



Wildlife rescued after Cyclone Tauktae

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Goa is home to a wide diversity of marine wildlife species, many of whom are protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act of India, 1972. These include the Indian Ocean Humpback Dolphin and the [Finless Porpoise](#), which are residential in Goa's coastal waters. We also have regular nesting of the Olive Ridley Sea Turtle as well as coral reefs at Grande island offshore from Vasco. Goa also experiences frequent stranding incidents of marine species across its tiny coastline. A stranded animal, such as a dolphin, sea turtle or sea bird may be dead or alive when it strands on a beach. They should only be handled by trained persons who have been given permission by the state Forest Department, (who is the custodian of all wildlife in the state) to do so. To monitor Goa's coastline and respond to marine wildlife stranding incidents, the Goa [State Forest Department](#) in collaboration with Terra Conscious, IUCN India and [Drishti Marine](#) (lifesaving service) established a voluntary marine stranding response network in Goa in 2017. The lifeguards of Drishti Marine are the first responders of the network and training/coordination is provided by Terra Conscious. All rescue, treatment, necropsies etc are handled by the forest department. In 2021, a marine conservation NGO Reefwatch India has also joined the network to provide veterinary support. Recently, in the aftermath of Cyclone Tauktae, this network saw the rescue of a juvenile Hawksbill Sea turtle reported by Kayah & Katya Coehelo from Baga beach. The turtle is undergoing treatment provided by Reefwatch and the state Forest Department. The network was also informed of a young Spinner dolphin that washed up dead in [Patnem](#) beach. A necropsy was performed by Reefwatch under the guidance of the Forest Department. The network has had 400+ incidents reported to it since June 2017 - 2021.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/entertainment/events/goa/wildlife-rescued-after-cyclone-tauktae/articleshow/82776211.cms>