



## Transcript

### [Sea Turtles: Operation Green Turtle](#)

**Text scrolling on screen:** Over 50 years ago... Led by Dr. Archie Carr, The Sea Turtle Conservancy (Caribbean Conservation Corporation) and the U.S. Navy teamed up for OPERATION GREEN TURTLE

The Goal: Restore Green Turtle nesting grounds to beaches on islands throughout the Caribbean.

**David Godfrey:** Dr. Carr and this organization thought that one of the ways that we could reestablish sea turtles on places where they used to nest but don't currently nest because we've eaten them all or harvested them all for different reasons was to take turtles from one population and move them to another beach, let the eggs incubate on a different beach, and then when those turtles grew up and wanted to come back and nest, they would nest at that new beach.

We actually had a program called Operation Green Turtle which was going on in the late 50s and early 60s. It was in partnership with the Navy, the US Navy. They would fly this old Grumman water plane down and land it in Tortuguero River in front of our station. They'd fill it up with this buckets of some eggs and some hatchlings and they would fly them and attempt to reseed turtle colonies all over the Caribbean and Atlantic.

It was ultimately not a successful was to go about it, but a great deal was learned about sea turtles during this and maybe most importantly, and this is something that Dr. Carr wrote about in some of his books, it was the first sort of public relations initiative that raised awareness in all of those islands where they went about the fact that sea turtles were in trouble, and that there were people that cared. It was the beginning of getting the word out about this animals.

Although it wasn't ultimately successful, we learned a great deal and have been able to apply that knowledge to newer conservation programs that actually are very much working.

**Text scrolling on screen:** Operation Green Turtle lasted for nine years (1959–1968). Through this time to the present day, the Sea Turtle Conservancy has worked with the people and government of Costa Rica to monitor and protect sea turtles. In 1975 Tortuguero National Park was established. All marine turtles are now protected in Costa Rica. All marine turtles are now protected in Costa Rica. Ecotourism based on sea turtle nesting has made significant economic impact on the region Tortuguero National Park is the most important Green Turtle nesting site in the Western Hemisphere. Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge is the most important Green Turtle nesting site in North America. Record numbers of Green Turtles are being recorded in Costa Rica and Florida.