Keeping Vanuatu's beaches turtle friendly

Follow these guidelines to:

- Make it easier for female turtles to crawl up the beach to lay their eggs
- Make it safer for hatchlings to crawl down the beach to the sea
- Protect the nests from damage
- Protect important turtle habitat

Follow the turtle watching guidelines whenever you see a turtle on the beach, keep still and quiet and give the turtles space. The full guidelines can be found via the QR code.

Protect the reefs and seagrass habitat

- Reduce your carbon footprint
- Reduce your plastic footprint
- Reduce use of harmful chemicals (e.g. fertilizers and pesticides) that can end up in the ocean via drains and rivers
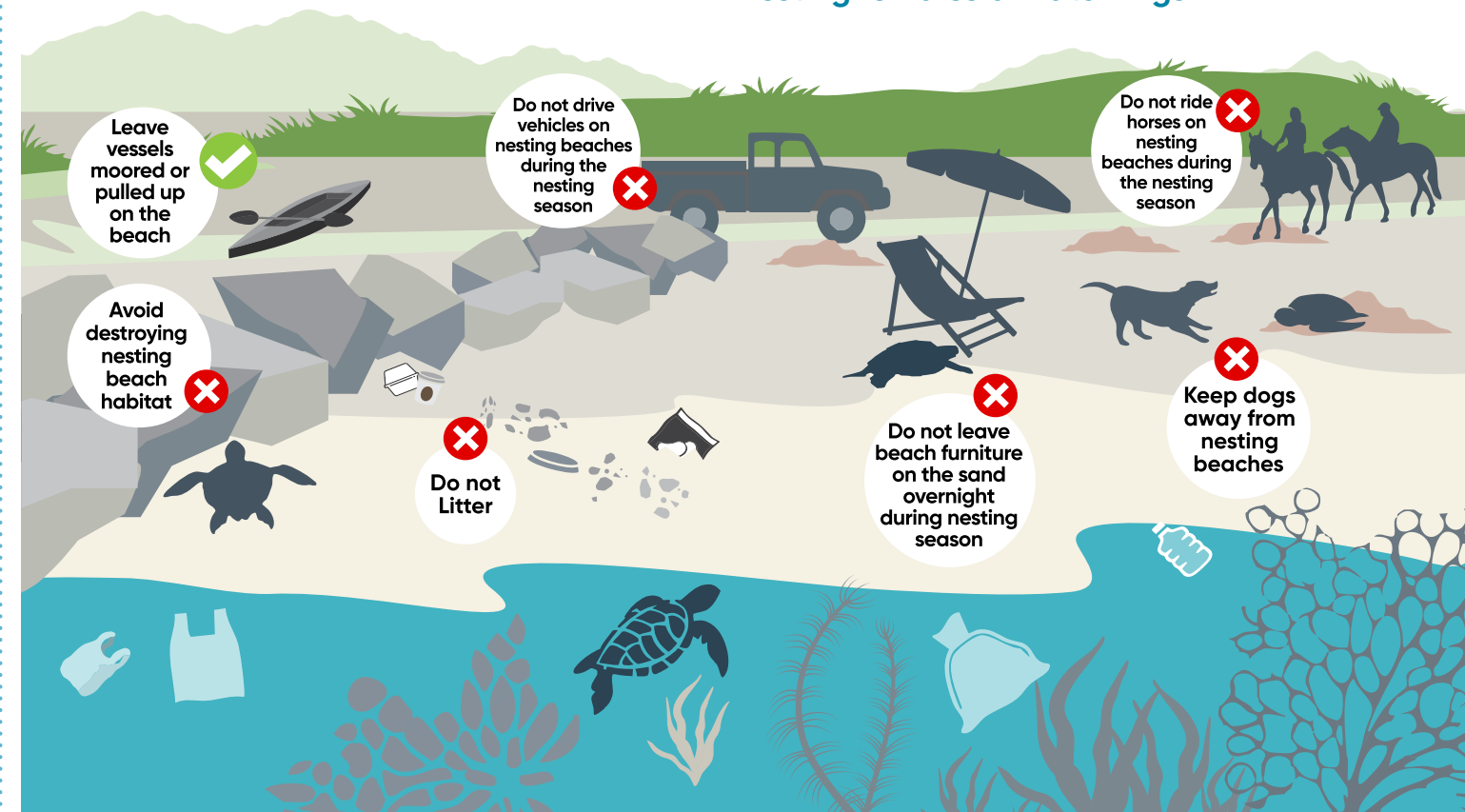- Use reef-friendly sunscreen

Carefully consider any development on nesting beaches to avoid destroying nesting beach habitat

Buildings, wharves, jetties can prevent turtles from using nesting beaches. Instead of building sea walls, plant native vegetation that stabilises the sand to protect your beachfront property from storms.

Do not leave beach furniture (beach chairs, umbrellas, tables, tents) on the sand overnight during nesting season

Don't stake sun umbrellas or build sandcastles above the high tide mark as these may destroy eggs in a nest.

Leave vessels moored or pulled up on the beach where they won't get in the way of nesting females or hatchlings

Leave vessels moored or pulled up on the beach ✓

Avoid destroying nesting beach habitat ✗

Do not drive vehicles on nesting beaches during the nesting season ✗

Do not ride horses on nesting beaches during the nesting season ✗

Do not Litter ✗

Do not leave beach furniture on the sand overnight during nesting season ✗

Keep dogs away from nesting beaches ✗

Keep the beaches dark during nesting season

- No fires, flash photography or torches
- Turn off outside lights of beachfront properties
- Shut curtains and blinds and move indoor lights away from windows
- If you need to use lights, use long wavelengths (amber, orange or red in colour), low wattage, low lumen lights
- Mount lights low and shield them to stop the light polluting the beach