



TAMIL NADU MARINE RESOURCE FOUNDATION

தமிழ்நாடு கடல்சார் வள அறக்கட்டளை



Sustaining Oceans, Empowering Communities.

Message from the Hon'ble Minister for Finance & Environment, Climate Change



The ocean is Tamil Nadu's most precious natural asset.

The oceans have always been both a source of wonder and a foundation of life. For Tamil Nadu, with its 1,076 kilometres of coastline and centuries-old traditions shaped by the sea, the ocean is not merely a geographical boundary but a lifeline of culture, economy, and ecology.

This booklet, Tamil Nadu Marine Resource Foundation (TN-MRF) – “Sustaining Oceans, Empowering Communities”, comes at a crucial moment when the State is both proud of its marine heritage and deeply conscious of the growing challenges that climate change, unsustainable practices, and pollution pose to this wealth. Tamil Nadu has become the first State in India to establish a dedicated Marine Resource Foundation, reflecting its pioneering role in marine conservation and sustainable blue economy. It presents a vision where conservation and development jointly partners in building resilience, equity and prosperity.

The chapters highlight Tamil Nadu's rich coastal ecosystems and the innovative governance structures, community partnerships, and scientific approaches that TN-MRF advances. Rooted in local realities yet aligned with global goals, this initiative places Tamil Nadu at the forefront of blue carbon research and sustainable ocean management.

Above all, Tamil Nadu affirms that climate action must also deliver Climate Justice and Social Justice, ensuring that vulnerable communities share equally, both the responsibilities and benefits. This vision makes the TN-MRF not only a conservation model but also a blueprint for equity and resilience.

I commend this effort and hope it inspires collective action for healthier oceans and stronger communities, in Tamil Nadu and beyond. The choices we make today will shape the legacy we leave for generations to come.

Thiru. Thangam Thennarasu
Hon'ble Minister
Finance & Environment, Climate Change



Message from the Chairperson



Tamil Nadu Marine Resource Foundation continues Tamil Nadu's tradition of pioneering institutional models, bringing together government, science, and civil society for marine biodiversity protection and ecosystem restoration. I am confident this Foundation will become a model for other States, functioning with complete transparency and global best practices

Tmt. Supriya Sahu

Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Environment, Climate Change and
Forests department



Message from the Director



The Tamil Nadu Marine Resource Foundation is more than an institution - it is a movement that recognizes the health of our oceans as inseparable from the prosperity and resilience of our people. Through holistic integration of ecosystem restoration with livelihood promotion and traditional knowledge with cutting-edge research, TNMRF will become a catalyst for Tamil Nadu's blue economy.

Thiru. A.R. Rahul Nadh
Director,
Director Department of Environment
and Climate Change



WHY TN-MRF

Tamil Nadu is at the frontline of climate impacts. In the last two decades, the State has witnessed stronger cyclones, rising sea levels, and increasing salinity intrusion. Coastal erosion threatens villages, while unsustainable fishing and plastic pollution degrade habitats.

Until now, efforts were fragmented across Departments and agencies. What was missing was a single institutional platform dedicated solely to marine conservation and blue economy development.

The Tamil Nadu Marine Resource Foundation (TN-MRF) fills this gap:

Institutional Leadership

A registered society ensuring legal, administrative, and financial autonomy.

Scientific Integration

Combining traditional knowledge with cutting-edge research.

Community-Centric

Placing fisherfolk, women, and youth at the heart of conservation.

Investment Ready

Designed to attract CSR, climate finance, and international grants.





Threats



TN-MRF
Solutions

TN-MRF is more than a foundation; it is Tamil Nadu's commitment to shaping a resilient, inclusive, and prosperous Blue Future. TN-MRF creates a bridge for corporates and NGOs to channel resources into impactful, scalable projects.

TAMIL NADU'S OCEAN WEALTH

Tamil Nadu's coastal waters are a mosaic of life and livelihoods. With 1,076 kilometres of coastline spanning 14 districts, the State accounts for 13% of India's shoreline. More than 9 lakh fisherfolk families depend on the sea for their sustenance.



1076 KM
of coastline
spanning
14 districts



More than
13% of
India's
Shoreline



9+ Lakhs
fisherfolk
families depend
on the coast

Our coasts are home to extraordinary ecosystems that serve as nature's infrastructure:



Mangroves in Pichavaram and Muthupet:

Natural bio-shields against cyclones and efficient carbon sinks.



Seagrass meadows in the gulf of mannar:

Nurseries for marine life and home to the endangered dugong.



Coral reefs:

Vibrant habitats supporting thousands of species and protecting shorelines.



Estuaries, lagoons, and salt marshes

Supporting diverse fisheries and migratory birds.



Tamil Nadu's coast is not just ecological wealth; it is cultural and economic heritage. Fishing festivals, salt-making traditions, pearl diving history, and coastal crafts form part of an identity shaped by the sea.

Yet, these ecosystems are fragile. Increasing cyclones, rising seas, coastal erosion, and plastic waste place immense strain on both biodiversity and livelihoods.

The need for a dedicated institution to protect this wealth has never been greater.



Economic Framing:

The marine sector contributes significantly to Tamil Nadu's economy through fisheries, exports, and eco-tourism.

VISION

To ensure long-term ecological health of marine ecosystems and enhance climate resilience and well-being of Tamil Nadu's coastal communities.

MISSION

To protect, restore and sustainably manage Tamil Nadu's marine and coastal ecosystems through conservation initiatives, scientific research, sustainable livelihood promotion and awareness.

CORE VALUES



Sustainability

Prioritising long-term ecosystem health.



Community Partnership

Empowering coastal people as stewards.



Scientific Excellence

Evidence-driven action.



Transparency

Open governance and accountable operations.

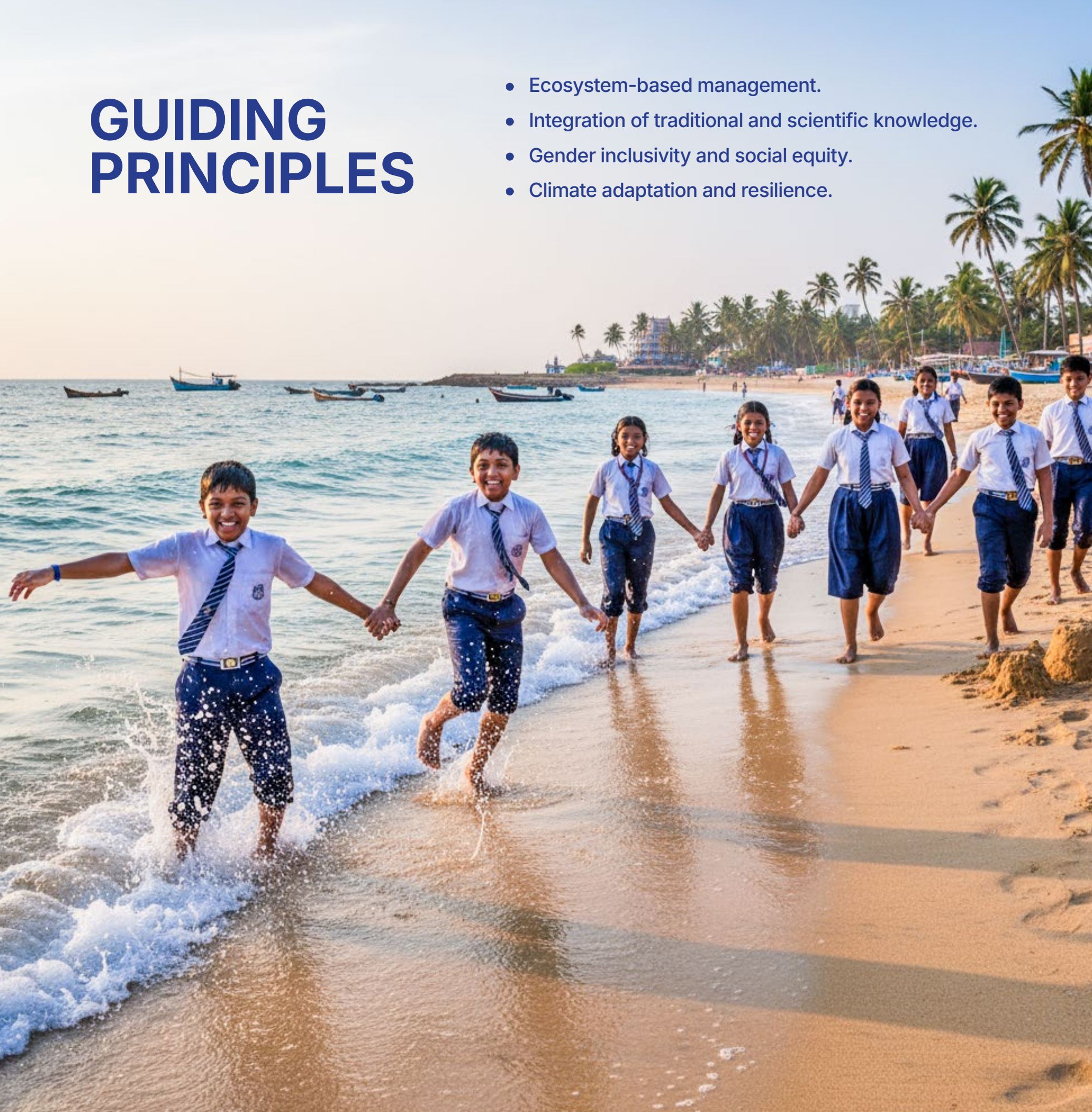


Collaboration

Harnessing partnerships for greater impact.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Ecosystem-based management.
- Integration of traditional and scientific knowledge.
- Gender inclusivity and social equity.
- Climate adaptation and resilience.



STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS



Marine Biodiversity Conservation

Protecting endangered species, restoring habitats, & expanding marine protected areas.



Research & Innovation

Building Tamil Nadu's leadership in blue carbon, marine GIS, and biodiversity mapping.



Sustainable Livelihood Promotion

Training fisherfolk in eco-friendly fishing, promoting alternative incomes like aquaculture, seaweed farming, and handicrafts.



Public Engagement

Campaigns for plastic-free coasts, citizen science, and youth eco-leadership.



Eco-Tourism & Environmental Education

Developing nature-based tourism and strengthening awareness infrastructure for schools and communities.



Climate change and adaptation measures

Carbon sequestration, climate smart agriculture, species protection, in-situ and ex-situ conservation.



Marine Pollution Mitigation & Waste Management

Driving coastal cleanups, setting up waste-to-energy for fishing communities, advancing fishing gear recycling, and strengthening marine debris monitoring.



Knowledge creation and dissemination

Implementing scientific publications, best practice replicable models and policy recommendations for providing evidence-based inputs for marine conservation policies.



Capacity Building & Institutional Strengthening

Training local groups in conservation and project management, setting up marine training centers, creating mentorship networks, and partnering with academic and global conservation bodies.



Educational outreach and environmental education

Reaching 50,000 students annually with marine conservation education and facilitating knowledge sharing with global marine conservation organizations.

GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The TN-MRF is guided by a high-level Board including:

Designation	Role
Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Environment, Climate Change and Forests department	Chairperson
Special Secretary to Government, Finance department	Member
Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Fishermen welfare department	Member
Joint Secretary to Government, Housing and Urban development department	Member
Chairperson, Tamil Nadu Pollution control board (TNPCB)	Member
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forests Force)	Member
Chief Mission Director, Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission	Member
Director, National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR)	Member
Advisor, TNGCC	Member
Director, Department of Environment and Climate Change	Member Secretary / Convenor

LEGAL & COMPLIANCE STATUS

Registered under the Tamil Nadu
Societies Registration Act, 1975

(No. SRG/Chennai Central/264/2025)



FUNDING & PARTNERSHIPS



Seed Funding

50 crores from TNPCB establishes a strong financial base.



Transparency & Accountability

Annual audits, project-level reporting, and impact-based evaluation will ensure funds are used responsibly.

DIVERSIFIED STRATEGY



Government

State schemes, MoEFCC programs, Blue Economy initiatives.



Corporate Sector

CSR projects with measurable outcomes.



International Agencies

Multilateral climate funds, biodiversity conservation grants.



Communities

Co-investment through local stewardship & voluntary contributions.

FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES

(2025–26)



Mangrove & Seagrass Restoration

Community-led planting and monitoring of degraded areas; carbon sequestration potential for climate markets.



Marine Biodiversity Atlas of Tamil Nadu

A scientific database mapping species, habitats, and threats.



Plastic-Free Coast Campaign

District-wide campaigns engaging schools, eco club, and fisherfolk cooperatives.



Youth & Community Eco-Leadership Program

Training students and fisher-youth as marine stewards.



Clean Seas & Coastal Resilience Program

Large-scale marine litter removal, ghost net retrieval, and plastic-free fishing harbours for healthier oceans.



Ocean Youth Corps

Training coastal youth and students as marine guardians for conservation, monitoring, and sustainable practices.



Sustainable Beaches & Marine Tourism Initiative

Eco-certification of beaches with focus on dune restoration, turtle nesting, and community based conservation.



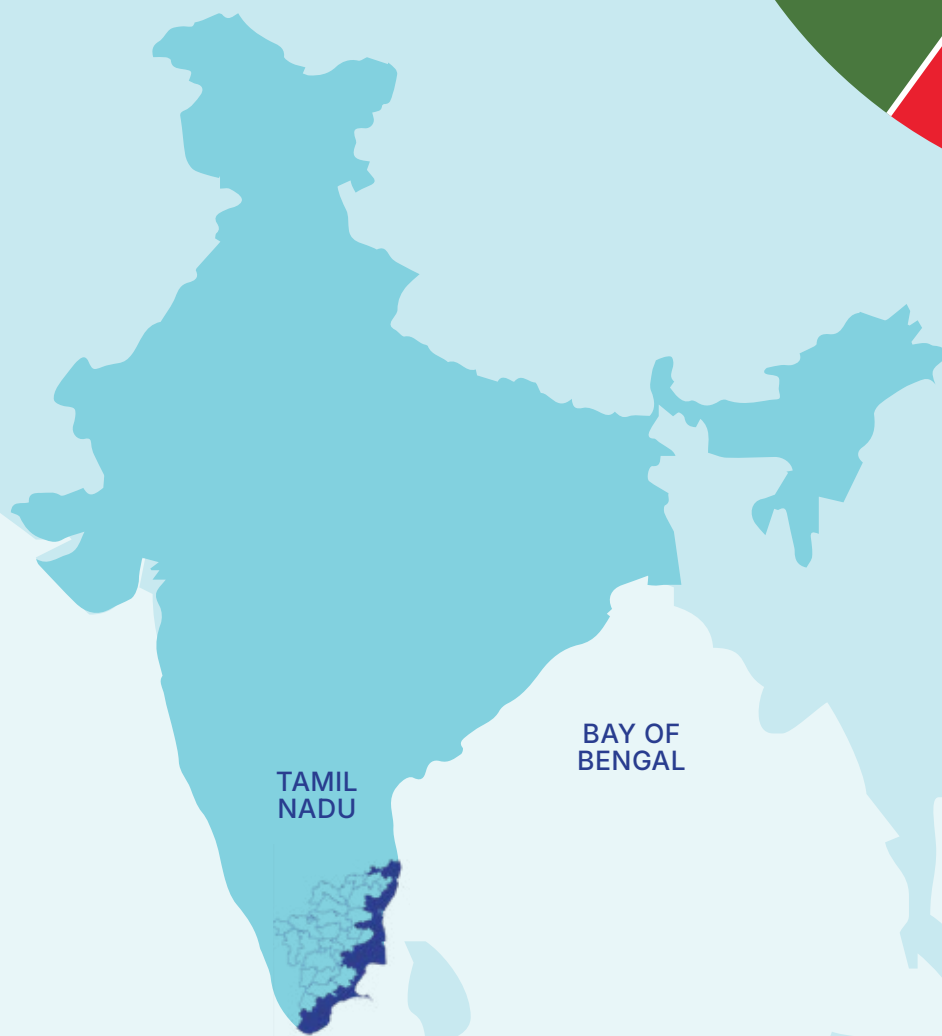
Marine Heritage & Eco-Cultural Trails

Protecting marine ecosystems while showcasing traditional fishing knowledge and cultural heritage.

These initiatives combine science, livelihoods, and awareness into action with tangible impact.

GLOBAL RELEVANCE, LOCAL IMPACT

TN-MRF directly supports global climate and biodiversity goals:



TAMIL NADU

BAY OF BENGAL

Tamil Nadu's leadership in blue carbon, marine conservation, and community-centred approaches will inspire other coastal regions worldwide.

COMMUNITY-CENTRIC ACTION

Fishing Communities

trained in sustainable practices and supported with technology.

Women's Empowerment

Seaweed farming, shell craft, eco-tourism enterprises.

Youth Engagement

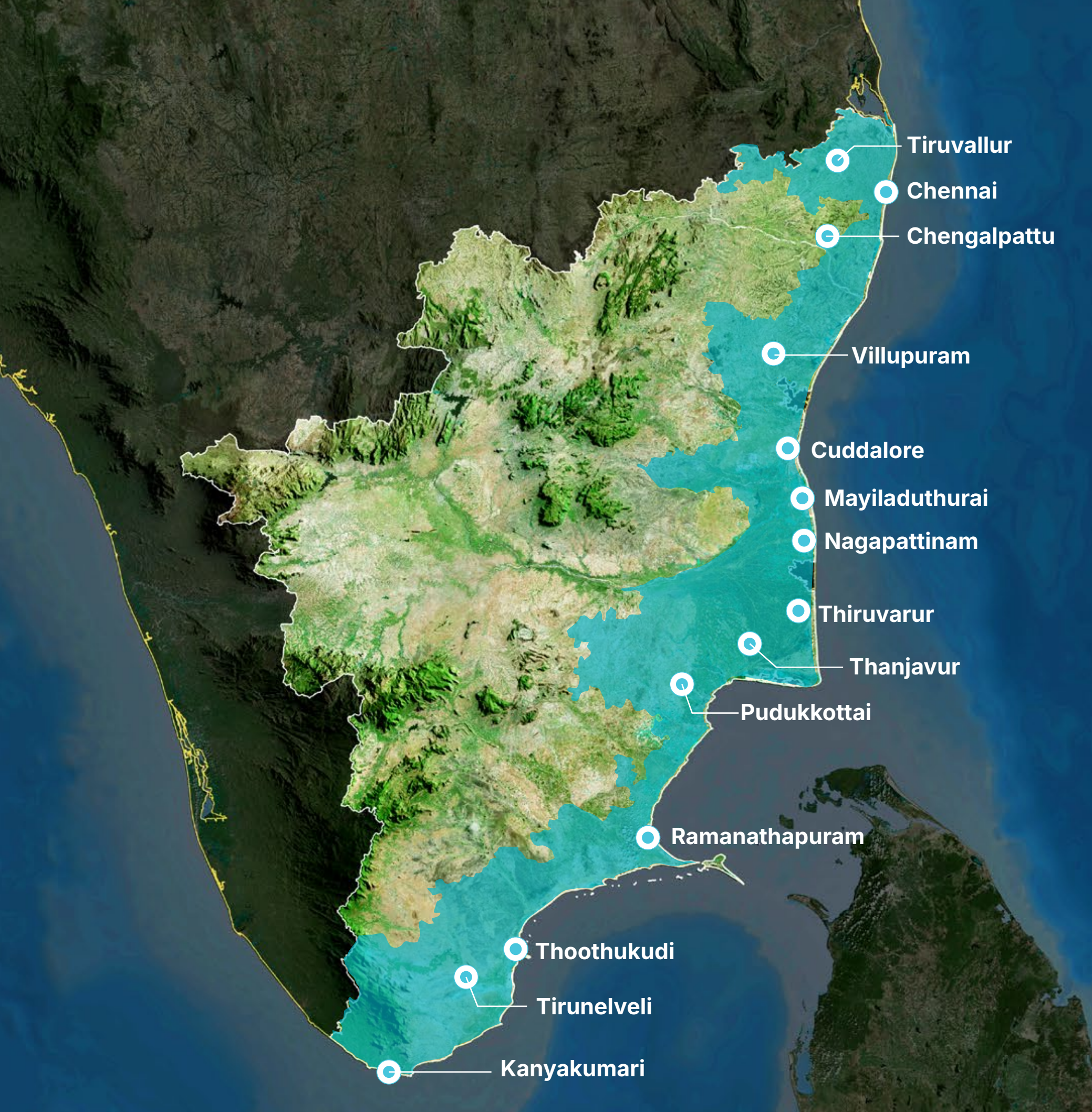
Eco-clubs, training in marine entrepreneurship

Local Knowledge

Documenting and integrating traditional practices into modern conservation.

Healthy oceans mean healthy communities. By making fisherfolk partners in conservation, TN-MRF creates a cycle of trust, ownership, and sustainability.





Tiruvallur

Chennai

Chengalpattu

Villupuram

Cuddalore

Mayiladuthurai

Nagapattinam

Thiruvarur

Thanjavur

Pudukkottai

Ramanathapuram

Thoothukudi

Tirunelveli

Kanyakumari

KNOWLEDGE, SCIENCE & INNOVATION

01

Marine GIS & Atlas

Mapping ecosystems and threats.

02

Blue Carbon Research

Quantifying carbon sequestration from mangroves and seagrass.

03

Fellowships & Internships

Training young marine scientists and students.

04

Citizen Science

Community biodiversity monitoring tools.



This focus ensures TN-MRF is not only an implementing body but also a knowledge hub for India's blue economy. TN-MRF will grow into a knowledge hub for India's blue economy - producing data, tools, and innovations that benefit communities and policy

INVESTING IN OCEANS, INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

The Tamil Nadu Marine Resource Foundation (TN-MRF) provides a unique opportunity for corporates, philanthropies, and international partners to invest in ocean conservation while creating measurable social and economic impact.



WHY PARTNER WITH TN-MRF?

High-Impact Projects

Ecosystem restoration, plastic-free coasts, sustainable fisheries, women's enterprises and youth leadership.

Triple Returns

Every contribution delivers ecological benefits (biodiversity, blue carbon), social benefits (livelihoods, gender empowerment) and climate benefits (resilience, carbon sequestration).

Scalable Models

Projects designed to be replicable across Tamil Nadu's 14 coastal districts.

Global Alignment

Contributions support India's climate goals and UN Sustainable Development Goals.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORPORATES

CSR Partnerships

Invest in marine restoration, community livelihoods and awareness campaigns.

Brand Leadership

Position your company as a leader in climate and ocean action.

Employee Engagement

Corporate volunteering in conservation and awareness programs.

Impact Recognition

Visibility through reports, case studies and joint outreach.

Join Our Mission

If you are involved in research, environmental technology, or simply passionate about making a positive impact, we welcome you to join us in safeguarding marine ecosystems. Together, we can drive transformative change for the future of our oceans. Through innovative marine research, community collaboration, and sustainable practices, our mission offers countless opportunities for meaningful contributions to ocean health.

Partnership Opportunities

We believe that effective ocean conservation requires collaborative efforts from organizations across all sectors. Whether you're a research institution, technology company, or community organization, there are meaningful ways to contribute to marine protection.

Our partnership approach focuses on creating sustainable, long-term solutions that benefit both marine ecosystems and coastal communities. Together we can address the critical challenges faced by our oceans today.

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WORK



PROJECT PARTNERSHIPS

Support specific conservation initiatives and field research projects that directly impact marine ecosystem health.



RESEARCH COLLABORATION

Collaborate on marine science studies and data collection efforts that advance our understanding of ocean dynamics.



RESOURCE CONTRIBUTION

Provide resources, expertise, or funding for conservation programs that create lasting environmental impact.

Making an Impact Together

Our integrated approach combines scientific research with practical conservation action. We work to understand marine ecosystem dynamics while implementing protection measures that create lasting positive change. Through strategic partnerships, we will be able to expand our reach and effectiveness, creating a network of organizations committed to ocean health and marine biodiversity preservation.

Let's protect the ocean together – Join our mission to safeguard marine ecosystems for future generations through collaborative conservation efforts.

Become a Partner Today

Ready to make a difference? Contact us to learn more about partnership opportunities and discover how your organization can contribute to meaningful ocean conservation efforts.



Together, we can ensure healthy oceans for generations to come.



PARTNER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of India



NCCR



**MS Swaminathan
Research Foundation**
SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



**भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India**



**Centre for Climate Change
and Disaster Management**
Anna University, Chennai



Ministry of Earth Sciences
Government of India



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Tamil Nadu Marine Resource Foundation (TN-MRF)

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