



Twenty Four Years of
Community Based Marine Conservation Contributions
of
Dr. Supraja Dharini,
Founder & Chairperson,



TREE FOUNDATION

TRUST FOR ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION,
CONSERVATION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Since - 2002



Integrated Community Based Marine Conservation Programme

Supported by:



Short Brief About TREE Foundation

TREE Foundation is an Indian based NGO, with a primary focus on marine conservation, founded by Dr. Supraja Dharini in 2002, inspired by Dr. Jane Goodall DBE. Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) turtles' nest along the sandy beaches of the East coast of India. They share their offshore habitat with hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricate*) and green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*). Since the 1970 there has been a 90% reduction in nesting numbers of the Olive Ridley turtle (R. Whitaker, 1979). With an understanding that the destruction of ecosystems by coastal communities, caused mainly by illiteracy and poverty, is a serious problem for all endangered marine life and has contributed to the decline in sea turtle numbers, TREE Foundation established community based sea turtle conservation programs to educate and engage marginalized artisanal fishing communities from 285 fishing villages along 808 kms of the east coast of India in Tamil Nadu initially and subsequently Andhra Pradesh (Sullurpeta, Tirupati, Nellore, Prakasam, Bapatla, Krishna, Bhimavaram, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram & Srikakulam), Odisha and Goa (west coast), collaborating with the Forest departments of the respective states. Through the four states, 411 local young fishermen, who previously were turtle egg poachers, school dropouts are now engaged as Sea Turtle Protection Force (STPF) members, having released 51,76,118 sea turtles into the sea as on date. Their efforts to protect sea turtles have been recognised at national and international levels.

The breeding and nesting season for the olive ridley is between the months of December to April inclusive. Turtles migrate from their various feeding grounds, which are spread across ocean boundaries, to congregate a few kilometers off-shore from their natal beaches for mating. They then return to the very beach from which they themselves emerged to lay their nests. Sea turtles are the only marine species that come ashore to lay nests and thus truly are the connection between the land and the ocean. It is during this time that breeding turtles become very vulnerable due to the high threat of accidental interactions with commercial and artisanal fishers and their gear. A high number of dead and live stranded adult olive ridleys are recorded along the east coast between January and March each year. Though the nesting turtles and their eggs are being monitored on the protected beaches, it has become equally important to protect the turtles in their ocean habitat as well. To do so, TREE Foundation works jointly with the Departments of Forest and Fisheries Marine Police of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Goa and the Indian Coast Guard.

By conducting education and awareness programs to all stakeholders, TREE Foundation can: influence policymakers on larger conservation issues; involve the community in restrictive gear management and seasonal closures at sea spread awareness of the land/ocean connection; and protect all endangered marine species.

TREE Foundation is expanding its current program to protect turtles at sea and minimize accidental by-catch of sea turtles during fishing activities and through entanglement in ghost nets in order to reduce mortality of turtles foraging or coming in to nest. Sea turtles have a very high mortality rate in their early years with only 1 in 1000 hatchlings reaching reproductive adulthood, according to many scientists. The Chennai, Chengalpattu and Goa fishermen have retrieved and handed over 2,17,655 kgs of ghost net since 2021 incentivized by CSR grants.

The Foundation has also developed a stranding network along the east coast that records stranded sea turtles, whales and dolphins. Such information is essential to state departments and policy makers in the development and implementation of policies to protect marine wildlife. TREE Foundation also runs the first of its kind Rescue Rehabilitation Centre, with Special permission from the Chief Wildlife Wardens of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh for sea turtles in India. When the Foundation receives information about a sea turtle that has been stranded or hurt, it rescues and rehabilitates the turtle in the R&R Centre with the help of Veterinarians, STPF and volunteers. Once the turtle is rehabilitated, it is released back to the ocean.

Summary of areas of activity of the TREE Foundation **Integrated Community-Based Sea Turtle Conservation**

Community-Based Sea Turtle Conservation Program

- a) Sea Turtle Conservation
- b) Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release
- c) Marine Mammal Rescue and Conservation
- d) Endangered Marine Species Awareness and Conservation.
- e) Ghost net retrieval by fishermen
- f) Mangrove Restoration & Conservation

Environment Education

- a) Networking with Schools, Colleges and Corporate Officials
- b) Marine Life Education Centre
- c) Awareness and Training Workshops for Capacity Building for Fishermen

Community Development

- a) Alternative Income Generating Projects within Communities
- b) Safety at Sea Workshops
- c) Medical Camps
- d) Women Empowerment
- e) Bedding/School Kits for Children

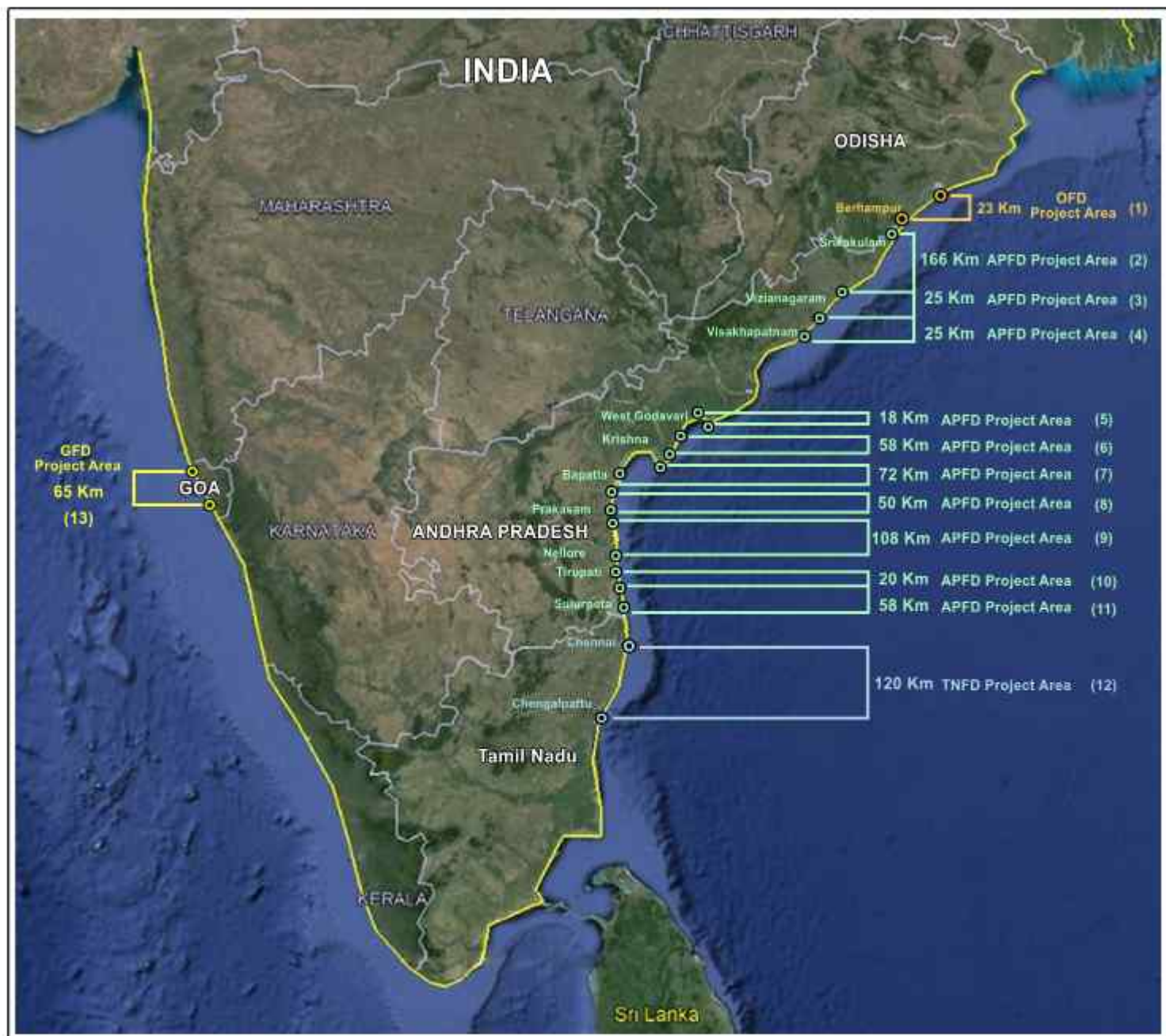
Research

- a) Data Archiving for the States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha
- b) Provide Internship for Master Degree and Research Students
- c) Marine Mammal Conservation Studies

Free Mobile Veterinary Services for all animals

Giant Squirrel awareness and conservation

TREE Foundation Project Area (Integrated Community - Based Conservation Programme (ICBCP))



1. 19.086914 / 84.770119
19.206592 / 84.853789

2. 18.134074 / 83.761852
19.07739 / 84.76405

3. 17.937902 / 83.512553
18.088377 / 83.679688

4. 17.701965 / 83.305571
17.937902 / 83.512553

5. 16.343499 / 81.573466
16.32525 / 81.656146

6. 15.53.114 / 80.02.893
18.01.214 / 083.34.984

7. 15.6650714 / 80.2699311
15.8518345 / 80.5405324

8. 15.121546 / 80.15887
15.6624281 / 80.2685849

9. 14.487860 / 80.176470
15.163308 / 80.067469

10. 14.021256 / 80.149333
14.240231 / 80.135950

11. 13.814686 / 80.243350
14.019238 / 80.149165

12. 12°56'32.34 / 80°15'37.86
12°2'38.11 / 79°52'47.35

13. 15°174970 "N / 73°945839"E
15°620090"N / 73°777222"E



Existing TNFD
Project Area



Existing APFD
Project Area



Existing OFD
Project Area



Existing GFD
Project Area

TNFD - Tamil Nadu Forest Department / APFD - Andhra Pradesh Forest Department
/ OFD - Odisha Forest Department / GFD - GOA Forest Department

SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION
Mating Turtles Observed



Mating Olive Ridley turtles at sea



Mating Olive Ridley Sea turtles off the coast



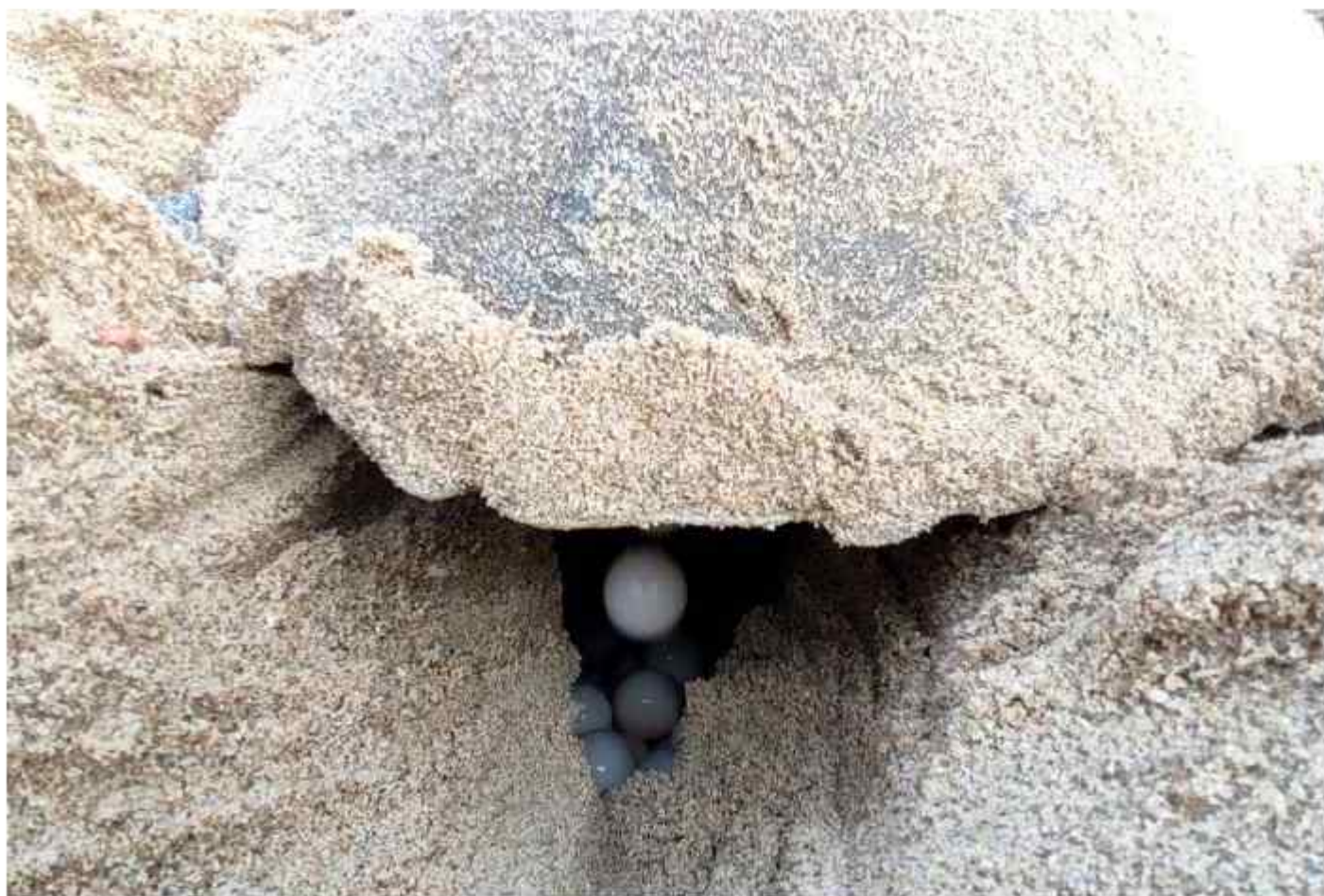
Protocols are followed for all hatchery constructions



Ensuing the fence is sealed properly to avoid the entry of stray dogs



Olive Ridley turtle nesting



Laying eggs in a pot shaped nest



DFO Nellore and STPF members observing nesting Olive Ridley, Ramachandrapuram



TREE Foundation members recording the measurements of the nesting turtle at Nellore

IDENTIFYING THE TURTLE NESTS



Following the turtles' tracks



Recording the nest measurement before relocating



Measuring the depth of the nest at Cadalore Chinna Kuppam



Relocation of eggs from Nainar Kuppam beach to Neelankarai Hatchery



Checking the temperature regularly in the hatcheries



Collecting the coconut leaves from the village



STPF members carrying the coconut leaves to the hatcheries



Covering the roof of the hatchery with coconut leaves to maintain temperature within 31°

HATCHLING RELEASE



Hatchlings crawling towards the sea



Mr. Hansraj Verma, IAS., Principal Secretary Environment and Forest, releasing hatchlings at Periya Neelankarai beach



Mr. A.K. Naiak IFS, PCCF and CWW of Andhra Pradesh and Mr. A. Chandrasekar, SFS at Utturkur Hatchery, Nellore, March 2024



Hatchling Release by Mr. A. Murali Krishna Nayudu, FRO, Kasibugga, Mr. Vijay Saradi, FSO, and Mr. T.Santhosh Kumar, FBO at Baruva peta Hatchery



Hatchlings being recorded and released by the Mr L Bheemaiah, SFS, DFO Bapatla, at Ramapuram



Hatchlings emerging from the nest, Island sandbar, Krishna estuary



Hatchlings released by Nellore District Collector and Divisional Forest Officer

TRIBAL POACHING TURTLE NELLORE JAN – 2009



Tribal Carrying away a Turtle from Ramachandrapuram beach Nellore



STPF Releasing the Turtle recovered from the poachers

COORDINATING THE ARREST OF POACHERS



The forest Rangers Interrogating tribals



Loading the jeep with the olive ridley carapace and the tribals

**SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES ALONG KRISHNA DISTRICT, ELURU
DIVISION 2023**



STPF members with family heading to the sandbars



STPF members and families travelling with water and groceries to the sandbar

**Dr. SUPRAJA DHARINI, TREE FOUNDATION CHAIRPERSON VISITING THE HATCHERIES
IN LIGHTHOUSE, JINKPALEM AND ISLAND SANDBARS AT ELURU DIVISION, KRISHNA
DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH ON 8th, AND 9th APRIL 2023**



Transportation of luggage and essentials to Light House Sandbar



Boat journey of approximately 150 minutes to reach the Lighthouse sandbar



Reached the sandbar by the evening



Observing the nesting turtle at midnight

Dr. SUPRAJA DHARINI, TREE FOUNDATION CHAIRPERSON'S VISIT TO KRISHNA DISTRICT HATCHERIES AND DISTRIBUTING KITS TO STPF ON 13th, 14th, AND 15 MAY 2023



Clothes, education materials and other essentials for distribution to the STPF members and families



Dr. Supraja Dharini distributing the clothes to the assembled STPF members

SATELLITE TAGGING OF SEA TURTLES

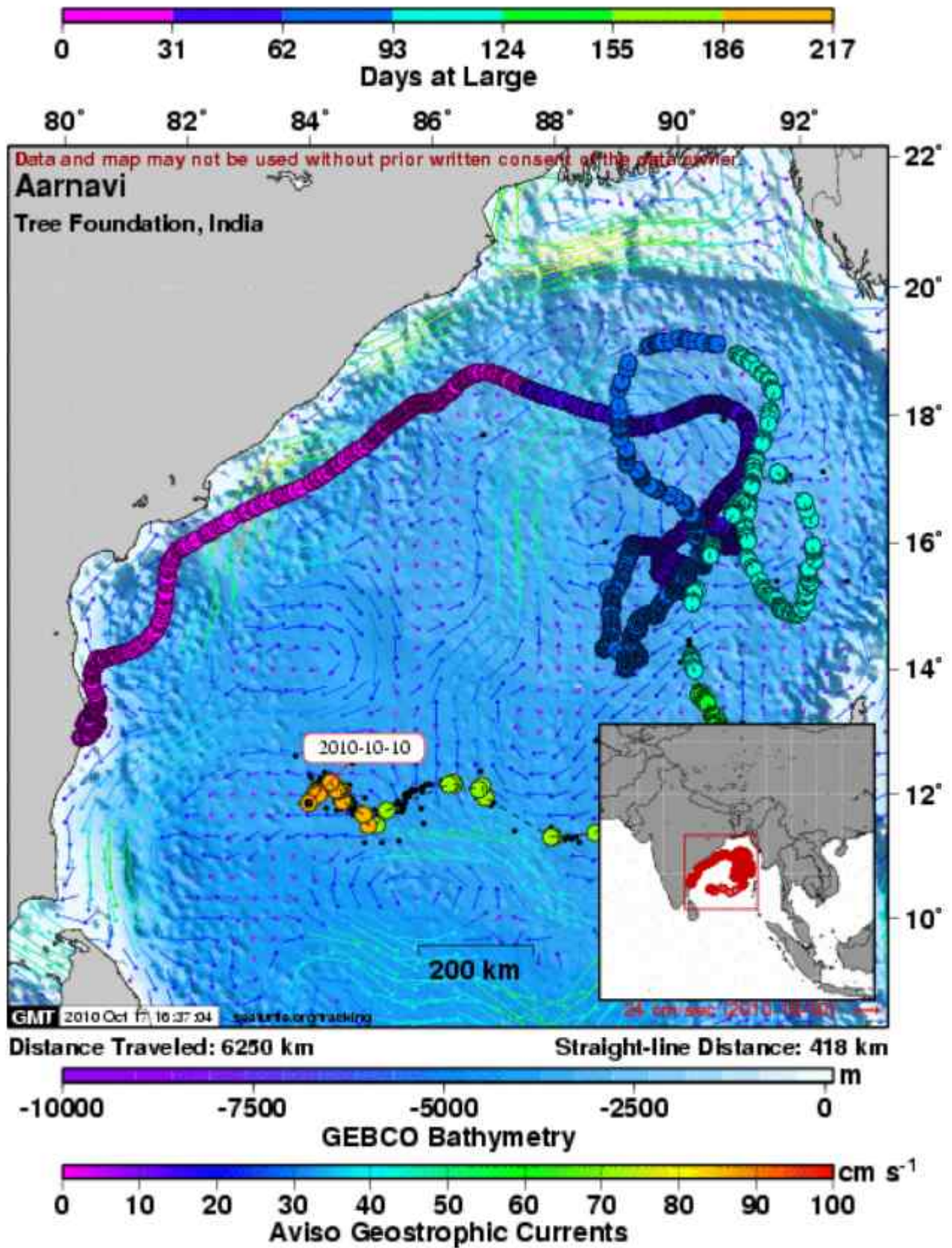


Turtle named 'Aarnavi' on her way to the sea 14th March 2010



"Aarnavi" Olive Ridley Embarking on her 6000km Journey

SATELLITE TRACKING DATA OF AARNAVI VIA SEATURTLE.ORG



Aarnavi's Map

SATTELITE TAGGING OF TURTLE NAMED "SUMITHA" 7th MARCH 2010



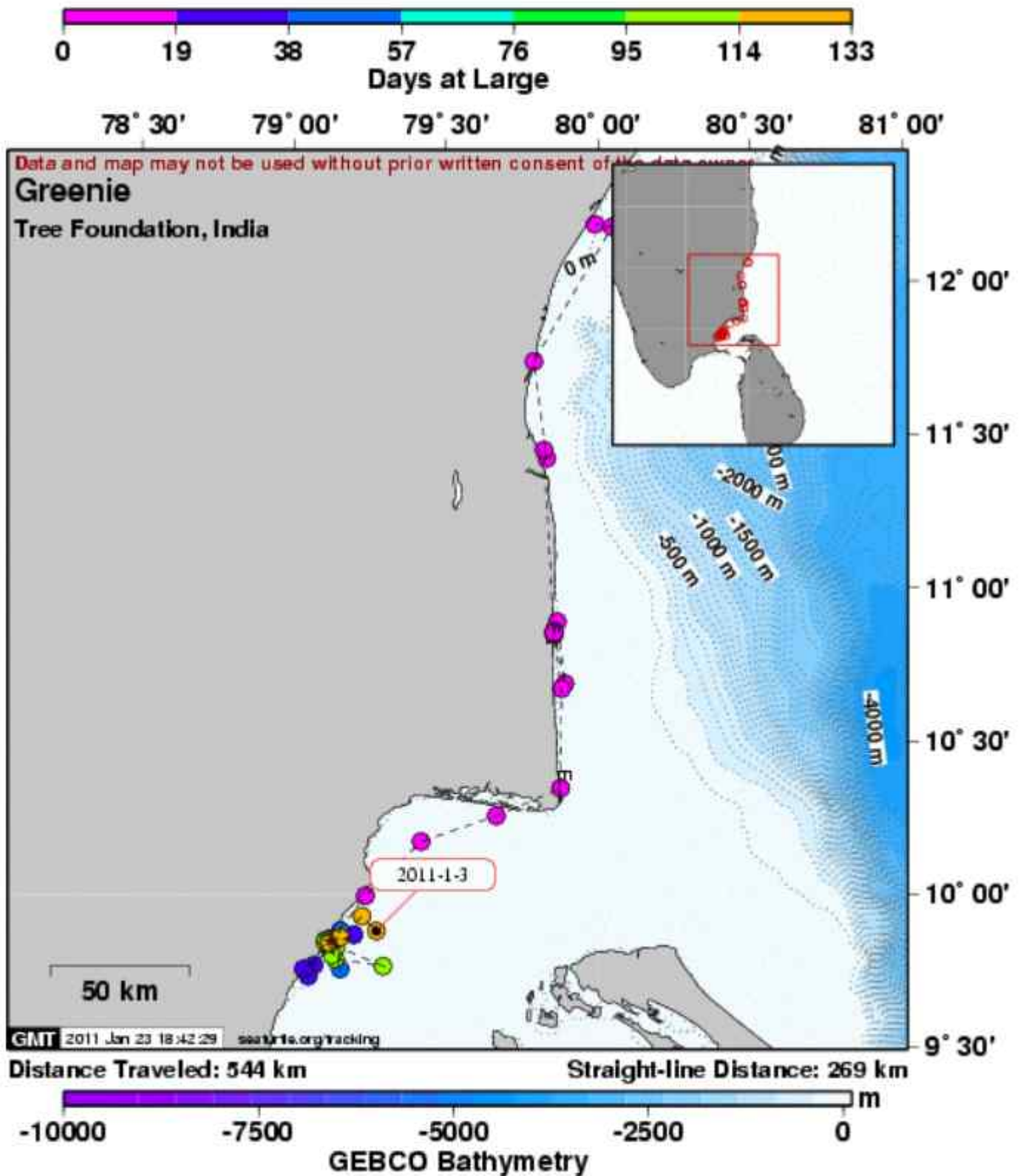
First Turtle being tagged

SATTELITE TAGGING OF GREEN TURTLE NAMED "GREENIE" 29th AUGUST 2010



"Greenie" Green Turtle Released at Basavan Kuppam Marakanam By Chief Wildlife. Swam to "Gulf of Mannar"

SATELLITE TRACKING DATA OF GREENIE VIA SEATURTLE.ORG



Greenie's Map

MASS STRANDING OF SEA TURTLES, 22nd FEBRUARY 2014



Dead Olive Ridley turtles, found stranded all along the coast line of Erranidibba and Vidavalur Manadalam



JCB is being used to carry the carcasses for the mass burial



Dead turtles found entangled in trawl net at Vidavulur Mandalam



TREE Foundation STPF member marking the dead stranded Olive Ridley turtles found along the coastline of Erranadibba, Indukurpeta Mandalam, Nellore



*Trawl Fishing Boat fishing within 3km from the shore violating MFRA Act at Mypadu, Nellore
Violating*



Violating Trawl boats with Tamil Nadu registration was found fishing near Mypadu, Nellore



Sting Ray Fishing Net



Dead sting ray fish caught in the ray fish net



Dead turtle washed ashore at Periya Neelankarai Kuppam



Dr. Supraja Dharini attending the consultation meeting at the Tamil Nadu Secretariat, to share observations and solutions for reducing mortality of turtles along the Tamil Nadu coast.

**138 DEAD STRANDED TURTLES ALONG THE SANGAMESHWARAM BEACH, ELURU
DIVISION, KRISHNA DISTRICT – 06 MARCH 2024**



Olive Ridley Turtles found entangled in Ray fishnet along the Sangameshwaram beach, Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh



On conducting necropsy the Veterinarian recorded that all the dead turtles were female turtles with eggs

MISSION SEA TURTLE
One-day workshop, Tamil Nadu 31st, October 2014



'Why Healthy Oceans Need Sea Turtles' book was released.



The officers from the enforcement departments at the Mission Sea Turtle Workshop.

MISSION SEA TURTLE
One-day workshop, Andhra Pradesh 12th, December 2014



Mr. Shekhar Prasad Singh, I.A.S, Principal Secretary, EFS & TD of AP addressing the gathering



Participants recording the solutions during the Mission Sea Turtle Workshop

CONDUCTED ANNUAL STATE LEVEL TRAINING WORKSHOPS FOR ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENTS

“WORKSHOP ON- GHOST NET RETRIEVAL VITAL FOR MARINE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION”

Garnered the support of the Indian Coast Guard, Tamil Nadu Fisheries and Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board, Forest Department, Coastal Security Group and National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, Government of India, for the workshop ‘Ghost Net Retrieval Vital for Marine Conservation’ Program conducted on March 29th, 2022, at Rosetta Hall, NCSCM, Anna University Campus, Chennai. Many meetings were held with the Additional Director Fisheries, JD Marine, The PCCF and Member Secretary TNBB and former Chief Wildlife Warden Forest Department, Commander and DIG Operations, Indian Coast Guard and the ADGP, Coastal Security Group. Garnered the support of the AD Fisheries (Fishing Harbour) and the Commissioner Fisheries for conducting the post lunch demonstration of ghost net retrieval and release of endangered marine species at the fishing harbour. 92 Participants including 23 Central/State officers from 14 marine organisations attended the workshop. Presentation were made by the respective department and the participants were strengthened to network for successful marine conservation.

**Organized by TREE Foundation, in coordination with ICG, TNBB, Fisheries Department
& NCSCM and Supported by HCL Foundation.**

Date:-29.03.2022. Venue: Rosette Hall, NCSCM, Anna University Campus, Chennai.



Registration of participants - (NCSCM Rosette Hall).



View of the Participants.



Releasing the 'Protocols Pamphlet on- How to Release Marine Species Entangled in Ghost Nets'.

**REPORT ON “ ONE DAY WORKSHOP ON REDUCTION OF BY-CATCH
MORTALITY OF ENDANGERED MARINE MEGAFaUNA-INCLUDING SEA
TURTLES FROM FISHING GEAR,
8th FEBRUARY, 2025, NELLORE,”**



Nesting Turtle Display



Underwater turtle Display

DISCUSSIONS ON DRAFTING STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP) FOR MARINE SPECIES PROTECTION ALONG THE ANDHRA PRADESH COAST



Dr. Supraja Dharini moderating the stakeholders' discussions on the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for marine conservation



Sri A.K. Naik, IFS PCCF, & Chief Wildlife Warden providing key insights on SOP preparation



Fisheries Department officials in a group photo with Sri A.K. Naik, IFS, PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden



**Workshop on Reduction of By- Catch Mortality of
Endangered Marine Megafauna -
Including Sea Turtles From Fishing Gear,
Nellore, 8th February, 2025**



“Workshop On- Ghost Net Retrieval Vital for Marine Biodiversity Conservation”

State Level Workshop for Officers

**Organized by TREE Foundation in coordination with ICG, Forest Department, Fisheries Department
& Coastal Security Group & Support of Eicher Group Foundation.**

Date: - 26.11.2024. Venue: Indian Coast Guard Auditorium, DHQ-11, Chikolna, Goa 403806.



Registration of participants - Indian Coast Guard Auditorium, DHQ-11



Dr. Supraja Dharini Welcoming DIG Manoj Bhatia TM COMDIS 11



Group Photo with the participants



Group Photo with some participants on successful completion of the workshop

SEA TURTLE AWARENESS FLOAT- 2014



Depicting role of sea turtles



Depicting threats to sea turtles



The Mission Sea Turtle Float being flagged off by Dr. Sylendra Babu, ADGP, Coastal Security Group, Tamil Nadu.



Awareness to fisher folk in coastal villages of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh



Awareness to the school children

**AWARENESS ON TURTLE EXCLUDER DEVICE TO TRAWL BOAT OWNERS
AND FISHERMAN 13th JANUARY 2015**



Forest Range Officer motivating the trawl fishers, Kasimedu



DSP, Marine Police stressing the need to use TED after a trials



Carefully hauling the net with the trapped turtle.



Releasing the turtle safely back to sea.



Dr. Supraja Treating Turtle named "Hope" in Rehabilitation Center, 11th January, 2010



Treatment Procedures Being Explained to Vet students, 2011

RELEASE OF RESCUE AND REHABILITATED TURTLES



Releasing "HOPE" into the Sea -15 Kms off Pannaiyur near Rocky Habitat, 21st March 2010



Mr. Mohan Verghese Chunkath, IAS, Principle Secretary releasing YUVATHI off Neelankarai, 2011.

RESCUE AND RELEASE OF A TURTLE FROM POACHER



Release of turtle rescued from poacher.



Dr Sylendra Babu,IPS, ADGP releasing the turtle with Rakesh Kumar Dogra , CF.

RESCUE AND REHABILITATION OF SEA TURTLES



Juvenile green turtle entangled in a ghost trawl net and stranded along Andhra Pradesh Coast 19th February 2014



IV Fluids administered to the rescued Green Turtle

Hawksbill Turtle Found Stranded at Nellore on February 12th, 2015 – Named ‘Navya’



Plastic waste pieces were found in the excretion of the rescued turtle Navya



CWW and PCCF, CCF and DFO visiting the Reascue Rehabilitation centre, 2015

Rehabilitation of Injured Sea Turtles



Surgery being conducted by Dr Jayaprakash on damaged snout of turtle, 2015.



Injured turtle being examined for internal injuries at TANUVAS.

RESCUE AND REHABILITATION

Release of rehabilitated Olive Ridley Turtle 'Rakshathi' On 25th April 2014



TREE Foundation members along with Fisheries department releasing the turtle Rakshathi into the Sea



Release of green turtle by DFO, Nellore, 19th February 2014



Releasing of Turtle "Dhanya" into the sea by the Environment Minister, April 14th , 2015



Hawksbill turtles "Rasi" and "Navya" on 26th April 2015 off the coast at Ramachandrapuram



PCCF Releasing the Rescued Turtle "Parvathi" in Puligadda, Vizianagaram on 5th May 2016



IG S. Paramesh, Commander, Indian Coast Guard, G Nagasathish, IFS, DFO , Kancheepuram, at the release of turtles named, Sara, Samudhara and Navi , 25th May, 2019



Turtles Sara, Samudhara and Navi are ready to be placed on the baot



Turtles Sara, Samudhara and Navi ready for the release



Turtles Sara and Samudhara after release into the open ocean

RELEASE OF REHABILITATED SEA TURTLES ON MARCH 19th 2022, OFF THE COAST OF PERIYA NEELANKARAI.

TREE Foundation's Rescue and Rehabilitation centre at Neelankarai is run with special permission from the Chief Wildlife Warden, Tamil Nadu Forest Department.

The rescued turtles are taken to the Tamil Nadu Veterinary College, Vepery for a thorough examination for any internal injuries immediately and then administered the necessary treatment to aid in their speedy recovery. They are placed in spacious tanks with salt water and fed daily with a healthy diet consisting of fish, squid, crabs and shrimp.

This year we had received turtles with flipper injuries, carapace injuries, extreme dehydration and entanglement in fishing nets and buoys. Now it is time for two of our stranded turtles who have been nursed back to health to return to the ocean, their natural habitat. Without the intervention of the Rescue and Rehabilitation these turtles would simply have died on the beaches where they stranded. Now they are getting a second chance of life.

Two such turtles, **"Paras"** and **"May"**, found stranded and injured have since been rejuvenating and recovering at the TREE Foundation Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre

Their condition when rescued and the course of treatment /rehabilitation work carried out is as follows:

"Paras" – On 02 Mar 2020 a juvenile Olive Ridley turtle (around 4-6 years old) was found stranded along the beach off Vettuvankeni in a dehydrated condition with her front flipper injured (chopped off).

"May" – On 05th May 2020 during the lockdown a juvenile Olive Ridley turtle (around 5-7 years old) was found stranded along the Injambakkam Beach with a head injury. Both turtles have undergone extensive medical rehabilitation utilizing the X-Ray and other facilities available at TANUVAS in consultation with Dr. Jayaprakash, Rtd. Director of Clinics.

While under medical care the turtles were placed in sea water rehabilitation tanks which were cleaned and sea water replenished manually on a daily basis. Sufficient and required diet consisting of fish, squids, shrimps and crabs was provided during the period.

Both turtles were released back to their natural habitat after intimation to PCCF and Chief Wildlife Warden.

The turtles were released off the coast of Periya Neelankarai on **March 19th 2022 at 11:00am** in the presence of *Mrs. Supriya Sahu IAS., Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Government of Tamil Nadu., Dr. Shekhar Kumar Niraj – PCCF, Biodiversity Conservation and Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board,* and students, volunteers, Sea Turtle Protection Force Members and members from TREE Foundation. The turtles were taken by boat 3km off shore and released near the rock formation where a wide variety of prey fish are always found. This was in order to make it easy for them to feed and readjust to the open ocean once again.

Turtles find it difficult to survive in the wild without their flippers, as the fore flippers are used for their navigation, and the hind flippers acts as a rudder steering the turtle. This also creates a great difficulty for them to locate food and to go for it. They remain just below the surface of the water and come up to the surface to breath and dive deep only while finding prey.

Certificates were distributed to the fishermen heroes who have released entangled turtles from their fishing nets and ghost nets. In appreciation for self-motivated and inspiring action to saving wildlife, by safely releasing endangered sea turtles entangled in fishing gear/ghost nets along Chennai and Chengalpattu Coast. 213 fishermen from 43 fishing boats, were recognised by **Mrs. Supriya Sahu IAS., Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Tamil Nadu.**



Registration



Dr. Shekhar Kumar Niraj, PCCF addressing the gathering.



Mrs. Supriya Sahu, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Tamil Nadu addressing the Gathering.



Ready for the release off Neelankarai 19th March, 2022



Release of the turtles



"Paras" and "May" swimming in the sea

**AWARENESS PROGRAMME IN TAMIL NADU, ANDHRA PRADESH AND
ODISHA COAST**



Travelling to fishing villages by boat to conduct awareness programme on Marine Conservation



Dr. Supraja Dharini, interacting with fishermen

Community Awareness Programs



Coastal Cleanup Day Event at Nainar Fishing Village Collector, Commander Coast Guard and Wildlife Warden, 2006



Walk for the Marine Life with Chief Wildlife Warden along Marina Beach, 2010

Awareness Programs in Coastal Villages



Screening the documentary "Every Turtle Matters" for the Fishermen at Meghavaram.



TREE Foundation Coordinator Mr. T. Raja and STPF members creating awareness to the fishermen at Muttukadu



Awareness on Ghost nets and release of Turtles from fishing gear, Sadras Kuppam



Awareness to Fishing community women at Umari Kuppam



Awareness to Fishing community women at Uyyali Kuppam

“How to Release Entangled Turtle” – Sticker Program: Measures Involved in Safe Release of Endangered Olive Ridley Sea Turtles Entangled in Fishing Nets at Kasimedu Fishing Harbor, Chennai, 14th January 2012



(L to R) Mr. Raghupathi, President, Kasimedu Trawl Boat Owners Welfare Association; Mr. Sekar, AD Fisheries, Kasimedu; Dr. Supraja; and Dr. Davidraj, FRO.



Trawl boat owners; TREE Foundation STPF Members; Dr. Davidraj, Forest Range Officer, Chennai; Dr. Supraja Dharini, Chairperson.

REDUCED BY-CATCH MORTALITY IN COMMERCIAL FISHING PRACTICES, November 30th To December 31st 2021

Continued Interactive Dialogue with Trawl Fishers

September 28th 2021 a workshop for Commercial fishermen was conducted at the Fisheries Office Conference Hall, Kasimedu Fishing Harbour. TREE Foundation believes that it is important to interact and network with the commercial fishermen in order to reduce the mortality of sea turtles caught as by catch by commercial fishermen during the breeding season.

November 30th to December 31st 2021, Interactive meetings with **5 Commercial fishers Association heads** and Awareness created in **150 Trawl and Commercial fishers** of **3,455 commercial fishers** working in the wharf. On January 3rd and March 29th 2022 awareness programs were conducted at the Warf and N4 Warf. The commercial fishers were very apprehensive at first with the incentive but when the STPF explained to them that this retrieval would benefit the marine ecosystem and the marine life they accepted.

Reduce By-catch Mortality in Commercial Fishing, Kasimedu Fisheries Department hall.



44 Commercial Fishermen from 8 associations, officers from 4 Departments participated in the workshop.



Chennai Thiruvallur Kancheepuram Deep Sea Fishermen Association.



Chennai Thiruvallur Kancheepuram Deep Sea Fishermen Association.

Continuing Interactive Dialogue with Trawl Fishers



STPF members creating awareness on board at the Kasimedu fishing harbour on the importance of removal of ghost nets from the sea and releasing engendered species entangled in their nets or in ghost nets.



Awareness on Ghost nets and Turtle release for commercial fishers at Kasimedu Fishing Harbour dated 30th Nov 2021 along with Fisheries Department.

Stakeholders workshop: “Strengthening Community in Conserving and Releasing Entangled Marine Megafauna (Sea Turtles, Dolphins, Whales and Whale Shark) along Chengalpattu Coast” on February 16th, 2024, Venue: Muttukadu Estuary, Chengalpattu District



Dr. Supraja Dharini highlighting the importance of marine megafauna conservation



Group photo with participants

Sense of Ownership and Stewardship

Tailor-made conservation workshop/programme

The TREE Foundation, with the support of Astra Zeneca, organized one conservation workshop on "Strengthening Community in Conserving and Releasing Entangled Marine Megafauna (Sea Turtles, Dolphins, Whales and Whale Shark) along Chennai Coast" on March 18th, 2024. The workshops aimed to educate and empower the fishing community from 7 villages along the Chennai coast on the importance and methods of rescuing and releasing marine megafauna that get entangled in fishing nets or other debris. The workshop also involved the participation and collaboration of various government agencies, such as the Department of Fisheries, the Forest Department, the Coast Guard and the Marine Police.

The workshop consisted of two parts: a theoretical session and a practical session. In the theoretical session, the members of the TREE Foundation and the Sea Turtle Protection Force (STPF) gave presentations and demonstrations on the identification, ecology and conservation status of the marine megafauna, as well as the best practices and techniques for safely removing them from ghost nets or other entanglements. The participants were also informed about the legal and ethical implications of harming or killing the endangered species, and the benefits of protecting and conserving them for the marine ecosystem and their own livelihood.

In the practical session, the participants were taken to the nearby estuaries by boat, where they had the opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills in simulated scenarios using models of marine animals. The participants were guided and supervised by the members of the TREE Foundation and the STPF, who also recorded the marine megafauna sightings and releases. The participants were encouraged to ask questions and share their feedback and experiences during the session.

The workshop was a success, as it reached a total of 96 participants, including fishermen, STPF members and government officials. The workshops enhanced the awareness and appreciation of the fishing community towards the marine megafauna and their role in maintaining the health and balance of the marine ecosystem. The workshops also fostered a sense of responsibility and cooperation among the stakeholders for the conservation and management of the marine resources and biodiversity.

Conservation workshops to empower stakeholders	Total No of participants attended	Total No of Officers/Heads attended
Marine Ecosystem Conversation Involving Artisanal Fishermen in Ghost Net Retrieval Program.	1203	32

Stakeholders workshop: "Strengthening Community in Conserving and Releasing Entangled Marine Megafauna (Sea Turtles, Dolphins, Whales and Whale Shark) along Chennai Coast" on March 18th, 2024, Venue: Muttukadu Estuary



View of the participants



Chitri Bhaskar Rao, The Indian Coast Guard Pradhana Adhikari explaining operations and empowering the participants

COLLECTION OF GHOST NETS, SINCE 2021



Fishermen from Periya Neelankarai Kuppam retrieving ghost nets from the ocean.



Fishermen from Periya Neelankarai kuppam retrieving ghost nets from the inter tidal region.



Ghost net loading from – Periya Neelankarai Kuppam.



Ghost net Unloading at – TREE Foundation Premises.

Release of Entangled Endangered Marine Species



Cutting the Net



Releasing the Turtle into the Sea



9 Entangled Olive Ridley turtles released off Cuddalore Chinna Kuppam 2024



Entangled Olive Ridley turtle release off Sadras Kuppam

OFFSHORE TURTLE SURVEY ALONG RAMACHANDRAPURAM COAST, NELLORE, ANDHRA PRADESH

On the morning of March 8, 2023, the TREE Foundation team embarked on a crucial survey mission to investigate the rare sighting of turtles located 800 meters off the shore of Ramachandrapuram in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh, situated on the southeast coast of India. The objective was to assess the presence and behaviour of these turtles, contributing valuable data to the ongoing efforts of the Sea Turtle Protection Force.

Between 8:15 am and 11:30 am, the team meticulously observed and documented the activities of the turtles within a one-kilometer stretch of the sea. During this timeframe, an impressive count of 70 turtles was recorded. Turtles, being air-breathing reptiles, surfaced approximately every 40 to 45 minutes to breathe. The team diligently recorded each instance, noting the specific locations to enhance the accuracy of their findings.

Notably, the team encountered an urgent situation a kilometer north of their initial survey location. Fishermen were in the process of hauling up a purse seine net, so the survey team immediately steered in the direction of the fishing boat and reached the boat. Amidst the tension, two turtles were discovered entangled in the fishing net. Swiftly responding to the crisis, three team members along with Dr Supraja Dharini approached the fishermen's boat. In a moment of panic, the fishermen, from the team, released one turtle by its flippers. The second turtle was compassionately released, after receiving release guidance from the STPF members, providing a moment of joy as it swam away to freedom. The team expressed gratitude to the fishermen for their cooperation and promptly resumed their survey.

The survey, aimed at understanding and protecting the local turtle population, concluded before noon as the team returned to shore. The gathered data and the successful intervention with the entangled turtles underscored the significance of collaborative efforts between conservation organizations and local communities in safeguarding marine life. This expedition serves as a testament to the dedication of environmentalists and the positive impact of TREE Foundation's endeavours on the preservation of endangered species in the region.



TREE Foundation team commencing the survey



Using the recorded GPS coordinates to travel towards the turtle sightings



Fishermen were in the process of hauling up a purse seine net



Two olive ridley turtles were found entangled in the fishing net



Releasing the entangled turtle from the fishing net



Releasing the turtle safely back into the sea

MARINE MAMMAL STRANDINGS

LIVE STRANDING



Juvenile spinner dolphin stranding on 3rd December 2012, Mahabalipuram, Chennai



Live spinner dolphin stranded at Kovalam Dec 21st 2013



Measuring the Stranded Juvenile Blue Whale, 2010



Whale Shark stranded Jan 27 2013 Injambakkam



TREE Foundation's Marine Mammal stranding team observing the stranded Pan Tropical dolphin washed ashore at Kovalam, 10th March 2014



Necropsy of Indo Pacific Humpback Dolphin at the Madras Veterinary College

STUDY OF MARINE LIFE – DOLPHINS



Bottlenose Dolphin



Photo Identification of Dorsal Fin for recognizing individuals

Sightings of Indo Pacific Humpback Dolphin – 5th March 2023

TREE Foundation has been recording the sightings of Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphins since 2005. These Dolphins are inhabitants of tropical warm temperate coastal waters. Each Dolphin has unique coloration on their body and dorsal fin. The shades of pink and grey are different for each dolphin. TREE Foundation has recorded 14 different species of Dolphins and Whales along this coast.



Recording Indo Pacific Humpback dolphins during the sea survey



A Pod of Indo Pacific Humpback Dolphin sighted along the Chennai coast

Juvenile Whale Shark Sighting off Neelankarai Coast - 9th, and 10th, June 2023

Sighting: The fishermen of Periya Neelankarai fishing village spotted over 20 whale sharks off their coast on the morning of Friday, 9th June. Later, around 4 p.m., they noticed one lone juvenile whale shark swimming in a specific location.

Report and Response: The fishermen informed T. A Pugalarasan, a Senior Sea Turtle Protection Force member of TREE Foundation, who then notified the Marine Mammal Conservation, Stranding, and Rescue team from TREE Foundation. The team responded to the call immediately.

Identification: The team confirmed that the animal was a juvenile Whale Shark (*Rhincodon typus*), which is the largest non-cetacean animal in the world.

Location: The team bid farewell to the young whale shark at coordinates N.12 0 57.301, E 800 15 .895.

TREE Foundation received reports from the fishermen of Periya Neelankarai fishing village regarding a remarkable sighting of whale sharks off their coast. On the forenoon of Friday, 9th June, the fishermen reported spotting over 20 whale sharks in the area. Later that day, around 4 p.m., they observed one lone juvenile whale shark swimming in a specific location. T. A Pugalarasan, a Senior Sea Turtle Protection Force member associated with TREE Foundation, was immediately informed about the sighting.

Recognizing the importance of the observation, Pugalarasan promptly alerted the Marine Mammal Conservation, Stranding, and Rescue team from TREE Foundation. The team responded to the call without delay, and upon closer examination, they confirmed the identity of the animal as a juvenile Whale Shark (*Rhincodon typus*).

As part of the team's observation, they noted the significant biological characteristics of the whale shark. As the largest non-cetacean animal in the world, the whale shark inhabits tropical and warm-temperate seas. It possesses rows of tiny teeth and filter pads in its mouth, primarily used for filter feeding on macroalgae, plankton, krill, and small nektonic life, such as small squid or vertebrates. Whale sharks have five large pairs of gills, a wide and flat head with two small eyes at the front, and a grey body with a white belly. Their skin is adorned with pale yellow spots and stripes, unique to each individual, and they have three prominent ridges along their sides. The species is known to migrate for feeding and possible breeding. However, its large size, longevity, and slow growth render it highly susceptible to overexploitation, resulting in a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future.

The observed young whale shark measured approximately 15-18 feet in length, with a clearly visible tail and dorsal fin.

Due to the rough sea conditions and murky water, the team was unable to make detailed underwater observations initially. Nonetheless, Pugalarasan cautiously dived into the water from a safe distance to assess the possibility of any injuries or entanglement in a ghost net. While unable to observe underwater, he confirmed that there were no apparent injuries on the top of the animal.

On the morning of Saturday, 10th June, the fishermen of Periya Neelankarai reported another sighting of a whale shark near the shore in the same location. Once again, Pugalarasan informed the TREE Foundation Team, and with calmer sea conditions, the team conducted a more thorough observation. Pugalarasan, displaying unwavering dedication to marine conservation, dived into the water to ascertain if the animal was entangled in any ghost nets or injured. After a careful inspection, he returned with the assurance that the whale shark was neither entangled nor injured.



Juvenile Whale Shark (Rhincodon typus) with an injury on the dorsal fin



Sighting of a juvenile whale shark off Neelankarai coast on 9th and 10th June 2023

Marine Biodiversity Awareness to the School Children – 15th August 2022

Awareness program for conservation of marine biodiversity and to avoid the use of plastics. The students were given an orientation with PPT's and awareness videos to showcase how plastics affects our ecosystem. Over 1,000 students from various schools who attended the program.



Screening of documentary



Distribution of awareness leaflets to the school children

AWARENESS TO THE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Estuarine Biodiversity Awareness Program: Alpha International School, Venue: Adayalacheri Estuary
on December 5, 2022.



Explaining the importance of Biodiversity to the students



Students actively involved in the stencilling activity

**Estuarine Biodiversity Awareness Program: Vanavani Matriculation Higher Secondary School,
Venue: Adayalacheri Estuary on February 17, 2023.**



Understanding the estuarine life forms in the estuary

Awareness Programme: "Involving Youth in the Study of the Marine Biodiversity of Chennai and Chengalpattu" at Women's Christian College, Chennai on 13 July, 2023



View of the participants at WCC College

FLIPPER FEST, 2008



Chief Guest Watching Painting Competition Participants



Model Making on Marine Biodiversity by Students

FLIPPER FEST - A MARINE BIO DIVERSITY CONSERVATION AWARENESS PROGRAMME



Inauguration of Flipper Fest, 2007



Over 1500 School and College Students Participates 2014



Dr.Sylendra Babu I.P.S ADGP with students at the inauguration of Flipper Fest 2014



Dr.Sylendra Babu I.P.S ADGP interacting with model making participants at Flipper Fest 2014

**ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP DAY IN CHENNAI,
NELLORE AND VIZIANAGARAM COAST**



Mobile van to create awareness on marine pollution - 2010



Annual Coastal Cleanup – 2011

INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP DAY



The Save our Oceans Float being flagged off by the mayor – 2014



Collecting Garbage on the Nellore beach – 20 16



Introduction to DIG Satish Kumar, TM, Region North Tamil Nadu, DIG M. S. Rawat, Commander Chennai District before inauguration.



Receiving memento from The Chief Guest, DIG Satish Kumar, TM, Region North Tamil Nadu



TREE Foundation student volunteers participating in the coastal clean-up Day



Group Photo with Commissioner of Greater Chennai Corporation Mr. Radha Krishnan, IAS

MANGROVE ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION PROGRAM IN UTUKURU, PATHAPALEM, NELLORE, ANDHRA PRADESH

Mangrove forests, recognized as highly productive and ecologically diverse ecosystems, play a crucial role in global fisheries and food security. These unique coastal habitats, growing in high salinity and low oxygen areas, provide a haven for various species. Unfortunately, these vital ecosystems are under threat from degradation and uncontrolled aquaculture. Recognizing the significance of mangroves, TREE FOUNDATION, an NGO founded by Dr. Supraja Dharini in 2002, initiated the Mangrove Ecosystem Conservation and Restoration Program in 2022, focusing on the East Coast of India.

The selected site for the restoration program is Utukuru, Pathapalem, in the Penna River estuary, Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh. The Penna estuary boasts rich biodiversity, hosting various species of mangroves, crabs, fish, birds, reptiles mudskippers and insects. These ecosystems act as lasting biological assets, offering protection against storms, cyclones, and preventing soil erosion. However, the area has been facing threats from degradation and unregulated aquaculture.

TREE FOUNDATION has taken up the responsibility of collaborating with the local community, the administration, and the forest department to restore degraded patches of land in the Penna estuary. The organization employs a unique method of mangrove seed propagation using 'Propagules,' nurturing them in a nursery created from slushy mud sourced from the mangrove area.

The restoration process involves meticulous planning and execution. Expert teams, including members of the Sea Turtle Protection Force, mark fishbone-shaped channels with white limestone powder. Channels of varying widths and lengths are dug, requiring four days of rigorous effort despite scorching heat. Once the channels are ready, the bund is removed, allowing water to flow into the main feeder channel and fill every field channel—a visually stunning moment capturing the essence of ecosystem rejuvenation.

The final phase involves planting 500 saplings, spaced one meter apart in carefully dug pits. The following species were planted:

1 *Rhizophora mucronate*

2 *Rhizophora apiculate*

3 *Avicennia marina*

4 *Avicennia officinails*

5 *Ceriops decandra*

6 *Burguiera gymnorhiza*

Sea Turtle Protection Force members transport the saplings to the site on boats, showcasing a collective effort to safeguard the environment. Community involvement is key to the success of mangrove restoration, as demonstrated when village chiefs, elders, and officials from the Revenue Department visit the site. Dr. Supraja Dharini and plantation expert Ramesh guide the community in planting saplings, marking a joyful moment that signifies the commitment to preserving and revitalizing these invaluable coastal ecosystems. The Mangrove Ecosystem Conservation and Restoration Program stand as a beacon of hope for sustainable marine conservation along the East Coast of India.

**SURVEY VISIT TO OBSERVE MANGROVE SPECIES AND THEIR HABITAT PRESENT
IN NELLORE DISTRICT ON 8th, MARCH 2023**



TREE Foundation team commencing the survey by boat



Surveying the mangrove forests



STPF members are digging the main feeder channel for water flow



Making the path (fishbone channel) to facilitate water flow for planting saplings



Interacting with the village elders and Village Administrative Officer about the plantation process



Group photo with village panchayat and elders

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO VILLAGES



Distribution of Bedding Kits to KG students of 5 Fishing Villages by Rotary club of Ambattur



Awareness on Importance of Children maintaining attendance to Mothers in Pannayur Fishing Village

MEDICAL CAMP AT FISHING VILLAGES



Indian Coast Guard Medical Team at Injambakkam Fishing Village



Coast Guard Personnel Distributing Medicine At Nainar

LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES, 2024



Training on Cloth bag stitching to community women



Training on Millet biscuit making to community women

TREE FOUNDATION FREE MOBILE VETERINARY SERVICE



Follow-up treatment for Chinna after Scrotal ablation



MVS Doctor giving first aid treatment to Maya

**Sapling Plantation at Biodiversity Education Centre, Kurumburam, India:
Green Tamil Nadu Mission**



Pits (1.5 feet X 1.5 feet) being dug at the TREE Foundation, Kurumburam Biodiversity Education Center



Saplings carried for planting to the pits

WILDLIFE WEEK CELEBRATIONS OCTOBER, 7th, 2024

Chief Guest SRI KONIDALA PAWAN KALYAN,

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Environment, Forest, Science & Technology, Panchayati Raj, Rural Development and Rural Water Supply, Government of Andhra Pradesh, At Forest Department Office, Mangalgiri, Andhra Pradesh



Chief Guest and Senior Officers Visiting TREE Foundation Stall



STPF member explaining how entangled turtles are released from fishing gear and ghost net



Dr Supraja Dharini Explaining details of nesting turtles along Andhra Pradesh coast



Handing over a memento in the midst of TREE Foundation Coordinators



Releasing the "Report on Forest Department and TREE Foundation's Joint Community Based Olive Ridley Sea Turtle Conservation Program Along Andhra Pradesh coast"



Releasing the 'Samudra Jeeva Sakshim' Mobile App for use by the fishermen and Sea Turtle Protection Force Members

AQUA GOA MEGA FISH FESTIVAL - 2025



Exhibit Setup with a Ghost Net model of reef ecosystem



Awareness Banners of TREE Foundation Work



Dr. Pramod Sawant Honourable Chief Minister of Goa patiently exploring the display



Dr. Supraja Dharini receives an Award from the Honourable CM of Goa Dr. Pramod Sawant for Community Based Marine Conservation along Goa coast



DIG Manoj Bhatia TM COMDIS 11 from Indian Coast Guard Goa visited the stall



Shri. Sadanand Shet Tanavade, Member of Rajya Sabha honouring Dr. Supraja Dharini with a memento

**OLIVE RIDLEY SEA TURTLE FESTIVAL SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT, BARUVA
ANDHRA PRADESH – 19TH APRIL - 2025**



Dr. Supraja Dharini presenting the poster to Shri Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation, Government of India



Viewing a poster on the life cycle of a sea turtle with DFO and District Collector



Reviewing the field data book shown by the STPF members during the visit



Group photo with Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, MLA Shri Bendalam Ashok, District Collector Shri Swapnil Dinakar, Joint Collector Shri Farman Ahmad, DFO Shri Venkatesh, TREE Foundation Founder and Chairperson Dr. Supraja Dharini, and STPF members



Hatchling release by officials and Dr. Supraja Dharini at Baruva Beach



Release of over 100 hatchlings at Baruva Beach during the Olive Ridley Turtle Festival



Dr. Supraja Dharini presenting a turtle memento to Shri Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation, Government of India



A group photo with the memento

AWARDS AND PUBLICATIONS



Sankara TV award for Environment Conservation handed by Ms Tamilisai Soundararajan on 01-06-2024



Dr. Supraja Dharini receives the World of Women Award for Conservation from The Hindu, recognizing her exceptional efforts in the field of Conservation.



Ms. Supriya Sahu, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu, Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department, appreciates the community-based marine conservation work of TREE Foundation led by Dr. Supraja Dharini.



Honoured to receive the "Community Conservation Leadership Award" from the Government of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department. 19-06-2026. Presented by Dr.M. Veerappan IAS, District Collector, Chengalputu, in the presence of Mr. Girish Palwe IFS, DFO, Chengalputu



Explained TREE Foundations work to the Honourable Former Vice President of India, Sri M. Venkaiah Naidu Garu. He appreciated India's "Largest Community-Based Marine Conservation " covering 808 kms of coastline.



Dr. Supraja Dharini is submitting the TREE Foundation's Profile Since 2002 to Mr. Girish Palwe IFS, DFO, Chengalputu, on 19th June, 2026



Met Mr. A. Srinath, Minister for Fisheries - Fishermen Welfare, Tamil Nadu, during the shark release



Met Mr. P. Saravanan MLA, Sholinganallur constituency, Tamil Nadu, to explain the TREE Foundation Profile



Dr. Supraja Dharini meeting with Mr Rohit Tiwari, IFS., Inspector General of Wildlife, New Delhi



Dr. Supraja Dharini meeting with Dr. S K Shukla IFS, Member Secretary, Central Zoo Authority

MEETING WITH OFFICERS



Dr. Supraja Dharini submitting a report on community based marine conservation programs jointly conducted with Indian Coast Guard since 2006



Dr. Supraja Dharini meeting with IG , Donny Michael, PTM, TM, Commander Indian Coast guard, Region East.



Dr. Supraja Dharini presenting a turtle model to N. Muruganandam, IAS, Chief Secretary, Tamil Nadu



Dr. Supraja Dharini with Tmt Supriya Sahu, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary, Tamil Nadu, discussing measures to minimise accidental capture and injuries to sea turtles on 3rd February, 2026



Dr. Supraja Dharini is presenting a turtle model to Ms. Sharmila, JD Fisheries conduct meeting for the community at Kasimedu Horbur



Dr. Supraja Dharini submitting the TREE Foundation's Annual Report 2024-2025 Ms. Sashikala, Assistant Director, Department of Fisheries, Chengalpattu District



Dr. Supraja Dharini submitting the TREE Foundation's Annual Report 2024-2025 to Mr. Rajesh, Forest Range Officer, Chengalpattu District



Dr. Supraja Dharini submitting the TREE Foundation's Annual Report 2024-2025 to Mr. Senthil, Forest Range Officer, Chengalpattu District

Key Achievements of the TREE Foundation

- Released more than **51,76,118 Olive Ridley** hatchlings (baby turtles) successfully to the sea.
- Successfully satellite tagged **2 Olive Ridleys** and **1 Green turtle** becoming the first ever NGO in India to satellite-tag turtles.
- Trained and developed Sea Turtle Protection Force of over **411 members from 285** fishing villages along **808 Kms.**
- **7,040** artisanal fishermen provided intensive training in sea turtle conservation through hands-on workshops.
- More than **7,429** officers from the Department of Forest and Fisheries, Indian Coast Guard, Marine Police and Fisheries Inspectors have undergone State-level workshops including a multi-disciplinary plan for effective and efficient protected marine species law enforcement.
- More than **4,06,622** fishing community members have undergone marine mammal awareness programs developed and conducted by the TREE Foundation.
- **3,260** trawl boat owner association members are involved in the strategically designed step-by-step plan developed for the voluntary implementation of TEDs.
- TREE Foundation in cooperation with the fishermen has placed 'How to Safely Release Turtle' sticker on **4,230** boats covering almost all trawl/mechanized boats available in and around Chennai.
- Trained more than **5,755** teachers by conducting annual teacher workshops.
- Educated more than **3,03,352** students through various awareness activities conducted in more than 500 schools & colleges enrolled under "TREE Foundation Ocean Guardian School Program".
- More than **85%** of the fishing community has been educated on the ecological importance of sea turtles.
- More than **2,150** tribal peoples have been educated to stop poaching sea turtles.
- Trained More than **17,000** artisanal fishers on "Safety at Sea" under various programs conducted by the Foundation.
- Research data archived for the states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Recently Goa.
- Presented precise data for endangered species recovery program for the States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha Coasts including- numbers of nesting turtles; success ratio of hatchling emergence; mortality of sea turtles; and rescued/rehabilitated turtles.
- More than **50,632** people have been taken on guided turtle walks and hatchling-release programs as part of alternative income generation programs for coastal communities.
- Rescue/rehabilitation of **47** adult and juvenile Olive Ridley, **7** juvenile Green and **5** Hawksbill turtles and two Spinner dolphins.
- Rescued, untangled and released **974** Olive Ridley, Green, Hawksbill Turtles, Sharks and Marine Mammals from fishing nets (Ray-Fish, nets set for squid and Gill nets).
- About **2,17,655** kgs of ghost net retrieved by fishermen and handed over to TREE Foundation through an incentive program supported by CSRs.
- TREE Foundation is the first NGO to conduct Turtle Excluder Device trials in association with CIFT, and independent trials with trawl fishers at the fishing harbour in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Mission Sea Turtle, a one-day workshop to propose viable solutions and strengthen networks to mitigate sea turtle mortality and protect associated ecosystems, was conducted for the first time in Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh). The workshop brought all the enforcement agencies, Indian Coast Guard, Forest, Fisheries and Coastal Security Police of the respective states under one roof for integrated law enforcement and protection-related response.
- The Mission Sea Turtle Float reached out to 41 schools in Chennai, covering **35,975**, students **3,100** of the general public, and 16 fishing villages along the coast of Tamil Nadu and **5,637** people in **112** fishing villages and **4** harbors along the Andhra Pradesh coast thus covering about **11,378** fishers.
- Recorded the stranding of **14** different species of marine mammals along the Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh coast.
- Restored **1,600** mangroves plantation in degraded areas along Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.



SAVING THE TURTLE IS LIKE SAVING THE ENTIRE WEALTH OF THE OCEAN

Photo Courtesy: TREE Foundation



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