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29 March 2023

Shri Rajiv Ranjan, IFS

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wild Life)

Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram

Bengaluru - 560003

Subject: Request for permission to actively engage with the Department to protect the Olive Ridley turtle nests at Kasarkod Tonka shoreline in Honavar Forest Division

Respected Sir,

This is to bring to your kind attention that large number of Olive Ridley turtles are nesting in and around Kasarkod Tonka shoreline area of Honavar Forest Division, Uttara Kannada district. As per the information I gathered from different sources, in this season, at Kasarkod Tonka shoreline there are more than 40 nests with a total of 4000+ turtle eggs were sighted. The regular visit of turtles and nesting at Kasarkod Tonka depicts the fact that the said shoreline in Honavar Forest Division is ecologically most favourable for the breeding activities of Olive Ridleys. This warrants for the comprehensive conservation plan in the region to protect the ecological niches and nests as well as hatchlings.

I wish to bring to your notice that the Honavar Forest Division authorities as well as the local shoreline dwelling communities of Kasarkod Tonka are regularly working to protect the nests and hatchlings. Such sincere efforts need to be documented most effectively, so that it can certainly make strong platform for future plans and programs of the Karnataka Forest Department to protect the interests of Olive Ridleys.

In this connection, I am willing to extend my support and assistance to the Department through our trust named Honavar Foundation to:

- locating the nesting and eggs of turtles
- release of hatchlings to sea
- preparing sign boards and its installation
- coordinating with local communities for their involvement, and
- documentation of nesting, eggs and hatchlings of turtles and record generation.

I request your authority to kindly consider the above-mentioned aspects favourably and provide me an opportunity to actively engage with the Department in the protection of Olive Ridleys at Honavar Forest Division. I will look forward to your kind permission in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Sandeep

Sandeep Hegde

Trustee, Honavar Foundation

