All over India, animals are suffering.

In Puttaparthi the situation was no different. When Clementine Raouls arrived in India in 1995, it didn't take much time for her to be moved by the misery. She wasn't the only one – there were many others who joined hands and decided to make a difference, and thus began the journey of Karuna Society.

This is the story of thousands of animals who have received free treatment and a new lease of life. From birth control to cattle rescue, wildlife care to organic farming, Karuna is an endless journey that strives to provide hope for animals inspite of social insensitivity, economic challenges and shrinking habitats.

This is also a story of human hope that preserves itself against the odds and grows with each supporting act from the many out there who care. This is the story of Karuna.
My name is Clementien Koenegegas, President of the Society and I like to tell you how Karuna Society came into life ...

“When I arrived in Puttaparthi with my husband and son in 1995, it didn’t take much time for me to see the suffering of animals all around. Countless street dogs with pups, many run over by buses on the main road. Donkeys, dying on the side of the main road without any help. Very soon my house was full of sick animals and I was helping out on the street as much as I could. Of course, I was not the only one moved by this misery. In 1998, a small group of devotees from UK came forward to help and to provide funds. The ‘Animal Rescue Project Puttaparthi’ was born with the help of CURA from Bangalore. In 2000, we felt we were ready to make our own decisions and planning and Karuna Society was registered.

Setting up the shelter/clinic for treatment, in-patient care and sterilizations was the first step. Then our horizon widened and we became aware of the suffering of milking animals, starving calves and illegal transports to the slaughterhouses. In 2003, we rescued the first cows and buffaloes from illegal transport. Over time we have taken into our care more than 700 head of cattle. At present, approximately 300 head of cattle are with us including donkeys, a few horses and a camel.

Becoming more and more aware of our wider environment, we found the suffering of wildlife appalling; hunting by the local communities, droughts, electrocution of wildlife by farmers to protect their crops, there is no end to it.

At present, we are starting the construction of our new wildlife rescue centre close to the reserve forest, for which we need more support. Thorn, skull leaves, leash, monkey, lizards and snakes will find the care they need.

On a personal note, being so intimately involved with the lives of animals has given me a very profound experience of the oneness and equality of all life forms emanating from the Divine.

CLEMENTIEN PAULUS KOENELEGAS

The Karuna Logo

OUR MISSION

To restore the rights of animals as equal inhabitants of this planet and treat them as such.

To rescue and rehabilitate animals and nature in distress in our immediate environment.

To provide free medical care, shelter and lifetime care for those animals that cannot be rehabilitated.

To analyse the causes of the existing problems and create solutions and improvements as to how the suffering can be relieved or prevented.

To promote animal friendly farm practices in organic farming.

Campaigning against the use of animals in sports, zoos, hunting, animal experimentation, genetic engineering, vivisection and other practices where animals are subjected to tremendous suffering.

To help implement the Indian laws regarding cruelty and abuse of animals and nature, e.g. illegal transport and slaughter of cattle, animal sacrifice, poaching and the destruction of forests.

“Give me your hand and I will show you all the animals"
OUR VISION

In a world in turmoil caused by war, economic pressures and environmental problems, it is easy to forget that we are not the only species living and surviving on this planet.

Large scale interference by humans in the animal world and nature is causing immense suffering for animals and nature alike. Compassion for all living beings is the driving force to rescue and rehabilitate animals in distress. We hope that compassion expressed in action will create a new balance in the human-animal-nature relationship. This is in the interest of all living beings.
Karuna for Small Animals

HOSPITAL & SHELTER

All over India, animals are suffering. Whether they are injured owing to traffic accidents, dog suffering from mange, female dogs with unvaccinated puppies, abandoned donkeys, overworked and malnourished horses, or cows roaming the streets living on waste and plastic bags – they are all suffering.

In Puttaparthi the situation was no different.

At Karuna Society thousands of animals have received free treatment and a new life. Thanks to many animal loving donors, the hospital now offers the following services:

- In and out-patient clinic for local dogs and cats and any animal rescued by the public, including birds, monkeys and donkeys.
- Lifetime care for those disabled animals who cannot be returned to their owner or their territory. They live within the hospital compounds and move around freely. They receive special care, have a social life and are loved.

ANIMAL BIRTH CONTROL & ANTI-RABIES VACCINATION

In India, the motivation to control the dog population through sterilization is primarily a human welfare project to protect people from dog bites and rabies. In the past, large numbers of dogs were killed in an attempt to control the dog population. This does not work. The dog population will grow back quickly to its original size, which is defined by the availability of food (garbage).

Killing of dogs is a punishable offence. The municipalities must control the dog population by means of sterilization and anti-rabies vaccinations to prevent dog bites and human deaths due to rabies. Rabies is not only a problem for humans and dogs but also for cattle, goats and sheep.

Since 2002, Karuna has been successfully implementing its Animal Birth Control (ABC) and Anti-Rabies (AR) programs in the rural areas of south Anantapur District.

To date (2016) over twelve thousand dogs have been sterilized and vaccinated by Karuna Society. Karuna Society is committed to a high standard of surgical procedures. All surgeries and post operation care follow the “Standard Operating Procedures” as per rules of the AWB (Animal Welfare Board of India).

Results of an effective ABC/AR program:

- Decrease in human deaths due to rabies.
- No fighting males for a female in heat.
- No attacks from male dogs defending their pups.
- Fewer sick, disabled, abandoned dogs and puppies dying on the roads.
- Sterilized, vaccinated dogs defend their territory and prevent new dogs from entering the area and proceeding.

...one of our many “resident” targets
Karuna is really grateful for the ongoing support from "Animal Care Australia" (www.animalcare-australia.org) and "Help Animals India" (HAI) from the US (www.helpanimalsindia.org).

They support us with annual donations for our ABC/AR program, sterilizing stray dogs and cats in Puttaparthi and surrounding villages.

ABC surgeries are performed in Karuna’s new ABC operation theatre, which was built by donations from "Friends of Karuna" and Holland’s "Zutphense Dierenbescherming".

Thanks to the ‘Marchig Animal Welfare Trust’ of Scotland (www.marchigtrust.org) we could build the post-operative care rooms.
Karuna for Cattle

All cows, bulls, buffaloes, donkeys, horses and a camel that have come to Karuna have a right to life and will be protected and looked after for the rest of their lives. They are not isolated or tied up, they are free to live in the herd and go out grazing in the forest. Cows and buffaloes are free from milk production for profit and most of them are sterilized or castrated. Cow dung is sold to farmers for compost. Biogas is provided at the clinic for cooking.

Originally, in India, milk was not the most important product from the cow. Cows and bulls were used in fields and their dung and urine were used to make compost, medicine and other health products. Only the little extra milk left from the cow after feeding her calf was used by the family who owned the cow. At present, cows and buffaloes are reduced to production units for milk and meat. Cow slaughter is becoming more accepted and practised in spite of it being illegal in India. 90% of the milk produced is from rural areas and small towns. There are 118 million dairy cows and buffalos in India (Livestock census Sept. 2014). In 2017, there were 14 million farmers, 854 milk co-operatives, 177 milk unions, and 1,33,000 village level societies. Now (in 2016) the numbers are much higher. The bio industry in India is one of the worst in the world as rules, regulations and animal laws are not implemented and the whole business thrives on illegality and corruption.

CATTLE RESCUE PROJECT

Karuna’s Cattle Rescue Project started in 2002 with the rescue of illegally transported cattle on the way to the slaughterhouse. Good-working bulls, dairy buffaloes, calves and local cows are sent for slaughter for minor health disorders or for fear of the annual drought. Millions and millions of cows, calves, bulls and buffaloes are slaughtered as a result of the growing milk industry (Operation Flood). This makes India the largest meat exporter in the world. The “green revolution” which introduced fertilizers and chemical pesticides to the farmers, has been depleting the soil and killing the natural microorganisms needed for a healthy soil. The indigenous cattle, which are drought and disease resistant, have been replaced by mechanized farming.

Up to date 2016 Karuna has rescued around 700 head of cattle. The High Court has given permanent custody of 305 head of cattle rescued by Karuna Society. The remaining cases are under trial. Every year we give pairs of young healthy, castrated bulls to local farmers for adoption under strict legal conditions. The farmers are not owners and in the end the animals have to be returned to Karuna.
CATTLE HOSPITAL

Karuna’s cattle hospital was built with a grant from the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI). Karuna’s rescued cattle receive excellent medical care when they grow old or are disabled. They are cared for until they die a natural and peaceful death at the hospital.

In the large animal operation theatre the surgeon performs rumenotomy (to remove plastic from the cow’s stomach), amputations and sterilisations of she-buffalo and cows.

“A strong connection with the buffaloes”

Five thousand years ago the water buffalo was domesticated in India. The animals were mainly used in wet land for ploughing the rice fields. They are a source of livelihood for farmers and buffalo milk is much appreciated. Unlike the “Holy Cow”, revered as our Mother, the buffalo has quite a different image. According to the Hindu scriptures, the god of death, Yama, is riding a buffalo bull and in other literature the buffalo is seen as a demon. It is not difficult to see the duality here; while cattle and black cattle, Holy Cow and Demon.

Although the cow is legally protected and slaughter of cows is illegal in most states in India, this does not apply to buffaloes. Nowadays the buffalo is the main source of milk, meat and leather production. Starving male calves are killed for leather and the female buffaloes in large numbers slaughtered as beef for export. At present India is proud to be the largest milk and meat exporter in the world.

Karuna Society has rescued cattle of all breeds and colours for the sake of saving the lives of the animals. Although in the early years we used the buffalo milk to sell milk products, we soon learned that without selling the male buffalo calves for slaughter Karuna was breeding an ever growing buffalo herd which we could not feed. At present we have approximately 150 buffaloes, half male and half female and we have castrated and sterilised them all as we had to stop the reproduction. As a consequence there is no income from milk but Karuna has to feed the buffaloes for the rest of their lives.

Karuna is the first cattle rescue project to have weaned the female buffaloes.
THE PLASTIC COW INITIATIVE

What is the plastic cow?

In India, one of the most striking images is the cow wandering on the road. In cities, towns and villages numerous cows and bullocks will wander peacefully, stopping to chew the cud. It gives the impression of a society living together peacefully with animals. The cow, the Mother of India, is revered by all and, in most states, is not allowed to be slaughtered.

India has an open garbage system, which means open garbage bins on the roads overflowing with striking waste. Dogs, monkeys, pigs, rats and cows eat whatever they can find to survive. The numbers of stray dogs, rats and monkeys are equal to the amount of garbage on which they feed and multiply.

In cities and towns, large numbers of cows on the roads eat from garbage bins, foraging for fruit, vegetable leftovers, anything edible and anything smelling like food.

Since plastic bags have invaded our lives, almost all garbage and food waste is disposed in plastic bags. These bags spill out either on the road or from municipal dustbins. Since the plastic bags are knotted at the mouth, cows, unable to undo the knot, eat food leftovers including the plastic.

Slowly over time, they build up a huge amount of plastic inside their stomachs. It gets entangled with different materials and it becomes hard like cement inside their rumens, which is the first belly of the cow.

The Rumenotomy, the surgical removal of plastic up to 70 kg from the cow.

It has been a life changing experience for all of us who witnessed the surgery and the removal of plastics and other waste items from the rumen. We are horrified by the suffering of animals caused by the garbage system and the problem of littering cows and bulls loose on the road.

Performing rumenotomies is not the answer to the plastic cow, only a total ban on plastics and removal of animals from the garbage dump will solve the problems. We continue the surgeries as it is a life-saving procedure for the individual animal.

As a pilot project, funded by The Kindness Trust, Australia, it gives us more information about the problems, the surgeries and the rate of survival.

There have been anti-plastic campaigns in India. At present, there is a ban on plastic bags up to 40 microns in many states. But no one has focused on the hazardous effects of plastic on the animals and their right to live a life free of plastics. It is the basic right of the cow to live and graze on natural food and not have to eat garbage tied up in plastic bags. This is an acute form of cruelty. The cow has become a scavenger.
THE PLASTIC COW INITIATIVE - PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION

The Plastic Cow activists filed a case in the Supreme Court of Delhi, for animal rights and a complete ban of plastic bags. MA VSPCA, Vishakapatnam, Mr. Karuna Society for Animals and Nature, Puttaparthi, and three individuals Pradeep Nath, Clemennt Rauw and Rumeini Selvah are the litigants in this case supported by Senior Lawyer for Supreme Court Shyam Divan and assisted by Pratap Venugopal.

On May 7, 2011, the Supreme Court announced its first hearing that it may be considering a total ban on plastic bags. This made huge national and international news.

“Excerpt from the Economic Times of India”

“All of us are watching how our lakes, ponds and urban sewage systems are getting choked by plastic bags. We want to expand the scope of this petition. Unless we examine a total ban on plastic bags or put in place a system for manufacturers mandating them to collect back all plastic bags, the next generation will be threatened with something more serious than the atomic bomb.” Justices Singhvi and Mukhopadhaya said.

Appearing for NGOs Karuna Society for Animals and Nature and Vishaka Society for Protection and Care of Animals, senior advocate Shyam Divan said the problem was more acute in urban areas where people had a habit of disposing leftover food in plastic bags in municipal bins.

“Apart from the plastic completely choking the digestive system of the cow and causing excruciating pain to the animal, plastic residues enter the human food chain through dairy and animal products,” he added.

The unobserved disaster “Effect of plastic on wildlife”

Along India’s rivers, there are thousands of temples, villages and towns, where untreated sewage and garbage flows in the water. Hundreds of kilometres downstream, garbage and plastic are disseminated in places where wildlife feeds and drinks. Many animals are painfully and unobserved dead. An elephant was found dead with 750 kg plastic inside its stomach. Turkeys, fish, birds, wild pigs, no animal can escape!!

After seeing the Plastic Cow documentary, what can you do?

NEVER collect your vegetable peelings in a plastic bag with a knot and put them in the garbage.

When you go shopping, bring your own (plastic or cloth) bag, never depend on plastic bags from the seller. REFUSE THE BAGS THAT ARE BANNED, below 40 micron, reuse the plastic bags you already have till they are worn out and then collect them in a separate bag and give them for recycling.

If you are really touched by the film and the suffering of the cow, reconsider your food habits. Nowadays the milk and meat industry are closely connected and without slaughter it is no longer possible to obtain milk. Even by being a vegetarian you contribute to the suffering you have just witnessed.
THE PROBLEMS FOR WILDLIFE

In Andhra Pradesh there are some protected areas for wildlife but the problems wild animals are facing occur mostly in rural areas where villagers encroach on animal habitat by agricultural activities and man-animal conflicts occur at times of drought when wild animals, in search of water and food, come close to the villages. Hunting with packs of dogs happens all-year around and is part of village life.

Anantapur district is home to approximately 150 sloth bears, countless black bucks, sambar deer, peafowl, monkeys, snakes, wild boars, painted storks, pangolins, and many more. Hunting, electrocution, beating and stealing go unchecked. There is no awareness about the long-term damage of these illegal activities. Karuna Society for Animals and Nature has been involved in the rescue of local wildlife from its inception in 2000. There is little or no structural support for wild animals in distress in our area. The closest zoo or rescue centre is hundreds of kilometres away.

Initially we did not have proper facilities to treat and keep injured wildlife but we improved and developed our facilities year by year, adjusting to the needs of the animals and the requirements made by the Central Zoo Authorities.

Many of our acquisitions are black buck brought to us by the local forest department. They also call us for support in more complicated rescues like sloth bears and leopards. All rescue activities are taken care of by the Secretary of Karuna Society, Mr. Narender Reddy.

We received donations for the construction of the Sloth Bear facilities (Physical Warden Australia and "Free the Bear", Australia).
our vision on wildlife rescue

Although there are protected forests and sanctuaries, it is in the rural areas where the interface between wildlife and humans is mostly at the cost of the individual wild animals, large and small. Traditional hunting, poaching, encroaching of forests by agriculture or industries, degradation of forests due to droughts and overgrazing are causing severe suffering to all forms of wildlife.

OUR ACTIONS

Firstly, rescue, medical care and rehabilitation for every wild animal in distress in our area. This includes the need for shelter and lifetime care for those animals that cannot be rehabilitated.

Secondly, to analyse the causes of the existing problems and to create solutions and improvements where the suffering of wildlife can be relieved and prevented.

At present the most pressing problems are:
- The hunting and poaching activities;
- The need to work together with the Forest Department and other Animal Welfare Societies in rescue activities and to share information.

We need a Wolf with the wildlife forest department about a safe stretch of dense forest where we can rehabilitate rescued animals.

Development of a ‘soft release’ programme for rescued young Sloth Bears with the help of established wildlife organisations.

Would you like to be involved & support Karuna?

You are welcome to visit!

Board members of Karuna society have registered a business, ‘Ahimsa Organic Products, Pvt. Ltd.’ to process the products from the Ahimsa Farm for sale in organic shops. You can also support us by purchasing these products.
the story of Ramaa

In March 2015 Karuna received a small single Sloth Bear Cub, 6 weeks old, weighing 3kg. Dealing with her for more than one year was an adventure on a daily basis.

Eating more, playing in the water, going for walks in the compound, climbing trees, eating ants... everyday a new aspect of her life was unfolding. She responded when we called her name, came running to us. But all wonderful things have an end. Slowly we introduced her to the other bears, first Gir, also a young bear. She didn’t quite understand “bear behaviour” but as she became more involved, she finally chose for her own bear family.

We are looking forward to seeing her in the new large bear compound at our new wildlife rescue centre with more space and fun. We hope that in the near future the rescued bear cub can be “soft” released in the forest but that is a new project in itself which we will need more support.

Meeting the Sloth Bears, especially our bear cub Ramaa and Gir gives a new dimension to your life.
However wild, each animal responds to Karuna.

“Plenty of food for thought in what you see at Karuna.”
Karuna Society started organic farming immediately after having received rescued cattle.

Healthy organic vegetables, fruits and medicinal herbs are produced small scale by utilizing our resources of working buffaloes, cow dung and natural pesticides.

Thanks to generous donors, Karuna has been able to purchase 18 acres of agricultural land next to the existing organic garden and cattle shed. This is the ‘Karuna’s Ahimsa Farm’ and will include the new Karuna Wildlife Rescue Centre which is being constructed (2016) on 14 acres as it is located next to the reserve forest.

Board members of Karuna society have registered a business, ‘Ahimsa Organic Products Pvt. Ltd.’ to process the products from the Ahimsa farm for sale in organic shops.

Our soil is completely organic.
The customers of Ahimsa help us support our animal welfare.
KARUNA SHOP

The Karuna Information Centre is the “face” of Karuna Society in Puttaparthi.

Here, Romula D’Silva, the Vice President, provides a most important service by sharing information regarding the animals in Puttaparthi. She also receives information about animals in need of treatment or rescue and with a small group of volunteers she takes action.
The Karuna Team

WHO WE ARE

Clementien A Reuwis-Koenegraa - PRESIDENT
Iromala D'Siha - VICE-PRESIDENT
Cheruvu Narendra Reddy - SECRETARY
Gurukani Mangunath - TREASURER

Noor Ahmed Khan
Pujari Naarasha
Jallipalli Narayanagari Jagadish

OUR CREDENTIALS

Karuna Society for Animals and Nature is a registered nonprofit animal welfare organization in India under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860. We registered in Avanapur on September 18, 2000 Nr. 685 of 2000. We are exempted from income tax, 80G and 10A and we are allowed to receive foreign donations under the FCRA act.

We are also recognized by the AWB (Animal Welfare Board of India).
JOIN OUR WORLD

Karuna Society for Animals and Nature needs all the support it can get for its animals. There are many ways you can associate and make a difference that eases their suffering and provides care. You can be hands on help at our facility as a volunteer, share our activities on social media inviting more support, purchase organic products from our Ahmra range and also make a donation that will go a long way in building infrastructure at Karuna.

The animals truly need human involvement to rescue them from the changing and uncertain world that’s forgetting their space, role and needs. The first step to being a part of us is to fill in the Invitation of Participation below and take the trouble to mail it to us.

You can also write to us directly at -

support@karunascociety.com

We would be happy to hear from you and the reward of wagging tails, thankful eyes and a friendly paw are the priceless returns to your joining our efforts.