



turtles need your help 'be aware and take care'

Turtle season officially opens on the 1 November. A coordinated area specific beach clean-up will be hosted in the coming week to clear the beaches of debris, thus ensuring easy passage for nesting females. We will be using the last few years data to isolate high nesting grounds up the coastline. We are in desperate need of vehicles & trailers, drivers, garbage bags and of course some helping hands. We can all make a difference!

Date: 7th November 2009

Time: 11h15 for 11h30 take off

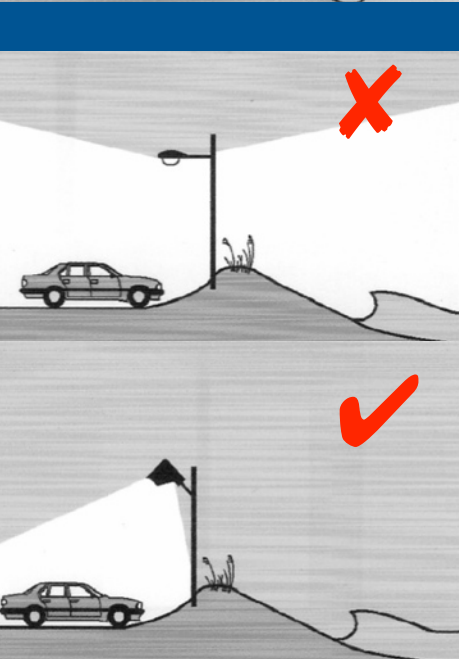
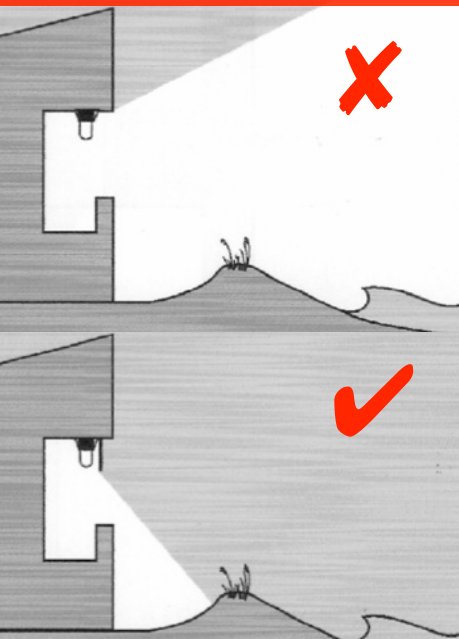
Meeting Place: DIRC @ the Dolphin Beachcamp, Ponta do Ouro



For more details please contact sara@dolphincare.org / +258 84 234 9011

CONSERVATION MEASURES TO REDUCE LIGHT IMPACT ON MARINE TURTLE NESTING BEACHES

Adapted from: Witherington, B. E. & R.E. Martin 1996



light management recommendations

Southern Mozambique beaches are ideal nesting habitats for the loggerhead and leatherback marine turtles. However, in the last few years, these marine turtle habitats have been negatively impacted by uncontrolled tourism developments placed within 100 meters counting from the high water mark moving inland. Among its various impacts, artificial lighting is of great concern.

Artificial lighting impacts on both nesting females and hatchlings. It impacts on nesting females firstly by deterring them from emerging from the water to nest and lay eggs. Thus reducing nesting success and forcing marine turtles to find less appropriate nesting sites or shedding their eggs at sea. Another impact is related to the fact that females after nesting as well as when hatchlings emerge from their nests, find the sea by being oriented by the brightest light in the horizon. As a consequence, these move inland following the brightest artificial lights and never reach the sea.

During the nesting season, from October until late March, its recommend that the following measures be implemented by everyone to reduce the negative light impact on marine turtles:

- Turn off lights that are not in use;
- Close curtains/blinds to cover windows visible from the beach after dark;
- No torches or fires should be used on the beach after dark;
- Plant native dune vegetation near the crest of the dune closest to the beach;
- Use alternative lighting which has minimal effect on sea turtles (e.g. low pressure sodium vapor lamps and red light emitting diodes) with low wattage;
- Use the light management techniques presented here

To report incidents including poaching please contact
 MARINE TURTLE FREE HOTLINE 082 0TURTLE = 082 0887853
 MOZAMBIQUE MARINE TURTLE WORKING GROUP
tartarugasmozambique@gmail.com
 DOLPHINCARE-AFRICA / ENCOUNTOURS - info@dolphincare.org / 84 234 9011



TURTLE SEASON 2009/10