



SAM Programme Beach Monitoring Protocol

Site Selection

- At each MPA, set up a minimum of 3 sites that are used by sea turtles for nesting (unless you have fewer nesting beaches).

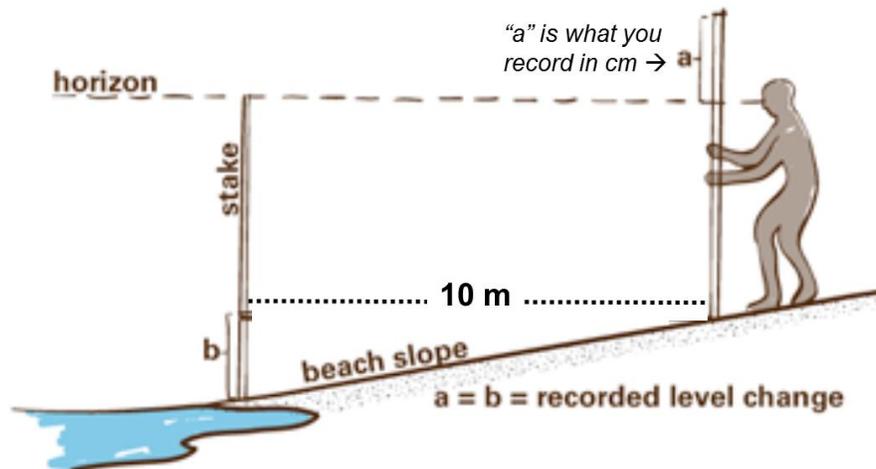
Recreation Counts

- If your MPA has binoculars use them. But, be consistent month to month. Try to always use binoculars all the time.
- In any area that you can see from the beach you are standing on, record the number of recreational boats in view.
- Record the number of people on the beach. If none, record 0.

Fishing Observation

- As above, use binoculars if you have them and be consistent about their use.
- In any area you can see from the beach, record the number of fishing boats (vessels).
- Circle all gears that you see in use.

Beach Slope



- Always start at the same spot. Try to choose a place that includes the steepest part of your beach.
- Have two people standing 10 m apart with one on the upper part of the slope and one down the slope toward the water.
- One pole should have marks on it each centimeter from the top, and this pole should be used at the upper location.

- The person at the upper location is the one to determine the slope. This person lines their eye up with the pole they are holding so that they can see the top of the other pole and the horizon or the land line (if land is blocking the horizon).
- When they are sure their eye is lined up with the top of the other pole and the horizon, this person should record how many centimeters (cm) down the pole their eye was.
- It is very important that both poles remain vertical and NOT tipped sideways.
- It is also very important that the poles do not sink into the sand.
- You may want to bring a bucket to stand on in case the slope is not very steep and you need to move higher up on the pole (for the person taking the measurement).
- It's a good idea to have 2 people read the slope independently and make sure you are getting the same measurement.

Trash

- Mark a 10 x 10 m area above the high tide line.
- Use the same general area each month.
- Record the total number of pieces found by category, then remove from beach.

Evidence of Unauthorized Beach Presence

- Look for any evidence somebody has been on the beach and record the type of evidence. This could include footprints, gear, blood, etc.
- Make sure you search the entire beach or between agreed upon points

Turtle Nest Counts

- Count any turtle nests that you think have eggs in them.
- Make sure you search the entire beach or between agreed upon points
- If you are unsure if something is a turtle nest, make a note of what you saw and take a picture if possible. Indicate how many nests you were unsure about.