

## Update on Tsunami Relief Days 10-13 - Dr Rahman, CVA 15.1.05

SOS Wild Life has been providing grass on a daily basis. One big truck of 1000 bundles (each bundle of 25 kgs.) of dry grass was sent to Cuddalore district.



### Medical Treatments (10 - 13 Jan)

Name of Village	Cattle	Goats
Pudhuchatram	15	20
Pudhupettai	40	15
Chinnur	10	10
Sothikuppam	0	40
Thaikkal	15	5



Following increased inputs the fodder distribution was increased to Two trucks of green fodder and sent to 6 villages.

All cats and dogs found in these areas were fed dry dog biscuits and cat food was given to the cats.

In Nagapattinam, two trucks of dry fodder and two trucks of green fodder have been distributed to 9 villages. The Joint Director Animal Husbandry, Dr. Thyagaraju working in Cuddalore and Nagapattinam districts has offered limited green fodder (4000 kilos) and dry fodder.

In Kanyakumari District, teams have managed to visit around 20 villages. Some of the villages visited by them are Colachel, Simon colony, Kottilpaddu, Mandaikaadu, Naduvarkarai, Kattuvilai, Kadiyappattinam, Sivandhaman, Kalladivali, Pariyavilai, Parapet, Kootumangalam, Kodimunai, Vaniyakud, Kizhakurumpuni & Ashanji of which 18 villages were supplied with hay and 9 villages given green grass. According to Veterinarians majority of the people in these areas were returning back. Feeding of animals for one more week is necessary as people are still rebuilding their homes.



### Animal Treatments (4<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Jan)

Cows	Goats	Dogs	Cats	Poultry
242	271	49	12	36

The Tamil Nadu Forest Dept has a small Turtle hatchery area which was disturbed and damaged by the Tsunami. Wildlife SOS is hoping to assist them in reconstructing this and if given the chance Wildlife SOS would like to adopt this beach for turtle conservation. The beaches are a natural nesting grounds for the Olive Ridleys and need protection. This one turtle survivor has done a great deal for

turtle conservation because of the awareness that was generated amongst the local people particularly the children. The next nesting season Wildlife SOS hopes to protect these grounds and educate the villagers into becoming guardians of the eggs and the endangered marine beings. The Tsunami turtle we hope will change things for all the Olive Ridleys here.



One injured turtle was spotted near the famous "Velankanni" church in an island, which was created by the tsunami. It was first spotted by a member of a local resort rescue team who were searching and bringing to shore the bodies of the victims of tsunami. The information was passed to Dr. Cyril, a veterinarian from SOS Wildlife who reached the place to rescue the turtle. By the time our rescue team reached the spot local people were trying to kill the "bad omen", which had come along with the misfortune of the tsunami. In the local language the villagers says "Aamai varukidavum Aamain varukidavum onnumei" ("The place where a turtle comes and the king's henchmen come are the same"). A shallow creek about 100 meters had been created by the tsunami with water almost reaching the waist. Dr. Cyril had no other option than crossing the creek before the villagers did so. After crossing the creek and towing the turtle to safety he found that the turtle was severely dehydrated and had a wound in the abdomen area. The turtle was taken to "Chidambaram", 150 kms away and was given fluids and treated for the gash wounds and is currently kept comfortable, in a bathtub filled with seawater. The next day the team rented a hut on the beach to set up a simple turtle rescue centre. "The wound is slowly healing, but the turtle is not out of danger, we are closely monitoring it and it will be a satisfying moment when we see it going back to the sea," said Dr. Cyril. Note: Olive Ridley turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) are found in these coastal areas. Many were washed onto the shore and killed by the impact of the waves. The rescue team also reported the news that in many places people were digging the nests in the sands to collect the eggs.



***The condition of the Olive Ridley is still not great!*** Two local boys have appointed themselves the protector of the turtle and guard him during the day. The forest department have shown co-operation and the children of the village have shown keenness in meeting Cyril and talking about turtles. Before he leaves Cyril hopes to teach them how lucky they are to watch the turtles lay eggs and then see the hatchlings return to the sea!

Dr. Cyril Roy, has set up feeding stations in several large towns of Akkarapettai, Seruder, Yusuf Nagar, Pattinacher, Karaihalmedu, Velankanni, Nagoor, Echakuppam Kallar and Tarangambadi. These are the worst hit, low lying areas now crisscrossed by shallow creeks. The government is working over time and Electricity has been restored and street lighting is back even in those areas where it wasn't

there previously. Bulldozers are plying, flattening the broken houses in which the animals had taken refuge. Many of the shy cats and dogs only emerged for night feeding sessions...but after the bulldozers have flattened the remnants of the old houses the disturbed animals have fled further inland. Dr Cyril is having to change his feeding points specially for the small animals. Till now he has been distributing two to three trucks of green grass or fodder each day. Each truck has a capacity of 750 to 800 kgs of grass / fodder and two – three trucks are meeting the needs of approximately 5 - 6 villages.

**Helping animals at Port Blair:** A new path opens for the relief work at Port Blair (Capital of Andaman – Nicobar islands) where one lady veterinarian has single-handedly treated around 410 animals. Most of her medicine supplies have run out including syringes. WILDLIFE S.O.S (R) and FRIENDICOES-SECA have sent 3 huge boxes containing medicines and disposable syringes by courier to her aid.

A second team also continued the treatment and feeding of animals in 8 villages. They ensured that the animals were getting regular supply of fodder by outsourcing it from a nearby village.

The team visited five villages in Chidambaram taluka, Killai, Pichavaram Boat House, Mollukudod, Chinnur, Pudhupet, Parankaipettai. In all the villages sheep, goats cows buffalos, calves were treated for abscesses on hooves and joints stomatitis, maggot wounds, hypocalcemia and enteritis. These villages had very good pastureland for grazing but now has been reduced to salt water lake.

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