

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
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COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

March 4, 1970

Mr. Donald L. Hillhouse
P. O. Box 880
Apia, Western Samoa
South Pacific

Dear Mr. Hillhouse:

I was interested to hear of your turtle project. Knowing as little as I do about the turtle situation there, it is hard for me to offer you any very practical advice. Some time ago I decided there must not be any mass nesting ground anywhere thereabouts, but have not been able to get any idea how much separate nesting does go on, if any, or what species might be involved.

Perhaps the enclosed reprints will suggest courses your investigation might take. In beginning such a program as you plan, it seems to me that the most useful thing to do is to tag as many turtles as you can, using a tag that offers a reward for its return. In most cases the only way to tag turtles in numbers is either to go where the females come ashore to nest, or to rear young in captivity to about three-pound size and then mark them with calf-ear tags that will stay in place for a couple of years or more. If you find yourself able to do tagging of either kind we'll be glad to furnish you with tags and applicators, and for a couple of years, at least, to pay any recovery rewards. Data that come in would of course go directly back to you.

I'm sorry I can't give you more specific suggestions for developing your program, and I hope the publications help.

Sincerely yours,

Archie Carr
Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

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Enclosures