

38°00'02"W), received a phone call that a large turtle on Guarajuba beach was being attacked by two dogs. Two biologists rushed to the scene, only to find a dead adult *C. caretta*, with its carotid artery punctured. The turtle had begun to dig a nest-hole, but had not successfully laid its eggs before being attacked. The turtle was transported back to the Projeto TAMAR base and necropsied. The gravid female contained 141 eggs in her oviducts. Witnesses identified the dogs and their owner as the same ones responsible for killing a nesting hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) on 2 February 1998, during the previous nesting season. Similarly, the *E. imbricata* had been attacked close to sunrise and killed prior to oviposition. This turtle was also necropsied, and 128 unlaidd eggs were found in the oviducts. In both cases, the unlaidd eggs were washed in fresh water and interred in an open air hatchery at the Praia do Forte station; only the *C. caretta* eggs hatched, producing 43 live hatchlings.

The enforcement authorities at IBAMA and the Institute of the Environment and Natural Renewable Resources of the Federal Government of Brazil were notified, and we expect the owner to face the maximum possible fines. The *C. caretta* carapace now hangs in the museum of the visitor center in Praia do Forte, Bahia, and that of the *E. imbricata* is displayed in visitor center in the archipelago of Fernando de Noronha, Brazil.

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## TESTUDINES

**CARETTA CARETTA** (Loggerhead Sea Turtle) and **ERETMOCHELYS IMBRICATA** (Hawksbill Sea Turtle). **PRE-DATION.** Sea turtles are subject to pressures from a wide variety of predators, at many different life stages (Dodd 1988. U.S. Fish Wildl. Serv. Biol. Rep. 88[14]:1-110). Predation pressure seems to be inversely related to age and size of sea turtles— hatchlings are eaten by many species of fish, birds, and mammals while adult turtles at sea apparently have few natural predators, other than sharks and killer whales. Nesting sea turtles face land predators, such as jaguars (Autar 1994. Mar. Turt. Newsl. 67:11-12) and crocodiles (Ortiz et al. 1997. Chel. Conserv. Biol. 2:585-587), not to mention people. Additionally, there have been reports of predation by feral dogs on nesting female sea turtles (Caldwell 1959. Bull. Florida State Mus. 4:319-348; Hendrickson 1958. Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. 130:455-535). Here, we report domestic dogs attacking and killing nesting sea turtles *Caretta caretta* and *Eretmochelys imbricata*.

Early in the morning of 26 October 1998, the Projeto TAMAR-IBAMA base in Praia do Forte, Bahia, Brazil (12°34'56"S,