

# Be a Turtle Trooper!

**If you find a sea turtle coming up to nest, make sure you follow these instructions to play your part in a successful nesting:**

- **TURN OFF THE LIGHTS**– any light or noise can disturb the turtle and make it go back to the sea without laying;
- **DON'T GO TOO CLOSE**– only approach the turtle when it has finished digging and has sat down in the nest hole and started to lay;
- Turtles often take 1<sup>1/2</sup> - 2 hours to complete the nesting process...have patience!
- Once the turtle is actually laying eggs you can approach and take photos if you like; avoid touching the turtle; if you use lights or a flash– do not shine them into the turtle's face; take photos only from behind the turtle.
- **COVER THE TRACKS**– one of the main problems is the illegal harvesting and eating of turtle eggs; once the turtle has returned to the sea, disguise the nest and tracks by brushing them over with a coconut branch or rake to avoid the eggs being discovered and stolen;
- If the turtle is disoriented by artificial light, guide it safely back to the sea!
- If hatchlings are lost, gently guide them towards the water's edge.
- if you witness a nesting sea turtle being slaughtered on a beach, or eggs being collected or sold at anytime - **ALERT THE PO-**

**The Sea Turtle is an important natural resource to Saint Lucia.**

**If we want to enjoy this resource, we must use it wisely.**

**The future of this resource continues to be threatened by the collection and use of turtle eggs and killing of nesting turtles.**

**Both of these activities are illegal!**

**Support the LAW... invest in the future!**



**Department of Fisheries  
Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry  
and Fisheries**