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## **PROJETO TAMAR: MATCHING THREATS AND CONSERVATION PRIORITIES FOR SEA TURTLES IN BRAZIL**

**Maria A. Marcovaldi<sup>1</sup>, João C. Thomé<sup>2</sup>, Augusto C. C. Dias da Silva<sup>2</sup>, Gilberto Sales<sup>2</sup>, Bruno Giffoni<sup>1</sup>, Berenice M. Gomes<sup>1</sup>, Cecília Baptistotte<sup>2</sup>, Eduardo Lima<sup>1</sup>, Juçara Wanderlinde<sup>1</sup>, Armando J. B. <sup>1</sup>, Alexandro S. dos Santos<sup>1</sup>, Milagros L. Mendilaharsu<sup>1</sup>, and Gustave G. López<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Fundação Pró-TAMAR. Postal 2219, Rio Vermelho, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil

<sup>2</sup> Projeto TAMAR/ICMBio. Caixa Postal 2219, Rio Vermelho, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil

Marine turtles are circumglobally distributed, inhabit nearly all oceans, occupy unique ecological niches and are subject to different risks and threats. Therefore, several studies have acknowledged and identified global sea turtle research and conservation priorities to address essential actions for their protection. Considering the nearly continental dimensions of the Brazilian coast (8000 km) and the distribution of the sea turtle species throughout its length, it is essential to assess and orient conservation actions. Given that conservation resources are limited and conservation targets are diverse, it is important to concentrate efforts and prioritize actions for the recovery of the populations of the five species of sea turtles that occur in Brazil. Over 30 years of data collected by TAMAR/ICMBio through regular monitoring and research has made it possible to identify threats to each species of sea turtle and highlight important gaps in available information. A series of workshops were held with TAMAR's technical team and experienced researchers were invited. We categorized known threats to sea turtles and prioritized recovery actions. Threats were identified and classified for each of the different life stages and ecosystems inhabited by the sea turtles. We considered six life stages to facilitate the construction of the matrix: egg, hatchling, juvenile neritic, juvenile oceanic, adult neritic and adult oceanic. As threats varied depending on the ecosystem inhabited by the turtles, we incorporated beach and "in water" environments into the matrix. We assigned magnitudes to threats (e.g. low, medium and high impact) based on the best available information (e.g. published data, TAMAR database) and expert opinion to establish relative parameters. This work represents an experimental exercise to assist us in our current actions and to address future issues.