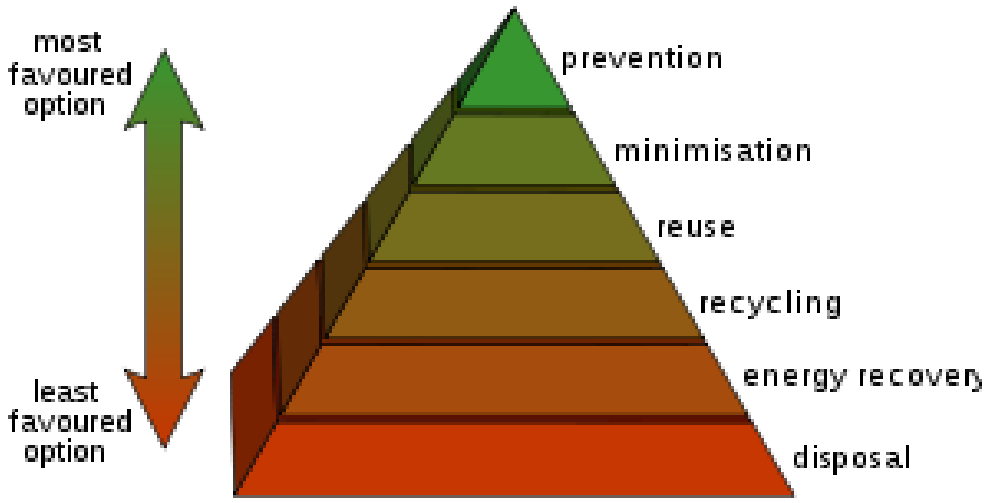
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Combating pollution and wastes for tourism facilities

Greetings!

Many tourist facilities are located in pristine environments. These environments provide unique experiences where man and nature interact, from cold lush mountains, exotic and endemic species, rolling safari plains to exquisite coral gardens. To the avid traveler; whether you prefer dry land adventures or are more at home with the fish in the sea, the indulgence in nature in its purest form is as important as the luxury rooms or tents you rest in. With these pleasantries from nature, there exists a great concern for their protection, conservation and sustainability for future consumption. Of major concern in the protection of these resources is pollution which results from our interaction with nature. Our indulgence will undoubtedly create the problem of waste and other forms of environmental pollution, however, many simple strategies can help us to be environmentally responsible.

There exists a hierarchy of preference when dealing with pollution and wastes in our environment, as illustrated



1. **Prevention**

This involves ensuring that a contaminant does not get into contact with the environment. It can be achieved in various ways

a) Replacing conventional cleaning products with more environmentally friendly ones. For instance, use of biodegradable soaps in place of conventional soaps. This is a trend that is fast catching up and has tremendously alleviated the problem of harsh chemicals to soil and water ecosystems. These products can be sourced locally from different providers for example cinnabar green and Ecover in Kenya. More links to ecofriendly products and service providers can be found in Ecotourism Kenya green directory .

b) Replacing technology. Chlorine pools can be replaced by Eco Smarte pool technology is that a chemical/ salt free alternative to chlorine and salt based cleaning systems for swimming pools.

c) Deliberate separation of the contaminant from the environment. Release of such pollutants as oil can cause a myriad of problems to soil biota and ground water. For example where waste fuel oil is generated, use of an oil interceptor can prevent contamination of the environment.

2. **Minimization**

In some instances wastes/ pollution cannot be avoided. In this case, minimization of the pollution effects is the best course to take. For example, generators in facilities should be well serviced to avoid leakages and fitted with mufflers to reduce noise pollution.
Lamps and lanterns on pathways can also be covered or shaded to reduce light pollution

3. **Recycle and Reuse materials**

Many items can be repurposed/ recycled. Wine bottles for instance can be repurposed for different uses such as storing water for guests, drinking glasses and décor.



Photos courtesy of designrulz

Wastes that do not necessarily originate from the facility but are in the immediate environment can also be recycled to improve the environment and create awareness. These kinds of wastes are rampant at the coast where they washed up on the shore from other areas.



Creating a turtle mosaic using waste plastic and flip flops
Image courtesy of Local Ocean Trust

4. Energy recovery and disposal
   Eventually some waste will have to be disposed of. It is of utmost importance that this is done by licensed waste handlers as some of these wastes may be hazardous to the environment. Examples include; medical waste from facilities that have clinics, paints and batteries. To access a list of approved waste handlers contact your nearest NEMA office.

It's smart to be responsible!