



## Department of Environment Marine Turtle Beach Monitoring Programme

### **What it is:**

The Cayman Islands Department of Environment (DoE) has conducted the Marine Turtle Beach Monitoring Programme every year since 1998. The programme runs from May to October and is designed to identify, monitor, and protect marine turtle nests on beaches in Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac, and Little Cayman.

### **How it works:**

Volunteers are trained by DoE staff on how to identify signs of nesting and then accompany staff on surveys. Each beach is divided into sections and each volunteer walks a small section of that beach. After walking your section, you will be picked up by the DoE vehicle. When nests are found, the team will return to mark them.

Beach walks usually start at 6:00 a.m. and in the late morning or early afternoon on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Arrangements can be made to pick up volunteers for walks and volunteers can also monitor beaches on their own time (e.g. before or after work or on weekends) and report findings to DoE.

### **Requirements:**

The programme requires volunteers to be physically fit and tolerant of working outside in very high temperatures (duties include walking quickly in soft sand, digging, shoveling and raking to locate and cover nests, etc). A driver's license is preferred but not required. Due to training requirements, volunteers must commit to assisting on a regular basis.

### **Cancellations:**

Each day, we work with a very small team. If you have committed to volunteer, we are counting on you and may not be able to complete the work without you. Please do not cancel on short notice except in cases of illness or emergency. Likewise, if you assist on a regular schedule but will not be available on a particular date please give us as much notice as possible so that we can find another volunteer to replace you. If there are days when you might have to cancel on short notice (e.g. on-call for work) we can usually accommodate this but please let us know at the time that you volunteer.

### **What to bring:**

Wear comfortable clothing (usually shorts and a t-shirt) and appropriate shoes for walking in sand and bring a hat, sunblock, sunglasses, rain jacket and large bottle of water. Bringing a cell phone (with a plastic bag in case of rain) is helpful in case you are not sure where to meet the vehicle. A stop at a shop is sometimes made along the way and you may bring a small amount of cash to purchase snacks. Please do not bring other valuables.

*Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions. Thanks!*