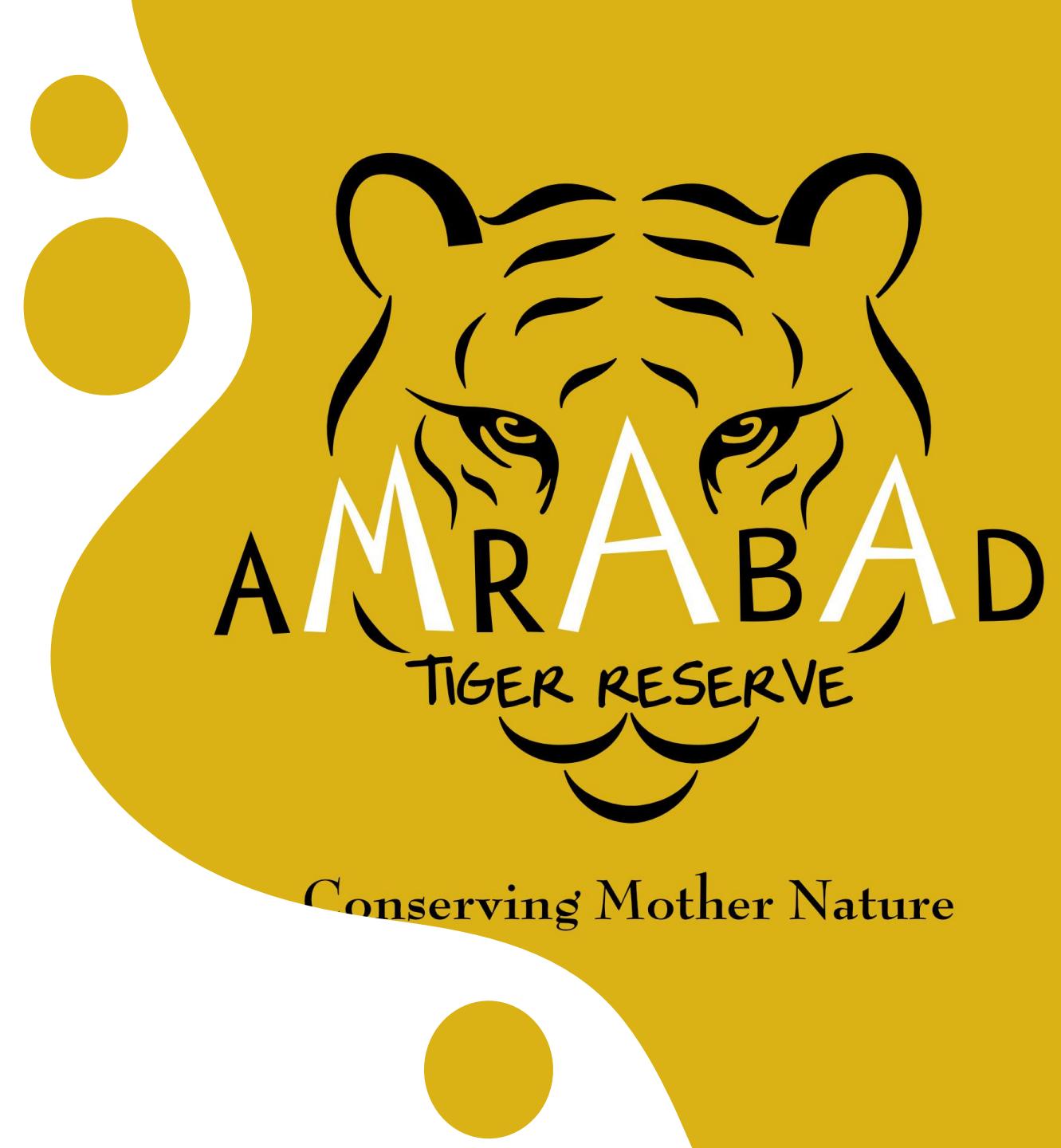


# ECO-TOURISM



Conserving Mother Nature

Rohith Gopidi, IFS

DFO Nagarkurnool

19/11/2025

# Why Eco-tourism in Tiger Reserves?

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- Employment generation for locals
- Financial independence to Tiger Reserves through revenue generation
- Stakeholder awareness on importance of ecosystem
- Constant vigil and monitoring by visitors.
- Active public participation
- Acts as bridge between Forest Department and public( locals and visitors)



# Guidelines

- Not more than 20% of the core area to be utilized for tourism activities
- Tourism in Buffer to be encouraged to reduce disturbance in core areas
- Only those activities approved under Tiger Conservation Plan shall be undertaken
- Low impact tourism and within Carrying capacity
- Phase out night stays inside the tiger reserve and Private players should not be allowed to be operated in activities including hospitality, catering etc... All such operations should be managed by Tiger Conservation foundations



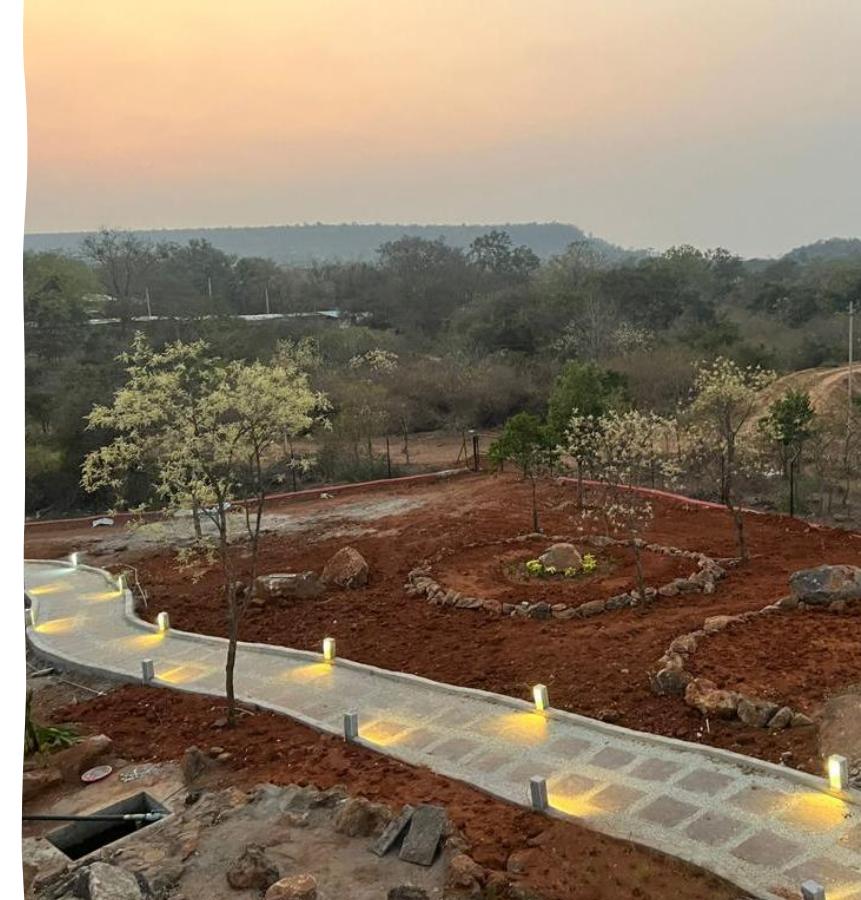
# Mannaur Eco-Tourism Circuit

Mannanur is a small hamlet located at the entry of Amrabad Tiger reserve enroute to Srisailam temple.

- 2Hr drive from Hyderabad
- Jungle safari
- Nature Interpretation
- Stay facilities
- Forest trek to Uma-Maheswaram temple and Prataparudruni kota
- Online booking for stay package provided through  
[www.amrabadtigerreserve.com](http://www.amrabadtigerreserve.com)

# Features

- Online booking for stay package provided through [www.amrabadtigerreserve.com](http://www.amrabadtigerreserve.com)
- Regular updates through social media
- 8 New safari vehicles were procured through financial assistance by TGFDC (Telangana State Forest Development Corporation)
- A total of 12 cottages with the capacity of 24 people
- 36 Nature guides recruited, trained and deployed from Chenchu community to provide visitors a comprehensive understanding of ecology, ecosystem and tribes of ATR
- A kitchen run by EDC comprising of local tribes who were trained in NITHM, Gachibowli



## Stay Facilities

**\* 24 people per day for  
the package**



Jungle safari





Biologist interacting  
with visitors



# Jungle Trek with Chenchu Nature Guides



**A clinic is started in the CBET premises jointly with Apollo foundation for the benefit of TR-tribals and TR-staff.**



**Packaging workshop is started in the CBET premises under Eco-Development program.**

# Community Involvement

- Visit to packaging workshop, which employs about 20 women from underprivileged communities to stitch jute and cloth bags
- Visit to Forest Clinic, aimed at providing basic health care to local/forest staff at subsidized cost.

# Forest Clinic upgraded to Forest Digital clinic providing tele-medicine services





# Local Employment

- Local youth were trained in hospitality services from NITHM(National Institute of Hospitality and Management), Hyderabad.
- Ecotourism food services are today provided by EDC members trained by NITHM
- Ecotourism watchers
- Safari Drivers



## **Nature Guides**

- An Exam notification was given in local daily for recruitment of nature guides from Chenchu community
- More than 100 people participated ,out of which only 20 were selected for further training
- Selected 20 were trained by Naturalist school of Bengaluru
- Today each nature guide is earning an average 5500 rupees for 12 days for work per month



# Nature Guides

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## RAJ BHAVAN, TELANGANA

### Award Ceremony

Our recent batch of Nature Guides from the Chenchu Tribe, Telangana completed the Certified Nature Guide course and received their certificates from His Excellency Governor Shri Jishnu Dev Varma at Raj Bhavan



## A PROUD MOMENT FOR US

*The Governor of Telangana presents certificates to Chenchu Nature Guides, trained by **The Naturalist School**. A testament to community empowerment. .*



# Mannanur Tourism Circuit Revenue

## Revenue Comparison

Year	Tiger Stay Package	CBET Mannanur	Farahabad Safari	EDC /VSS canteen	Guide Remuneration	Total
2021-22	1257600	319460	1530700	298000	336000	<b>3439360</b>
2022-23	3210695	292700	2725200	520000	420000	<b>7116195</b>
2023-24	6163570	661320	5308000	1120000	650000	<b>13945309</b>
2024-25	6780170	397220	7213000	1250000	810000	<b>16450390</b>

Position	Nos
Eco-tourism officer	1
Safari drivers	18
Jungle resort ecotourism watchers/ Receptionist/ Supervisor	18
Nature guides	36
Packaging workshop	18
Ticket collectors/ safari watchers/ Souvenir shop	6
EDC kitchen	6

## Outcomes

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- Employment opportunities have been created to **103 youth** in various ecotourism services like drivers, guides, watchers, packaging workshop, cooks etc., of which 30 are women

# Outcomes

- Employment opportunities have been created to 103 youth in various ecotourism services like drivers, guides, watchers, packaging workshop etc.,
- Enhanced revenues from tourism used for tiger conservation activities like 7 new basecamps established etc.,
- Homestays have been established in mannanur(17) and cumulatively they earning average revenue of 17 lakhs per month.
- Trust building with locals
- Improved awareness about the landscape of ATR in general population.
- Enhanced image of forest department through showcasing of its activities.



# Saleswaram

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# **Mob management in context of religious significance**

- Almost every Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary has some place of religious significance
- Negative interaction between humans and wildlife
- Amrabad Tiger Reserve, the land of Srisailam/God Shiva is home to various sacred groves which have later turned into temporary shrines.
- Kadalivanam, Mallaillodi, Behrapur and Saleswaram are few to be named. In total there 12 sacred places of varied significance.



Crowd during Saleswaram Jatara

# Background

- Conducted annually on Chaitra Pournami ( a day before or after a full moon day)
- Around 1.5 to 1.8 Lakhs pilgrims visit in these 3 days
- Located in the core area of Tiger Reserve
- Conducted by Chenchu community of Rampur villages
- Promoted as Dakshina Amarnath Yatra
- Covid-19 outbreak lead to closure of jatara for 3 years
- Jatara resumed in the year 2022 and serious efforts are being made to regulate it

# Objectives of Regulation



Deterrence effect



Ensure minimal or no plastic or other waste



To make pilgrims aware of their responsibilities  
towards nature



To earn revenue to offset the damage done to  
environment



To ensure pilgrims safety

# Multi Pronged Approach

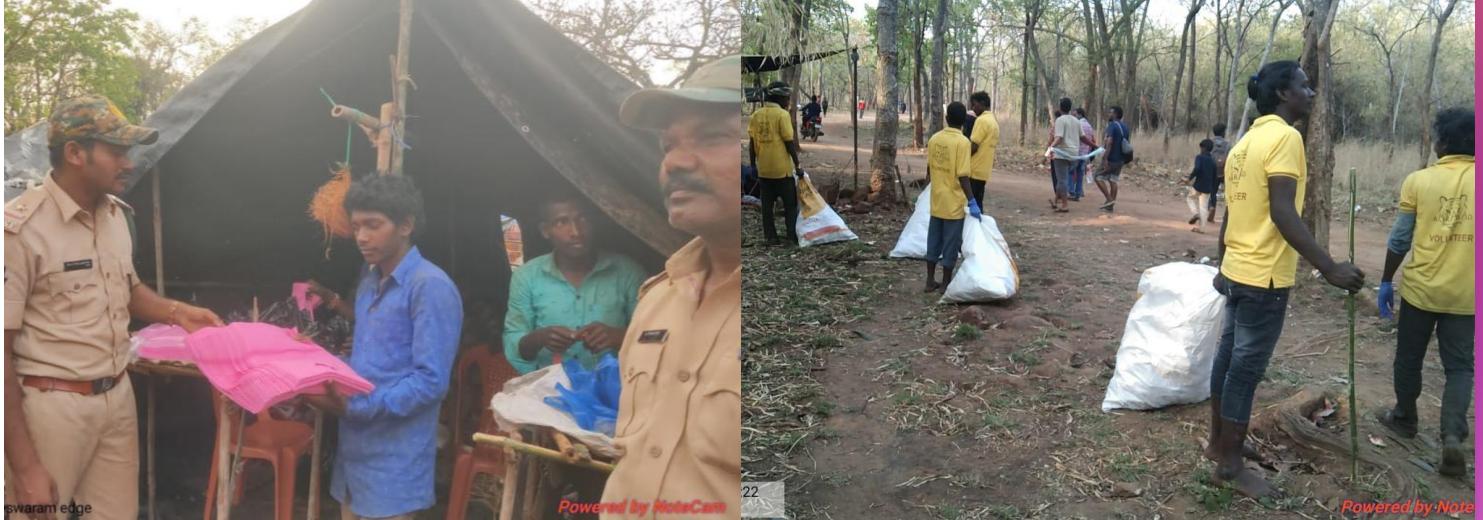
- Collection of environment toll and collected amount deposited into Tiger Conservation Foundation.
- Deterrence effect and promotion of public transport for pilgrims
- Restriction on entry timings and limiting the jatara to 3 days
- Establishment of Plastic check posts at each entry point and deployment of 100 volunteers from local Chenchus
- Alternative cloth bags sourced from packaging workshop were provided
- Sensitization to Bus drivers, conductors, police, volunteers and all stakeholders
- No permission to vendors selling chips, packets, biscuit packets and other MLPs.

## Saleswaram

- Distribution of cloth bags
- Collection of waste
- Arrangement of temporary dustbins



Powered by NoteCam



Powered by NoteCam



# Saleswaram

- Volunteers controlling crowd in co-operation with forest and police department
- Around 35 tractors of food and plastic waste generated in 3 days

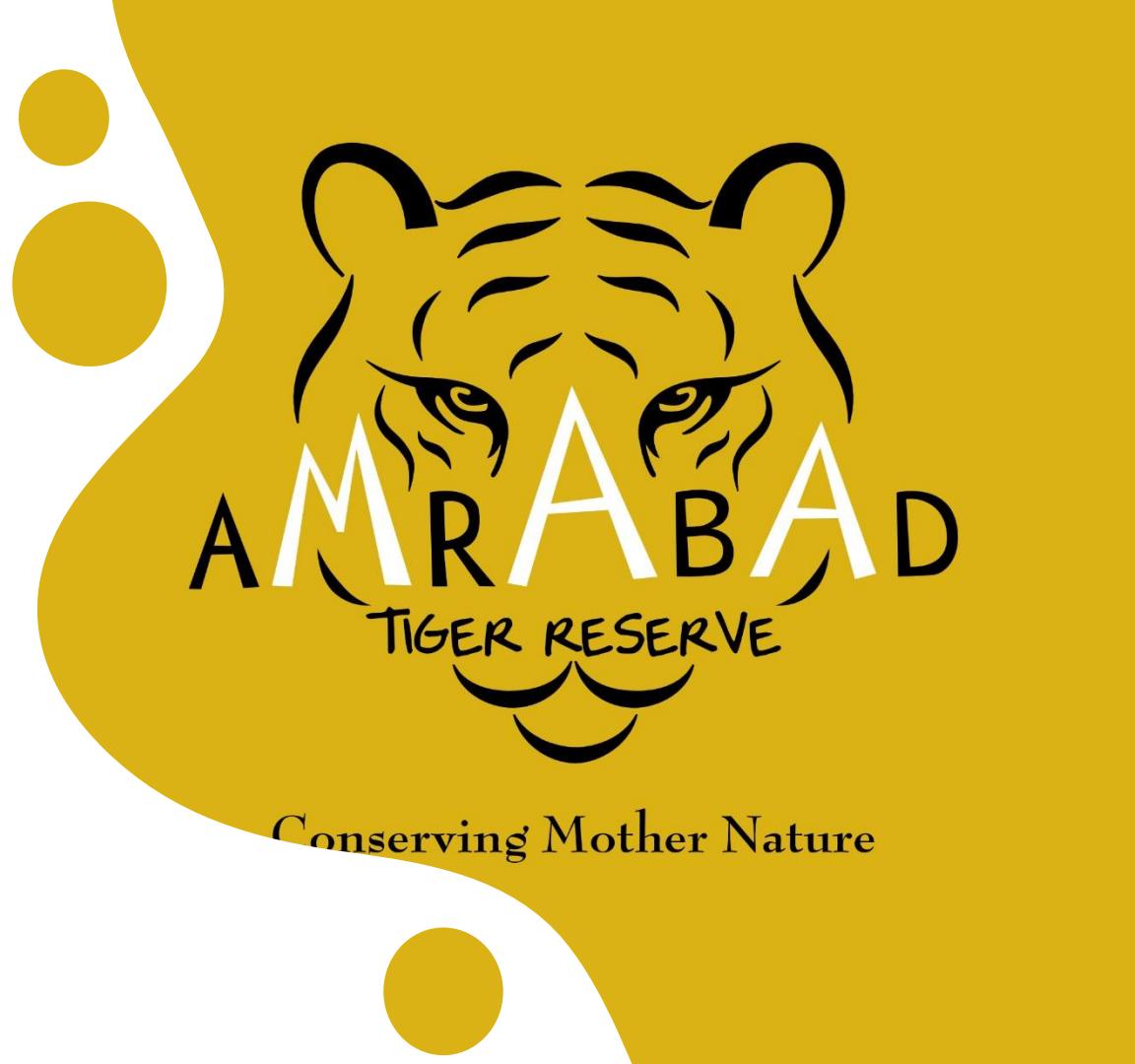
# Challenges

- Potential stampede
- Demand for opening the Jatara for more than 3 days due to increasing visitors
- Increasing Tiger population in future may come in direct conflict with the pilgrims
- Potential human-wildlife disease transmission

## **Way Forward – The Act of balancing**

- Developing an ecotourism model by taking limited visitors(Below the carrying capacity) daily in collaboration with local EDC on similar lines to istakameswari model
- Convert religious tourism into wildlife safari + Nature trek + visit to temple which will create year long employment to more than 50 Chenchu tribes
- The plan is approved by the District administration and talks are being now held to convince the tribes
- Ensuring that other religious places are only restricted to locals

# Plastic Waste Management



Conserving Mother Nature

# Background

- NH765 passes through ATR
- Pilgrims enroute to Srisailam litter plastic waste along the highway
- Annual Fairs like Saleswaram, Mallaih lodi etc., in core areas of Tiger Reserve

# Plastic Waste – A silent poacher

- Wildlife is seen feeding on the plastic waste littered along the road
- This affects the reproductive system of the wildlife, thus has a negative effect on wildlife conservation
- Can cause land pollution and soil fertility will be effected negatively

# Challenge

- A study was undertaken on NH-765 in Feb,2021.
- A total 800 Kgs of plastic waste was collected
- From 350 Kgs up to 2300 Kgs per week are collected depending on time of the season with highest collection seen during the months of Sivaratri
- Plastic waste comprising PET bottle, Multi layered plastic, cardboard was major component of waste littered

# 4 Stage Plastic Management Process



Four stage process including

- 1) collection of plastic
- 2) transportation to recycle centre
- 3) baling of collected plastic
- 4) Transportation of baled plastic to recycling

# Plastic Collection

- A set of 16 swach sevaks equipped with gloves, shoes and pickers are assigned areas along NH-765 to collect plastic and store them in bags



# Felicitation of Swach Sevaks

- To motivate and enhance self respect among them , their efforts regularly recognized



# Transportation of Plastic waste to Recycling Centre

- Two patrolling vehicles with trailers collect such bags and transport them to baling centre by night, so that no plastic is left off on NH-765
- The patrolling vehicle also enforces strict rules and levies fines on trespassers and violators
- Each patrolling vehicle is headed by a Forest Section officer assisted by a Forest Beat officer and a watcher



# Patrolling Duties

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Staff Collecting fines from violators



# Details of Fines Collected

	<b>Total Fines Collected</b>
Mannaur Patrolling Vehicle (from 2022-23)	64 Lakhs
Domalpenta Patrolling Vehicle( From May 2024)	38 lakhs
<b>Total</b>	<b>102 Lakhs</b>

# Segregation & Baling of plastic

- Done to reduce the volume of plastic
- Plastic is segregated into PET, MLP and Cardboard waste
- Segregated waste is individually baled as per waste classification



## Electric Baling Machine

- Initially used manual Baling machine where only bales upto 15 Kgs could be present
- Virtusa Consultancy has donated us electrical baling machine, through which 150kg bales are being made



**Manual Baling machine**



# Manual Vs Electrical Bale

# Transportation of Baled Plastic for Recycling

- Once truck load capacity is achieved the baled plastic is transported to recycling centre through Swictheko



Bales of plastic are being transported by Recycle Agency for final destination for recycling.





- Over 80000 kgs has been sent for recycling in last 3 years

Type of Plastic	Weight (in Kgs )
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Recyclables such as PET, cardboard etc.,	24380 kgs
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Glass	2753 Kg
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Non recyclables such as MLP	53450 kgs
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Card Boards	2050 Kg
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# Clean Up Drives

- To Sensitise and make uniform staff understand that keeping forest litter free is part of forest conservation



# Eco-Friendly alternatives

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Packaging workshop established to provide cloth/jute bags as an alternative to plastic covers

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RO plant established in MJR and purifiers in forest offices to eliminate use of plastic PET bottles

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Leaf plate making machine established with local EDC, to provide alternatives to plastic and paper plates



Jute/ Cloth bag and Leaf plate Manufacturing through local EDC

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA  
FOREST DEPARTMENT

Rc.No. WL24/5/2024/WL-2  
Dt: 30/05/2024

Office of Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests  
Aranya Bhavan, Saifabad, Hyderabad

Sri Elusing Meru, I.F.S.,  
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests (WL)  
& Chief Wildlife Warden (I/c)

ORDER

In exercise of powers conferred U/S 28 & 33 (C) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, it is here by ordered that, there shall be total ban of plastic (SUP -single use plastic, MLP -multi layer plastic and PET bottles of 1 liter and below) in Amrabad Tiger Resvre (ATR) with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July-2024. Alternate drinking water facilities shall be provided for the visitors at convenient locations inside the ATR. Visitors carrying food items in plastic wraps shall be advised to dispose of the wraps in designated places / garbage bins etc and not to litter the Tiger Reserve areas.

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# Plastic Frisking

Elusing Meru

Signed by Elusing Meru Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests (WL)  
Date: 30-05-2024 12:53:38 & Chief Wildlife Warden (I/c)

Reason: Approved

Copy to the Field Director, Project Tiger, ATR, Amrabad,HQ.Achampet for information and necessary action.

Copy to the DFO-Nagar Kurnool and FDOs-Amrabad, Achampet for information and necessary action.



# Plastic Frisking @Check Post

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# Outcomes

- Reduced littering in the forest as large amount of waste is being collected at the entrance
- Eco-Friendly products are seeing growth in supply
- Huge awareness building exercise on plastic

# Challenges

- Problem with local commercial interests
- Providing alternatives to plastic
- Need to upgrade the checkposts with modern state of art infrastructure

# Thank You!