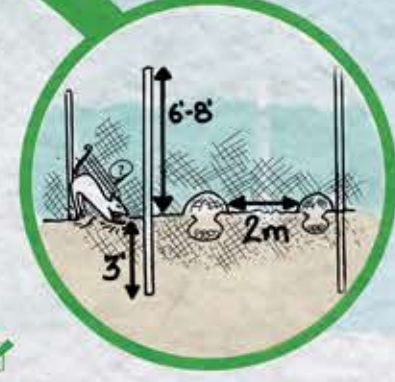


BEST PRACTICES SEA TURTLE HATCHERIES

Sea turtle nests may be relocated to a hatchery as part of a conservation, research or outreach programme. From a conservation perspective, nests should only be relocated to a hatchery if it is absolutely essential i.e. if there is a significant danger of predation, tidal flooding or other threats.



✓ The hatchery should be located about 20 to 30m from the high tide line to prevent flooding and should be close to the nesting site.



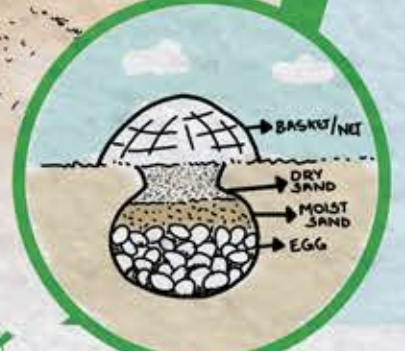
✓ The hatchery can be constructed with poles and mesh; nests should be at least 2 metres apart.



✓ Hatchlings should be released at night immediately after hatching and allowed to crawl down the beach into the sea.



✓ Close to the emergence date, each nest should be covered with a basket/plastic mesh.



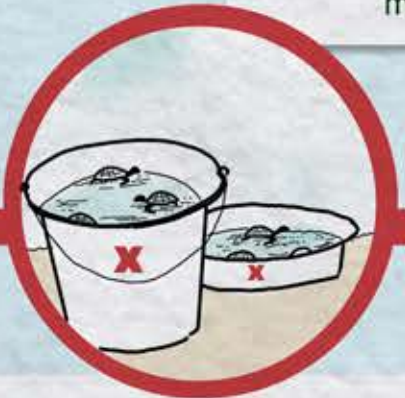
✓ The shape of the nests should be similar to that of natural nests.



✓ Basic data should be recorded on a placard at the nest, and a detailed data book should be maintained.



✗ The hatchery should not be covered on top or in the shade of trees



✗ The hatchlings should never be held in buckets of water or sand.



✗ The hatchery should not be established at the same site for two consecutive years.



✗ Hatchlings should not be released at the same site everyday.

