORF-ZÜRICH

Dr.  
George H. Balazs  
P.O.Box 1346

Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

USA

Zürich, den 8. Dezember 1981

Dear George

I recently was commissioned by the Swiss Veterinary Office to do a second part for the Identification Manual of CITES - I did the part on Testudinidae prior to the Delhi-meeting.

This involves data gathering on the trade and a short description for the border check-up of each taxa, and a line-drawing to identify the specimens. (see enclosure)

The species I am currently working on are listed on a separate sheet.

I would appreciate if you could assist me together with your group to obtain several good color-slides and black-and-white photos from which the artist will be able to draw the identification-picture as well as the plastral- and carapace-scubes, as for the land tortoises I was fortunate to get to know many of them myself and to have a good file of pictures with me, but for those mentioned above I rely on the help from outside. I hate to rely on false pictures only or what is worse on stinking museum specimens scattered throughout Europe.

I am sure you will give this urgent request the respective attention. With all good wishes for the Holiday Season and a Happy New Year, I am

yours sincerely

René E. Honegger  
Curator of Herpetology

Dermatemys mawii  
Caretta caretta  
Chelonia depressa  
Chelonia mydas  
Eretmochelys imbrica  
Lepidochelys kempfi  
Lepidochelys olivacea  
Dermochelys coriacea  
Lissemys punctata punctata  
Trionyx ater  
Trionyx gangeticus  
Trionyx hurum  
Trionyx nigricans  
Trionyx triunguis  
Pelomedusa subrufa  
Pelusios gabonensis  
Pelusios niger  
Pelusios subniger  
Podocnemis erythrocephala  
Podocnemis expansa  
Podocnemis lewyana  
Podocnemis madagascariensis  
Podocnemis sextuberculata  
Podocnemis unifilis  
Podocnemis vogli  
Pseudemydura umbrina



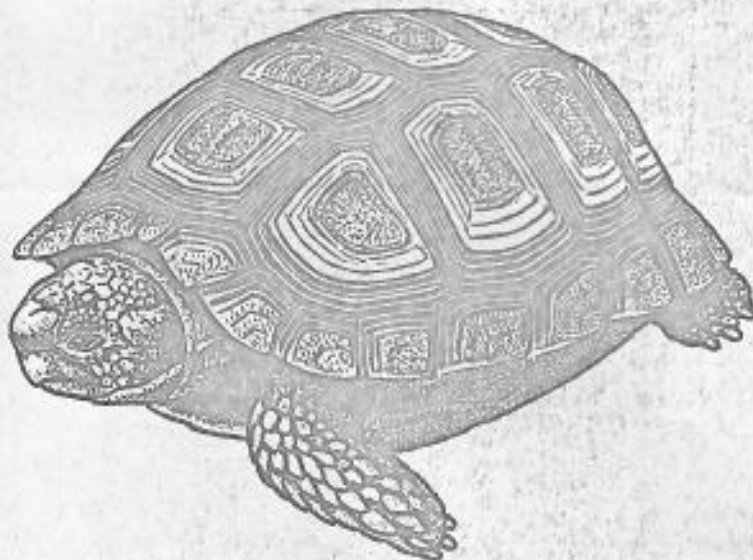
# Homopus areolatus

(Thunberg, 1787)

**Common names:**

engl.: Parrot-beaked Tortoise, Grooved Mountain Tortoise, Deep-grooved Tortoise, Areolated Tortoise  
 esp.: Tortuga pico de loro  
 fr.: Homopode aréolé  
 de.: Areolen-Flachschildkröte  
 ital.: Omopo areolato

**Scientific synonyms:** *Testudo areolata* Thunberg, 1787  
*Testudo africana* Hermann, 1804



## Characteristics:

### Adult:

**Carapace:** Somewhat flattened. Posterior margin of carapace sometimes reverted and not but slightly serrated. 11 marginals on each side. First vertebral almost square. Shields with concentric growth rings. Ridge on first to fourth vertebral. Never hinged.

**Plastron:** Never hinged.

**Color:** Olive or greenish, each shield reddish brown in the center. Plastron yellowish, mesially brownish, rarely uniform.

**Nuchal shield:** present

**Supracaudal shield:** undivided

**Extremities:** Four claws on front feet; tubercles on thighs very flat or entirely absent.

**Head:** Beak strongly hooked, no small scales above nostrils.

### Juvenile:

Dark brown in color, each individual shield of the carapace deeply carved and edged in.

**Distribution:** *South-Africa:* southern part of Cape Province

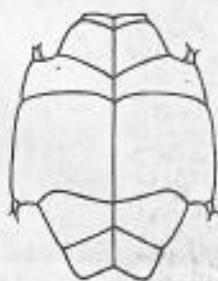
**Population:** no data

**Trade:** No trade recorded by CITES Parties in 1978

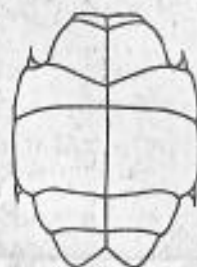
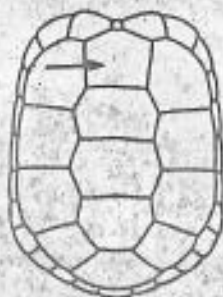
**Intraspecific variation:** none



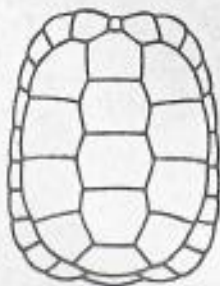
Similar species:



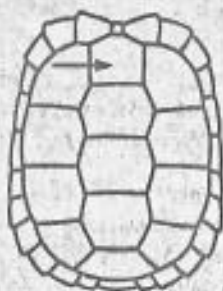
*Homopus areolatus*



*Homopus boulengeri*  
(see A-301.011.005.002)  
5 claws on front feet; 12 marginal shields.



*Homopus femoralis*  
(see A-301.011.005.003)  
4 claws on front feet; 11 marginal shields.  
Significant large pointed tubercles on each thigh.



*Homopus signatus*  
(see A-301.011.005.004)  
5 claws on front feet; 12 marginal shields; with a very attractive carapace pattern.

Bibliography:

Loveridge A. and E.E. Williams (1957) Revision of the African tortoises and turtles of the suborder Cryptodira. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. 115,6: 163-557.



1601 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009

TELEPHONE: (202) 387-0800

RUSSELL E. TRAIN  
PRESIDENT

October 27, 1981

Hilde K. Cherry  
1265 Palolo Ave  
Honolulu, HI 96816

Dear Hilde K. Cherry:

A few weeks ago I wrote you about Kim Cliffton, Field Director of Project Sea Turtle for World Wildlife Fund - U.S. and his emergency rescue operation on the beaches at Maruata and Colola, Mexico. There turtles have come to lay their eggs for thousands, perhaps millions, of years.

Helped only by local Indian children and a handful of Mexican and American assistants, Cliffton gathers up just-laid eggs and reburies them in protected "turtle corrals." When the babies hatch and scramble from their nests, they are guarded carefully until they can scamper to the surf.

This year's breeding and nesting activity is about to begin, but Cliffton is already worried. So are the local fishermen, and Mexican authorities. Fifteen years ago between 46,800 and 78,000 turtles nested here annually. In 1980 no more than 3,000 came back. How many will make it back this fall to nest and lay their eggs?

Unless they get help -- and get it quickly -- these turtles could all be gone in a few years. Extinct. That's why I'm writing you again so soon.

Your gift of \$25 today can help make the difference.

Poaching has undoubtedly taken a major toll.

The poachers are aware of Cliffton's activities. He is making it harder for them to take their victims. So the poachers, in turn, have gotten tougher.

Reinforced vans, large diesel trucks, and even airplanes have been added to the poacher's arsenal. They even attack in broad daylight!

Worldwide, the profits poachers make on turtle eggs and flesh, turtle skins and oil, turtle shells and even stuffed baby turtles make all the risks worthwhile.

But saving those turtles is even more essential.

It is desperately important that as many eggs as possible be salvaged. The future of the sea turtles depends on the actions you and I take today.

We must expand our rescue operations immediately.

I received an urgent communication from Cliffton in Mexico just the other day. Here's part of what he told me:

"Each year our hatcheries produce and release thousands of young sea turtles that would otherwise never have been born. But I fear for the future. Even though we are making progress, increasingly the

smugglers grab nesting turtles after they have lumbered ashore to lay their eggs. They tie them with manila twine and then drag them overland to staging areas to await illegal pickup by vehicles. Many die in the woods awaiting shipment...."

His words touched me deeply. For I understood as never before that the Pacific green sea turtle breeding populations of the next century may well come from the eggs we are helping to protect now.

And saddest of all, this is the plight of sea turtles around the globe. Unless we do something immediately, a trail millions of years long will end in tragedy.

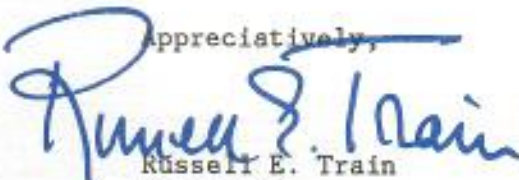
If we can wire emergency funds to Kim Clifton right now, we can help save hundreds of thousands of baby sea turtles this year. More helpers, better equipment, and best of all, hope. You and I can provide those things!

Clifton added this P.S. to his letter: "I am optimistic that your fund raising efforts will generate the full amount required to carry out the project."

I gave him my word that we would try.

Please help me keep my promise.

Appreciatively,

  
Russell E. Train  
President



1601 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009

CABLE: PANDAFUND TELEX: 64505

TELEPHONE: (202) 387-0800

## WORLD WILDLIFE FUND-U.S. UPDATE

November-December 1981

Good news from China: a baby panda has been born in the wild.

Zhen Zhen, the mother, is one of the three giant pandas radio-collared and photographed by Dr. George Schaller in Wolong Nature Reserve where he and Chinese scientists are studying panda ecology as a part of a project supported by World Wildlife Fund and the People's Republic of China. Look for Dr. Schaller's article on this unique study in the December issue of the National Geographic.

WWF-US project director Dr. Geza Teleki leaves the U.S. in December to take up his new position in Sierra Leone as park director and advisor to the Ministry of Agriculture which will oversee development of the Outamba-Kilimi National Park, the first in Sierra Leone. Dr. Teleki has been working toward this day since 1979 when he first conducted a survey of chimpanzee populations in Sierra Leone and recommended establishment of a park to protect the remaining wildlife in the country. Dr. Teleki has spent the last year planning the park and assembling basic and necessary equipment, including uniforms and bicycles for park guards, tenting supplies, four canoes and a pick-up truck, much of which was donated by WWF-US supporters. The new park will be staffed by local people, except for Dr. Teleki who will act as director during the development phase.

The Center for Environmental Education Sea Turtle Rescue Fund has joined the WWF-US effort to protect the endangered east Pacific green turtle on the West Coast of Mexico. The CEE Board of directors has just approved a grant of \$10,000 in support of this WWF-US project which protects sea turtle eggs, hatchlings and adult turtles from illegal poaching and is gathering behavioral and ecological data to determine other conservation measures.

A new WWF-US project is studying man's historical use of plants in South America in order to identify species of potential economic value. Scientists believe there may be as many as 2000 species useful as medicines, food or commercial products in the Amazon region alone. For example, the bacaba palm produces an oil chemically indistinguishable from olive oil. Another plant (*Carapa guionensis*) is potentially important economically and as a medicine. In Colombia it is used to make soap, in Brazil to make a medicinal tea which is used to lower fevers and in Suriname to lower blood sugar in diabetics. Data from this project will help to set priorities and strengthen the case for conservation of tropical forests.

Dr. Thomas E. Lovejoy, WWF-US vice president for science, met in November with representatives of the Mexican Ministries of Agriculture and Tourism, the University of Mexico, Monarcha, a private butterfly conservation group, and WWF-US project directors Dr. Lincoln Brower and Dr. William Calvert to draft a conservation plan for Mexican wintering areas of monarch butterflies. Recommendations in this plan are based on information provided by a WWF-US project studying the requirements of migrating monarchs.



WWF-US vice presidents R. Michael Wright and Dr. Thomas E. Lovejoy participated in the "U.S. Strategy Conference on Biological Diversity" held in Washington, D.C. November 16-18. The conference was sponsored by the Department of State and the Agency for International Development (AID). In his speech to conference participants Dr. Lovejoy said, "Ultimately what we are addressing in this conference is the value of biological resources, the value that accrues from this great variety at some millions of species strong and, of course, what might be done to safeguard this fundamental cornucopia."

WWF-US was significantly involved in the planning stages and will assist in the publication of final papers. R. Michael Wright summed up the conference as follows: "It was encouraging to hear that everyone agreed on the urgency of preserving the earth's biological diversity, and that regardless of recent advances in new technologies such as genetic engineering, ultimately, we are still dependent upon the earth's living resources and their variety. While the magnitude of the problem is staggering, its importance will continue to demand the attention of government and the public." On the final day of the conference, chairmen of the working groups presented recommendations for the U.S. to follow domestically and through international channels to maintain the earth's genetic diversity in a manner that serves a range of economic, social and ecological interests over the long term.





RS/jp/1

Dr. George H. Balazs  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
P.O. Box 1346  
Kaneohe  
Hawaii 96744

17 September 1981

Dear George,

I'm enclosing a copy of an interim report on a sea turtle project (WWF/IUCN No. 1822) on Zakynthos I., Greece, together with a copy of the original project proposal, all of which you may *keep*. This is in the context of your letter about feedback and mine about IUCN intentions to send project reports out for evaluation. This is one of the very first such reports to be sent out, and we would all be grateful for your advice on the process, as well as on this particular project.

We're assuming that reviewers will appreciate seeing reports of projects in their areas of interest, especially in these instances where they may have made a predictive appraisal based on the original project proposal. But there has been a lot of discussion here about ways of facilitating things if this is to become a regular procedure. Should reviewers be asked a series of standard questions to insure a useful evaluation? Would it be easier, or more annoying, to do this in the form of a questionnaire to be filled out? Or would an invitation to write a short paragraph of summary appraisal be more realistic? With or without questions?

Clearly, the measure of usefulness of an evaluation would be a function of what IUCN specifically wanted to know (or should want to know) about the project results. But there are a variety of views here on that score, and I'm enclosing for your information one draft questionnaire that has been suggested. Perhaps the basic questions should be: to what extent do you judge the project to have contributed (or be contributing) to the solution of an important conservation problem in your area of expertise? Were the resources provided well spent, and was it a good investment of scarce conservation funds? Is some specific further action



EVALUATION OF WWF/IUCN PROJECTS

To: ..... Date: .....

From: ..... Please return by: .....

Project No & Title: .....

The purpose of this evaluation form is to assist IUCN in arriving at an objective decision regarding the results of the project mentioned above and to advise on follow-up.

Please be kind enough and study the attached project report and answer the questions listed below. Please use the space provided and let us know if you desire anything you write to be kept confidential.

1. WHAT IS THE MAIN OUTPUT OF THE PROJECT ?

2. WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THE PROJECT?

3. WHAT ARE THE FACTORS WHICH HAVE FACILITATED THE PROJECT?

4. WHAT ARE THE FACTORS WHICH HAVE HAMPERED THE PROJECT?

5. WHICH FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES DOES THE PROJECT REQUIRE?

REMARKS :

Date: ..... Signature: .....

# Memo



To: Lee M. Talbot via P. Sand / H. Jungius  
From: Robert F. Scott  
Cc: G. Lucas F.W. King A. Carr  
G. Balazs I. Grimwood SCMU  
File Ref:  
Date: 20 November 1981  
Subject: Trip Report, Philippines, 27-31 October, 1981

---

IUCN has long been interested, among other things, in sea turtle matters in the Philippines - especially since the establishment of the presidential Task Force Pawikan (Sea Turtle). There has also been a long standing effort to foster cooperation with Sabah, with the aim of eventually developing some kind of international protected area status for the Turtle Islands sea turtle concentration area, part of which is successfully managed as a national park by Sabah.

At the International Sea Turtle Conference in Washington, it had been agreed informally with representatives of Sabah and the Philippines that the best way of getting things moving would be to organize first a technical workshop on turtle conservation in the Philippines. Turtle experts and people from Sabah could be invited and presumably some positive recommendations and lines of follow-up action would result.

Earlier efforts, including exchange of correspondence with the Government had produced no positive reactions. At one time, it was hoped that during 1980 or 1981 Wayne King would be able to visit the Philippines to follow up on this. Later, it was thought that the Director General would be able to pay an official visit on his return from the General Assembly. All of these plans fell through and it was finally suggested by SSC that I visit the Philippines on my way back from New Zealand to see what the current situation actually was.

During the Christchurch General Assembly, I discussed matters with the following: Dr. Robert Kennedy, WWF project leader for the Philippine eagle; Bruce White, consultant to the Presidential Committee for the Conservation of the Tamaraw; and Cirilo B. Serena, delegate from the Parks and Wildlife Division of the Bureau of Forest Development. It appeared that many changes were under way in the Philippines, and that, in addition to our interest in turtles, the Tamaraw Committee were anxious to show someone from IUCN the progress they were making.

I arrived in Manila at noon on Tuesday 27 October, which had allowed one working day for Bruce White and Mr. Serena to alert their organizations. A telex had also been sent to the Tamaraw Committee from New Zealand the week before. I departed Manila on Saturday 31 October.

1. CONTACTS

For the areas of my enquiry, key people in the Philippines conservation picture presently are the following:

Presidential Committee for the Conservation of the Tamaraw

Manuel Elizalde Jr. Minister of Cultural Minorities	Chairman
Crisanto S. Gualberto II	Executive Assistant to Minister Elizalde
Dr. Frank Panol	Committee Executive Director
Mr. Oscar Binsol	Finance Officer
Fred Granada	Officer-In-Charge, Mindoros
David Anthony (Tony) Parkinson (Mindoro)	Consultant for capture and translocation

Ministry of Natural Resources

A new Minister: Peña, has recently been appointed and is said to be very promising. Former Deputy Minister Aguenza is no longer in office.

Mr. Jesus Alvarez	Assistant Director, Bureau of Forestry Development (for Parks and Wildlife)
Dr. Celso R. Roque	Director General, Natural Resources Management Centre, and Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources, for Policy and Scientific Research.

Task Force Pawikan

This is an inter-agency group but is presently under the direction of Mr. Alvarez.

Ms Nelma de Celis	Pawikan Chief of Research Operations, on duty in Manila, seconded from the Forest Research Institute at Los Banos.
Dr. Eduardo Gomez	Consultant, Marine Centre, Dilliman
Dr. Angel Alcalá	Consultant, Silliman University (a herpetologist)

## 2. ITINERARY

On Tuesday evening, I was invited to dinner with Mr. Gualberto, Minister Elizalde's right-hand man, and several other members of the Tamaraw Committee staff. I also met Mr. Alvarez during the evening.

There seems to be a very flexible line between the corporate involvements of government figures and their activities in government. Mr. Gualberto, who plays an executive role with the Tamaraw Committee, is also a Group Vice-President for Agri-Business in a corporation headed by Mr. Elizalde.

All day Wednesday was spent on a helicopter tour of the tamaraw areas on Mindoro island in the company of Billy Gualberto, Oscar Binsol and Bruce White. In the course of the day I was able to spend considerable time with Tony Parkinson at the capture site on Mindoro, during which time we not only discussed the Tamaraw but also sea turtle matters and the general prospects for conservation actions in the Philippines. Tony is impressed with the consistent interest shown by President Marcos in wildlife affairs. Tony had originally gotten involved with the President's wildlife projects (together with Ian Player) in connection with the introduction of a variety of African wildlife to an island of the Calamian group off the north end of Palawan island. Tony pointed out that it was recognized that this in no way was basic conservation but that nevertheless the activities connected with this project greatly increased the President's interest in and appreciation of other wildlife problems. It had also incidentally brought about a considerable increase in a native endangered deer that was also prospering under the protection afforded the African animals.

Under Minister Elizalde's very energetic and influential leadership, the Mindoro tamaraw project seems to be making good progress. They are completing the fencing of a very large enclosure which they are calling the "gene pool" area for establishing a captive breeding colony of tamaraw. A trap is now in place in another location on the island for catching the initial stock. In addition, some of the competing ranches within the tamaraw reserves in the central part of the island have been phased out, and the local aboriginals are being encouraged to take more interest in protecting the tamaraw. They have been offered reimbursement for any crop damage. The "gene pool" site and adjacent field station were also visited during the Mindoro trip.

On Tuesday, I met with Nelma de Celis to discuss turtle matters. She said the Pawikan group had gotten a reduced budget fairly late in the year but were proceeding with various plans, surveys and other activities. (The greater need seems to be for outside expert help, consultation and guidance). She said that, in spite of repeated pressures, to her knowledge as yet there had been no export permit issued for turtle trade from the Turtle Islands or elsewhere. She had a field team en route to the Turtle Islands at the moment. A newspaper item appeared while I was in Manila (copy attached), regarding utilization and village economics in the Turtle Islands area.

On Tuesday, I also met for a short time with Dr. Roque at his headquarters in the Natural Resources Management Centre. He apparently has been like a breath of fresh air on the environmental and conservation scene in the Philippines, and is very active and energetic. He is organizing a National

Conference on the Conservation of Natural Resources, now scheduled for December (announcement attached). An invitation for IUCN to participate had been sent to the Director General.

In the late afternoon of Tuesday, I met with Bruce White and Billy Gualberto in the latter's office to review programme accomplishments in the Tamaraw project.

On Friday morning I met with Mr. Alvarez in his office at the Ministry of Natural Resources. Our conversation covered a variety of topics including progress on Pawikan as well as many other things. Copy of a report on Pawikan was given to me. Alvarez was planning to come to Geneva on UN business in early November and may very well have an opportunity to visit Gland.

Dr. Gomez was out of the country during my visit and Dr. Alcala too far away for me to contact.

I met again with Bruce White on Friday afternoon and went over a variety of matters. He expects to receive a sizable grant from US AID for development of a Philippines Conservation Strategy.

### 3. NGO'S

#### Haribon Society

Both Bruce White and Robert Kennedy are members of the Haribon Society which has a full-time office in Makati Manila. Its president is a Philippine Airline executive and it is in the process of being revitalized with hopes of playing a leading role in conservation in general. It appears deserving of encouragement and help from IUCN.

#### Underwater Ecology Society

Alvarez reported that, contrary to earlier experience, there has not been much recent activity on the part of this society. He reported that the original organizer and spark plug had left the Philippines.

#### Wildlife Society of the Philippines

Alvarez reported that this is a brand new organization being put together by the son of the Deputy Prime Minister.

#### Philippine Wildlife Conservation Foundation

This foundation, originally created some years ago, has become moribund. Apparently the spark plug has left the islands and Minister Elizalde is now proposing to create a brand new foundation to accomplish the same ends. This would be designed to complement and work with Government programmes in the usual manner.



#### 4. GENERAL OUTLOOK

There seem to be many potential changes pending in the conservation picture in the Philippines. A movement is under way (and an Executive Order already drafted) to have the President transfer greatly increased responsibilities to the Tamaraw Committee, which then would include Task Force Pawikan, all endangered wildlife and many other responsibilities as well. The Committee staff seems quite confident that this will in fact come to pass, but it is by no means certain. If it does, it will mean a new cast of characters and perhaps a new deal for sea turtles and other wildlife.

Dr. Roque seems destined to play an important role in the picture and should be an important continuing contact for IUCN. I suggested during my meeting with him (and have since followed up in writing, see attachments) that Stanley de Silva of Sabah could be invited to the National Conference in December to provide a report on Sabah's experience in managing their Turtle Islands resources. This could be an important first step in promoting the desired workshop which still seems to be a viable proposition. Unfortunately, the management of Turtle Islands resources is greatly complicated in the Philippines by the political conflict with the islamic population of the southern islands. This suggests that future strategy might be more effective if islamic Middle Eastern conservation consultants (Oman?) were brought into the picture to work with authorities and the villages in the southern Philippines.

#### 5. CONCLUSIONS

The appropriate immediate role for IUCN seems clearly to be a watching brief until the dust has settled in the jockeying for power and responsibility within the Government. The whole situation seems to be characterized by rumour and uncertainty at the moment. We should maintain contact with key people and be prepared to renew our interventions when the new directions become clear. Nelma de Celis and Pawikan clearly need help.

KARL W. KENYON  
11990 LAKESIDE PL. N.E.  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98125

14 February 1980

Dr. George H. Balazs  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
P. O. Box 1346  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear George:

I am very glad to have copies of certain published material related to the endangered species and the expansive plans of the State of Hawaii, in the Leeward Hawaiian Islands. The sender did not identify himself, so if you know him please pass along my thanks;

Back in July of '79 I read, for John Ralph, your "Synthetic Debris Observed on a Hawaiian Monk Seal". Was this published in the Elepaio? I have not seen a copy. If you have one would you please send it to me?

With reference to problems concerning the Leewards I enclose a copy of the first 3 pages from the December '79 issue of MARINE MAMMAL NEWS in case you have not seen it. It is, to say the least, difficult to raise a ripple on the bureaucratic ocean.

It is crazy in the first place to have research on marine mammals under the Dept. of Commerce in the NMFS but the insanity of relegating direct responsibility for research on the endangered monk seal to a regional fisheries administrator is the ultimate insanity. I've been fighting off the would-be influence over marine wildlife research by regional administrators for more than 30 years. Perhaps the battle is one that will never be won.

Best wishes,

Sincerely,

Karl

Himeji City Aquarium

Toyosayama, Himeji City  
670, Japan

26 November 1981

Dear George:

Thank you very much for your excellent Postcards of Hawaii. I am very glad to see them.

I think these post cards will promote to increase or knowledge of sea turtle conservation.

Few days ago, some Japanese newspapers noticed on green turtle intensive culture for food, started in Boni Is. business

This is bad manner for conservation of any kind of sea turtles.

姫路市立水族館

Tel 0792-89-0321

97

Himeji City Aquarium

Seiyunyama, Himeji City  
670, Japan

I am afraid on start of such  
business in Japan.

Now, Don't necessary to let know  
a taste of sea turtle's flesh.  
to Japanese people.

I will be dead set against  
these attempt.

With best regards and many thanks

Sincerely

Haru Uchida

姫路市立水族館

Tel 0792-87-0321

97

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS 61920

Division of  
Life Sciences

Botany Department 217-581-3624  
Environmental Biology 217-581-3011  
Zoology Department 217-581-3126

21 November 1981

Dear George:

Many thanks for the letter of support for the Lindberg grant. It arrived in ample time. The grant is in and the waiting has begun. They will announce recipients at the end of January. I have my fingers crossed.

The post cards are really nice. Send me a packet of each type (green + hawkbill) and let me know how much the postage costs. I will send you a check by return mail. Or if you want payment in advance, that is fine also.

I would love to lay over a day or so in Hawaii to see you and the University. It will depend on how tight a schedule I will have. You might let me know how to get from ~~the~~ Honolulu to

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS 61824

Kaneohē should a layover be possible.

Again many thanks.

EJ



Mr. George H. Balogh  
"Hawaii Cultural Society"

~~P.O. Box 7263~~

992-A Awaawanaa Place

Honolulu, Hawaii

96825

~~96822~~

2216



Ilkai  
11 AM

u

do pairs.

Uchha F...

~~MARK~~  
MON.  
once month

We are more sensible of what is done against custom  
than against Nature." Plutarch





Oct '1951

"Her Kacy Farm", Stantons, Va.  
a Swiss ~~chocolate~~ chocolate  
right in the middle of Va.)  
wonder if I can move it to  
Hawaii where it would be  
easier to keep!?

Best wishes  
Laurie Lawrence

Ms. Laura Lawrence,  
Harkway Farm R+D #1  
Waverly, Va. 22186

OCT 30 '81

Dear Mr. Balogh,

Thank you for writing to me, especially after being as busy as you are. I am very happy and excited to find out "who" you really are, and some of the wonderful things you are doing. How I do envy you, and others like you. How interesting, and satisfying your lines must be. I wish there was a way I could volunteer to join "you-all" on the "front lines" with your meaningful research, and work against the evils, which are essentially, caused by the successful over population of "man" on this earth. ("With man, most of his misfortunes are occasioned by man")

Patient friend, I'm not sure how to write the rest of this letter, as I really don't know what is "going on", or quite what to say. You see, I've been quite sick the past few weeks. It has something to do with the cancer treatments I had, and the lowering of my resistance to certain viruses. I can hardly believe how strong, and how well I ~~was~~ felt just a short while ago. And now when I look at the beautiful photos of Hawaii, I just cry. I will return to "John Hopkins Hosp" Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, and at that time I should probably know much more as a result of numerous tests already taken. So, as you might understand, I am a little afraid to make any definite "big plans" just now, when I'm not sure when I'll be able to travel "that far" again. But of course, any information that would be useful for a future trip would be very helpful to have and study, as it would be something exciting to look forward to. It would be so pleasurable to learn more about what you are doing, about Hawaii, etc.  
over (insaving precious lined paper) >

I suppose you already know, I don't have "lost my heart"  
to Hawaii, and I will return again some how.

Yes, the farm my father left to me is unusually beautiful,  
and I have fought long and hard to keep it, and preserve  
it, but it is also a bit of a "gilded cage". - ("It is indeed  
a desirable thing to be well descended, but the glory belongs  
to our ancestors.")

As a cold wind blows the last of the golden leaves  
from the trees past my window, I realize I luckily  
have most every thing money can buy, and yet I feel  
so very lost and alone. The truth is, I have many  
wonderful friends, yet I have no brothers, <sup>(I'm an only child)</sup> no sisters, no family  
here. I now live alone as my "ex beau", was only trying  
to borrow as much money as he could from me, while he  
lived in and watched over my home. Thinking I was going to die,  
he "used" me well, and I gave him all he asked for to help  
him, until I got well enough to "catch on", call the police,  
and alert my lawyers - but that is "water under the bridge".  
My friends tell me I'm just too innocent, and too trusting,  
but I still want to share, and I still want to give, so very  
much. I don't drink alcohol, and I don't smoke, and  
never have, as a personal choice. I've always tried  
to be "good", however, just now I begin to wonder  
where it ~~etc~~ will all lead to.

Whilst I pull the bed cover up for more warmth,  
I think about the warm "Hawaiian" sun shine,  
one man, armed with my trusty underwater camera

I remember swimming around "Lahaina", trying to get the most beautiful fish I've ever seen, to "pose" and "smile", against the proper background, for the perfect photo! There were many fish I saw whose identification could not be found in my little fish book, nor had I seen anything like them while exploring the B.W.I. There is so much to learn about!

And now, wonderful dreams come to me. How ~~amazing~~ miraculous it would be to be "adopted" (as a paying guest) by some kind, interesting family who lives (like say) near a beautiful protected beach (maybe even with a house or two) on the I. of Maui. Once I had a "family", and a secure place to live, I could visit there during the coldest months of the year, say for a month during Jan-Feb. at first. Then once there, there would be time enough to try and learn and study, what really is going on, about whales, and of course about turtles. I would dearly love to learn enough to do some research for you. I would go off and "tag turtle toes", or "interview" any sea tortoise too, if it would help save them. I would even pay money for such a special privilege, but as you might already guess, most everything I have will go to different conservation efforts anyway - But I just don't know how to give to all the conservation efforts there are in the world.

Truly, I do love turtles, and have been worried about their future for quite a while. Especially since I saw so many captured turtles off the coast of Yucatan in those round sea pens. I did enjoy swimming with them, and learning to hitch a ride by holding on to their shells, but my blood ran cold when I saw the many carved tortoise shells all  
(over →)

for sale. I do hope the "Padre Island" nesting  
project will be a success.

Some day, when you have the time, you must  
tell me how you came to be president of the H.A.S. •  
In the meanwhile, I hope all is well with you and  
yours, and that your research will continue to be a  
benefit to the world.

Thank you again for of your kindness, and  
correspondence and information which has brought  
me much pleasure -

Best wishes and aloha,

Laura Lawrence

# PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

*Token  
4 dups  
sent 12-2-81*



PACIFIC PUBLICATIONS (AUST.) PTY. LTD.  
76-78 CLARENCE STREET, SYDNEY, NSW, 2000 AUSTRALIA  
Address all correspondence to: THE MANAGER, GPO Box 3408  
SYDNEY, NSW, 2001, AUSTRALIA.  
TELEPHONE: (02) 29 6693. TELEX: Pacpub 21242.  
CABLES: PACPUB, Sydney.

20 March 1981

Mr George H Balazs  
992A Awaawaanoa Place  
HONOLULU, Hawaii  
USA 96825

Dear Mr Balazs

We are always interested to hear from photographers with material which may be suitable for our covers. However, in fairness, we must inform you that the fee we pay is not very high compared with many publications (it is usually \$30 Australian) and we receive large numbers of submitted pictures although our requirements are only 12 a year.

Our usual subjects, as you will have noticed, are what might be called 'ethnic' - Pacific women or men in cultural or tribal dress against an Island background. This type of picture forms the bulk of the material submitted to us.

From time to time, however, we try to get something different and it occurs to us that your profession as a marine biologist might provide a source of something different. A colourful underwater picture of coral or fish might be a subject in point. Really good Pacific Island scenic pictures (as opposed to Pacific Island people pictures) have also been a bit light in supply in recent months.

For processing purposes we prefer positive transparencies (35mm or 2 1/4 square) but we can work from colour prints if necessary provided they are of good quality.

Thank you for your inquiry and we look forward to hearing from you again.

Yours sincerely

Angus Smales  
EDITOR

Need  
recast letter  
to Scott  
+ Aquaculture

November 25, 1981

Dear *George*

This is to let you know, as an officer of the Turtle Specialist group, the outcome of my grant application for work on sex ratio to IUCN. Finally, after 3 years and many inquiries on my part I received the enclosed indicating "not approved." There are no referees reports or reasons given.

I am not asserting that this project should necessarily have been funded. I am not aware of what it might be competing with etc. But I do hope it was properly reviewed; and there is something much amiss with the system when, despite IUCN asserting in its bulletin that project screening has been re-organized, it takes 3 years for an answer.

If I had more time, I would write to the Press about the way IUCN runs its affairs and destroys goodwill (my application is not the only case, as you know,) but for the moment I will just write to you, urging that you do what you can to have turtle projects more satisfactorily dealt with. When I was Co-Chairman, I always got my evaluations back to IUCN within a few days. I expect you do usually and the delays are with IUCN.

Yours sincerely,



Nicholas Mrosovsky

cc. Carr  
Balazs

encl.

NM/jr



University of Toronto

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

RAMSAY WRIGHT ZOOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
25 HARBORD STREET  
TORONTO M5S 1A1, ONTARIO, CANADA

October 20, 1981

Mr. R. Scott  
IUCN/WWF  
1196 GLAND  
Switzerland

12/11/81

Nick:

Project was not approved.

R. Scott

Dear Bob,

I still have received no reply from IUCN concerning my grant application on sex ratio in sea turtles, nor to the last in my series of letters asking what has been decided. Please could you deal with this matter; It is more than 3 years ago since the application first went in and I still have not heard anything despite a number of inquiries on my part, and despite your verbal assurance to me in 1979 that you would look into the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Nicholas

Nicholas Mrosovsky.



cc. Carr  
Balazs

University of Toronto

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

RAMSAY WRIGHT ZOOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
25 HARBORD STREET  
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1196 GLAND  
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Yours sincerely,

Nicholas Mrosovsky.

cc. Carr  
Balazs

D. J. G. Griffin, Director

the australian museum  
sydney

25 November, 1981.

Dr G.H. Balazs,  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
P.O. Box 1346  
Coconut Island Kaneohe,  
Hawaii 96744

Dear Dr Balazs,

Many thanks for your note of 12 November and for the set of postcards. The latter are very attractive and will, I hope, prove very popular.

With all best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



H.G. Cogger  
Deputy Director

HGC;kb

6-8 College Street  
Telephone: 339-8111 Cable: MUSEUM  
PO Box A285 Sydney South, NSW 2000



*Sent  
12-6-81*

26th November, 1981

Dr George Balazs,  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology,  
P.O. Box 1346, Coconut Island,  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear Dr. Balazs,

As part of an enlarged and revised edition of the IUCN Red Data Book (RDB) on rare and threatened amphibians and reptiles, we are producing a volume dealing with crocodylians and chelonians. This is now nearing completion.

We had hoped that a volume of the Proceedings of the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation, Washington D.C. November 1979, would be published in time for us to consult it, however, this now seems unlikely.

We would particularly like to refer to the paper you gave on 'Growth Rates of Wild Sea Turtles' and wondered whether it would be possible for you to send us a copy. We would be most grateful for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

*Brian Groombridge*

Dr. B. Groombridge  
Compiler  
Amphibia-Reptilia Red Data Book

*Lissie Wright*

Lissie Wright  
Technical Assistant

*Please secure 'circular' format  
of this letter!*

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY  
223 BARTRAM HALL  
904-392-1107

2 December 1981

Biol. Rene Marquez M.  
Apartado Postal 79-052  
Col. Doctores  
Mexico 7, D.F.  
Mexico

Dear Rene:

I wanted to write you a short note to congratulate you on having influenced your postal service to issue a series of sea turtle stamps. George Balaza just told me the good news. I have always admired the lovely stamps your country produces, and I am sure the turtle stamps will be beautiful. I look forward to seeing them.

I hope you are well and that you enjoy a good Christmas and New Year.

Best regards,

*KAREN*

Karen Bjorndal  
Postdoctoral Research Associate

*a little bit  
further in so  
far behind!*

# FAUNA PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Patron Her Majesty the Queen

c/o ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON REGENT'S PARK LONDON NW1 4RY

Tel 01-586 0872

Cables: Faunaxoc London NW1

President Professor Lord Zuckerman OM KCB DSc FRB

Honorary Secretary R S R Fitter

Chairman of Council Sir Peter Scott CBE DSC

Editor of Oryx Mrs M S Fitter

11. 11. 81

Dear George

Many thanks for the cuttings -  
I particularly like the mahimahi  
story - though I had never heard  
of a mahimahi - obviously a  
large fish.

I had half hoped we would  
see you - New Zealand - though  
I hesitate to suggest it might be  
anywhere "near" Hawaii!

I hope you got a copy of Oryx  
with your Fern island photo  
in it

Yours

Maimi

FAUNA PRESERVATION SOCIETY

THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

FIRST FOLD HERE

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

FAUNA PRESERVATION SOCIETY  
c/o ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON  
REGENT'S PARK  
LONDON NW1 4RY  
ENGLAND



AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN  
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 SURCHARGED OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

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 A Dickinson Robinson Group Product  
 Form approved by the Post Office (United Kingdom) No. 1.

SECOND FOLD HERE

BY AIRMAIL  
 AIR LETTER



RETURN

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
OFFICE OF ENDANGERED SPECIES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

George:

Thanks for the postcards! Enclosed are  
the copies that you requested; more can be  
obtained from:

Office of Public Affairs  
Publications Unit  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Washington D.C. 20240

The letters on the hawkbill had the result of  
dislodging it from OES so it should be at  
the Solicitor's. We'll see what happens.

Ken.

Bill-

Write to this address  
if you want more.  
Or maybe Rob S. can  
send you a supply -



louis henry

foies  
gras

B.P. 456  
62009 STRASBOURG  
TEL: (88) 35 88 41  
TELEX 870 716 FIOUS  
COP 1933 67 - STRASBOURG

Mr. SCOTT L. ANDERSON  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Po Box 3830  
HONOLULU - Hawaii 96812  
USA

YH/ab/1190

Strasbourg, November 18th, 1981


Dear Mr. Anderson,

We refer to your letter of November 9th, and inform you that the type of turtle used in our product "soupe de tortue" is calipee (origin : turtles farming - Reunion).

We hope this information will be helpful to you, and remain,

Very truly Yours

LOUIS HENRY

  
Jean Pierre LEROUX  
Export Manager

Donna  
HSTS  
&  
Abstracts  
11-5-81



GIRL SCOUTS

October 28, 1981

Dr. George H. Balazs  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
Coconut Island  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear Dr. Balazs:

Would you please send me a copy of the following paper which you presented at the Pacific Island Ecosystem Workshop:

"Status of Sea Turtles in the Hawaiian Islands"

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Donna L. Nye

Donna L. Nye  
Program Specialist  
Elliott Wildlife Project

DLN:kjs



# INSTITUT OcéANOGRAPHIQUE

FONDATION ALBERT 1<sup>er</sup>, PRINCE DE MONACO

RECONNU D'UTILITÉ PUBLIQUE

Téléphone: 30-21-54  
30-13-14

Monaco-Ville, October 27, 1981

Our ref. DOC Tâp 81/474  
(JCL/cp)

Dr. George H. BALAZS  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Southwest Fisheries Centre  
HONOLULU, Hi 96822  
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Balazs,

I would greatly appreciate receiving 1 copy (~~ies~~) of  
your publication entitled:

- Synopsis of Biological Data on the Green Turtle in the Hawaiian Islands.  
Oct. 1980.

which appeared in:

I would be very grateful if you could kindly send me  
any other of your papers relating to this subject.

Thanking you in advance for your courtesy, I am,  
Yours faithfully.

Mrs J. Carpine-Lancre  
Head Librarian

*+ Bio. Cons.  
Cons. St. (eng. + Fr.)*

Please forward to:

Musée océanographique (bibliothèque)  
Avenue Saint-Martin  
MC - MONACO-VILLE (Principauté de Monaco)

Dear George -

10/NOV '81

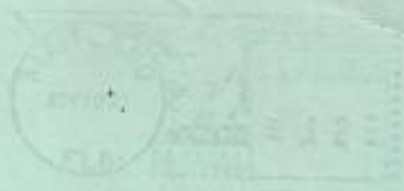
Thanks so much for sending the postcards, which are excellent. I look forward to seeing the rest of the series when they are ready. We are currently doing a main ~~series~~ turtle poster for NMS which will be in the series with their main manual and fish posters. Our artwork should be ready in a few weeks but I am not sure how long printing will take.

Regards to the family & colleagues,  
Peter P.

Since 1900, The Voice of Conservation.

**Florida Audubon Society**

(305) 647-2615 • P. O. Drawer 7 • Maitland, Florida 32751



Dr. George Balazs  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
P.O. Box 1346  
Crown Point Island  
KANEHOE  
Hawaii 96744



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

POST OFFICE BOX 1306  
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87103

SE

November 9, 1981

George Balaza  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
Box 1346, Coconut Island  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

George:

Thanks much for copies of the final product--the cards look great. What about ridleys and loggerheads? Are they or will they be done? Also, if I managed to scrape up a few bucks of my own for 500, could I get a mix of all of them or would I have to hit you for the green and hawksbill and Chelonia for the other?

I am leaving today for Michoacan, Mexico, to spend a week or so with Clifton and his project. I hope to have an opportunity to check out the leatherback areas further south that Rene reported and which Peter elaborated on.

Kim is using the All-Flex plastic tags as well as the monel--double tagging. I want to set up some temperature monitoring of the natural nests as well as those he places in corrals to try and determine the sex ratios being produced. From what I gather, the remaining greens are laying in areas with overhead vegetative cover. Whether this is natural for the population as a whole or reflective of exploitation which removed the open beach nesters first, due to their accessibility/visibility, is unknown. I would suspect that those animals nesting under cover are producing at least 80 percent males. This was the case in Costa Rica--shade produced males--open beach produced females.

The eggs he buys and transplants into corrals could be anything, depending on depth, slope, exposure, etc. I'd like to establish the "norm" of the natural nests and then find out what our "protection" efforts are doing. If Kim wasn't there, there wouldn't be any greens left to worry about, so it can't be too bad, but maybe we can make some improvements.

Svarez

Sad  
tagging MS

Did you know Jack Frazier has a contract from us and NMFS to develop an aging technique for sea turtles? So far he hasn't come up with much; one of his major problems is getting his hands on known age material for comparison purposes.

Thanks again and keep in touch.

Sincerely,

Jack

(FROM PAGE 3):

4. Do you still believe green turtles take 30+ years to mature?  
Has any hard data been published on growth rates - (This subject repeatedly comes up in conversations here.)

22 OCT 81

Dear George:

Thank you for your two letters. As usual I thoroughly enjoyed seeing what is new in the sea turtle world.

Things at my end are very hectic at the moment, but I am enjoying the job immensely. Next week I leave for Reunion where I will spend four days before heading off to Tromelin for 10 days. Should be interesting. I plan to take many photos of young ( $\approx$  1 yr old) turtles from top + bottom.

I will then be in Mahé for about a week after returning, then I'm off to Cosmoledo for 2 months, then on to Aldabra for 2 months. That will take me to the end of March.

I would like to get your opinion on the following:  
At the moment, the size limit for the take of hawksbill is that the turtles must be over 24". <sup>besides</sup> Beyond that there is virtually no limit. Females can <sup>even</sup> be turned on the beach. Obviously the law needs modifying, but when I make recommendations I have to be sure the new laws will be enforceable. For several years conservationists here have wanted to turn the size limit around so that only turtles under 24" would be taken. This would 1 protect the older more valuable animals 2 make it so that people would have to catch turtles in the sea (rather than on the beach) 3 make which is more difficult + inefficient 3 protect the nesting females. Of course, you run into



The problem of losing credibility when you do an about-face like that.

Now, we may have hit on something. I would like to get some outside opinions though. People here, in particular the President, are very keen on the idea of the ranching hawksbills. As you know, I am not. However, the President has gone so far as set up tanks on one of the islands where young hawksbills can be reared. Of course, if you have to wait until your turtles are 24" before you can legally butcher them you have problems. If ranching were to be encouraged and at the same time a maximum size limit for set for the tanks of wild turtles the population might be better off. When I talk about ranching I am thinking in terms of a relatively small scale operation - i.e.  $\leq 30$  individuals per "ranch." I am doubtful about the economic viability of little ranches like that, but it might work out for the overall benefit of the turtles. Some of those in the higher echelons of the power structure are, apparently amenable to this kind of policy. What do you think??

I am still sort of ignorant about the legal aspects of CITES, appendix I + II, etc. (Perhaps it is a subconscious aversion stemming from the fact that both my parents are lawyers.) Please answer the following questions for me:

1. Who decides which species fall into Appendix I+II; is it the country of the animal's origin, or is it an outside unbiased panel?
2. I assume that IUCN is unlikely to legally condone the ranching of hawksbills, even in a place like Seychelles which has "lots." (Someone here suggested that IUCN might come to like the idea of ranching in Seychelles and make it not an infringement of the CITES agreement. I told them I doubted it but that I would check.) What is the position of IUCN nowadays with regard to ranching?
3. Could I also ask you to send me any information you might have on specifically why the Torres Strait Ranch failed, and also exactly why Cayman farms went bankrupt again. People are always so optimistic about how easy it is to raise sea turtles in captivity + I need some hard ~~facts~~ facts to counter them.
4. SEE PAGE #1

I look forward to hearing from you. Thanks alot.

Best regards,

Teane

P.S. the President is very powerful and if he makes up his mind about a policy it is likely to be enforced. Right now it is illegal for anyone but the State to export ~~or~~ hawkbill shell. The government here is very Socialist.

1. Who should submit papers for the Affinity 1-11  
 is to the court of the award's scope, as to the  
 extent, and not formal.

2. I assume that the process is entitled to largely  
 consider the handling of documents, but as a plan  
 the Seychelles rules for "law" (Government  
 suggested that I can refer to the list of the  
 names of Seychelles and make of other references  
 of the CITE documents. I take that I should be  
 that I would check. What is the feeling  
 of I can mention with regard to names.

3. Only I also ask you to look in any reference you  
 might have or specifically to the Town Streets  
 Road files, and also check my copy from  
 and be sure to refer to the  
 about how easy it is to  
 I need now have for  
 # 3119 252 4

I look forward to hearing from you.

JEANNE MORTIMER  
 c/o DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
 Box 54  
 PORT VICTORIA, MAHE  
 SEYCHELLES

Best regards,  
 Jeanne

2. The President is very generous  
 and of the nature of the award should be held in  
 regard. I hope you do a little for your part to  
 the effort on handling them. The government here is  
 very sensitive.



# United States Department of the Interior

ADDRESS ONLY THE DIRECTOR,  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

In Reply Refer To:  
FWS/OES 920.2B  
OES 1905

NOV - 4 1981

Mr. George H. Balazs  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
P.O. Box 1346, Coconut Island  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear Mr. Balazs:

Thank you for your September 29 letter concerning the establishment of Critical Habitat for the Endangered hawksbill sea turtle in Puerto Rico.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is still in the process of reviewing the draft rulemaking which would establish Critical Habitat for the species, and the answers to your questions, therefore, are presently unavailable. Action on this matter should be taken in the near future.

We appreciate your concern.

Sincerely yours,

Deputy Associate Director



Colln J. Limpus

Home: P.O. Box 189  
Aitkenvale  
Townsville, 4814  
Australia  
Telephone 73-2674

Business: National Parks and Wildlife Service  
Pallarenda  
Townsville, 4810  
Australia  
Telephone 74-1411

17 Sept, 1981

Dear George,

Re kangaroo meat: That is a plot to put more bounce in your life.

Re "tumors" on turtles: yes they occur infrequently on greens, loggerheads and flatbacks in my area. I had some from <sup>Caretta</sup> checked out by pathology but no pathogens identified.

Enclosed is a draft of a paper I presented a week ago to a symposium on the Capricornia section of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. It is suggesting ideas about the functioning of turtle populations in this area with ~~many~~ numerous turtle rookeries. It is also contrary to the ideas of H.R.B. . We currently have a program running to investigate these ideas further and the in-depth data analysis will come then. In the mean time I would appreciate your ~~some~~ comments on the paper - it is in press with Proc. Roy. Soc. Qld.

You never replied to my request for ideas re Titanium. I have been given a small grant to have a trial batch made up to test on my turtles. The titanium sheeting was supposed to have already arrived about 2 weeks ago and I'm waiting on the tags.

Re the National Geographic photos of tagged loggerhead. Almost every loggerhead on that reef has been carrying a tag for several years now. The local divers don't get excited over

D. J. G. Griffin, Director

*cards sent  
11-12-81*

**the australian museum  
sydney**

HGC/AT

13th April, 1981.

Dr. George H. Balazs,  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology,  
University of Hawaii at Manoa,  
P.O. Box 1346,  
COCONUT ISLAND. KANEHOE,  
HAWAII. 96744.

Dear Dr. Balazs,

Thank you for your letter of 24 March and for the reprints which had arrived a few days earlier. These are very welcome additions to our library.

Thanks, too, for the return of my slide. I'm glad that you were able to find a suitable photograph.

With all best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

  
H.G. Cogger,  
Deputy Director.

6-8 College Street  
Telephone: 339-8111 Cable: MUSEUM  
PO Box A285 Sydney South, NSW 2000



1601 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009

TELEPHONE: (202) 387-0800  
CABLE: PANDAFUND TELEX: 64505

Nov. 4, 1981

Dear George,

When I wrote Steve Cornelius  
I quoted the two questions  
you raised about the Olive  
Ridley project (anonymously).  
As you see from his reply, he  
would like to have direct  
contact with you. His  
address in Costa Rica is  
on the letter head.

Best regards  
Wancy Hammond  
◀

29 October 1981

Ms. Nancy E. Hammond  
Program Administrator  
World Wildlife Fund-U.S.  
1601 Connecticut Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20009  
E.E.U.U.

Dear Nancy:

Thank you for your letter of 8 October. The first of the two suggestions from the outside reviewer has been in our plan from the beginning. I will have a tape copy in the U.S. of all tag records. We should have made that clear in the proposal.

The second suggestion regarding the use of smaller size tags is being considered. Upon my return I intend to contact the tag company and see whether the smaller tag can be modified to include the bridge-less locking mechanism which was special order on our present tags and which we consider a great improvement over the old design used for years throughout the world. I would like to be placed in contact with the reviewer who made the suggestions, if possible.

I recently received the good news from Jack Woody. That was the first hurdle. Now we'll await the second in December. We have not received any other funding to date.

The question raised by your staff as to how long we see this project continuing is pertinent. No other country in the world has the sea turtle resources (both diversity and quantity) of Costa Rica. With the largest green turtle population in the Caribbean nesting at Tortuguero, sizable leatherback populations at Matina (Caribbean) and at several Pacific coast beaches, hawksbill along both coasts, green turtle at many locations on the Pacific, besides the huge ridley populations at Nancite and Ostional, it is singularly puzzling that there is not a position of sea turtle biologist in the government nor any government sponsored research activity. We hope that one of the results of our project will be to produce the qualified and interested personnel and persuade the appropriate agencies to plan for such a position in the budgets. Ours is, in its basic design and goal, a long-term program. Any tagging program needs to be so. Doug Robinson is a permanent resident of C.R., has been for 15 years and will most certainly remain at his present university position for many years to come, lending continuity to this endeavor. I have self-imposed a five-year limit on my role here, although I will continue to be involved in data analysis, publications etc. I feel that after that period (3 years to go) Robinson, his students and former students, hopefully placed in either direct government employment or acting as a corps of qualified technical consultants, will be able to carry on these investigations with internal funding.



This optimistic plan has one potential problem (one major one, that is). The flaw grows increasingly more serious with each day and concerns the economic crises here. Costa Rica is bankrupt in a most desperate way (both public and private sectors). Its ability to pick up the tab for future sea turtle research will depend heavily on how well the government stabilizes the situation and whether a reevaluation of natural resource expenditures is conducted which would allocate the funds that these large and diverse populations warrant. We will continue to lobby for this.

If this question arises during the project evaluation at your December meeting and an additional clarification is requested please contact me at my home address. If everything goes according to plan I should be there by then or very shortly thereafter.

This year has been a great success. Nesting aggregations continue to be large at both beaches. Tagging has been facilitated by fairly regular monthly emergences. We have applied all tags allocated for Ostional (5000) and have 8000 of the scheduled 10000 behind us at Nancite. About 3000 reobservations have been recorded to date at the nesting beaches (turtles tagged in both 1980 and 1981) and we have received tags from 6 foreign countries plus several oceanic locations.

The National Parks Service continues to treat the project with special interest. This is one agency which recognizes the importance of sea turtles but unfortunately can ill-afford to assign a biologist full-time to the project. All trained biologists are presently performing administrative functions.

Once again, thank you for the letter and I look forward to talking with you in about 6 weeks.

Sincerely yours,

Steve

Steve Cornelius

xc: Robinson



1601 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009  
CABLE: PANDAFUND TELEX: 64505  
TELEPHONE: (202) 387-0800

October 8, 1981

Dr. George H. Balazs  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
Box 1346  
Cocunut Island  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear George:

Thanks very much for your comments on the Steve Cornelius/Doug Robinson proposal. I will pass on your two suggestions to them.

I appreciated the comments in your handwritten note. When we have funded work in the past, I generally do send past reports as well as new proposals to reviewers. We have never funded Steve's and Doug's work before. I like your idea of letting reviewers know about proposals they have reviewed and will make a point of doing this in the future. It might also be worthwhile to ask reviewers if they care to receive new reports as they become available. It would certainly help us to have comments on reports, but I hate to overburden people who probably already get more paper than they want.

I hope the visit to the Tokelau Islands comes off without further delay. I'll look forward to hearing from you when you get back.

Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy".

Nancy E. Hammond  
Program Administrator

NEH/fkr  
10/8/81

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY  
223 BARTRAM HALL  
904-392-1107

8 October 1981

Dear George:

How time flies these days! Sorry to be so long in writing. Peter and I had a great vacation in Switzerland, but getting back to the stacks (or room-fulls, as the case may be) of undone work is harrowing, to say the least.

First of all, I'm really sorry about the way things went with the Australian MTG meeting. Dr. Carr is hard to figure out on matters like that, other than I know he hates international meetings, anyway, and he hates them particularly when he has to be involved in organizing them. Once they happen, I think he half-way enjoys them. I really hope you don't have any hard feelings about it. Colin, either. Maybe, we can get things rolling for a meeting in 1982.

Concerning A. Hohn of SW Fisheries Center in La Jolla, I'm afraid I've never heard of her. Presumably, she's involved in aging studies?

Karen brought in the postcards today. They really look great. Congratulations. What are the distribution plans?

Many thanks for all the items you have sent us recently. A good many of them are things we have missed. You seem to have some channels of information that we don't. I found the publication on Japanese greens interesting, especially the diet data. The tagging information reminded me of Marquez' data for Pacific Mexico! Unintelligible.

While we were in Switzerland, I paid a call to Gland, principally to meet my project manager, Sylvia Guignard. I spent the whole day there talking with various people - Robert Scott, the supervisor of Latin American projects, the film librarian, etc. I was amazed how informed <sup>they</sup> were, at least superficially, of events in the turtle world. They were asking me my opinion of Pritchard, Lescure and Fretey, Reichart, and Clifton. I guess all have projects with them. They seem to follow rather closely who's doing what, and how well, in a conservation sense. Incidentally, as I passed Scott's door, I noticed him laboring over a letter from George Balazs. I'd know that stationery anywhere. He explained the new feedback process on projects. Sounds good, if reviewers really will take on the additional work.

I was impressed with their film library, and their function as a center of wildlife p.r. I met the man who put together the Turtles in Danger slide show. He is very eager to help with public education projects for marine turtles. They have a small press that can crack off reasonably sized posters, as well as brochures. He said they would be happy to do small test runs, and would be happy to help develop new ideas. He and Sylvia were keen to have a copy of the

Frick turtle film, and I sent one for their library as soon as I got home. They planned to take it to show at the New Zealand meeting. You might want to keep them in mind for the future.

Well, I have 14,000 pounds of sponges waiting for me upstairs. Have to go. I'll try to keep in touch a little better. I plan to remain sedentary for a while.

Best regards,

Anne



PROGRAMA TORTUGAS MARINAS  
INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE PESCA

FECHA 25 de agosto de 1981.

ASUNTO

BIOL. GEORGE H. BALAZS.  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA.  
HAWAII INSTITUTE OF MARINE BIOLOGY  
P.D.Box 1346  
Coconut Island  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744  
U.S.A.

Dear George:

For your information, here in México soon will appear ~~at the~~ stamps on sea turtles themes, the first one will be related to the Hawksbill, I - hope, they will be making a complete set on sea turtles.

When they will be availables I will send you - copies for the others members of the sea turtle group.

Cordially



Biól. RENE MARQUEZ M.

Center for  
Environmental  
Education

September 29, 1981.

George Balozs  
University of Hawaii at  
Manoa  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
P.O. Box 1346  
Keneohe, Hawaii 96744

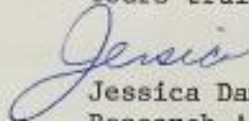
Dear George Balazs,

I apologize for our oversight about sending you copies of the Seal Report. Apparently, there was some "breakdown in communication" regarding who was responsible for mailing copies of the report.

Nonetheless, I hope the enclosed copies are sufficient. Please feel free to ask for more if necessary.

Thank you for all your help for not only the Seal Report, but the other work we have been doing on behalf of Hawaiian monk seals and sea turtles.

Yours truly,



Jessica Damen  
Research Assistant

George:

16 October 1981

Had some time on my hands, so thought I'd rip off a letter to you to tell ya how I am. Have put about 9500 miles on the car traveling from San Francisco to Philadelphia with no particular problems. Though, while on a second trip to New York City, I had the misfortune of being stopped by a "toll bridge" police officer for New York - New Jersey and had my car impounded and towed-away for two hours. Also got "frisked", body search and rode in the back of a police car - All because I still had "dealer license plates" on my new car and not 'OFFICIAL' license plates. (They are being mailed to me from San Francisco) Boy, are NY cops inconsiderate and assinine, real assholes! They wouldn't accept any explanations, and just wanted to tow the car away - they couldn't rationalize driving a car from Calif. w/out plates or registration. ② I bought a new '81 Honda Accord in S.F. Calif in mid August, and the plates had not been issued before I left to Canada. As soon as information from Calif. police showed the car to be in my name and not stolen, they let me and my friend go. Great way to treat a tourist in N.Y. I'll get my revenge sometime in Hawaii, Eh? This past week took the Greyhound bus to Washington, DC to visit the Museum of Natural History. Very elaborate exhibits including ones on sea turtles (REPTILE SECTION) that included a skeletal leatherback and green turtle. Spent about 2 days in this museum before

going back to Philadelphia. Washington is interesting but not my type of city, and New York City has all types of stimulating experiences to scintillate and excite all your wildest dreams. A "fun" city!! Only got picked up twice by ladies on the street - "Want a date?" Ha!!! As soon as the license plates arrive from Calif. will start heading south and then west. Weather has been relatively mild (40-60°, clear) but Canada has turned colder - I had a few mornings of frost where the windshield glass had a thin coat of ice and even the tent was covered (condensation drops that froze) Time to head back home, it's getting too cold for this island boy.

Thanks for the mail and the T-shirt, I wear a lot of sweaters these days and long pants, so people rarely see "Hawaii" logos. How's everyone out at HMB? Please say "Hi" to them for me and tell them I am safe. Pres. Reagan was in town yesterday (Philly) when I was in town - lots of police, demonstrators camera crews and such. Big-time politics!! Traveling so far in the US has shown me that these eastern cities are worse off than Hawaii and I hope Hawaii will be able to deal with urban problems - unemployment, crime, traffic, and such. Will keep in touch later with more info. Hope you enjoy the postcards - you have them already - but use them for your files. Newspaper article is helpful. Give a smile to Linda and Christian for me please. See ya later, a former employee of yours - me. 🍌



Dear MR. George Balazs:

I have just returned from Indonesia sea turtle research. I went there from middle of September to 15th October.

I studied present status of green turtle in Indonesia, especially in Bali Island.

In Bali Is., the turtle killed about 300 tons in a year. (about 3000-4000 head.)

Thank you very much for your interesting clipping. I was very glad to see them. with best regards

Sincerely,  
from Japan, ITARU UCHIDA

Barota, sarung dengan latar belakang Candi Prambanan  
Jawa Tengah.  
Cow cart with temple Candi Prambanan at background.  
Central Java

Oct/17/81

POST CARD



By air mail

MR. GEORGE BALAZS

% U.S. DEPT OF COMMERCE

~~2590 DOLE STREET~~

P.O. BOX 3830

HONOLULU HAWAII

96812.

U. S. A

PS-G09



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY  
223 BARTRAM HALL  
904-392-1107

14 Sept 81

Dear George -

Just a quick note to accompany these posters - thought you might like them for your collection - rolled, not folded! Jose Ottenwaldes sent some to us. Many many thanks for the Pakistan turtle stamp - that's so nice of you to think of me. Trying to get my ruminant nutrition work off the ground while keeping up with my turtle work - both marine & freshwater - is about to kill me. I wish I had more of your energy. We just received a Tort tag from Cuba - always exciting. Thanks for your mailing label. Give my regards to Linda - I hope she is totally recovered. Letter will be sent.

CABLE ADDRESS :

" SOUTHPACOM " NOUMEA  
TELEPHONE : 26.20.00  
TELEX : SOPACOM 139 NM

ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE :

" SOUTHPACOM " NOUMEA  
TELEPHONE : 26.20.00  
TELEX : SOPACOM 139 NM

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION  
POST BOX D5  
NOUMEA CEDEX  
NEW CALEDONIA



COMMISSION DU PACIFIQUE SUD  
BOITE POSTALE D5  
NOUMEA CEDEX  
NOUVELLE-CALEDONIE

*In reply, please quote* PRO 7/3/14  
PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO PRO 7/3/26  
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

7 October 1981

Mr George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
P.O. Box 1346  
Coconut Island  
KANEOHE  
Hawaii. 96744

Dear George,

During the recent SPC Regional Fisheries Meeting I had the opportunity to speak with Richard Shomura who mentioned that you had made a tremendous breakthrough in your turtle research since you had developed a viable tagging method based on tissue transplants. I am sure this information would be of great interest to fisheries staff in the Pacific Islands concerned with turtle management and I would therefore like to invite you to write a short note about it for the SPC Fisheries Newsletter. If you have photos available these would of course also be most welcome.

You may remember also that we discussed last year the idea of a map showing "migrations" of tagged turtles in the Pacific Islands. Barney Smith, who took over from Rene as the Fisheries Adviser, also thinks this is a good idea and, if you are able to give us this information, we would most certainly put it in the Newsletter.

I hope your work in Apia and Rose Atoll went well.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Gentle  
Assistant Fisheries Officer

cc: Dr A. Dahl  
Regional Ecological Adviser  
South Pacific Commission  
NOUMEA

MG/emr



## SIND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

P.O. Box No: 3722  
Sind Centre Building  
Stretchen Road,  
Karachi ( Pakistan )

October 15, 1981.

Mr G. H. Balazs,  
University of Hawaii at Manoa,  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology,  
P.O. Box No: 1346,  
Cocomat Island, Kaneohe,  
Hawaii 96744, U. S. A.

Dear Mr Balazs,

Many thanks for your letter of October 2, 1981 and for the lovely photo of the Monk Seal and Turtle. Also, for the reprint.

I enclose twenty more green turtle stamps for you. We are in the process of having marine turtle stickers printed. Would you be interested in receiving some ?

We have investigated the possibility of obtaining a Ph.D. through a University in Pakistan, but unfortunately the response has not been encouraging. The main problem appears to be the lack of " Experts" in this field who would be willing to supervise us. Have you any suggestions to offer with regard to obtaining the degree from a university abroad and doing the field work here ?

The next report for IUCN should be ready soon and I will send it to you for comments .

Many thanks for all your help.

Yours Sincerely,

*Aban Marker Kabraji*

( Mrs Aban Marker Kabraji  
Principal Investigator,  
Marine Turtle Conservation Project,  
Sind Wildlife Management Board,  
P.O. Box No: 3722,  
Karachi ( Pakistan ).

Center for  
Environmental  
Education

October 20, 1981.

Mr. George Balazs  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
P.O. Box 1346  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744


Dear Mr. Balazs,

Thank you for your most recent correspondence regarding Audobon's response to a "Honolulu Star-Bulletin" article. While it is clear from the Audobon's response that its major objective was to clarify Hawaii's territorial sea issue in NWHI, I question why the writer omitted reference to ventures which prove to be ecologically as well as economically feasible. Knowing Audobon's renowned reputation for applying sound ecological principles, it seems inconsistent that such a significant point should be neglected. Perhaps you could clarify my confusion on this question.

We appreciate the correspondence from Audobon regarding the Navy's intention of transferring operations and maintenance from Navy to civilian personnel and also its letter to Svien Fougner regarding availability of monk seal and spiny lobster fishery interaction data. We have also written to the responsible naval officer at Pearl Harbor and plan to talk to lawyers in Washington regarding the question of releasing to the public interaction data obtained during fishing operations.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Linda Evenson  
Seal Rescue Fund

# newscientist

Commonwealth House, 1-19 New Oxford Street, London WC1 ING  
Telex: 9157 48 MAGDIV G  
Switchboard: 01-404 0700

28 September 1981

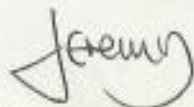
George Balazs  
University of Hawaii  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
Coconut Island  
PO Box 1346  
Kaneohe  
Hawaii 96744  
USA

Dear George

Thank you very much for the copies of the stuff from Michael Bean. I was gratified to see that Bean is aware of, and replied to, the spate of articles in the British Herpetological Society Bulletin. I don't know if you've seen them, but I was advised that I might even have a case against Pickett and Townson. And I don't know whether Bean realises that they are dealers!

Anyway, the material is extremely useful, and will go into my files if I can't make use of it immediately. Thanks again for keeping me up to date. I'm enclosing a copy of something I've been working on lately; hope you enjoy it.

All best wishes



DR JEREMY CHERFAS  
Life Sciences Consultant

Enc.

Oct 8/

George

6 on congratulations on your Tokelau grant; it was funded remarkably quickly. Sounds like a good investment for the future. I had already sent off a letter to Fred Kamemoto, supporting your application. Probably word-of-mouth support from Phil Helfrich and for Ernie Reese would help a lot. If Zoology proves to be difficult you could still apply to Animal Science (or Physiology). The Grad. Div. is the final arbiter and they can be difficult.

I'm enjoying the Line Islands Report - I'd like to keep it a bit longer.

You are wise not to get too bogged down in the Audubon - it can drain away your time from more valuable endeavours.

Aloha

Banding



APPENDIX I - CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING ACCEPTABILITY OF PROJECTS

1. Programme Relevance

The project should fall within the objectives and sub-objectives of IUCN and WWF, as identified in the IUCN Programme document.

This criterion would not, however, exclude the further evaluation of projects which, though relevant to the objectives, nonetheless fall outside current programme sub-objectives. Provided that the subject matter is of demonstrable importance and satisfies the other criteria set out below, the proposals may be accepted, either with a view to immediate funding in emergency situations, or as a proposal for eventual inclusion in the programme.

2. Conservation Achievements (expected conservation results)

There should be a high probability that the project will achieve conservation.

The originator of a project must clearly define the conservation goals of the project and specify by which means the goals will be achieved.

Projects should be directed towards identifying and controlling factors which endanger species and biotic communities or find means for improving their status. (Research projects in particular) will be accepted only if it is clear how they will specifically help to implement conservation goals.

3. Local Support and Effectiveness

The support and advice of local organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, including IUCN members and WWF NOs, should be sought.

National research institutions and universities should be involved in the project, as appropriate.

The project may enhance, but should not duplicate, related activities undertaken by others.

Projects which are likely to lead to changes in resource management should pay due regard to the needs and rights of people who might be directly affected by such changes, and ensure that, wherever possible, local communities should reap benefit from the project.

4. Project Personnel

The project leader must be well-qualified and experienced in the subject concerned. Wherever feasible, IUCN and WWF should draw on expertise available within the region where the project is to be implemented. Fluency in the chief international language of the country is a necessity.

Local experts should, whenever possible, participate in the project. Where suitable local experts are not available, the project should include training of local people as counterparts.

5. Budget

Consultancy fees must be moderate and provision for travel shall be by the most direct and economic route. Appropriate daily subsistence allowances will apply.

Information must be given on other sources approached for funding, as well as on funding already obtained from sources other than IUCN/WWF. The project leader(s) must state if any commitments exist or not to other organizations or bodies during the project period.

In the case of projects dealing with the funding of meetings, specific criteria will be applied, as follows:

- (i) The meeting is intended to produce conservation action, e.g. a government ban on the export of a particular plant or animal product; or indirect conservation action, e.g. an agreed action plan, or an agreed statement on a controversial issue.
- (ii) There is no satisfactory alternative method of achieving the essential aims of the meeting which would consume significantly less resources, e.g. engagement of a consultant who consults all interested parties.
- (iii) Funds are available, or there is reasonable expectation that funds will become available, for essential follow-up to the meeting if required.
- (iv) The proposed meeting participants to be funded are all necessary to accomplish the essential aims of the meeting.
- (v) The chosen venue and duration of the meeting are necessary to accomplish the essential aims of the meeting, and are selected with due regard to economy.
- (vi) It is explicitly demonstrated that lead time, advance distribution of materials, definition of objectives and procedures, and other preparation are adequate to ensure the meeting serves its intended purpose and is as productive as possible.
- (vii) The agenda, timing and arrangements of the meeting are so arranged as to minimise travel and accommodation costs.
- (viii) Related social activities do not add unnecessarily to the cost of the meeting in terms of time or money.
- (ix) Provision is made for an appropriate report to WWF and IUCN to be submitted not later than 2 months following the meeting. In many cases the minutes of the meeting will serve this purpose, but where this is so, the action recommended as an outcome should be clearly identified.



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE

SAVANNAH, GA.

September 29, 1981



REFER TO

FILE: TEC-4:LAB:SV:C:JEH

Mr. George H. Balazs  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
P. O. Box 1346, Coconut Island  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear Mr. Balazs:

This is in response to your letter of September 1, 1981 concerning techniques for identifying canned meat as being derived from sea turtles.

Earlier this year our laboratory was asked to analyze several cosmetic products for the presence of turtle oil. An oil layer was separated from each of the samples by heating and centrifuging. Fatty acid methyl esters were prepared from about 100 milligrams of this layer using a modified ASTM method (D 2800-75). Capillary gas chromatographic profiles of the methyl esters were then prepared using a 30 meter by 0.25 mm i.d. SP 2330 glass capillary column. These profiles were then compared to profiles of turtle oil standards prepared in the same manner. Our results were essentially inconclusive because of the presence of other fatty components other than turtle oil and the possibility of chemical modification of any turtle oil present during the manufacturing process.

Two others who may be able to assist you with this problem are: Thomas Groverno, U. S. Customs Service Laboratory, 6 World Trade Center, Code 20867, New York, NY 10048, telephone (212)-466-4595 and Dr. Jean Joseph, National Marine Fishery Service, Box 12607, Charleston, S. C. 29412, telephone (803)-724-4768.

If you have any additional questions or if we can be of further assistance, do not hesitate to contact me, or Mr. J. E. Harrell of my staff.

*C. I. Clements*

C. I. Clements

Send copy  
of Synopsis

KARL W. KENYON  
11990 LAKESIDE PL. N.E.  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98125

25 Sept '81

Dear George:

As I have no information on anything being buried on Southeast I, Pearl & Hermes Reef, I called Gene Kridler to ask him — in order to answer your letter of 18 Sept.

Gene was there first in 1963 & he found no indication that the military had buried anything there. However, they apparently had a tracked vehicle ashore. Perhaps this was to plant the iron wood trees he found growing there. He pulled these all up and destroyed them. This vehicle presumably brought in the mustard seed that started an explosion of that plant.

In 1966 I was there with Gene from 20 to 26 Sept. & covered every inch of the island several times. If anything had been buried there I found no indication of such activity.

We believe that someone is circulating a groundless rumor.

Keep me posted in case you can find anything to the contrary.

Best,  
Karl

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE LABORATORY  
ANCHORAGE FIELD STATION  
4454 BUSINESS PARK BOULEVARD  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503

September 16, 1981

Dr. C. Kenneth Dodd Jr.  
1530 Northgate Square  
Apt. 22B  
Reston, Virginia 22090

Dear Turtle Researcher:

On October 22, 1980, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed to determine Critical Habitat in Puerto Rico for the endangered hawksbill sea turtle, Eretmochelys imbricata. As many of you will recall, this was one of the recommendations of the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation held in Washington D.C. in 1979, and was adopted out of concern for the stability of the nesting habitat on Isla Mona, Isla Culebra, and surrounding smaller islands. The proposal detailed the evidence on which the Critical Habitat was based and further stated "The Service recognizes that areas containing such beaches may qualify for recognition as Critical Habitat as referred to in Section 7 of the Act." As of this date the proposal has not been made final although the comment period ended on January 21, 1981.

On February 23, 1981, the final rule to determine Critical Habitat was finished and ready for FWS approval. Twenty-five comments were received and none opposed the designation. In conjunction with the proposal, an economic analysis conducted by Dr. R. Stanton of OES concluded that there would be no adverse economic impact to local economies from the final rule. However, in order to satisfy Executive Order 12291, a "regulatory analysis" and "determination of effects of rules" had to be prepared. To date, OES has never been given guidelines concerning these determinations. We simply have been preparing what we felt was necessary, sending them to the Office of the Solicitor, only to be returned. There have been at least four versions dealing with the hawksbill final rule.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has now made the decision that no further Critical Habitats will be determined for already listed species. Like so many decisions with regard to environmental policies in the Reagan administration, this decision is not in writing and has not been made public. While this decision will preclude a proposal of Critical Habitat for the green turtle (which I prepared in June 1981) and loggerhead, the effect on the already proposed Critical Habitat of the hawksbill is unknown.

The last time OES tried to pursue the latest determination of regulatory effects, we were told not to bother as the new Service policy precluded a final action. When it was pointed out that the Service would be required to make a public announcement of this decision because it dealt with an active proposal published in the Federal Register, we were told that a decision would be requested from the Solicitor. As yet, no decision has been made and it appears there will be no attempt to secure one in the near future.

The subject of Critical Habitat has been hotly debated. In some cases, it would indeed appear a useless or non beneficial concept. However, with sea turtles and the amount of Federal involvement affecting our shorelines, a Critical Habitat designation may provide a valuable conservation tool to insure the integrity of important nesting beaches. Already the pending Critical Habitat for the hawksbill on Isla Culebrita played an important role in preventing this unique island from being eliminated from the National Wildlife Refuge system.

Being a natural pessimist, or perhaps basing my fears on five years of dealing with a politicized bureaucracy, I believe that Critical Habitat for the hawksbill will be ignored in the hope that Congress will weaken the concept or eliminate it in the March 1982 reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act. Indeed this is already being worked on by a Task Force headed by Vice President Bush dealing with regulatory "reform." Otherwise, I believe the proposal will sit around until the two year expiration date of October, 1982, and then be withdrawn; no one but myself will push the proposal. This must not be allowed to happen.

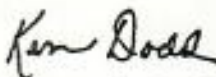
As some of you may realize, there have been no species proposed or added to the U.S. endangered species list since Ronald Reagan took office. Indeed, the only Service listing activities have involved controversial reclassifications of the American alligator and three kangaroos, and the pending reclassification of leopard (to allow import of sport hunting trophies) and peregrine falcon (to allow taking for falconry). These proposals have been backed by powerful and vocal special interest groups who seem to have no trouble getting FWS to act. Unless such happens for the hawksbill, it is clear that no actions will be taken for additional conservation measures for this endangered species.

Consider this letter an appeal. Please write (or better yet use personal contact) the Interior Department (Mr. G. Ray Arnett, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240) and your local, state, and Congressional representatives to press for a resolution to this problem. Unless pressure is applied, these important beaches (and indeed those for greens and loggerheads) may lose an important measure of protection.

"Behold the turtle, he makes progress only when he sticks his neck out"

-J.B. Conant

Sincerely



C. Kenneth Dodd Jr. PhD.

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Members of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group  
FROM: Archie Carr, Chairman  
SUBJECT: Term of Appointment for IUCN Commission Members

Article VIII 2 of the IUCN Statutes and paragraph e) of its implementing regulation define the term of office of all Commission members as:

"The normal term of appointment of Commission members shall be the period between the constitution of the Commission after one ordinary session of the General Assembly and the constitution of the Commission after the next ordinary session of the General Assembly. Members appointed after the constitution of the Commission shall serve for a period between their appointment and the constitution of the Commissions after the next ordinary session of the General Assembly. Members may be reappointed on the expiration of their terms."

The 15th General Assembly of IUCN will be convened in Christchurch, New Zealand 11 to 23 October 1981. In accordance with the statutes and regulations the appointments of the members of the Species Survival Commission, together with its Specialist Groups, will expire at that time. Members may be reappointed, but renomination is not automatic. Regulation g) implementing Article VIII 2 states:

"Once each year, each Commission Chairman shall review with his Commission names of members, correspondents and consultants who have been inactive or unresponsive. Each Commission is empowered to recommend to the Council in the case of members and the Chairman of the Commission in the case of correspondents and consultants the termination of appointments of these individuals."

During General Assembly years, this mandated review of membership takes place during the General Assembly. Therefore some members of the Species Survival Commission and its Specialist Groups may not be reappointed. The final decision is the responsibility of the Commission Chairman and the IUCN Council.

Members who are reappointed will be notified by letter from the Chairman of the Commission, Grenville Lucas, or he may ask Chairmen of Specialist Groups to notify their members.

The purpose of this letter is not to forecast or imply any particular change in Marine Turtle Specialist Group membership. It is simply to remind all members of normal operating procedure within IUCN.

THE FLORIDA STATE MUSEUM  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



the florida  
state museum  
museum road  
university  
of florida  
gainesville  
904/392-1721

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

GEORGE BALAZS -

Remember the assurances Pritchard gave  
us that Suarez was honest in his dealings and  
convinced that what he was doing was in the best  
interest of the turtles.

A UNIVERSITY MUSEUM WITH RESEARCH EMPHASES ON CARIBBEAN NATURAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY  
EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
OFFICE OF ENDANGERED SPECIES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

August 25, 1981

Dear George:

Sorry to not have responded sooner but I have no information that will be of use to you regarding the chemical identification. NMFS was talking about such procedures but I have not seen any results and don't know if the project ever got off the ground. You should contact Fred Berry at the NMFS lab in Miami to see.

By the looks of the latest Marine Turtle Newsletter, the British Herpetological Society Newsletter has become Cayman Turtle Farm's chief mouthpiece. I have ordered the additional "reprints". These CTF people also had meetings last week with the OSA people about lifting the ban on turtle products. I was at the herp meetings in Memphis and did not attend (I wasn't invited either) and as yet do not know the results. Will try to find out though.

No other news at present; we are dead in the water. The hawkbill Critical Habitat final rule is still stalled and I suspect without outside pressure, it will never get through. Perhaps the Marine Turtle Specialist Group should make inquiries.

Kens

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
OFFICE OF ENDANGERED SPECIES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

August 27, 1981

Dear George:

I have been informed that Cayman Turtle Farm has had meetings with G. Ray Arnett (Ass't. Sec. Fish and Wildlife and Parks), Rick Parsons (Wildlife Permit Office) and people in the Office of the Scientific Authority, Department of Commerce, and Department of State concerning turtle farms. The purpose of these meetings is to either get the regulations changed to allow imports or to amend the Endangered Species Act to allow imports. No meetings are being held with conservationists or scientists. We need <sup>to be</sup> a red alert to let Arnett and his stooges <sup>know</sup> that such is not acceptable. Perhaps a FOI request on all minutes, conversations, information presented, verbal agreements etc. Whatever. If we wait too long, we may wake up to find that we have turtle soup all over the place.

Kens

**ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP.**

Date

August 13, 1981

TO: (Name, office symbol, room number, building, Agency/Post)

Initials

Date

1. George Balazs

2.

3.

Room 639, Todd Building  
**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**  
**WASHINGTON, D. C. 20530**

4.

5.

Action	File	Note and Return
Approval	For Clearance	Per Conversation
As Requested	For Correction	Prepare Reply
Circulate	For Your Information	See Me
Comment	Investigate	Signature
Coordination	Justify	

**REMARKS**

Although the attached letter indicates that identification of carned turtle meat is difficult, I'm not sure that creative lawyering won't get us out of the problem. IT would be a good idea if you had the investigative agents of the Assisted United States Attorney contact me before they give up on the case.

DO NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disposals, clearances, and similar actions

FROM: (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post)

Kenneth Berlin, Chief, Wildlife & Marine Resources Sec., Land & Natural Resources Div., U.S. Dept. of Justice

Room No.—Bldg.

Phone No.

724-7352

5041-102

OPTIONAL FORM 41 (Rev. 7-76)  
 Prescribed by GSA  
 FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.206

U. S. Government Printing Office: 1979-221-184/4



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

In Reply Refer To:  
FWS/LE LAB 10-18

29 6 1981

Mr. Kenneth Berlin  
Chief, Wildlife and Marine Resources Section  
Land and Natural Resources Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington D.C. 20530

Ref: 90-8-0-1

Dear Ken:

In reference to your letter of July 31, 1981, regarding the forensic identification of canned green sea turtle meat:

To my knowledge, we do not have a reliable source of forensic expertise to positively identify canned green sea turtle meat. To date, the best source that I have found to identify fresh sea turtle meat is Dr. Sylvia Braddon at National Marine Fisheries in Charleston, South Carolina (FWS 677-4762). The last time I talked with Dr. Braddon, she was still working on a technique to positively identify her meat samples as being sea turtle (as opposed to any other type of visually similar meats)... before she used her electrophoretic techniques to differentiate among the possible types of sea turtle.

The fact that the meat in this instance is canned would add a significant problem to the already difficult identification process: that is, the proteins would almost certainly be denatured by the cooking/canning process--making the specific proteins much more difficult (if not impossible) to identify.

I would add, however, that Dr. Gary Littman of the Sloan-Kettering Cancer Institute in Rye, New York (914-698-1100) is very much interested in this type of work. Dr. Littman and his associates have developed a procedure that may be able to separate and eventually identify protein patterns from cooked meats. This procedure, however, is still in the research stage. Also, Dr. Littman would not be able to perform casework analysis for us due to the time restrictions that such analysis and related testing would place on his work at Sloan-Kettering. It is possible, however, that the technique could be developed to the point where a FWS forensic scientist/technician could perform the analysis and testify. Needless to say, we do not have such a person available to us at this time.

Sincerely yours,

Ken Goddard  
Chief, Branch of Forensic Science  
U.S. FWS-Law Enforcement

LAND & NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
AUG 11 10 49 AM '81  
WILDLIFE SECTION

Museum of Vertebrate Zoology  
University of California  
Berkeley, Ca. 94720

31 August 81

George Balazs  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
University of Hawaii  
P.O. Box 1346  
Coconut Island  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear George:

I got your circular letter recently on identification of cooked sea turtle meat and have a couple of suggestions:

1. Contact, if you haven't already, Sylvia Braddon with NMFS in Charleston who was looking into fresh tissue identification and may have delved into cooked tissue identification.
2. A woman at NMFS, Northeast Fisheries Center, Gloucester Laboratory, Gloucester, MA 01930 had developed a method for identification of cooked crab meats by electrophoresis in the presence of urea (a protein denaturant). I believe they also tried this on fish muscle and it did not work out satisfactorily, so it may or may not be productive for turtle tissue. Since I cannot recall her name at the moment, you might write or call Ron Lundstrom who works there and was very helpful to me on some related issues.

A problem with identifying species from which tissues (cooked or otherwise) originate, by staining electrophoresis gels of various sorts with general protein stains, is you don't really know what you are looking at in the stained bands. By saying that two complex patterns of bands, one from a known sea turtle and another from an unknown, are sufficiently similar to identify the unknown as sea turtle, you in effect are equating similar electrophoretic mobility (under the chosen experimental conditions) with structural identity. While this can be a reasonable working hypothesis in a scientific inquiry, I doubt that it would stand up against a sophisticated attack in court without pursuing it further.

The case could be bolstered considerably by showing similar general protein staining patterns under variety of electrophoresis conditions (variations in pH and buffer strength or composition), or, more effectively, by demonstrating that bands of similar mobility also resemble one another in other properties (molecular weight, enzymatic function, etc.). Therein lies one of the difficulties with canned meat. The high temperature processing has presumably denatured most proteins (changing their properties, fragmenting molecules, etc.) while seasonings (and perhaps other meats) have complicated the mix in unknown ways.

I've talked over the technical problems of cooked meat identification with several NMFS and FWS enforcement people, both when they came to

to me with inquiries like to one you received and when I went to them sometime ago to report the sale of canned turtle meat from Mexico in at least one store in Oakland. The bottom line appears to be that this problem has sufficiently low priority that support isn't available for development and adequate testing of a method (either within their agency or on contract) that would hold up in court.

I suspect the shortest route to an unambiguous identification method would be immunological comparisons of collagen with a radioimmunoassay to maximize sensitivity. In other taxonomic groups, heat-denatured collagen seems to retain a substantial amount of species-specific immunological reactivity. It would not be particularly costly to develop and test, and, once a protocol was defined and antisera prepared in bulk, it might be fairly easy to export the method to clinical laboratories which can be found in any moderate-size city. With modification it might also answer some other forensic questions.

Good luck



William E. Rainey



Colin J. Limpus

Home: P.O. Box 189  
Aitkenvale  
Townsville, 4814  
Australia  
Telephone 73-2674

Business: National Parks and Wildlife Service  
Pallarenda  
Townsville, 4810  
Australia  
Telephone 74-1411

17 July 1981

Dear George,

Trust that all is well with you and the family. The tag recovery rate for you greens is very impressive. My greens still only give about 1% return although my loggerheads and flatbacks give about 30-50% depending on the season. There is still the additional tag loss over and above this.

I've become resigned to not obtaining inconel 625 tags. Have you heard any recent developments on this. What I have organised now is a tag manufacturer in Australia who has offered to make Titanium tags - expensive, \$1/tag. I'm trying to organise some funds for a small order of about 1000 tags to test them against turtles. Can you see a reason for not using Titanium.

You wrote for info on "Robert Jenkins" of Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. He is the desk jockey in Canberra who has had oversight of ANPWS paperwork regarding the grants that they have given my Department for turtle research. He has very limited experience with turtles and is not up with the world literature. He is more involved with crocodiles - has his own field project with them. A good Indian overall but I don't see him becoming a chief.

Thanks for the note on the West Australian incidental turtle catch. I am aware of the problem. I'm currently trying to manoeuvre a senior officer of Western Australian Wildlife and Fisheries Department into becoming involved in Western Australian sea turtles. One disturbing aspect of their scene is the offshore gas and possible oil production in the region of some of the major turtle rookeries (within 140 Km). Am having some problems in obtaining good data from a remote area over 3000 miles from me.

Re: Turtle specialist meeting. I have been unable to contact Archie by phone and he has not written. I can not obtain a commitment from my Department for assistance without a confirmation of the meeting being at the invitation of IUCN. Also I need to know purpose, numbers attending, duration, etc before I can get the act together over here. I have available I believe accommodation at \$22/day including 3 meals (Australian prices) with 2 meeting areas included in a residential college at the local University. Costs may force us to use Townsville rather than Heron Island (about \$400 extra per person in air fares to move from Townsville

to Heron. Townsville is now available for international flights into Australia from U.S.A. and S.E. Asia. Will Archie want access to publication of papers from the conference - in what form?

Some assistance for delegates from developing countries may be obtained for people coming to Australia for training etc. Unfortunately it requires a devious route to get at the funds. The Australian Development Assistance Bureau is the source of funds but all requests for assistance must come from the foreign Government direct (not from me or IUCN or the like). The delegates would have to contact the Australian consul in their area and ask for the necessary information and forms to apply for assistance from the Australian Development Assistance Bureau. I used this source of funds to train a Solomon Islander for 5 months in turtle studies last summer. We are similarly trying to arrange for the training of a Philippines turtle worker this year - without being seen by A.D.A.B. to be the instigator of the idea.

Regards for now,

*bd*

P.S. I have seen nice photos recently of divers riding and hand feeding Dermodochelys in open ocean.

WHERE?

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

Animal Behaviour Research Group

Reader in  
Animal Behaviour  
D. J. McFarland, D.Phil.

South Parks Road  
Oxford OX1 3PS

Telephone  
Oxford (0865) 56789

UK

2nd July 81.

Dear George,

Thanks for the xerox of the "manual of sea turtle conservation ....". By chance I had seen this and had already responded ( to Berry)...the part about hatcheries is dubious, as you point out.....I don't think they can have read my paper in Biological Conservation ( 1980). Incidentally, I have now shown that styrofoam boxes do indeed( in the conditions prevailing in Surinam) lead to more male turtles ...perhaps the exact figures are not too meaningful, as there could be seasonal variations, but at the time of year we sampled there was a 20-25 % increase of males.....roughly, the full report will be coming out in Biol. Conserv. is not as bad as feared, but still considerable .....

I was interested in the cartoon you sent previously about the ridley going from the NE squaring. Do you have anything more official that gives information on the exchange of ridleys for breeding between different institutions? Have there been any other exchanges of the kind you envisioned in your ridley plan? How is that coming along? Any details would be appreciated.

I often don't receive notices about meetings, such as the recovery team till after they are past, and certainly not in time to get them out in a newsletter.

In reply to some of your queries: ( yours of 12th April 81)....

1) the earlier that people can be alerted about any turtle meeting of the group, the better, as it can take a long time to develop funding.....ie a preliminary notice helps, even if the exact date has to be changed later.

2). I think Peter is probably correct ...though I have not seen the full correspondence between you & .....that the farming issue should be reassessed..... but perhaps in a broader context of use of marine turtle resources in general.... the disadvantage of even reconsidering it is that it will distract attention from other matters.

Please note that from end of August I will be back in Toronto.

I trust Linda is recovered by now, and all goes well with you,

best wishes,

Nicholas Mrosovsky





DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

Animal Behaviour Research Group

Reader in  
Animal Behaviour  
D. J. McFarland, D.Phil.

South Parks Road  
Oxford OX1 3PS

Telephone  
Oxford (0865) 56789

August 19, 1980

Mr. George Balazs  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
P.O. Box 1346  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear George,

Thank you for your letter and the information.

I would like the articles you mention. The most important, I think, is the New Caledonia aerial survey as that information tends to be too slender to publish in a regular journal, but is important and should not be lost. But please keep it as short as possible without sacrificing essentials. There is so much material coming in and I don't want it said I'm just giving space to a few regulars.

Interesting interval tracking would also be appropriate for the Marine Turtle Newsletter. Again, the shorter it could be the better. Probably I would not publish two things by you in the same issue, but it also depends on how long an issue shapes up to be.

I'm less interest in the review of postage stamps, especially as it would tend to get long, I suspect. However, it would not be appropriate to make a decision without seeing something, so I neither encourage nor discourage you on that one.

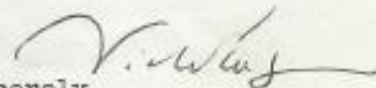
I note your position on the acceptance of support from commerce, etc.

I did not reply to your point about the mailing list, because we seem to be at an impasse on that. I still don't feel I have received answers that are satisfactory to some of the questions I have raised, and you probably feel the same.

Finally, I wish I knew more about the Cayman Turtle Farm situation, having only heard the same rumours through Peter that your letter mentions. I have seen no plan as how that facility might be used, and doubt that there is one. If you learn more, I would like to hear about it too.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely



Nicholas Mrosovsky

P.S. I assume the enclosures (report on the SPC/NMFS workshop are just for my information, and not for listing in the newsletter). If you could send me 10 or so more postcards for the girl with the turtle I would be happy to reimburse you.

10 September 81

Dear George:

Thank you much for your letter. I truly enjoy hearing from you and getting the latest news in the sea turtle world. As you know, I am very isolated out here. I was sorry to learn about the Ascension stamp issue. They were supposed to send me the proofs so I could check their accuracy. The last Administrator, Mr. B. Kendall, seemed rather enthused about them, but they arrived just before he finished his term as Administrator. He told me that the new Administrator, Mr. Pouncefort, would look at them and then forward them to me to check their scientific accuracy. But, he never did. Perhaps he decided he didn't like them.

Speaking of stamps, enclosed you will find three sheets of mint-condition Seychelles sea turtle stamps. Perhaps you can use them for trading purposes. Don't worry about reimbursing me for them. They are really not all that expensive.

Thank you for the Pakistan sea turtle stamp. I returned from a trip to the Amirantes Islands the day before Sean McKeown left Seychelles. So, I was able to meet him and talk for about an hour. He's very enthusiastic about his work, and also (as you mentioned in your letter) about Peter Pritchard. I enjoyed talking to him, as he's completely different <sup>from</sup> than anyone I see here. He's kind of your classic American herpetologist-type, don't you think?

Did I tell you I spent six weeks on Aldabra? (I can't remember when I last wrote you.) Wonderful place! I was able to do a lot of work, research-wise out there. I like working on green turtles, and I like the "southern group" of islands -- Aldabra, Cosmoledo, Astove, Farquhar. I'll be going back out there in a few months -- December + January on Cosmoledo, February + March on Aldabra. But, for the next 3 months I'll be mostly in the Granitic working with Hawksbills. Hawksbills are frustrating because one must devote so much time to the gathering of each data point.

No word from or about Jack Frazier. (???) Perhaps he couldn't get the money he needed.

Well, I'll sign off for now. Thanks again for keeping me up on the news.

Best regards,

Jeanne

P.S. let me know if you don't get the enclosed stamps or if you would like more of them -- or anything else.

JH