Olive Ridely Turtle Protection at the Coast of Visakhapatnam

Report for the Year 2018-19

A Joint Effort by...
# INDEX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Pg no.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>23 years of Olive Ridley Conservation</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Olive Ridley Conservation in Visakhapatnam</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Precautionary Measures Taken</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Conservation Centers in Visakhapatnam</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Legend</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Success Trends</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Collaborations</td>
<td>07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Hindrances</td>
<td>08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Combating and Conserving</td>
<td>09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Rally for Ridleys</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Word of Gratitude</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conservation of Olive Ridley Turtles had begun in 1996 in the lone shores of Pudimadaka where the first nest of an Olive Ridely 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 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.
Total Success Rate: 89%

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

### Collaborations

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