

News from the states

Andhra Pradesh

In situ conservation at Vishakapatnam

“In situ” conservation of Olive Ridleys was carried out at Vishakapatnam, Gangavaram and Pudimaka coast. A total of 389 nests were counted over 112 km of coast, mostly in February and March, 1999. The hatching success was 70 %. The main problems continue to be poaching of eggs by humans and dogs. Also, 35 adults were poached this season. The poaching of adults, which is a major problem, has been reduced due to monitoring by the VSPCA. Trawling mortality of male and female adults continues to be high.

(A complete report is available from the VSPCA)

*Source: Pradeep Kumar Nath
Vishaka Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
26-25-200, Main Road, Vishakapatnam
530001. India*

Operation Angel

Operation Angel is being launched at Sacramento, mouth of the Godavari, Gangavaram, Pudimuka, and Ayalachettu Dibba. Operation Angel is part of a community based sea turtle restoration effort on this coast.

*Source: Dr. Nasreen Banu & Pradeep Kumar
Marine Turtle Preservation Group
M3/281-3RT, Sanjeeva Reddy Nagar,
Hyderabad 500038. India.
(email: pradeep1@hd2.dot.net.in)*

Goa

The Forest Department has been monitoring Morjim beach on the Goa coast with forest

personnel and labourers. 8 nests were monitored and the hatchlings released. Two dead Olive Ridleys were found on Morjim beach.

*Source: C.A. Reddy
Deputy Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)
Forest Department, Government of Goa, Junta
House, Panaji, Goa. India.*

Joint Wildlife Management in Goa

The villagers in Tembawado, a small coastal settlement located 13 kms from Mapuca, along with the state forest department, are helping to protect the Olive Ridley turtle from rampant poaching of its eggs. Morjim beach which forms the beach front for Tembawado witnesses a sizeable number of these turtles coming to nest during October to February. During the nesting period 30-40 village youth along with two forest guards patrol the beach and nab those who try to poach turtle eggs. Capt. Gerard Fernandes, a retired Army officer who has now settled down at Tembawado has had a big role to play in this conservation movement that was started in 1994.

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Gujarat

There is widespread concern over the oil slick at the Marine National Park near Jamnagar. It is believed that the leak emanated from a sub sea pipeline connecting the Single Buoy Mooring installed by the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) in the deep sea to unload imported crude oil. The slick threatens the mangrove forests and corals, as well as the marine life which includes sea turtles and dolphins.