

# Olive Ridely Turtle Protection at the Coast of Visakhapatnam

*Report for the Year 2018-19*



*A Joint Effort by...*



GreaterGood.org  
ESTABLISHED IN 2004

**NetAP**  
Network for Animal Protection

# INDEX

S.No	Content	Pg no.
1.	23 years of Olive Ridley Conservation	01
2.	Olive Ridley Conservation in Visakhapatnam	02
3.	Precautionary Measures Taken	03
4.	Conservation Centers in Visakhapatnam	04
5.	Legend	05
6.	Success Trends	06
7.	Collaborations	07
8.	Hindrances	08
9.	Combating and Conserving	09
10.	Rally for Ridleys	10
11.	Word of Gratitude	11



## 23 years of Olive Ridley Protection in Visakhapatnam

Conservation of **Olive Ridley Turtles** had begun in 1996 in the lone shores of **Pudimadaka** where the first nest of an Olive Ridley Turtle has been identified. Now within a span of **two decades** Visakhapatnam has witnessed a whopping **increase** in the occurrences of the nests i.e. **785** along the **Visakhapatnam Urban Coast**. Effective **Collaboration** and **Persistent** efforts have resulted in this huge **Success**.

### Highlights of 2018-19

- **89% rise** in the **success rate**.
- Over **108 nests** were identified and relocated additionally making total of **785 nests** this year.
- **68,794** hatchlings were safely released into the ocean.
- **Minimizing** the **Anthropogenic Threats** on the **coast**.
- Effective **management** of the **patrollers** to avoid **missing of nests**.
- Thorough **checking** at the coast.
- **Perfect Tracking** of Nests.
- **Sophisticated Handling** of Nests.
- **Relocating the nests** with **utmost care**.
- **Protecting** the nests from **harsh weathers** and **predators' ransack**.
- **Temperature checks** of the **Relocated Nests**.
- **Safe Release** of Hatchlings.

## Olive Ridley Protection in Visakhapatnam

Olive Ridley Turtle belongs to one of the Seven Marine Turtle species occurs in the tropical oceans in the entire planet. They are migratory species like the other marine turtles who travel long distances in search of food, mate and suitable nesting places. They mate in the sea and females come off shore to nest in sea coasts. There are many of such nesting sites in the tropical regions of the planet and Visakhapatnam is one of the major nesting sites for Olive Ridley Turtles in the southern coast India. The Turtles which come offshore to lay eggs are highly vulnerable to poaching and predations by a wide range of Predators, the nests are also vulnerable to predations. To Protect the last remaining population VSPCA, Andhra Pradesh Forest Department and the NTPC Parawada has collaborated and working in a holistic manner.

Every year from January to May the Sea Turtle Spectacle begins as the female turtles come to the shores to lay the eggs. Our STPF (Sea Turtle Protection Force) patrollers collect the eggs and safely relocate them in the Ex-itu conservation sites known as the Hatcheries designated for the protection of relocated nests. After the eggs get incubated in the hatcheries the hatchlings are released into the ocean safely, five hatcheries setup this year in different locations covering a conservation blanket of over 100 km in the urban Visakhapatnam coast. The hatcheries are developed and maintained for being resistant against harsh weather conditions and Predators' Ransacking.

# Precautionary Measures Taken



Shelter has been provided on the nests to prevent Direct heat on the Nests



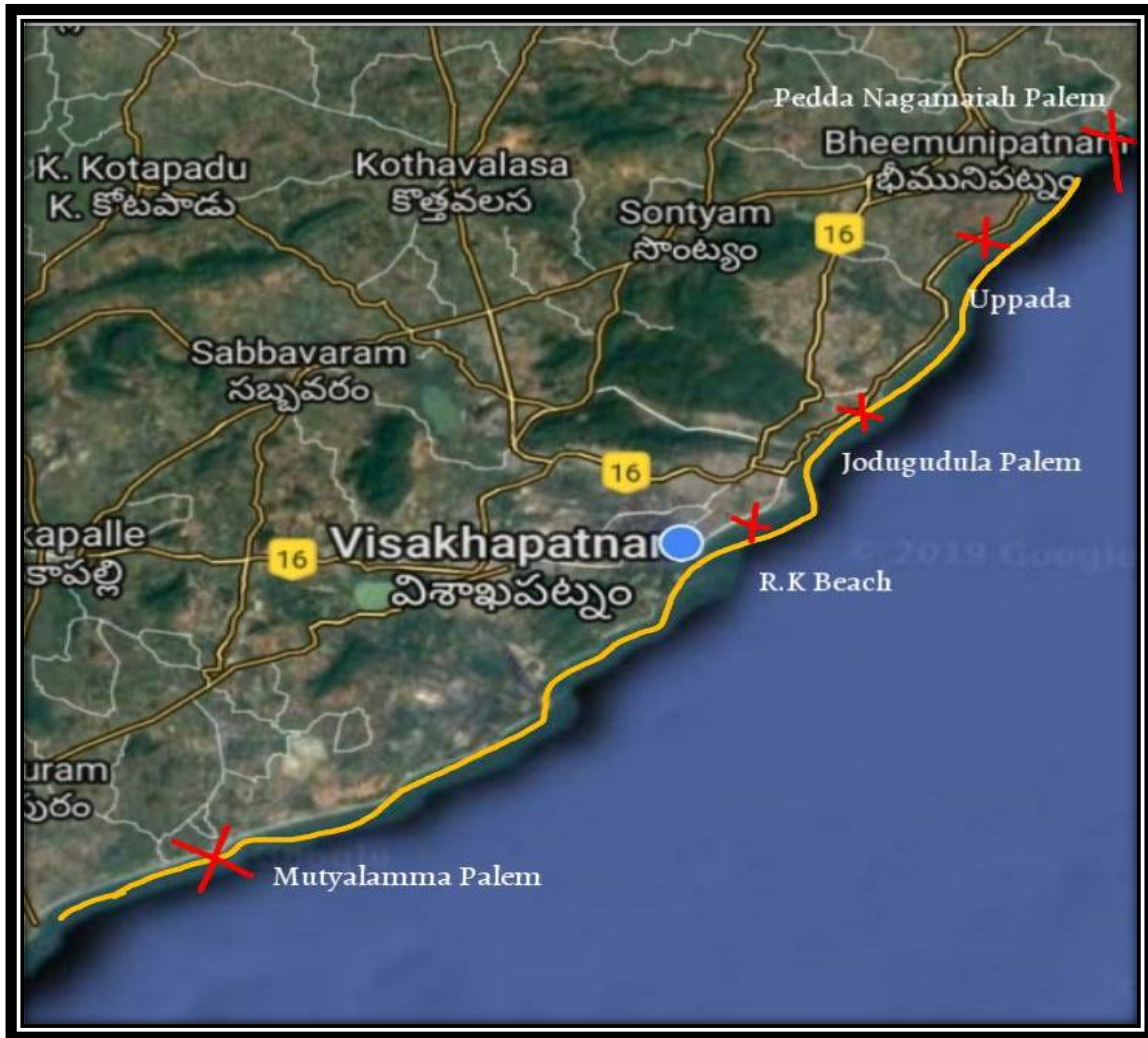
Nets have been arranged to avoid predator Ransack



## Protection centers in Visakhapatnam- Hatcheries

The Hatcheries in Urban Visakhapatnam Include:

1. R.K Beach
2. Jodugudula Palem
3. Uppada
4. Pedda Nagamaiah Palem
5. Mutyalamma Palem



A conservation blanket on 100 km coastline from Mutyalamma Palem to Pedda Nagamaiah Palem.

# Legend

S.no	Hatchery	No. of Nests	No. of Eggs Collected	No. of Hatchlings Released
01.	R.K Beach	183	18,932	15,933
02.	Jodugudula Palem	252	28,424	23,480
03.	Uppada	160	15,004	13,382
04.	Pedda Nagamaiah Palem	95	9,463	7,731
05.	Mutyalamma Palem	95	8,989	8,358
Total		785	80,812	68,794

**Total Success Rate: 89%**

(Mutyalamma Palem our new beach has recorded 92% success rate in the occurrences of hatchlings)



# Success Trends

## Collaborations

Hatchery	Nests identified	Eggs Collected	undeveloped eggs	Hatching Released	% of success
R.K Beach	183	18,932	11.6%	15,933	84.16%
Jodugudula Palem	252	28,424	12.46%	23,480	82.60%
Uppada	160	15,004	7.58%	13,382	89.19%
Pedda Nagamaiah Palem	95	9,463	13.08%	7,731	81.70%
Mutyalamma Palem	95	8,989	4.95%	8,358	92.98%
<b>Total</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>80,812</b>	<b>4.69%</b>	<b>68,794</b>	<b>89%(average)</b>



Every Conservation success story has a healthy and well established cooperation and collaboration as alike the conservation initiative of Olive Ridely Turtles in Visakhapatnam we have generous contribution from the NTPC Simhadri and a strong support from the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department which could make this Conservation practice a huge success.

The Andhra Pradesh Forest Department has a special role behind the success of this project. Their quick Response and Resolution of issues was commendable, their support and banking has really impacted the way working which is highly progressive.

NTPC Simhadri-Parawada our strong supporters has funded generously to the Conservation Practice, which is an inspiration to all the public and private sector firms for contributing more for conservation of the globally threatened species.

**We are Proud to be working with our  
Protection Partners**

**-The Andhra Pradesh Forest Department**

**-NTPC SIMHADRI**

# Hindrances

With intensive consumption of resources the entire planet is being crushed. The high end expansion of the coastal cities there is an increase in the land diversion for non-conservational purposes is gravely threatening the shore and ocean dwelling species' survival. Oceanic pollution, excessive fishing, sand mining, light pollution through beach entertainment and many more are directly endangering the biodiversity of coastal regions and one of the victims to these evils are the marine turtles being semi-ocean dwelling species survival of these gentle giants has become the quest with a double edged sword.

The main hindrances for the Marine Turtles in Visakhapatnam include:

- Accidental Catching.
- Oceanic pollution
- Dredging
- Sand mining
- Destruction of sand dunes
- Beach Tourism
- Light pollution near sea shores
- Irresponsible Plastic disposal
- Constructions on beaches

*And many more...!*

## Combating & Conserving

A simple way to avoid any kind of disturbances to the Turtles is being away from all kinds of beach tourisms during the nesting seasons. It is highly important to be more turtle friendly because their ecological Responsibilities are crucial for the survival of Oceanic Eco-system.

Here are some key ways for being Turtle Friendly:

- Boycott all kinds of Beach Tourism activities (entertainment, sports and religious) during the nesting season.
- Avoid venturing shores during nights.
- Avoid littering any kind of waste on the sea shore.
- Boycott Turtle Trophies.
- Educate and make people aware of the importance of Marine Turtles.
- Volunteer for the Olive Ridley conservation Project.





# Rally for the Ridleys

Rally for the Ridleys is an awareness measure initiated to preserve the nesting grounds of the Olive Ridley Turtles, as there is an immense anthropogenic pressure on the coastal habitats. With increasing attention of tourists on the Visakhapatnam coast there is a huge destruction caused to the beaches in the entire urban sea shore. This has become a hindrance for the turtles to come and nest. If this rational diversion continues we may lose the nesting grounds which ultimately lead to self destruction.

To make everyone aware of the sensibility of conserving the Turtle nesting grounds VSPCA along with NTPC and the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department initiated a silent walk which mainly emphasizes on the conservation of Olive Ridley Turtles and their Nesting Grounds..



Over 100 activists with delegations from NTPC have participated in the walk...

## Word of Gratitude

The year 2018-19 has been highly promising for taking the responsibility of conserving the **globally threatened** species the endangered **Olive Ridley Turtles**.

**Effective Collaboration** and **transparent communication** and healthy relation with all the stakeholders have achieved the success.

We would like thank our generous supporters- The **Andhra Pradesh Forest Department**, **NTPC-Simhadri**, **Winsome Constance Kindness Trust**, **NetAP**, **Greater Good Organization** for their strong support.



*Thank You...*