

ANIMAL SENSES

Very few animals were reported to have died in the tsunami in December 2004. For example, in an area of Sri Lanka that was hit by the disaster, there is a very popular national park called Yala National Park. It has hundreds of wild animals, including elephants, leopards and monkeys. But it was said that the only animals that died that day were two or three water buffalos. Flamingos are reported to have flown to higher ground. Bats were seen flying away, too. Three wild elephants were seen running away from a beach before any humans knew anything about the coming tsunami. Unfortunately, the animals' warning had no effect on the people watching. How did all these animals know what was going to happen? It is thought that animals have a sixth sense. Some animals are known to be able to hear things that humans cannot hear, and this may be one way that several different types of animal may spot danger before we can. It is also believed that animals are much more sensitive to vibrations of the Earth than humans. For example, it is thought that even large elephants can detect minor movements. It has been claimed by some people that humans used to possess the same highly developed senses that animals have, but that over time we have lost our 'sixth sense'.