Another Case study :The Western coast of Karnataka

The western coast of Karnataka stretches for 320 km along the Arabian Sea and includes the districts of Dakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada, and Udupi.It consists of 12 minor ports and one major port, and it is rich in biodiversity . Honnavar Port, one of the key ports in Karnataka Honnavar port is near Honnavar town in Uttara Kannada district. It is located on a 10-kilometer long Kasarkode stabilized spit at the mouth of Sharavati River, with Pavinakurvespit to the north. The spit grows northwards due to post-monsoon northerly drift but faces erosion from southerly drift during December to February.

Along the western coast of Karnataka there is mainly olive ridely and possibly green or leatherback turtles .these turtles choose specific spots to lay eggs like Sharavathi river,kali and nethravathi.according to the research there are 13 nestlings in Uttarakannada of clutch size of 105 eggs.

Building ports along the Karnataka coast hurts sea turtles in many ways. Habitat Loss and Degradation,Increased Human activities,increased Marine Traffic and hydrological changes.

First, it messes up their nesting spots due to construction of ports because the bright lights from the ports confuse baby turtles and stop mom turtles from laying eggs. All the noise from the port construction scares the turtles away. Plus, the construction work creates a lot of pollution, like oil spills and chemicals, which can make the turtles sick. With more boats and fishing near the ports, there's a bigger chance the turtles could get hurt. And the changes in the water because of the port construction can wash away or bury the turtle nests on the beaches. So, building ports really messes up the turtles' homes and makes it hard for them to survive.

The mangroves in Karnataka are essential for protecting the coast and providing homes for many animals. They cover about 10.04 square kilometers in Uttara Kannada and Udupi, with various species living there.

The construction of the Honnavar port has significant environmental and economic impacts on mangroves. It leads to habitat loss, disruption of ecosystems, increased pollution, make water dirty and a decline in fisheries and tourists.

In Karnataka,mangrove areas have shrunk from 6,000 hectares to 300 hectares from 1987 to 1997.

These consequences not only harm the mangroves and marine life but also affect the livelihoods of local communities dependent on these ecosystems Protecting and restoring mangroves is not only essential for nurturing marine life and boosting fisheries but also for supporting the livelihoods of local communities dependent on these ecosystems.