

Update 12 from North Andaman Tsunami Relief

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20 April, 2005

At the beginning of April the volunteers at NATR were part of a very moving memorial to mark the 100 days since the tsunami. It was held in one of the most devastated regions on the Andaman coast and honored people from all over the world. In preparation, a team from NATR wrote up a summary of what the organization has been doing for the last 100 days, called NATR - 100 Days Later.

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Lucy Dixon-Clarke, who was working here in January is now back, but sadly for NATR, Nicole is leaving after 3 months of fantastic service. Nicole's goodbye message is below...

## Message from Nicole

When I came to visit Thailand in December, I never would have imagined I would be back so soon. I had barely escaped the tsunami by traveling north and made my way home to live my life when I began receiving emails from my friend, Bodhi who had just started North Andaman Tsunami Relief. Actually they were more than just emails, they were the beginning. Updates with heart wrenching stories, stating volunteers were still welcome and the work had just begun.

So I immediately packed up my bags to come help for three weeks or so. I must say I was feeling apprehensive I would only be in the way and I had absolutely no idea what to expect, but it still felt right. Something deep inside allowed me to let go of all my securities at home and travel to an unknown place to help people I had never met before living in a part of the world I had very little understanding of. It took me no time to get adjusted, with all the new friends I kept meeting, it felt like home right away. It did take me a little while to get over the fact that it is not only one day later than back home, but 543 years and a day later. Yes, the year above is correct and now, I can understand why. The 3 weeks I planned to stay have just turned into 3 months and if I had blinked twice I might have missed it all.

By now, most of you are aware of who Bodhi is and what NATR stands for. You have been following the stories in every new update and you realize just how much we are doing here every day. Your support has enabled us to continue on in an unforeseeable manner which would not have been possible otherwise. I want to thank each and every one of you for helping us at NATR make a difference in the world.

So without adding much more for you to sit down and read at once - I would like to say my goodbyes on my 100<sup>th</sup> day here at NATR and express my love to everyone I have met on this most incredible journey of my life.