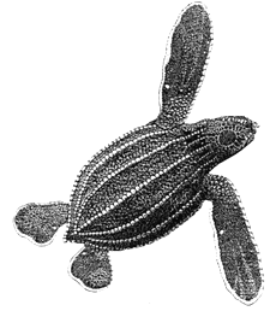


An International Tribute to Col. Milton Kaufmann, Founder of the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST)

*From your WIDECAST family,
on the Occasion of your 90th Birthday*

September 2008





Wonderful people from near and afar:
they cross oceans and mountains by plane, boat and car
In a circle of friendship that grows with each year
we embrace, we inspire, there is no space for fear.

Developing nations will learn how to grow
from experts and partners ever willing to share and to show.

Engaging this way the experts learn more,
finding gaps in our knowledge or new ways to explore.

Circles of life bring us all to one place,
working together, saving sea turtles from our race.

All boundaries are lifted, our language is one
we link, we connect, we discuss, we have fun

Synergy happens, solutions are sought
we find strength from our circle and cannot be bought.

Thank goodness for WIDECAST, for passion, for friends
we are blessed in this network which starts the best trends!

~ Jennifer Gray

*WIDECAST Country Coordinator
Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo
February 2007*

“A network is non-hierarchical. It is a web of connections among equals. What holds it together is not force, obligation, material incentive, or social contract, but rather shared values and the understanding that some tasks can be accomplished together that could never be accomplished separately. One of the important purposes of a network is simply to remind its members that they are not alone.”

Meadows, Meadows and Randers – Beyond the Limits (1992)

Dear Milton,

The warmth and appreciation expressed by your WIDECAST family in the pages that follow speak clearly to the depth and breadth of your contribution to the Wider Caribbean region – both to endangered sea turtles and to the communities and nations with whom they share the Caribbean Sea. The unique success of the WIDECAST network is rooted in the strong commitment of its affiliated scientists, community leaders, policy-makers and educators to your vision of collaboration, mentoring, capacity building and information-sharing within and, as importantly, among nations. Members routinely reach beyond their personal circumstances to visualize and work toward broadly shared goals that dignify people’s aspirations while also preserving a healthy ocean. Indeed, the WIDECAST network is a place where talented people from all walks of life come together to freely share their expertise, their passion, and the benefit of their experience to the end that we may realize a future of peaceful co-existence between humanity and sea turtles.

As the decades have passed, youthful volunteers have matured into graduate students, natural resource managers, educators, and international policy-makers; more than half of all Caribbean governments now protect their sea turtles; two region-wide treaties explicitly promote sea turtle survival; and many of the region’s largest nesting assemblages are rising. Moreover, sea turtles have emerged as a model for other conservation and sustainable development efforts. To say that it has been our joy and privilege to be involved in this unique ‘experiment’, and to see it succeed, would be an understatement. Similarly, it would be an understatement to say that you have been a role model and a friend, for you have always been so much more. We wish you a joy-filled birthday, and many more to come!

With love,

Karen Eckert
WIDECAST Executive Director

Scott Eckert
WIDECAST Director of Science

September 2008



“The successful interdisciplinary and innovative nature of the WIDECAST programme is clearly demonstrated by this ability to reach all levels of society, to address issues with an integrated approach, and to generate products that ensure that local needs, culture and systems are considered and at the same time, strengthening local capabilities to participate in a level of decision-making which is required to ensure a sustainable future for us all.”

Nelson Andrade Colmenares, Coordinator
UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme

AN ICON OF CONSERVATION ENTERS HIS TENTH DECADE

An appreciation of Colonel Milton Kaufmann by Peter C. H. Pritchard

Some conservationists are entitled to use the title Doctor in front of their names. Others may attach the soubriquet Esq. to theirs. But Milton Kaufman, who this month celebrates his 90th birthday is, formally and proudly, Colonel Kaufman. A career as an Air Force Officer is not the typical background for a conservationist, but then, Milton is not typical of anything. He is unique. He is perhaps the last of the great liberals, giving service to conservation of endangered species and of Mother Earth herself for decades without financial compensation. He has always insisted that it is indeed possible for governments to do the right thing, to be useful, to be responsive to the people, and to improve the world, and his chosen role was to urge and demand that Government and its agencies and representatives at all levels should do just that.

I first knew Milton by correspondence and telephone in the early 1970s, some time before I met him in person. I worked for Florida Audubon then, and he worked for an organization of his own creation that he called Monitor. Milton was resident then, as now, in Gaithersburg, Maryland, and this gave him good physical access to Capitol Hill, as well as to the agencies that handled wildlife matters and the bureaucrats within these entities whose job was to make them function and to carry out their legal mandates. The purpose of Monitor was to develop an understanding of the "hot" environmental issues in Washington D.C., especially in matters of marine mammal protection, and to urge the far-flung faithful on the Monitor mailing list to make appropriate input to congressmen, senators, agency heads, and sympathetic staff members, telling them what they should do. It was quite a force. Well, it was a partnership more than a force. You could easily imagine that there were lots of people doing all this monitoring in the Capital, but in truth it was just two people, Milton, and his old friend and fellow liberal environmentalist Tom Garrett.

Finally I met Milton. I met him for lunch in D.C. and found him to be a warm-hearted man in his sixties with a trim, graying beard. We chatted for hours, and developed an instant friendship. It was also an excellent working partnership: Milton the man who knew the law, the treaties, the precedents, and the regulations that mandated conservation action, while I brought to the table a background in endangered species biology, and in particular a knowledge of, and interest in, sea turtles and their conservation.

It was not long before we came into our own. Passage of the Endangered Species Act led to the appointment of a Recovery Team for all Atlantic sea turtles, and this was headed by Sally Murphy, from the South Carolina Wildlife Department, and with myself as co-Chairman. Most of the team members represented state or federal government, but by now Milton had distinguished himself as a person very dedicated to sea turtle conservation, and he was appointed as a citizen representative on the Team. He came armed with the law and an insistence that, when the law and the agency regulations differed, the former should stand.

The Recovery Team moved slowly, but it was a useful partnership in the evolving world of sea turtle conservation in the 1970s and early 80s, and we all learned much, especially when angry shrimpers crowded our meetings to protest mandatory use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs). "Give us two years to do it ourselves," they said, but after two years they had done nothing, so regulations were inevitable.

Milton was incredibly happy with the recognition it gave him to be on the U.S. Marine Turtle Recovery Team, and it was this service that gave him the inspiration to enlarge upon this theme, just as Monitor USA had spawned Monitor International. And that's when he started the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Recovery Team and Conservation Network, born of a recommendation from a 1981 meeting of Caribbean NGOs. With Jim Richardson (University of Georgia) as WIDECAST's first Executive Officer and with the mandate of planning marine turtle recovery throughout all the Caribbean territories and nations within the next two years, Milton went on the stump, telling the world about his new creation, talking fast because there was much to say,

but with the rhythm of his loquacity hindered by his constant need to utilize that mouthful of a name, Wider-Caribbean-Sea-Turtle-Recovery-Team-and-Conservation-Network. Playing around with this title myself while lying in bed one night, and looking for possible acronyms, inspiration arrived in the form of – you guessed it – WIDECAST!!! It was an instant success, and I don't think anyone has ever had to use the full name since.

Like a child who chances upon something that pleases his parents, I sought to expand the theme and create an acronym for the Spanish name for our organization, "Tortugas marinas del Caribe mas amplio," which yielded the acronym To-mar-Ca-ma; however, this time my suggestion was dead upon arrival. *Tomar Cama* means to go to bed.

I have always valued my time with Milton, and we have had splendid arguments. He has an encyclopedic knowledge of relevant treaties, agreements, laws, regulations, and protocols pertaining to Caribbean sea turtles, whereas I tend to conduct my conservation activities hands-on, in the communities, dealing with the "real world" rather than the halls of power in the capital cities. The truth is, as he pointed out, that both approaches are important, although neither is guaranteed. Milton's wonderful wife, Sabina, has her own acronym when Milton is explaining the nuances of obscure – or not so obscure – wildlife treaties, and by the time he gets to the point of enumerating all of the nations that have deposited their instruments of ratification to this treaty or that, at a point when I would prefer to see instruments of gratification, she mutters Mego, Mego, short for "My eyes glaze over." Once, I drove a rental car in California whose licence plate read "MEGO," and I detached the plate on the front (in Florida we only need a rear plate) and mailed it to Sabina as a gift. I am not sure what she did with it...

One thing I always noticed about Milton was that he did not treat conferences as junkets or social events; he was always determined that there should be outcomes that would bring about actual conservation gains. In the closing hours of a week long meeting, when many participants were planning their evening or experiencing Mego episodes, Milton would seize the opportunity to get a resolution passed or an agreement reached. He never lost his focus. He was there to do good.

But we did have some fun in the early days of WIDECAST. One of our more memorable meetings was held at a beachfront hotel on the island of Guadeloupe. The beach onto which the conference room overlooked was one of those where clothes are not worn. This presented a distraction at all times, and a voyeuristic opportunity of which increasing advantage was taken, mostly by the younger male participants, during the daily lunch breaks. Milton was of a liberal bent, but he was a very respectable gentleman, and this was not something he had experienced before. He stayed away from the beach until the very last day, when he took the plunge with the frolicsome French folks on the beach, and made friends some very attractive ones with whom he was photographed arm-in-arm. It is said that one of these photos found its way to Sabina, who was not offended or bothered in the slightest.

Once we were in Panama together at a conservation assignment of some kind, when it transpired that our hosts, after serving us a noble outdoor dinner, were staging a series of cockfights for our entertainment. Such a performance was totally at odds with Milton's ethical code, but he kept quiet, just rolling his eyes heavenward from time to time, and wishing he were somewhere else. Perhaps in Guadeloupe.

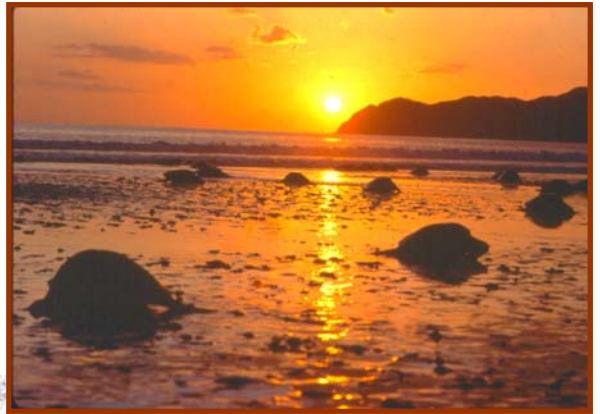
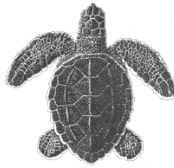
Milton was provided with a comfortable military pension, but expense money for his overseas conference responsibilities was limited. I recall my wife and me spending much time with him at a CITES conference in New Delhi many years ago. We were entertained in literally royal fashion by the late Maharajah of Baroda on several occasions, the dining fare reminiscent of Lord Curzon's Durbah seventy years earlier, and we had a memorable audience with Indira Gandhi, who, it was revealed, had a keen interest in marine turtle conservation, especially in Orissa, where the huge ridley *arribadas* come ashore. But despite the lavish conference facilities, we were actually staying in a rather modest hotel to save on funds. One morning as my wife Sibille and I sat in the lobby planning our day's events, a red-faced, excited Milton ran in from the street, closely followed by his equally agitated motorized rickshaw driver. The stakes were minuscule, but there was apparently a disagreement about the fare. About twenty minutes later, the driver departed, muttering and

cursing to himself. Milton leaned towards us and offered the explanation: “when a Jew and a Hindu disagree about money, one thing is certain: neither side will back down.”

My most vivid mental image of Milton is not of the middle-aged executive of the 70s, but of the white-haired sage of today, sitting almost out of sight on a sunny day in his leafy, flowered bower at the back of his garden, with a stack of conservation-related papers, books and reports, while his talented artist wife, not far away, works indoors with her paintings. A happy man indeed, enviably content with his lot.

Happy Birthday, dear friend, may you enjoy many more years to come.

Peter C. H. Pritchard, Ph.D.
Director, Chelonian Research Institute



Happy Birthday, Milton!

Ninety years and counting! I know you clearly remember WATS I, San José, Costa Rica; I do! When our paths crossed, I would never have believed how you would change my life, ... in an extraordinarily interesting and productive way. I remember your follow-up phone call as if it was yesterday when you reached me at *Finca La Pacifica*, Guanacaste Province, Costa Rica, in January 1980; how in the world did you find me? My marching orders – as WIDECAST's first Executive Officer – were to come directly to Gaithersburg, Maryland upon my return to the U.S. to kick off your WIDECAST dream. Long days of intense planning followed; my head was spinning.

The intricate detail by which you generated and then inserted WIDECAST into the fabric of the UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme and negotiations for the SPAW Protocol will never cease to amaze me, using national representatives to carry the banner at key moments when they scarcely realized the import of what they were doing. You played the system in an altruistic and honorable way, an intricate dance to attract the attention of governments to the conservation of endangered sea turtles. You set the stage for the rest of us to follow, Karen Eckert in particular, and the turtles are the better for it today. Sea turtle conservation initiatives of great power and considerable success have become the rule, the expected. Conservation initiatives throughout the Caribbean – and in the Mediterranean, and elsewhere in the world – are stronger for your vision. You started something, WIDECAST, that has refused to languish or to die. Amazing!

For me, personally and a bit selfishly, WIDECAST meant trips to Panama, Puerto Rico, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Venezuela ...and the chance to meet phenomenally interesting people assembled by your charisma, vision, and enthusiasm. The legacy of those meetings is clear to see. Twenty-two years of extraordinary nesting records on Antigua hawksbills because I rubbed shoulders with John Fuller at one of our meetings: serendipity! Three extraordinary trips to Palau and other Micronesian islands to build Recovery Plans because the hawksbill experience attracted the attention of Scott Eckert, working for NOAA at the time: serendipity! Dozens and dozens of young people building their careers as they followed me over the years to Antigua and Palau; serendipity! And countless WIDECAST meetings under Karen Eckert's leadership, and so many friends from throughout the Caribbean as a result: serendipity!

Twenty-eight years! I find it difficult to remember when WIDECAST was not a part of my life. I cannot imagine how many deficiencies or holes or missing pieces there would have been in my life if you had not touched it.

Thank you, and Happy Birthday.

Your friend,

Jim Richardson
University of Georgia
27 August 2008





Ever since the early 1980s, the WIDECAST network has been of great assistance to Government of Anguilla; contributing significantly to sea turtle conservation in Anguilla and indeed the entire region.



Without the support and assistance of WIDECAST, it is fair to say that sea turtle conservation in Anguilla would not have gotten this far – for example, a moratorium on the taking of sea turtles and their eggs has been in place since 1995, with a further 12 more years to go before expiring in 2020. Beyond policy advancements, the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources now conducts in-water sea turtle monitoring on a more regular basis and has engaged hotels in 'sea turtle friendly' lighting, neither of which would have been possible without WIDECAST's support, including assistance in project design, fundraising, and staff training.



Indeed, the passion and energy that flows through the room during a WIDECAST annual meeting inspires and motivates participants during those times when all seems hopeless.

Anguilla is very grateful for all the support of this wonderful network we call WIDECAST – and to the Founder of such an inspirational and invaluable support group in our region, we salute you on your 90th Birthday. Happy Birthday!

James C. Gumbs
Director
Department of Fisheries
and Marine Resources



In 1983, at the First Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium (WATS I) in Costa Rica, I met Milton Kaufmann for the first time. I remember him sitting in the middle back of the hall, intensely eyeing everyone and not missing a word. He was and is a man of striking appearance and he stood out. He approached me and asked me to join his group "WIDECAST"; since then, my family's lives have become inextricably bound with his.

His unrelenting resolve and commitment has inspired and goaded many of us into actions we would never have taken without him – as a result of Milton's efforts on every level, I was able to arrange for the Government of Antigua & Barbuda to host the workshop here in Antigua at which the SPAW Protocol was drafted. He led the way through intricate procedures; he coaxed and befriended all of us into further committing ourselves to environmental actions. (He created WIDECAST probably from the left rib of Sabina, his wife.)

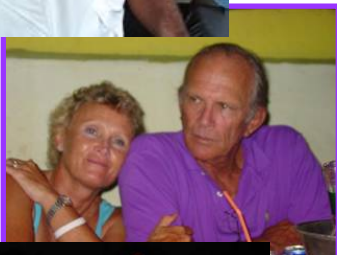
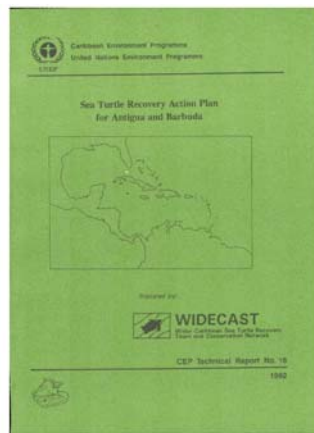
In my view Milton has been the anonymous mover for just about every intergovernmental and NGO conservation effort in the Circum-Caribbean. Without him we would still be on page one. He has done it all with cheery good humour and incisive intelligence, and he won't give up. He has given us sight where there was blindness, energy where there was inertia and care where there was none.

Milton was the creator of the SPAW Protocol, and the unseen hand that wrote many of the Protocols which will lead us, hopefully, into a better Caribbean. Here in Antigua and Barbuda his acolytes press on with Milton's work. His – and WIDECAST's – legacy lives on in the Jumby Bay Hawksbill Turtle Project, now in its 22nd year. PPN-001, the very first Hawksbill Turtle to be tagged on Jumby Bay in 1987, has nested again this year (2008) – her ninth nesting season.

Milton, we love you dearly – Happy Birthday!

John Fuller, Esq. (with Sarah, Rachel and Franny)

Antigua & Barbuda, W.I.



Dear Col. Kaufmann,

Although you do not know us, we want to wish you a very Happy 90th Birthday! As the "Godfather" of WIDECAST you mean a lot to us!

Aruba was one of the first countries to have a STRAP. From 1993 till 2003 this STRAP guided us - a group of dedicated friends - under the name "WIDECAST Aruba". Since 2003 we are an official Foundation, Turtugaruba, and many of the gaps in our information from 1993 are now filled in; moreover, you will be pleased to hear that awareness among local people and tourists has increased enormously and the number of sea turtle nests is increasing.

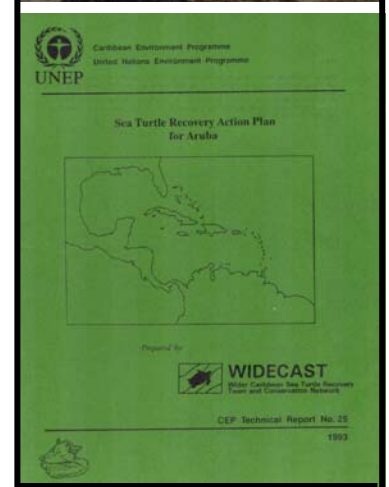
The STRAP is still an important guideline for us, sea turtle volunteers, and it will be also a vivid example for a national management plan for Aruba's nature in general. From 25-29 August 2008 a conference will take place - "Wild Aruba" - and this will lead to a National Action Plan, supported by the whole community of Aruba.

We are so grateful to be a member of WIDECAST and to benefit from all of the support, awareness materials, technical reports, etc., but, most of all, it really feels like family. So you did an excellent job in 1981! Thank you so much! And of course you can be sure that Karen Eckert will continue your legacy of excellence - as she has done for so many years already!

"Chapeau" or "petje af" as we say in Dutch: we take our hats off and wish you an unforgettable Birthday!

Yours sincerely,

Edith and Richard van der Wal
Country Coordinators, Aruba
Turtugaruba Foundation



Dear Milton,

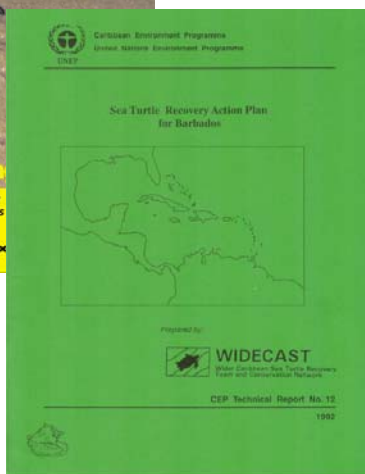
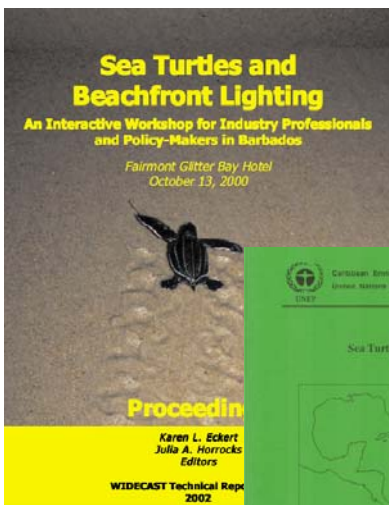
I remember clearly our meeting in Barbados nearly twenty years ago, when you first explained to me what you envisaged WIDECAST would become for sea turtle conservation in the region. I was already a sea turtle admirer, but becoming a **WIDECAST Country Coordinator** and developing the Action Plan for Barbados, without doubt, provided the seed from which the **Barbados Sea Turtle Project** grew.



The growing numbers of sea turtles around Barbados owe much to the support and guidance that WIDECAST, particularly Karen (you made an excellent choice of Executive Director!), has unfailingly provided. The network really is like a family; we understand each other's wants and needs, as well as our constraints. **The many tools now at our disposal, the training opportunities and the exchanges of information, are thanks to WIDECAST and ultimately your foresight in conceptualizing the network.** *Thank you, Milton, and Happy Birthday!*

Prof. Dr. Julia Horrocks
Director
Barbados Sea Turtle Project
University of the West Indies
Cave Hill Campus
St. Michael, Barbados

August 2008



Dear Col. Kaufmann,

It was such a delight to meet you again in Guadeloupe in July after so many years. I can assure you that WIDECAST has had tremendous influence on sea turtle conservation in Belize, and that we are still trying to follow the recommendations of the "Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan" (STRAP) that I had helped to produce.

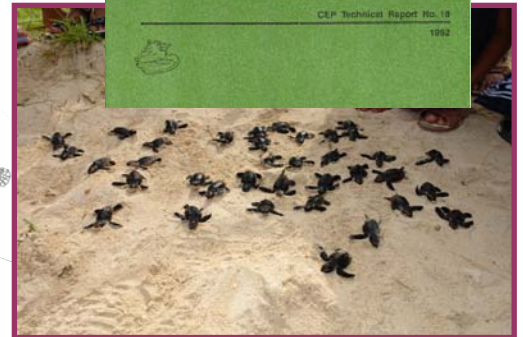
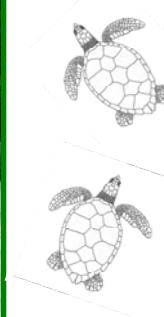
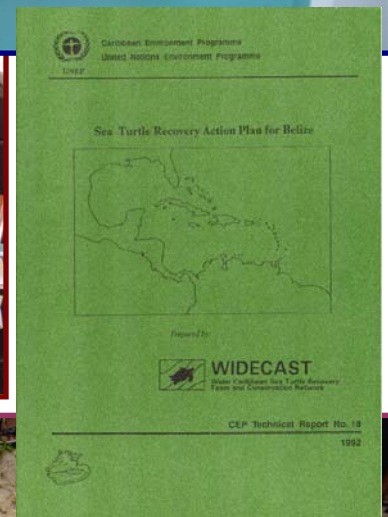
With WIDECAST's help we amended the sea turtle legislation leading to the full protection of these animals in our country.

I am pleased to report that we started in-water surveys of turtles in Glover's Reef in 2007, and preliminary results show that this atoll is an important foraging area for hawksbills!

We continue to look to WIDECAST for technical support, as well as inspiration, in our work.

I wish you a very happy 90th birthday!

Janet Gibson
Wildlife Conservation Society
Belize City, Belize
July 2008



Dear Mr. Kaufmann:



Happy 90th Birthday from Belize! I know your big day will be a special one spent with family and close friends, and *I would like to send you this special birthday wish from the Western Caribbean nation of Belize.*

My involvement in sea turtle conservation began in 2000 when I assisted the Belize Fisheries Department with a NMFS-sponsored project to determine migration patterns of hawksbill sea turtles in the Caribbean. We satellite-tagged 'Gale', a hawksbill nesting at Gales Point Manatee, our most important nesting beach. Later that year I attended my first sea turtle workshop in Belize and I was excited to get involved! There were not many persons or organizations spearheading sea turtle conservation at that time and there was a great need.

In 2002, I attended my first International Sea Turtle Symposium and I was introduced to the WIDECAST family. From the very first meeting I attended, Karen Eckert's cordial personality made me feel right at home. *The WIDECAST meetings are always so informative since you have the opportunity to learn about other turtle projects and get ideas to take home and share with those in your country.* Karen and other WIDECAST members always bring materials to share at these meetings, all of which have been extremely helpful to our own country projects. *Karen does a spectacular job running WIDECAST meetings, which always include a variety of topics applicable to current events in sea turtle conservation.* These two days of the WIDECAST meeting, before the annual sea turtle symposium, are the highlight of the entire week for me.

Earlier this decade when I first became involved with the Sea Turtle Working Group, our members were mainly government agencies and a couple of NGOs and researchers. *Over the past five years we have grown into the Belize Sea Turtle Conversation Network and our members now include local and international NGOs, in addition to the original members.* More groups throughout Belize are now including sea turtle population monitoring in their plans and, happily, in their budgets. While *we have collectively accomplished many of the recommendations that were outlined in the "Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan for Belize" (1992),* much still yet remains to be done.

Each time I attend a WIDECAST meeting I feel recharged and ready to return to Belize and continue uniting sea turtle conservation efforts through the Belize Sea Turtle Conservation Network! I can predict that by 2012, two decades after the Belize STRAP was published, we will have made even more progress in achieving the remainder of the goals outlined in the Action Plan.

On behalf of the Belize Sea Turtle Conservation Network, I would like to *thank you for founding WIDECAST in 1981 ... and helping to grow sea turtle conservation in Belize.*

In conservation,
Linda Searle
Belize Sea Turtle
Conservation Network



When the *Sea Turtle Club Bonaire* was founded with WIDECAS'T's help in 1990, catching and eating sea turtles and turtle eggs on Bonaire was commonplace. In the space of a few short years, with the help and support of our dear friend Karen Eckert and her WIDECAS'T network, sea turtles have taken their rightful place in island society where they are respected and loved.

Changes in attitude, legislation, and capacity grew from the very first "Sea Turtle Recover Action Plan" (STRAP) developed for the Netherlands Antilles under the aegis of WIDECAS'T and published by the UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme and, over the years, we have managed to stay at the cutting edge of turtle conservation and technology. Tracking sea turtles with WIDECAS'T'S help has added a whole new dimension to our local turtle story – and their epic travels around the Caribbean are watched by an avid audience which extends way beyond our tiny island.

It has been a pleasure to see WIDECAS'T grow from an excellent idea to a dedicated team of conservation professionals that stretches throughout the Caribbean, all bound together with the goal of ensuring that sea turtles will be here to share the planet with us for eons to come. The network has also spawned other collaborative efforts, including our own *Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance* in the overseas territories of The Netherlands.

*Thank you, WIDECAS'T, for giving us back our turtles!
And to you, Milton, for your selfless dedication to ideas which once may have seemed larger than life ... but today provide the very basis from which we all work.*

Happy Birthday, Milton –

Kalli De Meyer
Executive Director
Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance
Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles





Dear Milton,

I can remember you very well – we met just as we were beginning an initiative that would become the national Brazilian Sea Turtle Program: “Projeto TAMAR”. *With your gentle and patient style, you invited us to join WIDECAST*, the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network, even though Brasil was not “really” a constituent nation of the Wider Caribbean Region.

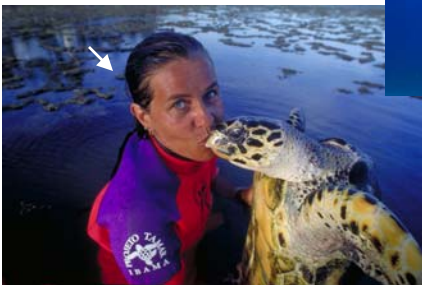


That was the first time we had been recognized and invited to participate in an international arena, and it was a great incentive for us young people trying, at that time, to build something that would contribute meaningfully to marine conservation issues in our country. *This simple attitude of inclusiveness made a lot of difference for us and was – and continues to be – a large motivator to all of us who have dedicated our lives to Sea Turtle Conservation*, and it has been an example for us to follow as we, in turn, have invited others to join us.

Projeto TAMAR is now in its 28th year of activity, monitoring 1,100 km of the Brazilian coast, generating some 1,300 jobs for coastal villages, and protecting the five species of Sea Turtles that occur in our country. *We are proud to be a member of, to contribute to and to continue to learn from this generous and talented network known as WIDECAST.*

From all of us at Projeto TAMAR we send you a big hug, and wish you *“Feliz Aniversário, Milton!”*

Neca Marcovaldi
Presidente
Fundação Pró-TAMAR
Salvador-Bahia, Brasil



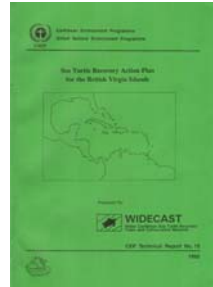
Dear Milton-

Warm birthday greetings from the British Virgin Islands!

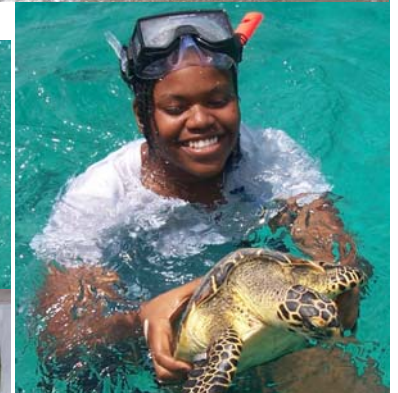
We have been honored to be a part of WIDECAST for many years. *While we have never met, you have made an extraordinary difference in our country.* Not only were we one of the first countries in the Caribbean to complete a 'Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan' (1992), but *WIDECAST has been a catalyst for numerous sea turtle management and conservation activities* – including national habitat surveys, education and outreach programmes, volunteer training and staff empowerment, and the tagging of over 600 foraging hawksbill and green turtles and nesting trunks (leatherbacks). *It has also guided our Government in strengthening legislation*, such as a moratorium on the take of trunks and loggerheads, and kept us up-to-date on research in the region and beyond. *Thank you for bringing the insular Caribbean together as one!*

Sincerely yours,

Bertrand Lettsome, Chief
Mervin Hastings
Arlington (Zeke) Pickering
Shannon Gore
Gaverson Frett
Joel Dore



Conservation & Fisheries Department
Government of the British Virgin Islands



HAPPY BIRTHDAY MILTON! FROM THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

Over the past 10 years the WIDECASST network has provided invaluable support to the Cayman Islands Government as we developed a sea turtle research and conservation programme for the country.

Through participating in the WIDECASST annual general meeting we have had the opportunity to connect with researchers in the region dealing with similar opportunities and challenges; and with WIDECASST's assistance in attending the Sea Turtle Symposium our researchers have been able to connect with turtle researchers from around the world!

Through WIDECASST's generous support of our education programmes we have been able to provide the young people of our country with the knowledge to ensure that an important part of Caymanian heritage is preserved. WIDECASST has provided technical support, including assistance in changing fishery legislation to protect our critically-reduced breeding populations, as well as manuals on how to care for injured sea turtles.

We look forward to many more years of collaboration in sea turtle conservation!

*Best Wishes,
Gina Ebanks-Petrie
Director
Department of Environment*



*And all the
Cayman Islands
Turtle Team!*

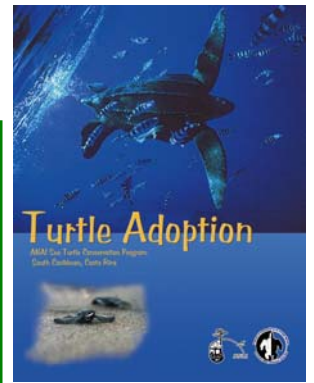
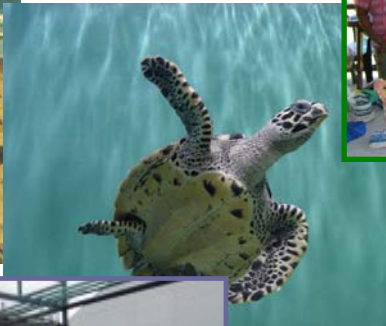
Dear Milton:

Hello from Costa Rica! We have only 200 km of Caribbean coastline, but it is one of the most beautiful places in the entire world and also has lots of sea turtles. Here we have been working for 22 years to reduce threats to sea turtle survival and to improve the livelihoods of local people with eco-friendly and profitable socio-economic alternatives.

I'm so proud to be part of WIDECAST! Through our association with this scientific network, our work – whether with population monitoring, sea turtle medicine, international trade and law enforcement, training and capacity building, sea turtle research, national recovery planning, livelihood development – is not only for ourselves, but can be shared and replicated throughout our region. It is only in this way partnerships develop, conservation grows and success can be achieved with these ancient species that we all share together.

Thank you for giving us WIDECAST, and we wish you to have a great Birthday!!!!

Didiher Chacón C.
WIDECAST Director of Latin American Programs
San José, Costa Rica

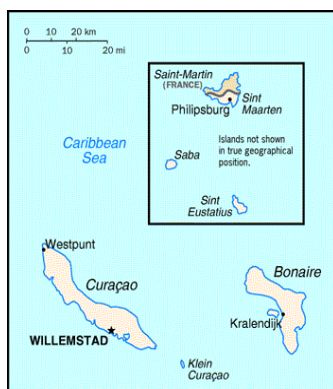
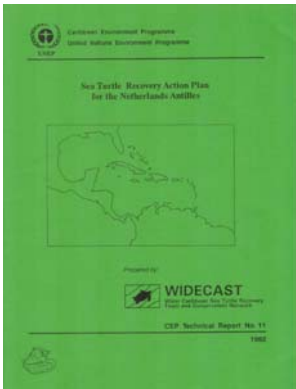


The WIDECAST network has been indispensable to sea turtle conservation in the Netherlands Antilles. We're proud to have been the first country to complete a STRAP, and without WIDECAST it would never have happened. WIDECAST helped us to get sea turtle conservation off the ground in Curaçao – and throughout the Netherlands Antilles – providing training and support of all kinds. **It always has been, and continues to be, a guiding force for us.** Indeed, whenever we have needed a sounding board or an answer to a question, WIDECAST has been there for us.

Milton, if you hadn't started this immensely valuable network back then, sea turtles would not have had a fraction of the attention from the general public that they now have, and they would have been a lot closer to extinction than they are today. **It's been my pleasure and honor to have met and worked with you, and to be able to call you a friend, and I am glad for this opportunity to express my admiration and gratitude for all your work.** A very happy 90th birthday!

With all my best wishes,

Paul Hoetjes
 Department of Environment & Nature Conservation
 Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles



NOTES

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 University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez

New Sea Turtle Nesting Records for the Netherlands Antilles Provide Impetus to Conservation Action

ADOLPHE O. DIEBROT¹*, NICOLE ESTEBAN², ROZENN LE SCAO³, ANDY CABALLERO⁴, AND PAUL C. HOETJES⁵ ¹Caribbean Foundation, P.O. Box 2090, Curacao, Netherlands Antilles, ²St. Eustatius National and Marine Parks, Gallows Bay, St. Eustatius, Netherlands Antilles, ³St. Maarten Nature Foundation, P.O. Box 865, Philipsburg, St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles, ⁴Department of Environment & Nature Conservation (MDNA), Ministry of Public Health & Social Development, Santa Rosaweg 122, Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles. Corresponding author: adiebro@curaweb.net

ABSTRACT.—Until the early 1900s, information on sea turtle nesting in the Netherlands Antilles amounted to little more than a few anecdotal accounts and sea turtle nesting was considered nothing more than a rare or accidental occurrence. However, several recent studies have found significant levels of sea turtle nesting activity and have served as an important impetus to successful implementation of new conservation measures and initiatives. We present and discuss new information that documents several additional sea turtle nesting beaches for conservation on four Caribbean islands, and that can serve as baseline data for future reference. While most studies elsewhere have focused on large sea turtle nesting beaches, our findings support the idea that small, scattered nesting beaches could cumulatively contribute significantly to both reproductive output and recovery potential of several species when examined on a regional scale.

KEYWORDS.—Sea turtle, nesting beaches, Caribbean, Netherlands Antilles, Aruba

Historical records recount extensive sea turtle fisheries in the Netherlands Antilles, but provide few if any indications of nest-

ms. received August 26, 2004; accepted March 24, 2005



Caribische Zeeschildpadden

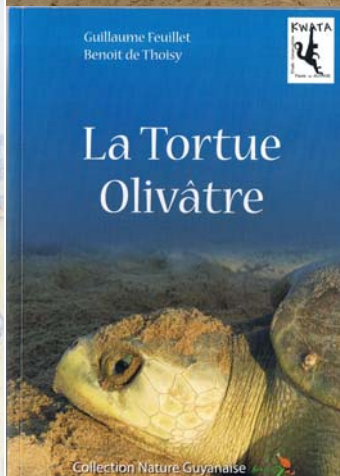
WIDECAST
 Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network

Caribbean Environment Programme
 United Nations Environment Programme

French Guiana may be on the edges of the Caribbean Sea, but shares some of its tasks and many of its sea turtles. Turtles already meet in the region. Thank you, Milton, for this fantastic network you initiated that provides unique opportunities for us, people from the beaches, to also meet together and to know each other in the region. We are no more looking only at animals going towards unknown countries, behind unknown seas...

La Guyane française est en périphérie de la zone Caraïbes, mais partage une partie de ses enjeux, et beaucoup de ses tortues. Tortues qui se rencontraient déjà dans la région. Merci Milton pour ce fabuleux réseau que vous avez initié, nous donnant l'opportunité pour que nous, arpenteurs des plages, nous rencontrions aussi et nous connaissions. Pour que nous ne soyons plus seulement à regarder partir ces animaux vers des pays lointains derrière des mers inconnues...

Benoit de Thoisy
Scientific Coordinator
Association Kwata
Guyane française



The WIDECAST network has been the best type of mentor we could have wished for. It's been there to help us find funding, shape policy and research, and even to console us when things didn't quite work out how we had hoped!

There are a great many amazing individuals in the network who cannot help but motivate, inspire and encourage us all, but it is the overwhelming sense of being amongst family and friends when you walk through the doors of another WIDECAST annual meeting, that we derive the most value from. For those few days, nothing seems insurmountable and it generates the type of energy that sustains a lot of us through the more challenging times that we all face at some point.

And so it is with the deepest thanks and gratitude that we take our hats off to the original architect of this phenomenal group, and wish you a very Happy 90th Birthday!

With love,

Carl & Rebecca Lloyd

Directors
Ocean Spirits Inc.
Grenada, W.I.



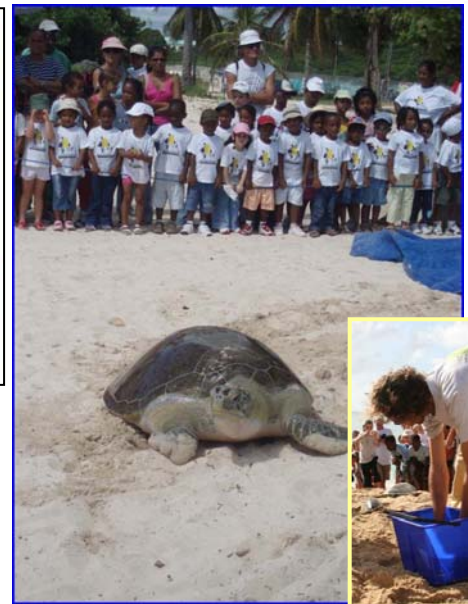
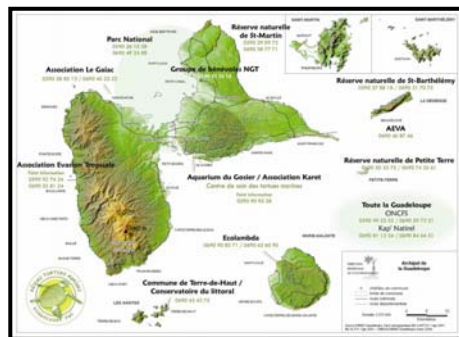
Depuis 4 ans j'ai rejoint la grande famille du WIDECAST, c'est un Réseau dynamique et une plateforme d'échanges très enrichissante entre les différents programmes de la Caraïbe. Il est important d'avoir une envergure régionale pour nos chères tortues qui naviguent de part et d'autre de la mer des Caraïbes. Merci MILTON pour cette initiative!

Eric Delcroix & Sophie Bedel

Guadeloupe Sea Turtle Conservation Project

Four years ago, I joined the large family of WIDECAST with enthusiasm! This dynamic network is an extraordinary platform of exchanges, where enriching is permanent between all Caribbean programs. It was fundamental to give a regional scale to our dear turtles' conservation programs, as they sail from one part to another, through the Caribbean Sea.

~ Thank you, Milton, for this initiative!



The passion and dedication of the members of the WIDECAST network has served to motivate sea turtle conservationist efforts here in Guatemala. Many thanks to Milton Kaufmann, the network's Founder, on this the occasion of his 90th Birthday - and to the rest of the WIDECAST family who have supported our efforts here in Guatemala over the years!

Colum Muccio
Director Administrativo y Desarrollo
ARCAS
San Cristóbal, Guatemala



On behalf of the Guyana Marine Turtle Conservation Society, I'd like to wish Colonel Kaufmann a happy and fulfilling 90th Birthday!

WIDECAST has been an invaluable resource in helping GMTCS achieve its goal of sea turtle conservation and sustainable livelihood development, particularly in programmes such as our Education Camps, Sea Turtle Fun Day, Teachers' Training Programme, and assistance in marketing alternative income products, such as Moruca Embroidery & Northwest Organics (see insert), made by our community-based conservation partners.



Our Sea Turtle Monitoring Project commemorated its 20th Anniversary at the Sea Turtle Fun Day held in Santa Rosa Community in June 2008! At the event, GMTCS awarded 32 sea turtle wardens with Certificates of Appreciation for their invaluable involvement and contribution to the sea turtle monitoring efforts from 1988 to 2008 at Shell Beach.



We have come a long way since the Sea Turtle Monitoring Project started in 1964, following a visit to Shell Beach by Dr. Peter Pritchard who witnessed large numbers of sea turtles nesting on this 140 km stretch of beach and mudflats along the northwestern coast of Guyana; these included the Leatherback, Green, Hawksbill and Olive Ridley turtles. Today Shell Beach is a proposed Protected Area in Guyana.

GMTCS is the first and longest running home-grown conservation organisation in Guyana – and the fact that it is based on sea turtles speaks to the importance of the turtles to our country. We are so very proud of the opportunity we have had to contribute to and to benefit from our long association with WIDECAST.

Thank you, Milton, very much for your wisdom and foresight in establishing this wonderful network.



Sincerely,

*Michelle Kalamandeen
Project Coordinator
Guyana Marine Turtle
Conservation Society*



*August
2008*

August 17, 2008

Hello Milton,

Although we haven't met, *your work has helped me reach out to coastal communities in Haiti in efforts to protect sea turtles.* The ability of individuals such as yourself to foretell the dangers of over-exploitation and mismanagement of biodiversity, and to actually step in and do something about it, is praiseworthy.

Having joined WIDECAST a few years ago has allowed us at FoProBiM (Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine) to begin to lay the groundwork for sea turtle protection and management *in my country.* *Having access – through WIDECAST – to any and all important resources relating to sea turtles, not only in the Caribbean but also globally, has made a world of difference* in our ability to develop educational programs in a country which has pretty much become synonymous with “environmental disaster”. We don't have much in terms of resources, but we recognize the need to protect and properly manage all marine life and because we love what we do and know its importance.



On your 90th birthday I, and FoProBiM, would like to send you all of our best wishes and may you continue to fight the good fight. *We can do what we do because of people like you!*



Yours sincerely,



Jean Wiener
Director
FoProBiM /
Haiti



Dear Col. Kaufmann,

Greetings to you from Honduras on this, your 90th Birthday!

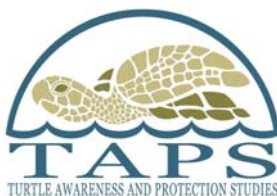
Although we haven't met, I admire your foresight in initiating the WIDECAST vision and am excited to be a new WIDECAST family member!

Our work here in Honduras is still in its infancy. Almost no scientific work has been done here since Archie Carr walked some of our beaches several decades ago: we know virtually nothing about our populations, their ecology and nesting, or their critical habitats here in Honduras. That's why, in January 2007, we started the Protective Turtle Ecology Center for Training, Outreach and Research, Inc. (ProTECTOR), a non-profit organization now tasked by the Honduran government to oversee all sea turtle research, conservation, and education outreach for the country.

Like you, and Archie Carr, we're pioneering turtle conservation on multiple fronts here. We are so grateful for your vision, which helps us today in so many ways, including keeping us informed of advances in sea turtle science and management. ProTECTOR wishes you a very happy and joyful 90th Birthday!

Cheers,

Stephen G. Dunbar
President, ProTECTOR
Honduras



Dear Milton,

I have had the joy of knowing you for at least 20 years, beginning with my start as a very junior professional at the Oceans and Coastal Programme of UNEP in Nairobi, Kenya. **To this day I remember your regular phone calls** seeking updates on the process of development of a new legal treaty for the Wider Caribbean on biodiversity conservation (now known as the SPAW Protocol). However – and as is still the case today – **it was I who benefited most from these conversations** because of your vast knowledge and strategic skills.

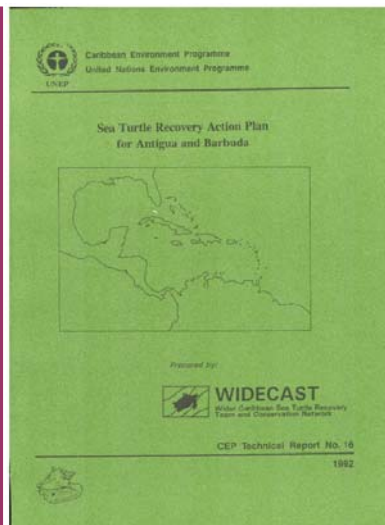
Milton, your vision and determination never cease to amaze me: **you have never veered from your objectives and goals, no matter how unreachable they may have seemed to others. Your strength and enthusiasm for those things in which you believe is enviable!** As the years have passed you have been the architect and always at the forefront (even if often behind the scenes) of extremely important and **unique biodiversity initiatives in the Wider Caribbean Region, such as WIDECAST and the SPAW Protocol**, and through it all you have remained a **compassionate and generous human being** with an incredible sense of humor and zest for life.



For your many unselfish and valuable contributions, **the Wider Caribbean and the conservation community at large owes you more than words can say.** All of us at UNEP's Caribbean Environment Programme truly admire and respect you, and feel deeply honored to have worked with you – and learned from you – all these many years. I am privileged to consider you my friend.

Feliz cumpleaños Milton!!!

Alessandra Vanzella-Khoury
UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme
Kingston, Jamaica



Dear Milton,

A very **Happy Birthday** to you! Thank you for having the vision and drive to begin the WIDECAST network. Sea turtle conservation in Jamaica really took off when we became involved with WIDECAST.



We used the Recovery Action Plans as a framework for our research & conservation goals, and then built our national network on the "WIDECAST model" - inclusive of all stakeholders, a partnership of equals sharing scientific and social information towards a common goal.



Thanks to WIDECAST we have a Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan, a more educated public, and a greater awareness of the threats to the survival of sea turtles in our waters. We also have a ready and dedicated professional network of friends and experts to assist with the implementation of the Action Plan. WIDECAST has been an important partner to the Government of Jamaica in protecting this endangered species; Thank you, Milton!

Andrea Donaldson
WIDECAST Country Coordinator
Jamaica



WIDECAST has given me so much - professional opportunities, collegial support and an opportunity to protect the wildlife heritage of Jamaica. I began my work in sea turtle conservation by talking to fishers. I believe their involvement is crucial to successfully restoring turtle populations, so I am still talking to fishers and working to sustain both our fisheries and our sea turtles. WIDECAST offers us the tools we need to confront these tough challenges, to create dialogue and to define solutions. It is truly a guiding force - and we thank you for it!

Rhema Kerr Bjorkland
Founder, Sea Turtle Recovery Network of Jamaica





INSTITUTO DE CIENCIAS DEL MAR Y LIMNOLOGÍA
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 Tels.: (669) 985-28-45, -46, -47, -48 Fax: (669) 982-61-33
 e-mail: alberto.abreu@ola.icmyl.unam.mx

Dear Milton:

We have never met but nonetheless I want to wish you a very happy 90th birthday and above all to thank you ever sooo much for having founded WIDECAST.

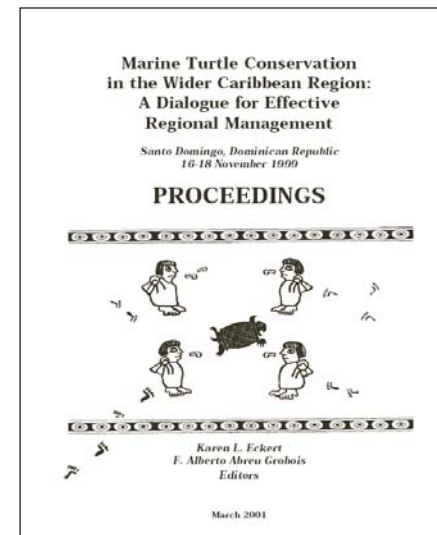
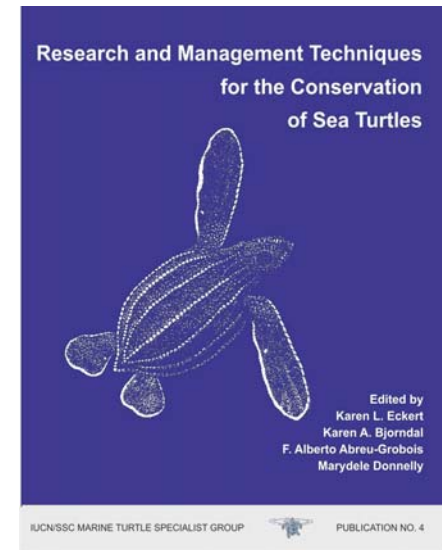
I have been involved with sea turtles through my academic work on these species at the Mexican National University (UNAM), but at a regional scope through my time as the Chair of the MTSG and currently as a Regional Chair for the Caribbean. During these times WIDECAST has been and remains an inspiration and endless spring of ideas and resources. I simply cannot live without them for matters pertaining to the region or beyond! You were very clever in selecting Karen Eckert as WIDECAST Executive Director because not only has she and the network pursued an enviable trademark for thoroughness in anything that is done but have also promoted a unique ecosystem by working as a real "family". This is an "added value" quality that I value highly and would probably have you to "blame" you- for logically being the "founding grandfather" of this extended family.

Thank you, Milton, and have this one and 90 more very happy and productive birthdays!

Dr. F. Alberto Abreu-Grobois
 Research Scientist
 IUCN/MTSG Regional Vice-Chair for the Caribbean
 Unidad Académica Mazatlán
 Instituto de Ciencias del Mar y Limnología (UNAM)
 Calz. Joel Montes Camarena s/n
 Mazatlán, Sinaloa
 MEXICO 82000

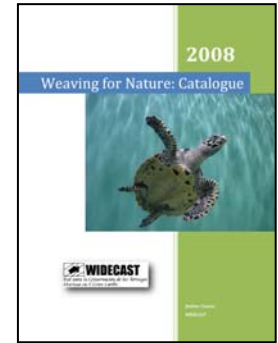


no, not me but
 my son who also
 loves sea turtles,
 doesn't that
 count?



Dear Milton,

I would like to thank you for your vision in founding WIDECAS. I have joined the WIDECAS family less than two years ago, but I must recognize that in some way WIDECAS has been responsible for my formation as turtler, since I started working on sea turtles six years ago. WIDECAS has represented a wonderful source of tools, and know-how. WIDECAS has been the vehicle for regional initiatives, such as *Weaving for Nature* (based in Costa Rica), that have allowed us to facilitate an extraordinary example of community-based conservation.



WIDECAS is a space to share with partners, without borders, as the turtles; a wonderful space of motivation and encouragement. **Thank you, Milton.** (And thank you, Karen, and to the entire family of WIDECAS!)

José Urteaga
Coordinator
Proyecto Tortugas Marinas
Fauna & Flora Internacional – Nicaragua
Managua, Nicaragua

June 2008



Estimado Milton, Muchas gracias por su visión al fundar WIDECAS. Me uní a la familia de WIDECAS hace menos de dos años, por lo que esto. Sin embargo tengo que reconocer que desde mis inicios como tortugero hace seis años, WIDECAS ha estado presente en cada etapa de mi de mi formación. WIDECAS ha constituido una extraordinaria fuente de herramientas, y conocimientos sobre conservación de tortugas marinas. Además WIDECAS ha sido el vehículo para llevar a cabo iniciativas regionales, como *Tejiendo por la Naturaleza*, que nos ha permitido construir un maravillosos ejemplo de conservación basada en nuestras comunidades. Pero WIDECAS ha sido más que eso, ha representado la posibilidad de compartir con muchos compañeros y compañeras de la región, sin fronteras, como las tortugas; un lugar para motivarnos e impulsarnos a seguir adelante.

Muchas Gracias Milton (Y gracias a Karen y toda la familia de WIDECAS)



Hola Milton Kaufmann,

You probably don't remember me, but I remember you – I was 14 years old and I met you briefly one day at Universidad del Turabo in Caguas with Jorge Luis Pineyro. Back then I was just a teenager who liked turtles and I had joined The Chelonia Society of Puerto Rico, headed by Jorge L. Pinero and Benito Pinto (WIDECAST Country Co-ordinator at that time) among others. Although at that time I had no idea I would be “doing turtles” as a way of living, after I met your crew, including Karen Eckert, I realized that I could be a biologist. Later, I went as a volunteer to work at Mona Island with hawksbill turtles with Tom Carr and then to Culebra with Tony Tucker and the leatherbacks. After that, I wanted to keep working with sea turtles and travel to many places and learn about sea turtles everywhere! Finally, I completed my studies as a biologist under the mentorship of Dr. Lew Ehrhart and now I serve as the Country Coordinator for WIDECAST in Puerto Rico, co-directing an in-water study of hawksbill turtles for our 17th season, as well as many other local projects. Therefore, even though I just shook your hand and remember your face (similar to Colonel Sanders of Kentucky Fried Chicken!), you served as an inspiration for my career and vocation. I am fully committed to sea turtle conservation in my country and my region, and we recognize WIDECAST as a major source of support for our work. For example, we are able to continue our in-water sea turtle studies because of an MOU established between WIDECAST and the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources that provides for funding administration, and we are grateful to the WIDECAST network for many years of technical guidance as well as booklets and other educational materials that assist and inspire us as we promote the conservation and management of sea turtles in Puerto Rico.

I wish you a very Happy 90th Birthday and I hope that you can come to Puerto Rico and see how hawksbills at Mona Island and leatherbacks on the mainland (e.g. Fajardo) are recovering!

Feliz cumpleaños y gracias por crear WIDECAST!

Carlos E. Diez
 Department of Natural and Environmental Resources
 Viejo San Juan, Puerto Rico

17 August 2008



Greetings Milton Kaufmann,

It was the early 1990's when Karen Eckert came to St. Kitts and gave a talk about sea turtles – and I began taking my 3 young boys for walks along the beach, noting any signs of sea turtle nests and crawls. One morning that first summer, my youngest son, Trevor, aged about 6, came with a leatherback hatchling which was as big (or as small) as the palm of his hand. We all thought it was dead, but suddenly it began to move. I picked up Trevor and rushed him with hatchling in hand to the edge of the sea. We put the baby turtle down and the waves just washed it backwards and forwards – we were so worried – but suddenly, it was like someone had turned on a switch and its little flippers went wild and off it went. Such relief and such wonder we felt.

The Orchard family was now completely 'hooked'. It was many years after that we saw our first adult leatherback, but in the interim I had become the WIDECAST Country Coordinator, produced a flyer about the sea turtles of St. Kitts, given many talks in schools, and taken groups of children and adults on turtle monitoring trips to the beach. I would have liked to have done much more, but I had a full time job and distractions such as bats, beetles and birds to investigate! Although my boys are now grown and I have passed the banner of "Coordinator" over to Kimberly Stewart, I still enjoy very much my membership in the WIDECAST family that you founded. I am still involved in education and awareness, and I have not got over that 'love at first sight' for the sea turtles of St. Kitts.

Now a new generation has taken the responsibility for the health of our small island, and we will pass to them the love and wonder that we ourselves have felt. In the picture below I stand with members and students of the UNESCO Small Islands Voice Project, cleaning up Keys Beach so it would be ready for the 2007 leatherback nesting season. **Thank you, Milton, for your contribution to our lives, and for WIDECAST!**

Kate Orchard
St. Kitts and Nevis
Eastern Caribbean



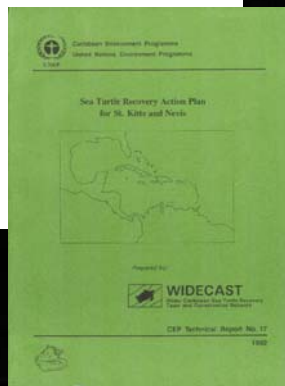
It is through WIDECAS**T** that the **Nevis Turtle Group** was formed and became involved in sea turtle conservation efforts on the island.

We now know that over 100 hawksbills use our index beach and that a number of others use the various beaches on the island. We know that leatherbacks and green turtles also nest on Nevis, and we know how to differentiate between the tracks of the different turtles.

Training and travel opportunities have come to members of the group through WIDECAS**T** and many colleagues from around the region and the world have been met. Members of the group have been to places they might otherwise never have been and made friends they never would have made but for our involvement with WIDECAS**T**. Additionally, we see sea turtle conservation as the first step in marine conservation in our island since there was no such conservation effort in regard to marine conservation before the sea turtle conservation effort.

We thank the founder of WIDECAS**T** for forming this organization that has brought so many people together in a common cause. **Thank you Mr. Kaufmann, and may you live many more happy years.** Rest assured your efforts have borne much fruit here and have opened the eyes of many in regards to the need for marine conservation.

Emile Pemberton
Fisheries Development Officer
Department of Fisheries
Nevis, West Indies





Dear Milton,

It was with WIDECAS**T**'s direction and support that the St. Kitts Sea Turtle Monitoring Network was formed six years ago. Since that time we have been working to develop a sustainable community-based sea turtle conservation program. To that end, our volunteers have been afforded support to attend valuable training opportunities through WIDECAS**T** - such as the Tagging Workshop in Trinidad in 2005, the Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Workshop in Marathon Key, Florida in 2006, and the Bermuda In-Water Course in 2007. Our volunteers have come back from these opportunities with a wealth of knowledge about best practices, all of which has been shared and implemented into our programs!

As a veterinarian, I have had the privilege of participating extensively in WIDECAS**T**'s regional "Sea Turtle Trauma Response Corps" and, as part of this initiative, we have hosted two training workshops on Sea Turtle Health here in St. Kitts. In addition, I was proud to represent the WIDECAS**T** network at the Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference in Barbados in 2007 and at the Animal Welfare Conference in Santo Domingo in 2008. WIDECAS**T**'s technical and outreach materials are distributed annually at local events such as Agriculture Day and our "Sea Turtle Camp"; similarly, they are distributed islandwide to schools, hotels and developers, as well as to citizens and visitors to promote conservation awareness.

WIDECAS**T** has not only promoted and instilled best practices in St. Kitts, but it has had a tremendous impact on my professional development as a conservationist and a veterinarian. Thanks so much for your vision, and wishing you a Happy Birthday!!

Kimberly M. Stewart
WIDECAS**T** Country Coordinator

Dear Mr. Kaufmann,

WIDECAS has meant a great deal to Saint Lucia over the years, assisting our natural resource offices, communities, and NGOs in so many ways, including, just to name a few:

- **Funding assistance** to participate in international meetings (e.g. WIDECAS annual meetings, international sea turtle symposia) and peer-exchange programmes (e.g. database management training, community-based sea turtle tourism)
- **Endorsement to enable support by other agencies** in meetings such as the CITES Regional Hawksbill Dialogue Meeting and Bermuda's in-water training programme
- **Development of the national Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan (STRAP)**
- **Provision of technical material and training** for Saint Lucia's tagging programme at Grande Anse
- Professional **review of local sea turtle publications** prior to publication
- **Networking assistance**, such as in identifying country of origin when a previously tagged sea turtle is encountered in Saint Lucia
- Participation in **regional data gathering programmes**, such as the Caribbean regional atlas of sea turtle nesting habitat
- Providing us with **invaluable contacts and exchanges** during WIDECAS annual meetings and thereafter
- Provision of **technical advice on programmes and management issues**
- Sharing of **educational materials** (e.g. posters, slides, books) that have formed the basis for our outreach and public awareness programmes

We in Saint Lucia wish you a very Happy 90th Birthday, and we thank you for WIDECAS, which has enabled us to create a sea turtle conservation and management programme that fits the needs of our country. **We also value that WIDECAS links us to our colleagues throughout the region, and ensures that our efforts are part of a collective effort to ensure the survival of these ancient creatures** for the benefit of generations to come.

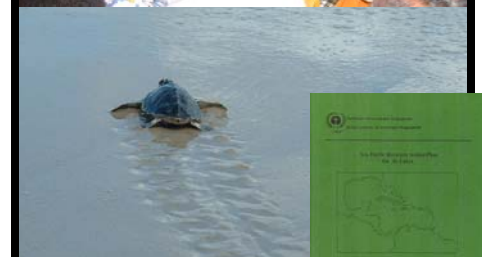
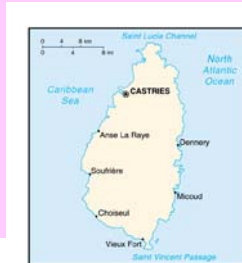
Sincerely,

Dawn Pierre-Nathoniél
(former WIDECAS Country Coordinator)
National Project Coordinator
Special Programme on Adaptation to Climate Change
Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre

WIDECAS Country Coordinators:

Bishnu Tulsie
Director
Saint Lucia National Trust

Sarita Williams-Peter
Fisheries Biologist
Department of Fisheries
Saint Lucia



Dear Col. Kaufmann,



Being a part of the WIDECAST family means you have turtle friends the globe over. Through networking I always know who is doing what, and this is handy for people like me who are new to sea turtle conservation work and do not want to re-invent the wheel! In addition, the literature and links WIDECAST provides are a big part of the Nature Foundation's education and public awareness programmes. When I read about the work of my sea turtle colleagues, *I feel inspired to continue my work here on St. Maarten despite the challenges! I think this is the meat-and-potatoes of it: a sense of support because WIDECAST is a support network, a family.*

One good example of this support was WIDECAST's sponsorship of my participation in the 2007 Bermuda Turtle Project's *Biology and Conservation of Marine Turtles: International In-Water Course*. Prior to this course, I had never encountered sea turtles and had limited knowledge about their biology, threats and conservation efforts throughout the Caribbean. Thanks to the Bermuda Turtle Project – a member of the WIDECAST network! – *the practical knowledge I gained provided the basis for the Nature Foundation's turtle-tagging project here in Sint Maarten*, as well as for many of our education and public outreach efforts. In addition to the acquired practical skills, the course offered me the opportunity to meet other participants from all over the world who shared information about their respective sea turtle research projects, thereby not only increasing our network of associates, but theirs as well.

The continued success of the sea turtle programmes in Sint Maarten is due to the knowledge we have gained from our WIDECAST partners; like the dedicated coordinators of the Bermuda Turtle Project, they are all willing to share! WIDECAST understands so well the need for training and capacity building for organizations, like ours, dedicated to sea turtle conservation, and the network is always ready to help us take full advantage of opportunities that arise.

Though we have not met, I want to thank you for helping to strengthen the Nature Foundation's work – through your vision in designing the WIDECAST network, we in the region will continue to benefit for many generations to come.

Wishing you a very Happy Birthday!

Beverly Mae Nisbeth
Manager
Nature Foundation St Maarten
Netherlands Antilles

September 2008



Dear Milton,

Although we have never met, I want to wish you a very happy 90th birthday and show my respect to you as the founder of this very special family.

I was welcomed into WIDECAST in 2004, with the kick off of an environmental education project for the three marine conservation organizations of Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten. For more than 10 years before I joined them, WIDECAST was playing a big role in their conservation projects. When I was hired these projects were expanding their education efforts and, although it was supposed to be a one year project, the turtles' cuteness is so highly contagious that we decided to use the sea turtle as a flagship species to raise awareness for other environmental issues as well. (Just the thing WIDECAST had been promoting for some time already—and from first hand I can confirm that it works!)



Encouraged by Karen's enthusiasm, I am now starting a grant writing consultancy with a specialty in sea turtle projects. *It seems there is no end to the inspiration that being involved in this network can bring.*

It is thrilling to give something positive to this organization that has added so much to my professional and personal life!



WIDECAST feels like one big happy warm family and as any real Caribbean family, it does not matter how distant the relative is.

Thank you, Milton, Karen, Scott and all WIDECAST members!

Dominique Vissenberg

Former education project coordinator of *Saba Conservation Foundation, STENAPA and Nature Foundation St. Maarten*



Dear Col. Kaufmann,

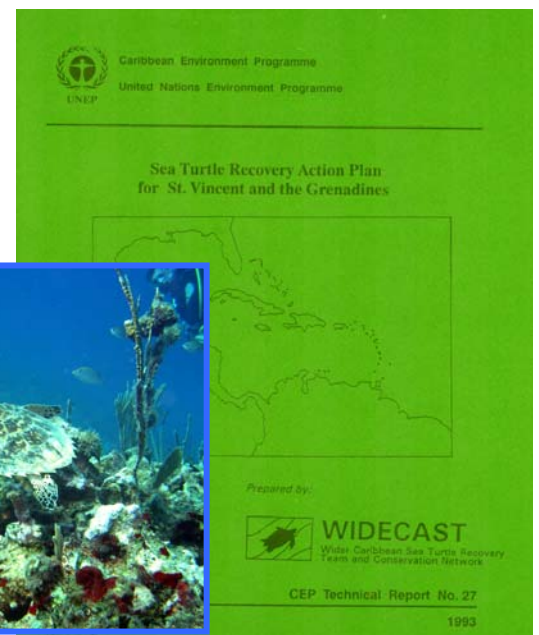
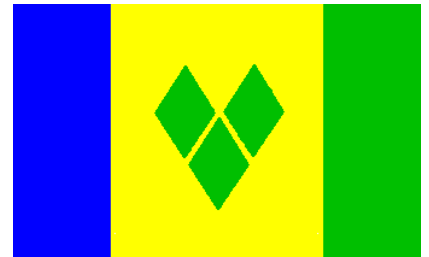
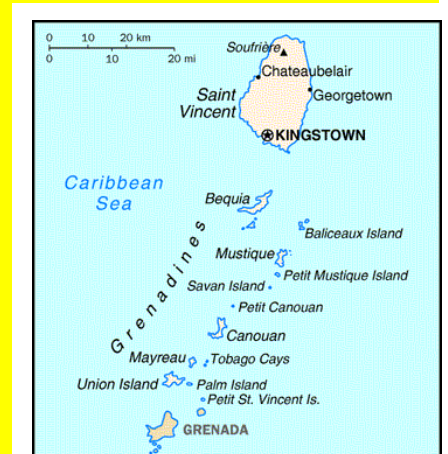
In 2007 the Fisheries Division in St. Vincent and the Grenadines launched The National Sea Turtle Conservation Programme which, among other things, included the initiation of biological beach monitoring of nesting sea turtles in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. *WIDECAST has played an invaluable role in the development and implementation of this programme by providing materials, training opportunities and great technical advice. Without this support, all the work that has been accomplished thus far, may not have been possible.*

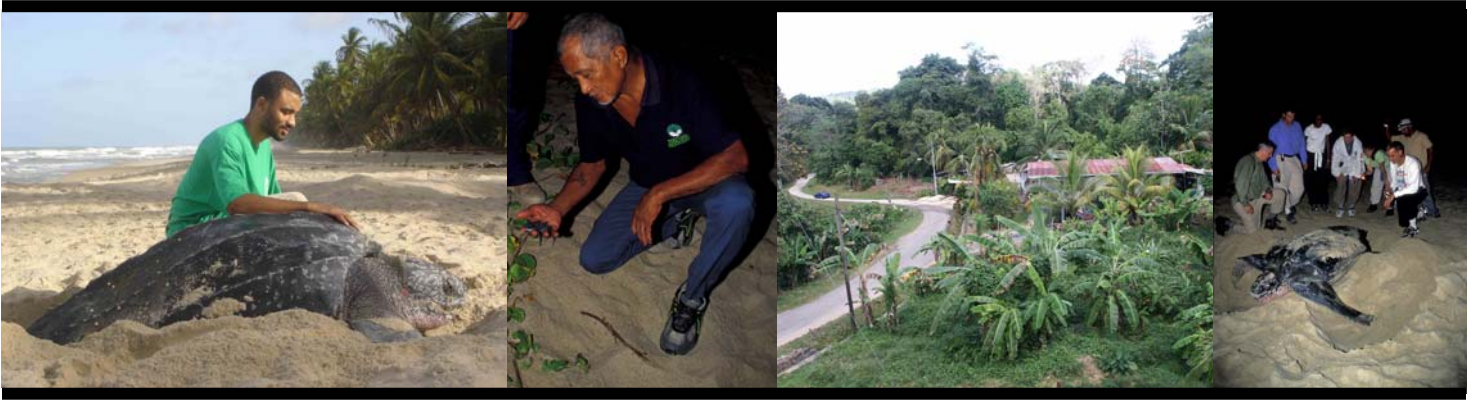
We sincerely appreciate the willingness of our WIDECAST family, and especially Karen Eckert, to assist whenever and in whatever way we needed. The warmth, drive, and accessibility of the network encourages me to press forward, knowing that there are people out there who are genuinely willing and able to help and inspire.

Many thanks to you, Milton, for your vision ... without which, there would be no WIDECAST today!

Happy Birthday!

Lucine Edwards
Fisheries Officer (Conservation)
Fisheries Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
St. Vincent





Dear Milton,

Nature Seekers, a community based organization, was introduced to Karen Eckert and WIDECAST in 1992 by Kenneth Fournillier of the Forestry Division (he was WIDECAST Country Coordinator at that time). **We benefited greatly from this introduction, as it provided a firm foundation for our conservation and outreach efforts.**

In 1997 we proposed a partnership between WIDECAST and Nature Seekers that would involve tagging and increased data collection on nesting leatherback turtles at Matura Beach. This was the start of great personal relationship that would be tailored by experience, expertise and an internal drive for radical change within the Matura community. This partnership enabled our growth in ways we could not have imagined at the time – it has been nine years since this successful partnership emerged, thus making it **nine years of continuous development, research and innovation which have occurred to a large extent courtesy of the strong support of WIDECAST.**

When WIDECAST agreed to serve as our Scientific Advisor, and provided technical support in avenues such as project design, personnel training and fundraising, it helped to build the intellectual capacity of our members as it related to everyday research activities. Today our partnership also embraces the EARTHWATCH Institute, which provides funding and volunteers to help patrol the nesting beach and has further enhanced our ability to conduct and support more consistent and high quality research and conservation efforts.

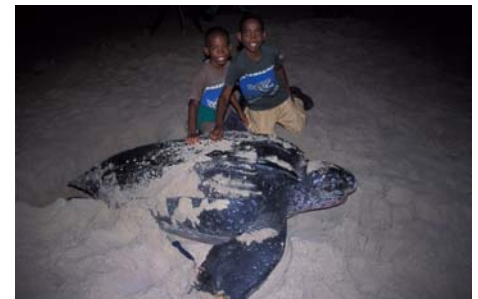
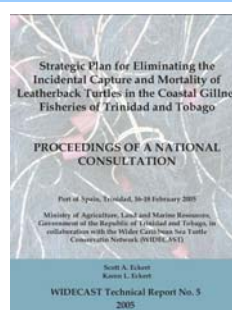
With all that was said above, **what we treasure most is the FRIENDSHIP we have developed with our WIDECAST colleagues across the Caribbean Sea, and especially the staff of WIDECAST - Scott and Karen having been very supportive not only of our field work, but of our aspirations both individually and as an organization.**

It's difficult to imagine the path taken in the absence of WIDECAST as a conservation partner in Trinidad, as the relationship has touched all aspects of our work including co-management, ecotourism, habitat protection, bycatch reduction, national recovery planning, database management, ... the list is long. We have also been given the chance to train others, and to share our success with Caribbean colleagues in ways that both strengthen our program and deepen conservation success in countries far away.

Milton, you have our gratitude for this idea – this idea that we could achieve more than we thought possible, just by joining together. We wish you a very happy 90th birthday, and many healthy and prosperous years to come!

Very sincerely,

Dennis Sammy
 Manager, Nature Seekers
 Trinidad & Tobago





Dear Milton,

I still remember the afternoon *Mike Weber introduced us in the summer of 1985, and we shared a few wonderful hours together* at the (then) Center for Environmental Education in Washington, D.C. I was beginning my career as a sea turtle advocate and had just returned from a landmark CITES meeting in Argentina where international trade prohibitions on sea turtles were upheld, despite tremendous odds against our success.

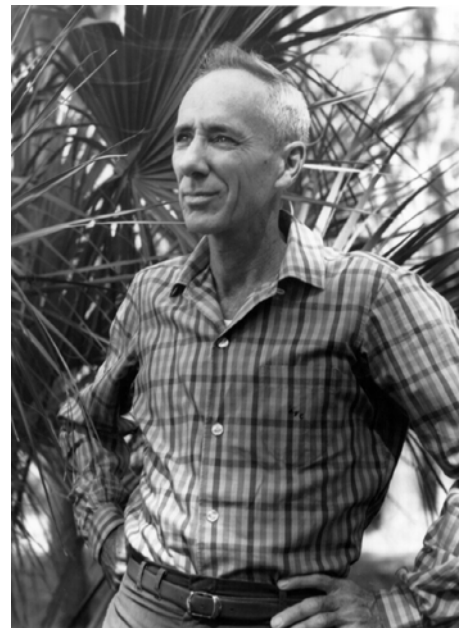
Your dedication to WIDECAST and your vision of what the network could be was inspiring! *In those early years, you were a mentor and friend who helped to shape my world view of conservation* and the challenges lying ahead. For these many years I have been a huge fan of the WIDECAST network – by working together and supporting each other, the network has become everything that you envisioned it would be.



How lucky sea turtles and sea turtle conservationists have been to have you in our midst. Thank you for your commitment, inspiration, and decades of good work. Like another great man – Archie Carr – who also changed the face of conservation, we owe you more than words can say. Wishing you the happiest of birthdays!

Affectionately,

Marydele Donnelly
Director of International Policy
Caribbean Conservation
Corporation



To Milton, the most “excellent” SPAW Meister:

It has been great working with you for some 20 years, practically my entire career at NOAA, while it was just a blink in your many careers. Every year you challenged us to renew our commitment to SPAW, always encouraging us to look to RAC/RAN opportunities to make conservation happen in the “water” and in our hearts. Above all, it was your generous spirit that inspired so many to share the dream ... and drinks in the NGO “room.” Even as we met under the cloud of 9/11, we brainstormed opportunities for collaboration while Government was shutting down. You have RACKed up great achievements, having built broad regional coalitions; I will always consider you an innovator and a great friend.

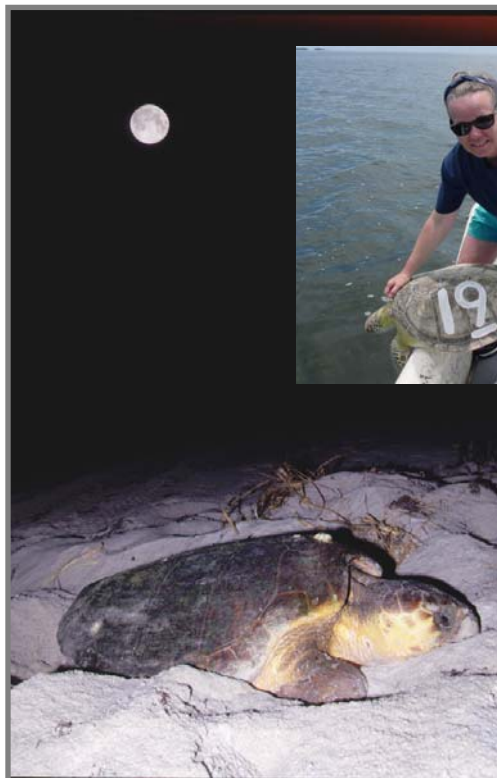
Arthur Paterson
International Affairs Specialist
International Program Office
National Ocean Service – NOAA

Dear Milton,

I remember first meeting you when I was a young, aspiring sea turtle biologist working with Fred Berry and others at the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center. I always admired your passion and advocacy for the Cartagena Convention and your vision for creating a broad network of sea turtle conservationists across the Caribbean. *That seed has taken root and grown into a very large and sturdy tree, advancing sea turtle conservation in ways that we could not have imagined more than 20 years ago. Sea turtles and sea turtle conservationists owe a debt of gratitude to you* and we all join in wishing you a Wonderful 90th Birthday!

Sincerely,

Barbara Schroeder
NMFS National Sea Turtle Coordinator
NOAA



Dear Milton,

It has been many years since I was a new aspiring sea turtle conservationist in the USFWS, and I first met you. I remember in those early years that your name and WIDECAST were linked inseparably as a vision for developing a broad network for marine turtle conservation throughout the Caribbean. This at a time when a sea turtle conservation networking was still in its infancy, even within the U.S! *It was a bold and courageous dream which has bloomed into the most extraordinary partnership and successful example of regional capacity building for species-focused conservation, that daily produces both tangible benefits for marine turtles and inspiration for us all.*

Your intrepid soul has inspired many, and spawned a beautiful legacy for protection of some of the earth's most beautiful creatures.

I hope that as you celebrate your 90th birthday you will enjoy this special moment in the sunshine of your many achievements and friends and know *you have truly made this planet a better place for its creatures and humanity.*

With warm regards,

Earl Possardt
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Division of International
Conservation
Arlington, Virginia

17 August 2008



Dear Milton (you Old Goat):

Congratulations on your birthday and the honor of having the park named after you. On this occasion, I want to share just a few stories from the **early** WIDECAST days when I was a member of the Team. I also have many fond memories of you from the U. S. Marine Turtle Recovery Team too.

Since we were in our infancy and needed to make ourselves known, you made buttons with the word “WIDECAST” for all of us to wear at WATS I. I kept mine all these years and have given it to Karen Eckert for safe keeping and to document the history of WIDECAST. I have also given her some black and white photos of the meeting we had in Panama. I believe each member of the original team is represented. Well, maybe not John Fuller (Antigua). You remember how he used to tease Jacques Fretey (French Guiana) by hiding his briefcase and making up stories that he would react to, showing that he could understand English and did not need an interpreter. This is one of Tom’s favorite stories from the early days of WIDECAST.

I also remember at the meeting in Puerto Rico, you brought day-old donuts from the U. S. for the coffee breaks because we were so strapped for funds. After about the third day, René Chang (Panama) was crying, “Donuts, juice, turtles, donuts, juice, turtles, I can’t take it anymore!”

So have a great time at your celebration and know that we will all be thinking of you and how your vision has so significantly changed and enhanced sea turtle conservation in the region, and had such positive results for these ancient creatures.

Much love and hugs,

Sally Hopkins Murphy

Sea Turtle Coordinator, *Retired*
SC Department of Natural Resources

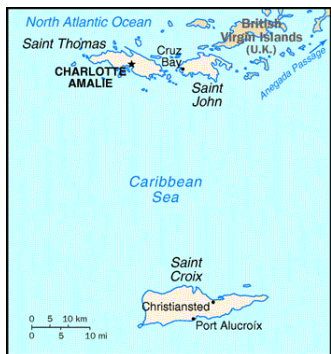
WIDECAST Country Coordinator (USA),
Emeritus



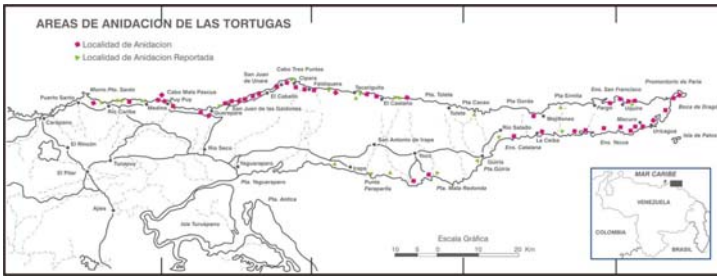
WIDECAST has provided an **invaluable service** to the U. S. Virgin Islands for many years as a clearinghouse for information on sea turtles here, and throughout the Wider Caribbean region. WIDECAST has also provided considerable amounts of technical guidance and assistance to the Territory, and to others working on turtles in the Territory. Moreover, **WIDECAST publications form much of the backbone of information used in the Territory to educate the public on issues of sea turtle conservation.** The quality of these materials has always been very high. We are grateful for your early efforts, and for your vision in founding **this unique network that has meant so much to us all.**

Thank you, and Happy Birthday Milton!

Rafe Boulon ><<((('>
Chief
Resource Management
V.I. National Park, and
V.I. Coral Reef National Monument
St. John, USVI



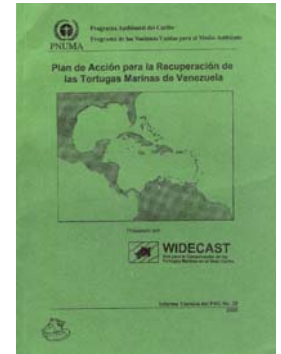
These images of a green and hawksbill turtle were taken in the V.I. National Park. And do you recognize Karen (Eckert) in the early years, when she and Scott laid the foundation for research that is still ongoing on St. Croix?!



Dear Milton!

CONGRATULATIONS on your 90th birthday. You should be extremely happy with your life achievements, WIDECAST is one of the best by sure.

In the case of Venezuela, the linking with WIDECAST since 1991 has meant a very significant change for sea turtle conservation efforts and networking here. WIDECAST experts helped us to develop a comprehensive Sea Turtle Action Plan, the first "STRAP" in Spanish, and to create a network of people working together for sea turtles. Without WIDECAST we could not have achieved these goals, and we would not have had the tools needed to progress in our conservation efforts. WIDECAST has also been important in institutional ways, such as in starting CICTMAR.



Milton, thanks for your wonderful idea - and to Karen for giving your idea wings. We appreciate WIDECAST as one of the most wonderful gifts to the Caribbean Sea.

LOVE,



Mag. Hedélvy J. Guada
Directora
Centro de Investigación y Conservación
de Tortugas Marinas, CICTMAR
Caracas, Venezuela



Dear Col. Kaufmann,

As a young researcher just starting out in the field of sea turtle research and conservation, WIDECAST has been a wonderfully warm and welcoming family! To have the pleasure (and luck!) to be part of a group that is so truly dedicated to a collective cause and so supportive, has been invaluable to me both professionally and personally. Success in conservation requires vision, persistence and dedication – and *WIDECAST provides daily examples to the global conservation community of how such efforts can make a difference in conserving species and the habitats they live in.* I am continually inspired and energized by the people who make up this extraordinary network and I am incredibly appreciative of the knowledge I've gained as a researcher, scientist, and conservationist under the guidance and mentorship of Karen, Scott and the WIDECAST family.

Thank you for your amazing vision and for the inspiration you have given me and so many others – one person really can make a difference in the world! You have made such a wonderful contribution to sea turtle conservation and to all of us by dreaming up and giving us the gift of WIDECAST.

Happy Birthday!

Warmest wishes,

Wendy Dow
WIDECAST Staff Scientist
Doctoral Candidate
Duke University (USA)



Dear Col. Kaufmann,

My first full-time job out of graduate school was as a Staff Scientist with WIDECAST in 2003. I had a great deal of experience working with sea turtles in the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge in Florida – both on the nesting beach and in the water. WIDECAST broadened my experience with sea turtles by taking me to Trinidad, Costa Rica and the Mediterranean! *My time with the WIDECAST family certainly helped me develop professionally as a young biologist,* I now work for NOAA in Hawaii and I'm still working with sea turtles! *WIDECAST shows what can be accomplished when people work together, emphasize good science, and believe in a better future for people and for sea turtles.* As others have done, I want to express my gratitude to you for creating WIDECAST and especially for the opportunities it provides for professional growth among young scientists in the US and beyond.

Wishing you a very happy 90th birthday!

Sincerely,

Stacy (Kubis) Hargrove
Marine Turtle Research Biologist
NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center
Honolulu, Hawaii



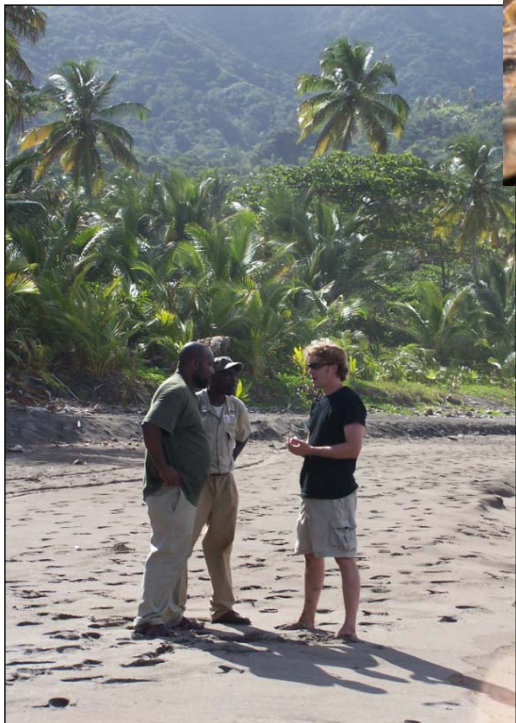
Dear Milton,

In 2004, my wife and I were presented with the opportunity to serve as Field Directors for WIDECAST's Jumbo Bay Hawksbill Project (JBHP) on a small island off the coast of Antigua. We spent two fantastic seasons patrolling that little beach. It was a phenomenal experience, a wonderful introduction to the marine turtle research and conservation community and one that my wife and I will always cherish. Since that time, I have had the good fortune to continue to work with the JBHP, as well as with another WIDECAST-affiliated project in Dominica. Along the way I've learned a lot about conservation, sea turtles and life in general, meeting many interesting personalities and having once-in-a-lifetime experiences too numerous to mention. *One of the most valuable experiences, however, was being part of the WIDECAST network itself, with its members' far-ranging areas of expertise, openness to collaboration, and passion for results. I extend my sincere thanks to you for your vision in establishing such a unique, far-reaching and powerful organization.*

Best wishes on your 90th birthday!

Kind regards,

Seth Stapleton
WIDECAST Staff Scientist
Doctoral Candidate
University of Minnesota (USA)



Dear Milton,

It was more than twenty years ago in Antigua that you persuaded John Fuller to host (at his father's beachfront hotel) and me to organize and chair **an Experts Meeting in Antigua of Caribbean English Speaking Countries to discuss the possible format and content of a Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) Protocol to the Cartagena Convention.**

Armed with the outcomes of that meeting, you then persuaded John and me to go to the first UNEP Experts Meeting on the SPA Protocol in St. Croix, USVI, in 1987. Little did we both realize that this was the beginning of more than five years work on the Protocol in many different and beautiful locations, but always **with your constant support and encouragement, as well as your enthusiasm and uncompromising and persistent attention to every detail** (is that message coming through?). I recently found an old picture of John and me at one of the negotiations, which you might enjoy.

As a (relatively) young professional international lawyer I always found **your faith in the force and sanctity of international law very inspiring.** The SPA Protocol is in many ways your personal triumph.

When my family moved to Washington, D.C. in 1996 to facilitate my new position with the World Bank, you and Sabina greeted us like returning family. **Thank you so much for all your kindnesses over the years** – I remember you even getting out of bed just before midnight to celebrate with me the last few minutes of my birthday when my plane from Europe was eight hours late arriving in Martinique for a SPA meeting.

Milton, warmest congratulations from the Freestones on your 90th Birthday. **Your life and work is an inspiration to us all – you have moved and motivated so many people in so many places over the years** and we cannot actually believe that you are serious about retiring (again).

With all our good wishes for the future,

David Freestone (with Jenny, Mark and Michael)
Former Deputy General Counsel
The World Bank

September 2008







WIDECAST

Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network

“Working together to build a future where all inhabitants of the Wider Caribbean Region, human and sea turtle alike, can live together in balance.”

The Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST) is a regional coalition of experts and a Partner Organization to the U.N. Environment Programme’s Caribbean Environment Programme. WIDECAST was founded in 1981 in response to a recommendation by the IUCN/CCA *Meeting of Non-Governmental Caribbean Organizations on Living Resources Conservation for Sustainable Development in the Wider Caribbean* (Santo Domingo, 26-29 August 1981) that a “Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan should be prepared ... consistent with the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme.”

WIDECAST’s vision for achieving a regional recovery action plan has focused on bringing the best available science to bear on sea turtle management and conservation, empowering people to make effective use of that science in the policy-making process, and providing a mechanism and a framework for cooperation within and among nations. By involving stakeholders at all levels and encouraging policy-oriented research, WIDECAST puts science to practical use in conserving biodiversity and advocates for grassroots involvement in decision-making and project leadership.

Emphasizing initiatives that strengthen capacity within participating countries and institutions, the network develops and replicates pilot projects, provides technical assistance, enables coordination in the collection, sharing and use of information and data, and promotes strong linkages between science, policy, and public participation in the design and implementation of conservation actions. Working closely with local communities and resource managers, the network has also developed standard management guidelines and criteria that emphasize best practices and sustainability, ensuring that current utilization practices, whether consumptive or non-consumptive, do not undermine sea turtle survival over the long term.

With Country Coordinators in more than 40 Caribbean nations and territories, WIDECAST is uniquely able to facilitate complementary conservation action across range States, strengthening and harmonizing legislation, encouraging community involvement, and raising public awareness of the endangered status of the region’s six species of migratory sea turtles. As a result, most Caribbean nations have adopted a national sea turtle management plan, poaching and illegal product sales have been reduced or eliminated at key sites, many of the region’s largest breeding colonies are monitored on an annual basis, alternative livelihood models are increasingly available for rural areas, and citizens are mobilized in support of conservation action.

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