



**SEA TURTLE
CONSERVANCY**
S I N C E 1 9 5 9

Formerly Caribbean Conservation Corporation



Hussain Aga Khan &
Nazir Sunderji
Focused on Nature

January 20, 2021

Dear Hussain and Nazir,

I find it hard to come up with the right words to adequately thank you for your incredible support. Please know that we have received your two recent donations sent via bank wire (\$5,000 received in December 2020 and \$1,500 received earlier this month). Your tremendous support is very much appreciated by everyone in the organization, and it will provide a strong boost to our work on behalf of sea turtles in 2021, especially in this challenging time.

Given the gravity of the challenges we all are dealing with in the face of Covid-19, STC has adapted to the situation by modifying our research, conservation and education programs to conform to all health guidelines. Nevertheless, all of our work on behalf of sea turtles is being continued, including at our remote project sites in Costa Rica, Panama, Cuba and Bermuda. Our program to reduce the impacts of artificial lighting on turtles in Florida is proceeding, as is our in-water monitoring and protection project focused on juvenile sea turtles in the Gulf of Mexico. We also will continue our popular online education programs, particularly the Tour de Turtles satellite-tracking program, which fills an important need for students around the world.

Unfortunately, at project sites in Costa Rica and Panama, our team has had to work overtime to make up for the absence of local law enforcement officials on the beach. Because fewer park guards are on the scene – and because local communities are more desperate due to the lack of tourism and other traditional forms of business – we saw a major increase in the illegal trafficking of turtles and their eggs for food. STC's local staff is working very hard to relocate and protect nests – and we are conducting additional outreach within the communities to discourage illegal activity. We are making a difference, but the threat is still ongoing.

Despite the unprecedented impacts of this pandemic, STC remains focused on our mission to study and protect sea turtles. Support from you and your organization, Focused on Nature, makes that possible. Together, we are achieving so much on behalf of sea turtles – and together we will persevere. On behalf of everyone at STC, I thank you!

Sincerely,

David Godfrey
Executive Director

