



Vision, Mission and Philosophy of the Society

"To help protect and conserve the diminishing biodiversity of Sri Lanka and to make the local and international community aware of its endangered status."

Vision & Mission

To help protect and conserve the diminishing biodiversity of Sri Lanka and to make the local and international community aware of its endangered status

To enable communities to balance ecosystem protection and economic development by pioneering a model for sustainable conservation.

Philosophy

The realistic path to sustainable conservation in the long term can be achieved only by ensuring a reasonable standard of living for all people - especially for the marginalized rural people of developing countries who have access to some of the world's biologically rich areas. Community development and sustainable economic development must be ultimate goals that coincide with our biodiversity conservation and scientific research efforts. The education and sustainable economic development of rural communities is imperative for the co-existence of both wildlife and human beings over the long-term.

Projects

- Sponsoring research and long term studies of ecosystems
- Furthering science and education
- Establishing regional nature study centers for environmental education
- Publishing field guides to use as educational tools concerning biodiversity, sustained use of natural resources and conservation
- Rehabilitating denuded habitats to enrich the quality of life of humans, animals, and plants
- Develop solutions to resolve human-wildlife conflicts
- To develop incentives for alternative uses of natural resources
- Develop eco-tourism as an economic incentive for the sustained use of natural resources

[Summary](#) ; [Objectives](#) ; [Officers](#) ; [Fellowships](#) ; [Organisational Chart](#) ; [Messages](#) ; [Obituary](#) ; [Credits](#)

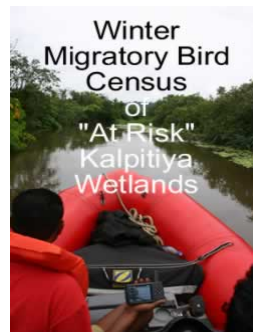
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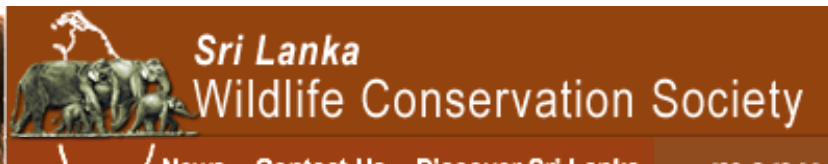
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SLWCS At a Glance

VISION: To help protect and conserve the diminishing biodiversity of Sri Lanka and to make the local and international community aware of its endangered status

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Who We Are

- 501c(3) in U.S. since 1999 and now established as a registered voluntary social service NGO with the Ministry of Social Services in Sri Lanka
- # of employees, field scouts, volunteers = 10
- Have subsisted on grants and individual giving, but moving to more sustainable, long-term funding approach with ecotourism business

Philosophy The only realistic path to sustainable conservation in the long term can be achieved only by ensuring a reasonable standard of living for all people - especially for the marginalized rural people of developing countries who have access to some of the world's biologically rich areas. Community development and sustainable economic development must be ultimate goals that coincide with our biodiversity conservation and scientific research efforts. The education and sustainable economic development of rural communities is imperative for the co-existence of both wildlife and humans over the long-term.

Programs

- **Saving Elephants By Helping People (SEHP)**

SEHP integrates community participation into human-elephant conflict resolution, conservation and ecological research. The project promoted for the first time in Sri Lanka to fence elephants "OUT" rather than "IN" in national parks leaving them to more room to roam. This is considering 70% of the island's elephants range outside of the national parks. Project has installed nearly 20 kilometers of electric fencing around two villages in a bottom to top process. These efforts have stopped HEC in these villages reducing the violent interactions that occur when elephants raid villages. The DWC is currently emulating some of the concepts developed by this project in their efforts to resolve HEC.

- **Field Scouts Program (FSP):**

Developing local stakeholder capacity and forming partnerships with locals for elephant conservation and research. Eight rural youth (5 men and 3 women) have been trained to conduct field research to develop a baseline database on the elephants in the Wasgamuwa Region. The initial data gathered by FSP is proving that the forest reserves outside the Wasgamuwa National Park are an important habitat for elephants and other wildlife.

- **Leopard Remote Camera Survey (LRCS) in the Wasgamuwa Region**

A pilot leopard camera trapping project to establish the abundance of leopards in the Wasgamuwa Region. Initiated January 2005.

- **The First Post-Tsunami Ecological Impact Assessment**

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SLWCS was appointed to a seven member committee Director General of the Department of Wildlife Conservation to conduct the first rapid ecological assessment of all the protected areas impacted by the Tsunami along the southern and southeastern coasts from Hikkaduwa to Okanda. SLWCS successfully completed the first GIS mapping and aerial survey of the Tsunami affected protected areas in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and National Geographic Society. The report has already being submitted to the DWC, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and other committee members.

- **Tsunami Rehabilitation and Reconstruction**

SLWCS is assisting in the post Tsunami reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts of the DWC including building a Visitor Information Center for the Yala National Park . SLWCS has successfully concluded obtaining ground and aerial footage of the Tsunami affected protected areas with a high definition video camera. The cameramen and equipment provided by Discovery Channel. The footage will be used for the Visitor Center at Yala. The Yala visitor center will be built in partnership with Environmental Community Trust of England.

- **Reconstruction of a Kirinda Fishing Village**

SLWCS is providing fishing boats, engines and fishing gear to Tsunami displaced fishermen in the Andragasyaya Grama Niladhari Division and empowering displaced women with financial support to establish small businesses. This project is conducted in partnership with the Abercrombie and Kent Global Foundation.

- **North Western Region Human Elephant Conflict Survey**

A Rapid Socio-Economic assessment of Human Elephant Conflict in the Puttalam, Anuradhapura and Kurunagala districts of Sri Lanka . Initiated in November 2004, this ongoing project is funded by the Born Free Foundation.

- **Lahugala Electric Fencing (LEF)**

In the planning stage. Establishing a community based solar powered electric fence for four villages situated along the southern boundary of the Lahugala Kitulana National Park at the request of the Department of Wildlife Conservation.

- **Wetlands Projects**

SLWCS with funding support from the IUCN Netherlands Committee is developing an updated management plan and community awareness program for the Bellanwila Attitidya Marsh Sanctuary and conducting socio-economic surveys and PRAs to assess human impact on the Annailwilinduwa Tanks Sanctuary and Flood Plains National Park.

Partnerships

- **[Travellers Worldwide](#)** - English training program in Wilgamuwa (Wasgamuwa) area. All year.
- **[Global Vision International](#)** - Scientific research in Matale and Pollanaruwa Districts (working with elephants and communities). All year.
- **[Biosphere Expeditions](#)** - Elephant Conservation and research in and around Wasgamuwa National Park. September/October every year.
- **LionAir**

Brief description. Lionair will distribute a brochure promoting the society to its passengers inviting them to contribute to make these efforts successful.

- **Renuka Group of Companies** will promote the society's sustainable conservation efforts

through its wide range of organic consumer products which are marketed internationally. A percentage from every company product that is sold will go to a fund established by the company to support the projects of SLWCS.

- **Columbia University, USA** – School of International and Public Affairs
- **Columbia University, USA** – Business School MBA – Small Business Consulting Program

Looking Ahead

- **“Escape Tourism”** – A nature, culture and adventure travel division established to develop a funding source for conservation and to create economic incentives for rural people to accrue tangible benefits from conservation and tourism.
- **Landscape Level Project** – A project developed to promote the establishment of Sri Lanka’s first Trans-climatic Zone National Park in the Central and North Central Provinces.
- **Apiculture** – Agriculture diversification project to reduce villager’s dependency on permanent cultivation and an effort to use the honeybee as a deterrent to stop crop-raiding elephants.
- **Aquaculture**- Maximizing farmer’s land use to obtain a higher economic gain which will stop their subsistence livelihoods that negatively impact on the environment which in turn will help to minimize human-elephant conflict.
- **Home Gardens** – A project that encourage villages to grow a diversity of plants that will benefit them as well as provide crucial habitat for biodiversity.
- **Elephant Walk Thru.** A canopy level eco-tree lodge resort, which is being developed as a pilot project to show how to use buffer areas between forests and villages to develop sustainable economic incentives for rural people.
- **Marine and Coastal Habitat Conservation Project** – Probably the biggest environmental degradation in Sri Lanka occurs in its marine and coastal habitats. This project will help to establish baseline data on one of Sri Lanka’s pristine coastal areas situated along the west coast.
- **Zoological Survey and Inventory** – to assess the richness of the animal biota at our project sites and to develop species inventories for these areas.
- **Botanical Survey and Inventory** - to assess the richness of the plant biota at our project sites and to develop species inventories for these areas.

Government SupportThe following relevant government institutions in Sri Lanka have approved projects of the society.

- [Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources](#)
- [Department Wildlife Conservation](#)
- Forest Department
- Sri Lanka Tourist Board
- Sri Lanka Board of Investment
- Irrigation Department
- Central Province Matale District Land Use Committee

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Governing Board

The Society has the following Trustess, Advisors and Officers based in the United States

PATRON: His Excellency, Devinda R. Subasinghe, Sri Lanka Ambassador to the United States of America

TRUSTEES

ACTIVE BOARD

- David Burus (USA)
- Ravi Corea (USA) - PRESIDENT
- Dr. Patrick Mendis (USA)
- Marie Fernando (USA) – TREASURER & SECRETARY
- Sita de Saram (SRI LANKA)
- Sumantha Fernando (SRI LANKA)
- Chandran Rutnam (SRI LANKA)

FOUNDING BOARD:

- Dr. Gamani Corea (SRI LANKA)
- Jayantha Dhanapala (USA/SRI LANKA)
- Dr. Larry M. Hawk (USA)
- Herbert Gunsekera (USA)
- Dr. Hilda Jayewardena (USA)
- John Linder (USA)
- Mala Samarasinghe (USA)
- Diva Sandrasagra (USA)
- Asoka Seneviratne (USA)
- Gary Slaats (USA)
- Adam Summers (USA)
- Steve Unger (USA)

ADVISORS

- Dr. C J Cole - Curator, Department of Herpetology, American Museum-of Natural History
- Dr. Todd Disotell - Faculty, Anthropology Department, New York University
- Dr. David Fitch - Faculty, Biology Department, New York University

OFFICERS -USA

- President: Ravi Corea
- Treasurer: Marie Fernando
- Secretary: Mala Samarasinghe

The Society has the following Advisors and Officers based in Sri Lanka.

ADVISORS

- **Dr. Lyn de Alwis** - Former Director Department of Wildlife Conservation and the National Zoological Gardens

OFFICERS -Sri Lanka

- **Ravindra D.M. Corea** -President/CEO
E-mail: ravi@slwcs.org , ravicorea@aol.com
- **Ariyaratna Hewage** -Vice-President/Chairman of the Board
E-mail: arihewage@sltnet.lk , ahewage2003@yahoo.com
- **Chandeeep Corea** -General Secretary/Operations Director
E-mail: cc@slwcs.org , chandeeep777@yahoo.com
- **Sumantha Fernando** -Treasurer/Finance and Administrations Director
E-mail: sumantha@int-trimmings.lk , sumantha@sltnet.lk

Full Time Staff

- **Harsha Gamanpila** - Field Manager
- **Amarasena Deseram** -Field Logistics Manager
- **Thushara Ranasinghe** - Field Liason
- **Field Scouts**
 - **KMS Kulasekara**
 - Veroni Nadeeka Jayalath
 - Anurada Kumari Jayasinghe
 - Thushara Ekanayaka
 - Pavithra Maduaranga Amarasena
 - Udeni Jayarthne
 - Jayathilake

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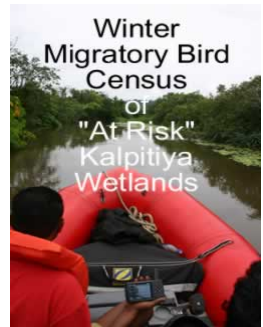
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GRANTS AND RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

1. Department of Wildlife Conservation, Sri Lanka - All projects are approved by the department. <Read [Review](#)>
2. Forest Department, Sri Lanka
3. The Nature Conservancy
4. 2005 - A&K Trust
5. 2004 - Elephant Pepper Development Trust, Zimbabwe - collaborative project. <Read [Review](#)>
6. 2004 - United States Fish and Wildlife Service Asian Elephant Conservation Fund (ASE-0216) to develop a sustainable conservation project for the conservation of the Sri Lankan elephant and its habitat.
7. 2004 - International Elephant Foundation to continue the Field Scouts Program - capacity building and skills training of rural youth to participate in field research. <Read [Review](#). Page [1](#) & Page [2](#)>
8. 2004 - World Heritage, UNESCO, for Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society operations, management and administrative overhead costs.
9. 2003 - Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund for the Field Scouts Program - capacity building and skills training of rural youth to participate in field research.
10. 2003 - United Nations Foundation, Washington, DC for operating costs to maintain Saving Elephants by Helping People project.
11. 2003 - Asia Program, Wildlife Conservation Society, to conduct preliminary research to establish a landscape level project to promote the establishment of the first Trans-Climatic Zone National Park in Sri Lanka.
12. 2003 - Leo Model Foundation for operating and administrative costs to maintain Saving Elephants by Helping People project.
13. 2002 - Computer Associate International Inc. for Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society operations, management and administrative overhead costs.
14. 2002 - International Elephant Foundation to establish the Field Scouts Program - capacity building and skills training of rural youth to participate in field research.
15. 2002 - Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund for Saving Elephants by Helping



People – a community-based project to resolve human-elephant conflict.

16.

2002 - American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, to present a concept proposal for a community-based ecotourism project at the World Ecotourism Summit, Quebec, Montreal, Canada.

17.

2001 - United States Fish and Wildlife Service Asian Elephant Conservation Fund Grant #: 98210-1-G049 to install a 10-kilometer solar powered electric fence with community participation to resolve human-elephant conflict.

18.

2000 - Computer Associate International Inc. for Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society operations, management and administrative overhead costs.

19.

1999 - Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund for Saving Elephants by Helping People – a community-based project to resolve human-elephant conflict.

20.

1998 - Wildlife Trust; to establish a pilot project to resolve human-elephant conflict by integrating community participation.

21.

1997 - Center for Environmental Research and Conservation, Columbia University and the Asia Program of the Wildlife Conservation Society to conduct field research to survey human-elephant conflicts in Sri Lanka.

22.

1996 - Sir Arthur C. Clarke, for initial development expenses to establish the Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society in the USA.

23.

1995-1996 American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) for initial development expenses to establish the Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society in the USA.



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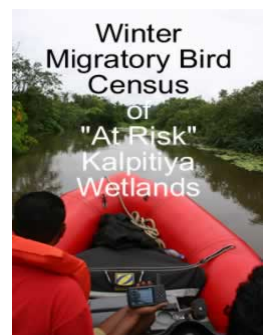
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Messages

A message from Sir Arthur C. Clarke

A world which contained only human beings would not be worth living in; nor would it be habitable for long. This is a lesson that our urban centered, technologically oriented culture is painfully relearning, though our ancestors knew it well enough.

Twenty-five centuries ago, a holy man told the King of Ceylon: "O Great King, the birds of the air and the beasts have an equal right to live and move about in any part of the island as thou. The land belongs to the people and all other beings; thou art only the guardian of it." Acting on these words, King Devanampiyatissa established what is believed to be the world's first wildlife sanctuary. Since then, the Sri Lankan people have co-existed peacefully with Nature and other beings - until the pressures of population and civilization started changing this situation in this century.



It is impossible to return to the past, but science and technology offer us the means of rationally managing our natural environment. The application of modern conservation methods and approaches, suitably adapted to local culture and circumstances is the need of the hour. I hope the Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society will be able to support the many efforts already underway, and to launch new initiatives for this purpose.

Dr. Arthur C. Clarke, CBE

Chancellor, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
Chancellor, International Space University

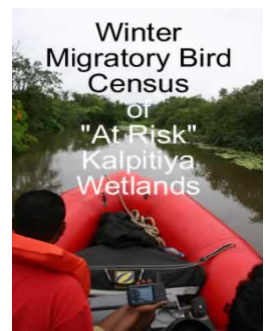
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IN MEMORIUM



Roger A. Caras, one of the most prominent public voices for animal welfare as a popular writer, broadcast personality, A.S.P.C.A, President, announcer for the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show and a Trustee of the Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society died Sunday in Towson, Md. He was 72 years and lived on a farm in Freeland, Md.

Mr. Caras was the President of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals from 1991 to 1999. He died of complications of a heart attack he suffered in December, said his daughter, Pamela Caras Rupert.

A lover of animals from lab rats to llamas, Mr. Caras is credited with transforming the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals by expanding its national animal protection and public education programs to focus on population control, rather than euthanizing unwanted animals.

Under his leadership the society also acquired and expanded the nation's first poison control center for animals.

Perhaps most importantly, he started a spay/neuter program at the A.S.P.C.A. that has been copied by humane organizations around the country. Under the program, which encourages people to get their pets neutered as early as 8 to 12 weeks old, all pets put up for adoption by the society are first spayed or neutered.

In 1995 in New York, the national headquarters of the organization, the local chapter ended a 100-year history as the city's animal control agency, in which it had collected and killed up to 40,000 abandoned and derelict cats, dogs and other animals each year.

"We were the first in and just about the last out," Mr. Caras said as New York society joined a national trend. "It was a mistake 100 years ago and it was a mistake last year."

Mr. Caras was born on May 24, 1928, in the rural town of Methuen, Mass. He developed a love for animals during childhood, spending a great deal of time with his family's pets, which included cats, dogs, snakes, turtles and a laboratory rat. At 10, Mr. Caras took a 10-cents-an-hour job as a kennel aide, cleaning the stables of abused horses at the Massachusetts S.P.C.A. in Methuen.

After Army service, Mr. Caras enrolled in Northeastern University in Boston to study zoology. He transferred to Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland in 1950 and then rejoined the Army during the Korean War. In 1952, he resumed his studies at the University of Southern California, where he majored in cinema.

Upon graduation two years later, Mr. Caras began a 15-year career as a motion picture executive. But over that career, he found his true calling, the study of animals in their natural habitats.

Mr. Caras wrote more than 70 books on animals. His first, "Antarctica: Land of Frozen Time," was published in

1962. Others included "A Perfect Harmony: The Intertwining Lives of Animals and Humans Throughout History" and "The Bond," a series of essays about people and their animals. His most recent work, "Going for the Blue: Inside the World of Show Dogs and Dog Shows," was published this month.

In 1964, Mr. Caras began his career in broadcasting as the "House Naturalist" on NBC's "Today Show." He stayed for eight years.

From 1965 to 1968, he was an assistant to Arthur C. Clarke and Stanley Kubrick on the movie "2001: A Space Odyssey". Roger has visited Sri Lanka twice, through his close association with Dr. Arthur C. Clarke obtained for the Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society its first big grant from Dr. Clarke. Then on two occasions Roger obtained two ASPCA grants to help keep SLWCS afloat and moving forward when the Society's extinction was imminent. Roger in the truest sense of the word was a sincere and loyal friend and a committed wildlife conservationist and animal lover. SLWCS is privileged to have had Roger as a Trustee and a friend to depend on during the Society's formative years. Sri Lanka should take pride in having had a friend like Roger Caras.

Starting in 1969, his radio series "Pets and Wildlife" was broadcast on the CBS Radio Network. NBC Radio broadcast his "Report from the World of Animals" in 1973, and ABC featured his "The Living World" from 1981 to 1983. In 1975, Mr. Caras moved to ABC-TV, where he spent 17 years assigned exclusively to animals, wildlife and the environment.

He also worked as an adjunct professor of English at Southampton College on Long Island and as adjunct professor of animal ecology at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine.

Mr. Caras became the 14th president of the A.S.P.C.A in 1991. He retired in 1999, becoming president emeritus, a position that allowed him to continue to advise the group about welfare issues.

Mr. Caras is survived by his wife, Jill Langdon Barclay; his son, Dr. Barclay Caras; his daughter; and four grandchildren. Among his pets were 12 dogs, 9 cats, 5 horses, 2 cows, 2 alpacas and a llama. Of his career path, Mr. Caras once said, "I was born to be exactly what I am — a professional practitioner of show and tell with a deep concern about our planet and its future."

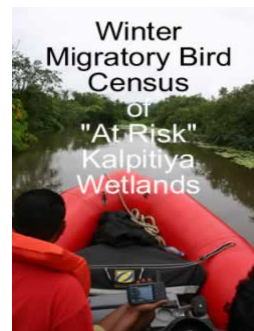
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Credits

Original Concept by [Carl Esperance](#)

Edited and Currently maintained by [Chandeeep Corea](#)

Last updated June, 2004

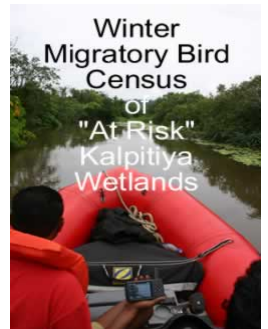
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