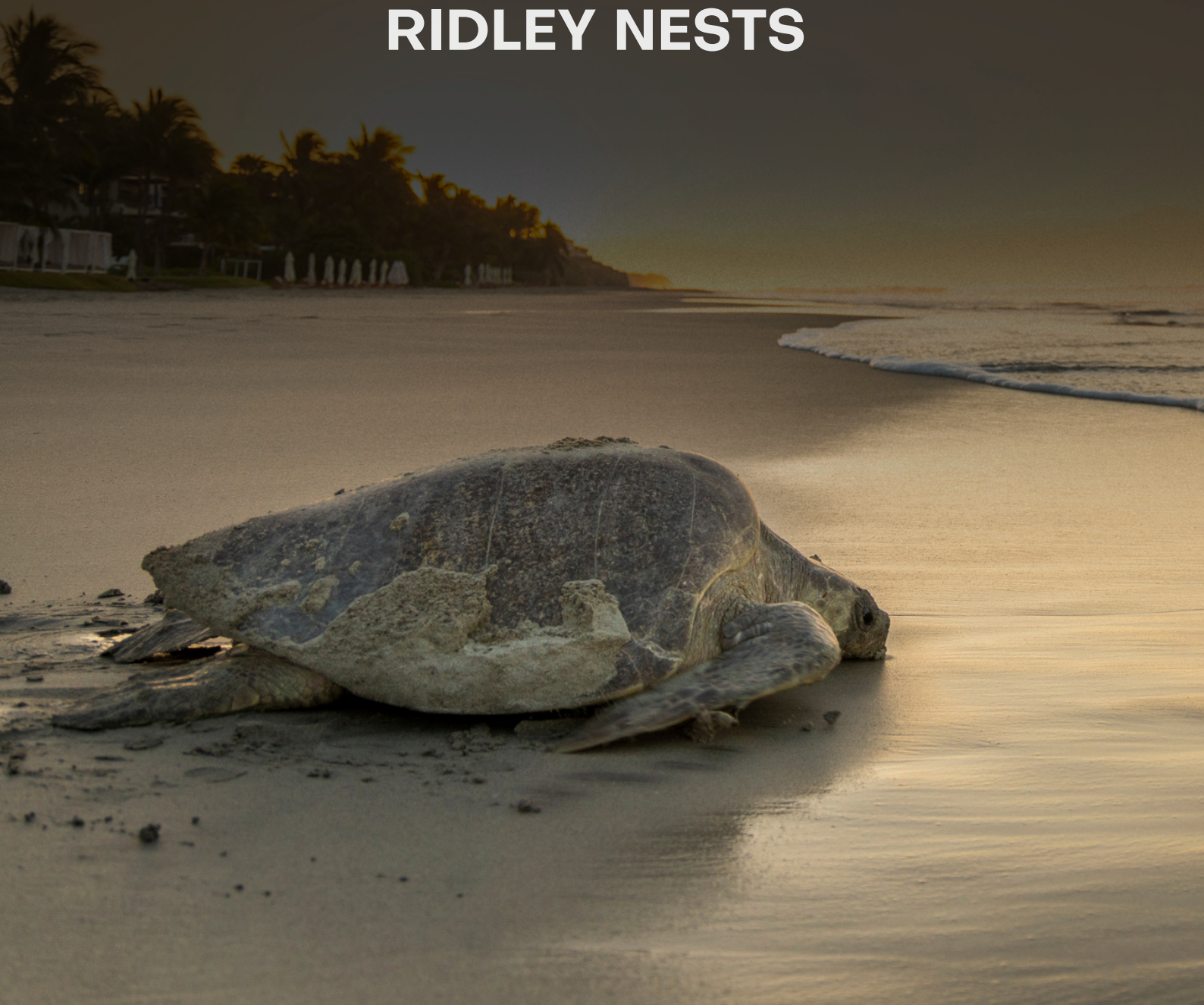


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# SAFEGUARDING OLIVE RIDLEY NESTS



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# THEME: ECO-TOURISM & COASTAL BIODIVERSITY



## SAFEGUARDING OLIVE RIDLEY NESTS

### STAKEHOLDER

IFS Shri. Anthony S Mariyappa, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Mangalore Division

### Core Issue

Olive Ridley sea turtle nesting along Karnataka's southern coast had almost disappeared for nearly two decades due to threats like poaching, habitat encroachment, and artificial lighting, and urgent conservation action was needed to restore their nesting and ensure hatchling survival.

### Constraints

- Stray dogs, crows, and crabs can dig up nests, disturbing predator-proof net enclosures
- Fishing activities, vehicles, and tourism infrastructure disturb nesting sites.
- Bright lights from ports, resorts, or streets disorient nesting turtles and hatchlings.
- Difficult to monitor all potential nesting beaches at night.
- Remote patrolling especially during the 45-60 day hatching period is only done based on surveillance cameras with no motion detection capabilities.

### Context

Along Karnataka's southern coast, Olive Ridley sea turtle nesting had been absent for nearly 20 years. Human activities such as poaching, coastal encroachment, pollution, and artificial lighting disrupted the turtles' natural nesting behavior. Recognizing the ecological importance of these turtles, the Marine Cell of the Mangalore Forest Department initiated a community-driven conservation program involving night patrols, beach cleanups, awareness campaigns, and fishermen incentives to revive nesting and protect hatchlings.

### Groundwork to be considered

- After nesting sites are identified, how are RFO's or volunteers allocated? Is there tech to reduce workload?
- Which areas need hatchery setups and predator-proof net enclosures?
- How will night patrols and daily monitoring be organized to cover all priority beaches?
- What community engagement steps (incentives, awareness programs) are required for fishermen and locals?
- What equipment, staffing, and emergency response measures are needed for the season?



## Existing Systems

- Officers and volunteers monitor nesting beaches to identify and protect Olive Ridley turtles during the season.
- Vulnerable nests are relocated to predator-proof hatcheries or safeguarded in-situ with net covers.
- Local residents, including fishermen, receive a ₹5,000 reward for spotting, reporting, and protecting turtle nests.
- Workshops, school programs, and beach cleanups raise awareness about turtle conservation.
- Detailed records of nests, eggs, and hatchling releases are maintained for tracking and planning.

## Resources

- Olive Ridley hatching rate rises to 74% on Mangaluru coast - Read [TOI](#)
- Olive Ridley Turtles Threatened by Upcoming Port in Karnataka: [Read](#)
  - The article documents how port, road, and railway projects near Honnavar (in Uttara Kannada) threaten Olive Ridley nesting sites like Kasarkod-Tonka. A forest range office has been meticulously recording nests (GPS, date, count) since 2015. Local fishers and conservation groups actively monitor and guide hatchlings. Legal action (NGT, High Court) is underway over environmental clearances.
- Efforts made by Mangalore Division RFO's in identification and protection of Olive Ridley Turtle Nests - Read [TOI](#)