



**KARUNA SOCIETY FOR
ANIMALS AND NATURE**

RECOGNIZED BY ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA,
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Annual Report

2014 - 2015

Introduction	Page 1
Small Animal Clinic and ABC	Page 2
Cattle Rescue Project	Page 7
Plastic Cow Project Update	Page 11
Organic Farming and Shop	Page 12
The Karuna Organic Shop in Puttaparthi	Page 14
Humane Education Program	Page 14
Karuna's Wildlife Rescue Center	Page 15
Planning 2015 – 2016	Page 20

Introduction

Reporting all activities that took place during 2014-15 has become an impossible task. Too much was happening at the same time on different levels: animal care, new project decisions, drought, financial hiccups, legal matters, public relations, too much to summarize.

This year we try a new approach; from every level we will give a summary, illustrated by a few examples which stand out. Links will be provided for further reading. The chapter will be closed by numbers of animals rescued and treated with income and expenditure.

Two events stand out and have influenced our decisions.

Firstly, the severe drought, no rain whatsoever; that forced us to keep the cattle in the compound all year around and forced us to feed them all in our premises.

It also made us aware that organic farming on 20 acres might not be possible as the bore-wells run dry and the crops might get lost.

Secondly the visit from Les Ward from Marchig Trust, UK in September who encouraged us to apply for funds for the new wildlife rescue center.



This made us look with new eyes at the Ahimsa Farm close to the reserve forest.

Our guidelines

Animals come first! The rescued and sick animals need food, water, shelter and medical care. We do not save on these expenses, but we are careful with the funds available when there is no money, we simply have to find it or use our own resources.

Our attendants have to care for these animals, without them they will not be looked after. The attendants' salaries and

social security are important to us.

We need to develop and improve our organic production by using our available resources We need to become more self-sufficient financially. This is necessary as we have no bulk amounts in the bank as a back-up and it is in line with our vision to protect nature.

Total income this year:	- Rs. 65,63,653 /-	No. of Animals Treated:	1383
Total expenses this year:	- Rs. 63,77,238 /-	No. of Treatments:	16803
Spent on Construction:	- Rs. 1,32,326 /-		

Small Animal Clinic and ABC

Karuna's in / out-patient department for dogs and cats, shelter for permanent animals and ABC (animal birth control)

The out-patient department at Karuna is a very busy affair. All local residents know where to bring their sick and injured animals. Dog owners from far bring their sick animals as well. There is a continuing "turnover" of animals getting well again and going home although some of them die at the clinic. Abandoned puppies find a home. Serious accident cases receive the surgeries they need and are carefully nursed. Those animals that recover but cannot go home become permanent residents at Karuna.

We have an extensive internal administration about treatments and surgeries. It concerns not only numbers but also salaries / payments doctor, pension funds, medications used etc. and of course all info about the animals.

Karuna's services;

First aid and free treatment for all local dogs and other small animals:	982	Treatments: 12631
General surgeries (amputations and pinning of fractures):	35	Treatments: 563
In-patient care for very sick animals and accident cases.		
Permanent care for disabled animals:	77	
Permanent care for cats without a place to go:	16	

Although the treatment of local farmer's dogs is free, every other dog owner/breed dog owner who comes for treatment has to cover the expenses by way of donation.

All our services depend on general donations.

Expenses Clinic: **- Rs. 10,55,988/-**

Dog Patients – Best of Buddies!



Two of our rescued dogs are now the best of buddies! One we found neglected and starving but he is now gaining weight and getting healthier by the day, thanks to the attention of our caring attendants. The other was brought in with a broken leg but it is now healing fast and he'll soon be running and jumping again!

Paralyzed Dog Walks Again

This dog from Brahmanapalli came in paralyzed, no known reason. He was lying around for several weeks without improvement and he started to get wounds on shoulders and hips. That is not a good sign. Without improvement this can only get worse. We discussed if he should be euthanized. Against all odds we tried to put him on four legs, without success. Every day we gave him some attention, let him sit up and helped him to stand without result.

Suddenly, he was sitting up straight. The next morning we looked for him as he was nowhere to be seen, but he was going around at the cattle side.

After a few days his wounds healed and he returned home



Puppy with Paralyzed Legs



This little guy's legs are paralyzed but he still wants to live, play and get attention! Karuna is here to make his life easier, thanks to all of your support.

Pup Attacked by Big Male Pig



The pup was attacked by a big male pig, lost his front leg. It broke one hind leg as well with a big wound. The good front leg needs support as the pup has calcium deficiency.

We were contacted through Karuna website. The pup was in Anantapur, 80 km from here. The gentleman was kind enough to bring the unfortunate pup, he himself had been looking after it for a few days. We expect the pup to recover. I asked the gentleman to give it a name.

Rescued Cat Recovers: Before & After

This cat was rescued and she was so weak and sick that we didn't know if she'd survive or not. Happily, after several days of loving care by the Karuna staff, as well as medications and treatments, she recovered completely and went back to her owners. Another successful Karuna story!



Cardboard Boxes, for the cats

One visitor came to Karuna to see the cats. She said "I have to go out to Karuna's to see the poor dear cats, many blind and a bit deformed... I wanted to check out the cardboard box theory, to see if these Indian cats would like boxes. And yes. They loved them...."



Dog Feeding Time



Dogs Dying of Swine Flu

In June we received three dogs that arrived at our Karuna clinic, just to die. It looked like poisoning but different.

The next morning four dogs arrived with the same problem, struggling for life. Some puppies had taken milk from the mother and died. They all came from Karnataganepalli near Puttaparthi. The owners of the dogs told their story. Several different versions!! In the end, it seems that there is a pig disease. The owners still slaughter them after death for sale and distribute them with the chicken stalls that are mixing the pigs with the chicken. The leftovers are thrown out. The dogs ate it and died. Five more dead dogs were brought to our clinic. We informed the press, municipality and veterinary department. Within hours all concerned authorities arrived. The dogs are still struggling for their life. The veterinary doctor took samples after a post mortem.

The stories and information vary from hour to hour. It seems that over the last month many hundreds of pigs already died. We don't know how many dogs died.

ABC Operations and Anti-Rabies vaccinations.

Most female dogs in Puttapparthi are sterilized but we have to be vigilant as there is a constant influx of new dogs in the area. We cannot stop the ABC surgeries as the dog population would increase again. We are lucky to receive support for the surgeries from "Help Animal India" from the US and "Animal Care Austria" from Austria.



No. of Sterilizations / Castrations:	Dogs 210	Cats 35
No. of Anti Rabies Vaccinations	485	
Expenses:	- Rs. 3,58,317/-	
Donations Received:	- Rs. 2,92,889/-	

Cattle Rescue Project

Introduction

For thousands of years the indigenous cows and bulls of India have been able to generate food for people and provide food security.

With the development of the bio industry, the growing demand for milk, "Operation Flood" and the Green and Pink revolution, the cruelties meted out to the animals have developed beyond understanding.

After the rescue of cattle from the slaughter trucks, Karuna Society has given a lot of thought about rehabilitation of these animals which were mostly meant for milk and meat.

The situation with the buffaloes seems clear-cut, they are only "food animals", are slaughtered and have no value as living beings by themselves. The same is true for all dairy breed cows.

Here it is easy to take their side. We can live without meat and milk which is produced in such a cruel and unethical way.

The situation is different with the local cows which mostly do not give milk but are used for breeding working bulls for agriculture, transport and provide lots of useful by-products for human health and agriculture. This makes the relationship between cows and humans different. Is there a possibility of "working together", not based on abuse and killing?

"Rehabilitation of rescued cattle" means a shift from perceiving the animal as a "production unit for profit" to acknowledging the animal for what it is on its own as a living being, with a right to life.

At Karuna Society all buffaloes are sterilized and castrated. There is no reproduction, no milk for sale and the animals are free and out of business. They also move around freely in the compound and graze in a herd outside in the forest. Several months ago we have also started the sterilizations of the local breed cows and bulls to make sure that all our rescued cattle have a safe and free life at our shelter.

Total recued cattle in our care:	322
Donkeys:	7
Horses:	4
Camel:	1
Cow sterilizations:	15
Expenses:	- Rs. 33,56,741/-
Sale of Compost:	- Rs. 48,800/-

Feeding time during drought

Donation from Marchig Trust



We received a note from Marchig Trust that they have allotted 15.000 GBP to Karuna for food and medicine. We are very, very much relieved as the water and food situation for the cattle is bleak. We are going to make a good plan and include other donors to get the whole year covered. This is an update on the feeding program at the Ahimsa farm. We are now feeding maize stalks which we put through a chaff cutter. This means that 100% of the grass will be eaten. Apart from this we feed grain based feed mix. 150 kg mixed with water. One kg for each animal. We distribute it as a paste in the fodder troughs. All together it is a lot of work and it is very hot.

Building Water Troughs Close to the Forest



We received a donation via Fabienne from the western canteen for the water troughs. It is on the corner of the Ahimsa land close to the forest. it is useful for cattle and small and big wild animals and birds.

Shaded Feeding Troughs



We were able to build a small portion of what we had planned, shaded feeding troughs for our cattle so they won't have to eat in the full sun. The rest of the green cloth will be used for the garden and for drying facilities for our organic products which will go on sale soon.

Invalid Buffalo Bull dies



The invalid buffalo bull died. He had a nice last few months, pampered and looked after but it is also good that he is gone as there was no chance of him walking again. We miss him.



Cattle are Social Animals

Cattle, like most animals (including humans!) are social animals. They like to be close to one another and form lasting friendships.

Great, Great, Great Grandmother Buffalo



"This is great-great- great-Grandmother Buffalo going to die a natural death. She is already more than 10 years with us, rescued from the slaughter truck. We don't know her age. She has no teeth and cannot get up any more but eats well and still seems comfortable.

We nurse her till slowly the "Light goes out"

Why is this news? Where on earth can a buffalo die a natural death? We rescue cattle from illegal slaughter and give them a happy and peaceful life. We take the help of some of the young and healthy males to till our organic farms but don't worry, they are not worked too hard. They seem to like the exercise and they might even know their hard work will bring people healthy organic products and more funds for their upkeep!

Working Bull Falls, Open Fracture



One of our working bulls made a bad fall in the night. We think he slipped, maybe a fight with another bull.

It is an open fracture and the surgeon has removed some pieces and put the bones together as best he could. Recovery is a long process, at least three months and in the meantime many things can go wrong. If he is lucky and recovers he will have a stiff leg and he will stay with us as just one more disabled animal at Karuna.

Three-Legged Cow



Life is precious! This three-legged cow would agree with that completely. Her life was saved thanks to surgery, though we had to amputate a badly infected limb. Now she is happy, healthy and walking about!



Thanks to Asia Paper Market from Singapore, Help Animals India and A Well Fed World from the U.S. and the Marchig Animal Trust we were able to feed all our animals during the drought.

Suffering of Working Donkeys



We received a donkey. The wound you see is caused by carrying the load of wood out of the forest. This heavy load is constantly moving on the same place on the back. For many years I have tried to find some kind of "saddle" to prevent this, but without success. The donkey owners supply wood to the small local hotels who cannot afford gas cylinders.

This donkey can never go back to work. We have taken it in and with such a wound the owner loses ownership because of cruelty.

The good news is that compared to 15 years ago the awareness of suffering animals has greatly improved. In the past when we wanted to pick up a donkey, we did not receive any help, people were laughing. We were struggling to get the donkey in a rickshaw. Sometimes donkeys were dying on the side of the road without any help, food or water.

Now several people, independently of each other, were calling in, organizing the pickup in a rickshaw together with Roshni.



Plastic Cow Project Update

Plastic Cow to be screened in November 2014 in Seattle, US

The Plastic Cow documentary is finding its way to the most likely and unlikely places. Unexpectedly the term "plastic cow" turns up in discussions and reports. It is becoming a household name and as such has already changed the illusion of the "Happy Cow" wandering the streets. The case in the Supreme Court takes a long time, when will it end?

The Plastic Cow documentary has been screened at the Minding Animals Conference in New Delhi in January where Karuna also presented the only way to save the buffaloes from abuse: sterilization!

We have started sterilizing buffaloes at the Karuna shelter. We cannot provide shelter and care for an ever growing herd. We can also not give buffaloes for adoption and put them back into the same abusive system of breeding and milking for profit.



The Plastic Cow Film on TV in UK for Three Years

We received a message that the Plastic Cow film will be aired for three years on the non-profit Community Channel in UK

Further reading; the interim Supreme Court Order

<http://www.karunasociety.org/court-order-dated-november-18-2014>

Organic Farming and Shop



Introduction

The Ahimsa Farm is a combination of a cattle rescue project and organic farming where the rescued animals have a right to life, live in the herd, and graze outside. They are protected from abuse and no milk is drawn from any cow or buffalo. Buffaloes are protected from abuse by castrating and sterilizing them. They are unfit for reproduction and thus free from exploitation.

Agriculture in India depends on the cow and by-products like dung, cow urine, and the physical strength of the bulls for ploughing and transport. This is also true for the food being consumed by the vegans. We cannot deny the importance of the cow in the development of thousands of years of agriculture. The question is: How can we improve the lives of animals involved, even if they are not slaughtered.

There is a new interest in organic farming in India but there is a disconnection from the lives of animals. Many organic producers have no animals themselves but use dung for compost from their neighbors' milk buffaloes or they might even have their own small dairy and use the by-products for farming. These animals will still go to slaughter and the male calves will be killed after a few days. This is not cruelty-free organic farming; the products will still be grown on the energy of cruelty and death.

At the Ahimsa Farm, no animal goes to slaughter and the available by-products have the energy of respect and happiness. This is very important for the quality of the soil and the small animals living in and around our farm – birds, squirrels, snakes, and whatever more we do not even see. Wildlife will not be scared to come for water.

It is very important to be aware of the different motives of organic farmers; some are only interested in profit, sending products abroad to be converted into very expensive organic fast food and fuzzy drinks! Others are only concerned with the preparation of the soil and the products without any consideration for the animals involved.



Ladies Cutting Lemongrass

These ladies are cutting lemongrass and drying organic produce the old-fashioned way, making our Ahimsa products. Electricity is not dependable where we are located but that will not stop us to support our rescued animals.

Ahimsa Farm



When the monsoon started, we had two big rains and in the forest the grass has grown. The cattle at the Ahimsa farm are going out grazing every day. They have all survived the drought much better than last year. Still, at present it is very hot and we are waiting for the real monsoon to start.

We have restarted the organic garden and Narendra has made a plan for the model garden at the Ahimsa land.

We have to be careful with the water there so we want to work with drip irrigation.

Within one or two weeks I can have a detailed plan for the area with estimate of

cost. We will grow there fruit trees, medicinal scrubs and plants. When the monsoon starts we need to start planting the trees and preparing the soil and the bore wells.

Donations for Drip Irrigation

Excellent news from Eileen from Help Animals India. She had a very pleasant phone conversation with Dawn this holiday in USA and A Well Fed World will put in \$2000 which is more than the one lakh (\$1,680.00) needed for the drip irrigation.



Additionally Help Animals India will add another \$1500.

Expenses organic agriculture: - **Rs. 4,89,545/-**

Income from Agriculture: - **Rs. 3,64,276/-**

Volunteers



Every year some foreign volunteers find their way to Karuna Society. They find us through internet or travel information. This year we received a special request from Sheridan ... if she could come to observe the cows and buffaloes and finish her paper for her studies she stayed for one month and studied the behavior of the cows and buffalo of her choice very scientifically. She made beautiful pictures of the interaction between the animals.

We value volunteers very much as they give that Tender Loving Care for which the attendants have very little time.

The Karuna Organic Shop in Puttaparthi



The Karuna Shop has many functions. Visiting foreigners love the fresh organic produce and the Ahimsa (and other) organic products. The sale of these products helps to generate some funds for the upkeep of the animals in our care. Romula D'Silva, our Vice President and her daughter Roshni respond to information about animals in distress: dogs, cats, monkeys, donkeys and birds. If needed the animals are brought to the clinic for treatment. Another important function is receiving donations, in cash and in kind, from animal loving people who want to contribute to the healthcare of animals in Puttaparthi. The shop also serves to disseminate information on animal and environment related issues.

Donations received through the shop: **Rs.2,79,000/-**

Humane Education Program

This year the following activities took place as part of the Humane Education Project

1. Visit of Youth Group from Malaysia

On 10th Nov. 2014, some senior students of from Kuala Lumpur, Malayasia visited the Karuna clinic and shelter. It was a great learning experience for them.

2. HAPPY HOME TRUST, Puttaparthi



On 12th December 2015, a session for 20 kids of the Happy Home Trust based on the topic, "Animals - Our Best Friends" .

An interactive discussion with visual aids was followed by the video, Compassionate Citizen.

3. Humane Education sessions at Baba Learning Centre, Brahmanapalli
From January 2015 to February 2015, six sessions were conducted at the Baba Learning Centre School in Brahmanapalli.

A total of 160 students of different age group/grades attended these sessions.

The topics for the sessions were related to the relevance of animals in our life, the importance of caring for animals and the environment as well as our duty towards respecting and protecting them.

An interactive discussion with visual aids was followed by the video, Compassionate Citizen. Older students took part in an animal/environment related quiz session.

Karuna's Wildlife Rescue Centre

Karuna's Wildlife Rescue Centre came into existence in 2002 as the forest department was sending us animals from 2000 as no other facilities were available in the area. Our permission from the forest department at that time was for rescue and release but in practice we found that some animals cannot immediately be released, need treatment and sometimes lifetime care.



Year by year we have improved our facilities, gathered knowledge, asked advice and reported to the CZA. Every inspection showed the need for improvements. We followed up on all requirements over time and improved the facilities according to CZA standards.

Unfortunately, the maintenance of the center had no separate funding but we always supplied whatever was necessary to feed and maintain the animals, including basic record keeping.

The need for a Wildlife Rescue Centre.

In the local villages there are hunters. They keep their dogs for hunting wild boars and anything else that moves and can be eaten, even Sloth Bears.

There are many animal-human conflicts due to encroaching of forest, hunting and lack of water and food for the animals. They come to the crops and villages. The villagers respond by putting up live electrical wires, poisoning goat kids and leaving them for any wild animal to eat.

Straying wild leopards or sloth bears are resorting to desperate action when trapped by a hysterical crowd.

The need for a NEW Wildlife Rescue Centre

Owing to the construction of houses around the existing center, the facilities have become unsuitable for wildlife rescue.

In 2007, Karuna Society purchased land close to the reserve forest. From the inception of our center, we have been looking and waiting for a donor to help us. Finally we were approached by the Marchig Animal Welfare Trust (UK) for this purpose.

All in all we have the chance for an improvement and change for the better.

A separate program has to be developed with the Forest Department to create awareness among the villagers and appoint them as protectors of forests.

We are very much interested in developing a system of "soft release" for Sloth Bear cubs.

There are two species which need our special attention: deer, like Black Buck and Sambar Deer, which we receive on a regular basis, and Sloth Bears, who run into trouble with the farmers due to drought, and are hunted down and killed. "Rescue and rehabilitation" is our motto but release is not always possible. Some animals will stay with us for life, such as electrocuted monkeys, some Sloth Bears and Deer, especially when they are disabled. As these animals are under special protection of the Government (scheduled), their final destination is at the discretion of the CZA (Central Zoo Authority) in coordination with the State Forest Department. Karuna, as a rescue centre, will never have ownership, only permission to care for them. Rescue activities over the last three months show the needs of the animals but structural programs for rehabilitation and conservation have to be developed in the near future.

28 Dec 2014: Rescue of a Sloth Bear from animal-man conflict. Released into dense forest.

10 Jan 2015: Rescue of Sambar deer from pack of hunting dogs. The deer died.

22 Jan 2015: Rescue of leopard with Forest Dept. The leopard was released.

22 Jan 2015: Rescue of a Sambar deer, hunted by dogs; the deer died. Eight hunting dogs were confiscated and a case booked against the owners.

26 Jan 2015: Rescue of a Sambar Deer; the animal died. Four hunting dogs were confiscated and sent to Karuna.

16-2-2015 Rescue of Sambar Deer; Joint operation with Forest Dep. Deer was eaten alive by the dogs. 3 dogs confiscated by Karuna.

28 Feb 2015: Rescue of a female monkey from Puttaparthi with severe gynecological bleeding. Recovered after treatment and will soon be released.

10 March 2015: Black Buck baby found; he was bottle fed in Karuna's sanctuary. Apart from the above there are the regular rescue/release of snakes like cobras and rock pythons from the village to the forest. Thank you all for your outstanding and loyal support, which has made all our efforts successful and possible!

No. of permanent wildlife: **35** Treatments: **165**

Expenses: **- Rs. 4,31,160/-**

Peacock is Treated and Released



Rabid Wolf Attack

On 04.05.2014, a wild animal, Hyena or wolf, attacked more than 20 people, many dogs and livestock, causing bite wounds on the face and neck. Our secretary Narendra Reddy rushed to the place. He observed that the animal was killed. The DFO and other Forest Department official and local Veterinary Department official came to the spot and the local veterinarian performed postmortem.



All people injured are in hospital in Anantapur but nobody has taken any responsibility for the dogs and cattle. Two dogs have already died of rabies.

We provided medical care and AR vaccinations for the dogs and cattle in the village with most bites. As this is the first injection, we have to follow up all 5 vaccinations. More dogs will get rabies in the coming days and will start biting people and animals as the bites are too close to the brain.

We used 25 bottles AR vaccination (10 ML) We have five more villages (Veerajinne palli, Narasim Palli, Vengamma Cheruvu, Yerlam palli, Kotha Kota and Nitta Kunta Palli of Bukkapatnam and Puttaparthi Mandals) to do and the follow up for a month.

Hunting Wild Boars



Pictures of the wild pigs. They are black with rough hair and the males can have large tusks. they are very different from the domestic pigs.

Wild boars live in the forest where they belong. During summer, hunger and thirst drive them closer to the plantations which are more and deeper into the forest and as such moving into the territory of many wild animals. Humans, who are reproducing like rabbits, are encroaching on every life form available here. Most villagers hunt in the forest with packs of dogs. Who is attacking whom? Who is the victim here? Believe me, there is almost no life left in the forest.

MANAGEMENT OF THE DOG POPULATION IN AND AROUND PUTTAPARTHI

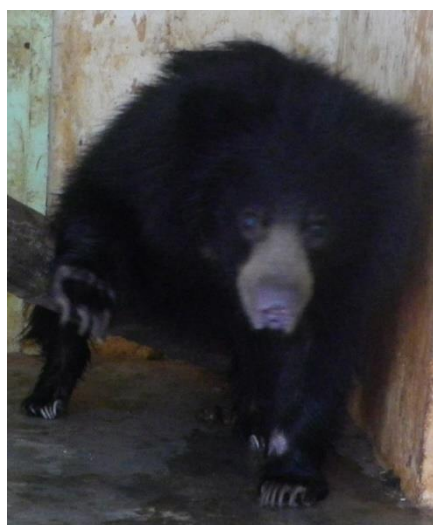
The link between hunting of wildlife and the constant arrival of new dogs in the area

Link: <http://www.karunasociety.org/management-of-the-dog-population-in-and-around-puttaparthi>

Monkeys Shifted to Wildlife Center



Sloth Bear Rescue



Our team together with the forest department was able to rescue a young bear that was electrocuted. It was unconscious on arrival. We provided first aid.

The surgeon saw it the next morning. It was blind in both eyes. It may improve within a few weeks. The paws were burned. In the first picture the cub is still unconscious. After two days it was much better, very active, eating and processing the trauma.

His name is Giri. He seems to be able to see with one eye. He has been introduced to Balu the old bear.

Raama the Sloth Bear Cub Rescued



Thanks to a string of informants and in coordination with the Forest Department, Karuna's Secretary Narendra Reddy could locate a Sloth Bear cub and bring her to Karuna. She is female, the size of a big cat, weighing 3 kg on arrival, probably 2.5 months old. At present she is in a safe place for observation, to de-stress, settle her stomach and to get her regular food timings in place. She has space to play and fights with an old shoe which is more suitable than our arms and legs! As soon as possible she will join the other bears in the Sanctuary. We will keep you posted.

Planning 2015-16

The severe drought of this last year has influenced our vision and planning for the maintenance of our rescued cattle, the organic agriculture and wildlife protection.

To use the 20 acres of the Ahimsa Farm only for organic farming will be a very risky business in case of regular droughts. Feeding the growing herd of cattle will become more difficult.

In combination with the visit of Les Ward from the Jeanne Marchig Trust in September, who encouraged us to apply for funds for the wildlife centre, we took the decision in November 2014 to shift the wildlife rescue center from the leased land to the Ahimsa Farm. The owner who sold the land has compensated Karuna Society for the total value of our structures. Our focus is now on the planning of the centre and the grant application for the Marchig Trust.

Approximately 15 acres will be used for the new wildlife rescue center. The remaining five acres will be used for the production of the organic produce. The reproduction of rescued cattle has to be minimized by sterilizing, not only the she buffaloes, but also the cows. By recognizing our limits we can also keep some space open to rescue cows in need.

All other projects are continuing as before within the limits of funding capacity.



Site for the new Wildlife Center