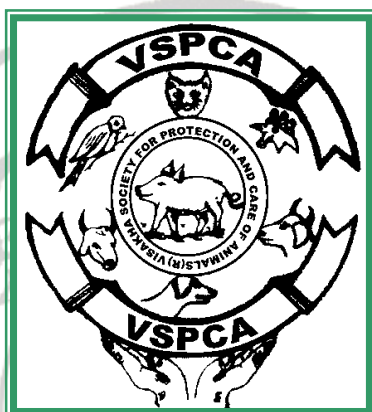


VISAKHA SOCIETY FOR PROTECTION AND CARE OF ANIMALS



OLIVE RIDLEY SEA TURTLE REPORT FOR 2011-12

**A Community Based Protection and Conservation Programme
In Collaboration with The Andhra Pradesh Forest Department,
The Winsome Constance Kindness Trust, Australia, Greater Good Organization,
USA, Help Animals India USA, and Turtle Action Group India,**

OLIVE RIDLEY SEA TURTLE REPORT FOR 2012



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are thankful to the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department, The Winsome Constance Kindness Trust, Australia Greater Good organisation USA, Help Animals India USA, and Madras Crocodile Bank Trust. Chennai for their incredible support in the successful execution of the community based sea turtle protection and conservation programme, at the coasts of Visakhapatnam and Bheemunipatnam

And most importantly Olive Ridleys continuing to visit our waters, camping and nesting at our beaches reposing the confidence and depending on us to help their children.

INTRODUCTION:

Visakhapatnam is an important sporadic nesting ground where the turtle greatly shows interest in nestings because of reasons that are most conducive for nestings. Our protection efforts ended in the month of May.

VSPCA jointly with AP Forest Department and ably supported by Winsome Constance Kindness Trust, Australia, Greater Good Organisation, and Help Animals have been engaged in protecting the Sea turtles mostly Olive Ridleys along the coast of Visakhapatnam and Bheemunipatnam.

OLIVE RIDLEY SEA TURTLE REPORT FOR 2012

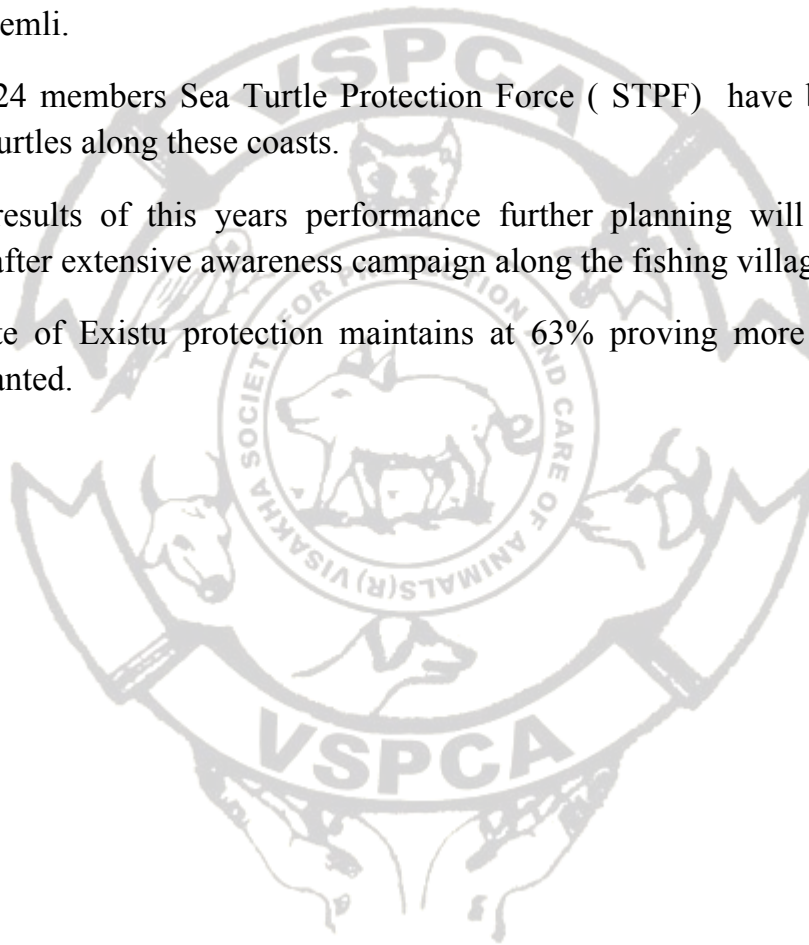
Based on the successful implementation of EXSITU (Protecting by shifting nests) protection by hatcheries in 2010-2011, it was proposed, accepted and decided to setup four hatcheries in Visakhapatnam, Jodugullapalem, Rushikonda, and Bheemli. These were necessary to shift all nesting into their respective hatchery areas preventing from extreme disturbances to the coasts due to tourism developments, beach activities, heavy lightings, pollution and predators.

This year together more than 181 nestings have been sighted from Naval coastal battery to Bheemli.

This year also 24 members Sea Turtle Protection Force (STPF) have been engaged to protect the sea turtles along these coasts.

Based on the results of this years performance further planning will be made in the following year after extensive awareness campaign along the fishing villages.

The success rate of Existu protection maintains at 63% proving more consolidation of hatcheries warranted.



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ACTIVITIES UNDER TAKEN BY VSPCA DURING THIS SEASON'S PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMME.

1. Education and Awareness Programmes :

We conducted Education and Awareness Programme in Coastal Fishing Villages numbering 30 to continue our process of doing practical awareness campaigns to derive immediate and instant protection of these endangered sea turtles for direct consumption.

A meeting with village representatives:



2. Lobbying and Legal Efforts :

We continue tirelessly lobbying with the necessary government departments to help in the protection and conservation programme by putting a stop to sand mining, dredging, and constructions along the coast which reduces the total beach area as well as reducing the levels of industrial pollution and sewage discharge into the sea.

3. Networking:

Networking with other like-minded Animal Welfare Organisations as Turtle Action Group, to create a strong technical base for the programme. With their expertise and guidance formed to protect and conserve all kind of sea turtle along the coasts of India.

Below a session with all Seaturtle protection groups from all over India at Mahabalipuram, Chennai --- December 2011:



OLIVE RIDLEY SEA TURTLE REPORT FOR -2012

4. Setting up of Hatcheries:

Four hatcheries (40X 25 Feet) each at Visakhapatnam R.K. Beach, Jodugullupalem, Rushikonda, and Bheemli beach with decentralisation of the STPF teams divided into four days and night protection and safe from all kind of predation.



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5. HINDRANCES : Facing the issue Industrial Pollution :

Industries in the City →



A dead Turtle died out of Consuming Toxic Waste. →



DREDGING :

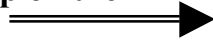
Dredging by DCI Near to the of Shore →



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TOURISM DEVELOPMENT :

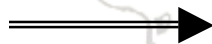
Naval Submarine setup on the Beach



Highly Lighted Beach



Non Implementation of
Turtler Excluder
Devices (TEDS)



OLIVE RIDLEY SEA TURTLE REPORT FOR -2012

DOGS :



The Beach dogs they are potential threats to Sea Turtles

SAND MINING :



Sand Mining one of the main predators of Turtles habitat

5. Effectiveness of the Sea Turtle Protection Force (STPF):

- This is a force comprising of local fishermen and volunteers who comb the beaches with the intention to-
- Protecting nests either in situ or by taking the eggs to the beach-hatchery.
- They rescue and safely release of disoriented hatchlings. As well as helping the weak ones past the ocean breakers.
- Informing people on the beach about the turtles during their beach patrol
- Distribution of education materials creating awareness



A review STPF at one two hatcheries meeting of

OLIVE RIDLEY SEA TURTLE REPORT FOR -2012

Sea Turtle Protection Force (STPF) consisting of members local fishermen volunteers have been selected to patrol the beaches. They were divided accordingly with two members for every four kilometres stretch. They have been provided extensive training that included theoretical as well as on the field. The alertness and presence of STPF saved a mother turtle from being poached at Jodugullpalem.



Turtles Brought For Eating Saved



The first batch of hatchlings for the season was released by Shri. Ramalingam, Curator, Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam.

6. The Types of Protection and Conservations involved :

The Olive Ridley Sea turtle can be conserved in two methods:

1. INSITU (Protecting with out shifting Nests)
2. Ex Situ (Protecting by shifting nests)

Our protection and conservation community based project has so far included activities such as the nestings that were clearly vulnerable were shifted to hatcheries only.

But this year 2011-2012 total we went into total Exsitu Protection

A total of Four Hatcheries were set up from Visakhapatnam- Bheemli to shift all nestings into their respective hatcheries.

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The STPFS at work in the Hatcheries

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Exsitu Protection – Visakhapatnam Summary Data

Zones	Areas	No of Nests	No of Eggs	No of Hatchlings Released	No of Undeveloped Eggs	No of Dead Hatchlings
Zone-1	Naval Costal Battle to Vuda park.	73	8987	5781	3007	199
Zone- 2	Vuda park to Jodgullapalem	61	6704	4346	2141	214
Zone- 3	Jodgullapalem to Rushikonda	22	2635	1703	804	128
Zone- 4	Rushikonda to Bheemli	25	3017	1630	1164	223
	TOTAL	181	21 343	13 460	7 116	764

Summary

No of Released % = 63%

No of Dead % = 3.58%

No of Undeveloped % = 33.42%

REASONS FOR MORE UNDEVELOPED EGGS :

1. The sand was black inside, more moist laden indicating high degree of moisture and pollution from untreated sewage water
2. Very High Tides from Tsunami day caused by Earthquake at Indonesia on 2012 March – end week has resulted in soaking of the hatcheries and nests.

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IMPORTANT OBSERVATIONS :

A) EARTH QUAKE :

Until 2012 March end we received steady visit by the Olive Ridley nesting at our coasts.

B) TSUNAMI :

After a powerful, Earthquake with horizontal Tsunami came to our shores at end of March 2012, these was not a single nesting in place and this is confirmed from our earlier observations in 2005 December Tsunami that severely hit our eastern coasts and no nesting took place in 2004 - 2005 in this area either.

C) NO OF EGGS IN A NESTING :

There has been increased record number of eggs clusters in each nest this year. There were several occasions where the number of eggs crossed 150 Nos.

FOCUS FOR 2012 :

1. Our efforts for 2012-2013 will continue towards mandatory implementation of Turtler Excluder Device (TEDS) to stop the largest predation in the form of choking in the trawling nets of mechanised boats and trawlers.
2. To further consolidate our EXSITU protection in the form of design, materials used and technical precisions with regards to shifting and placing in hatcheries eggs collected.
3. Intensify our awareness campaign
4. Further strengthen the knowledge of STPFs, provide more training and STPFs throughout the day and night.



There are three ways to donate to VSPCA:

DONATE ONLINE

The fastest and easiest way to donate is online via PayPal. You don't need a PayPal account to donate, only a credit card.

* To specify your donation be used specifically for one of our programs, please let us know in the "notes" field during payment.

DONATE BY MAIL

USA tax-deductible contributions can be sent to [Help Animals India](#), a 501(c)(3) organization. The Help Animals India board has agreed to help VSPCA. Mail your check made out to "Help Animals India" (with "VSPCA" in the memo) to the address below.

Help Animals India

19215 32nd Avenue N.E.
Seattle, WA
98155
USA

Alternatively, you can send your check directly to the shelter in India (make the check out to "VSPCA") at the below address — a receipt will be mailed back to you from India once it is received.

Visakha Society for Protection and Care of Animals

26-15-200, Main Road
Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India 530-001