

Sri Lanka

Wildlife Conservation Society



Forming partnerships to preserve Sri Lanka's biodiversity.



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."

Mission

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

Philosophy

The only realistic path to sustainable conservation in the long term is to ensure 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.

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2006-2008
Annual Report

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Message from

Ravi Corea

(Founder President)



Today the world faces many challenges and adversities mainly due to exponential human population growth and their over consumption. This has led to concerns such as food and water security, health and hygiene issues, poverty and climate change exacerbated by global warming. The ever increasing disparity of wealth between the world's rich and the poor, and the disproportionate reliance of the world's poor on the environment to provide them with food, fuel, shelter, medicine and water is putting tremendous pressure on the earth's finite resources and ecosystems. Therefore poverty has become one of the most pressing issues that need to be addressed because of the enormous impact it has on the environment. The two biggest challenges in the new millennium are to alleviate poverty and to protect the environment so that future generations will continue to

benefit from the earth's ecosystems. Not too many years ago the alleviation of poverty and environmental protection were seen as opposing agendas that could not be reconciled. In addition, for the most part environmental protection and conservation was regarded as a luxury to be attended to only after we had addressed the more important issues of eliminating famine, disease, malnutrition, unclean water, human conflict, and desperate poverty. We have to remind ourselves that these issues, no matter how disturbing, are in fact symptoms of more far-reaching causes: the destruction, fragmentation and degradation of natural systems, which have evolved over millions of years and buffer us from these adversities. We recognize today that eradicating poverty and environment protection are inextricably linked, and protection of the environment is critical for the future survival of humanity and all other life forms.

Since its founding in 1995 the Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society has recognized that poverty alleviation was critical and essential for the protection of the environment. This outlook is fittingly reflected in the Society's mandate and organizational motto, "forming partnerships to make a better tomorrow." In 1997 when the Society's landmark project, Saving Elephants by Helping People (SEHP) was in its seminal stages it still had a strong focus on developing an integrated strategy. As the SEHP project expanded and matured it has broadened its focus and has been striving to bring together development planners and conservationists to work together to develop a win-win situation for people and wildlife, especially elephants. This is because human elephant conflict transcends across multi-sectoral issues, from driving poverty to being impacted by land use, livelihoods and development plans. Some of the concepts developed for SEHP have been adapted by the Department of Wildlife Conservation, Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka and the Indonesia Forest Department of Bengkulu Province, Sumatra. Within the past 13 years since its inception the Society has grown from a one man operation to an international award winning organization with 23 full-time staff members. In addition, the Society is legally registered in Sri Lanka, United States of America and Australia.

ASPCA
The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals


ADRA
Sri Lanka



The Society has also consulted to the UNESCO Sri Lanka Commission, the Central Cultural Fund and the International Elephant Foundation. In 2008 the Society was selected by the UNDP Equator Initiative to receive an Equator Prize, which was awarded to the Society at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, Spain. Looking back over the past 13 years sometimes it is difficult to believe the progress the Society has made considering the trials, tribulations and obstacles it had to surmount. I take this opportunity to say a sincere thank you to all

the individuals, organizations and institutions that have supported us and believed in our vision. It is inevitable that we will meet more challenges in the future, but I am confident that with the dedicated and committed staff of the Society and our friends and supporters we will overcome them. I wish the Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society all the best to continue growing so that it will continue to contribute to the conservation of Sri Lanka's natural resources and sustainable development in the years to come.

A Message for SLWCS from the Equator Initiative



It is with great respect that I make this contribution to the Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society (SLWCS) Annual Report. From our engagement with SLWCS 2008 has been an exceptional year for your organization.

SLWCS qualified this year as a winner of the Equator Prize 2008 - a prize awarded biennially to recognize outstanding community efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The prize was awarded at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, Spain. At a high-level Award Ceremony of dignitaries, Ravi Corea, President of SLWCS, joined community representatives from two other regions to deliver a Community Declaration which made a lasting impression on those in attendance, and indeed made an impact that resonated through the entire conference regarding the importance of local and indigenous community contributions to biodiversity conservation, poverty reduction, and sustainable development objectives.

We remain impressed by the work of SLWCS and see the organization as a centre of excellence in Sri Lanka as well as throughout the Region of Asia and the Pacific. It is our sincere hope that we can work together with SLWCS in the future to share best practices and to support other organizations to replicate the successes SLWCS has had in conserving biodiversity and combating poverty through the important work of resolving elephant-human conflict.

To Ravi, the Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society (SLWCS), the communities your organization serve, congratulations on a successful year and all the best for continued success in your projects and pursuits.

Warm Regards,

Eileen de Ravin
Manager, Equator Initiative





Message from

Devaraj Ratnam

(Australia Director and Advisor)



The SLWCS was incorporated in Victoria, Australia as part of the organization's regional expansion into the Asia-Pacific zone. It is envisaged that this will facilitate Sri Lanka to better engage in environmental and socioeconomic issues in the region. This cooperation is important in the context of other countries in South and South-East Asia having concerns similar to those in Sri Lanka and sharing of knowledge and experience in these fields will prove to be beneficial to the region as a whole. Moreover, Australia is playing an increasingly significant role in the affairs of the region and engaging socially, economically and environmentally with Asia. Thus, having an Australian branch improves the prospect of the SLWCS being able to qualify for conservation and development funds from Australian sources, either in the form of direct

funding for projects under the SEHP banner or by way of consultancy and advisory opportunities for the SLWCS in Australian funded conservation projects in other parts of Asia.

Agricultural development is an integral part of the SLWCS' interventions as agriculture is the predominant livelihood of rural Sri Lanka wherein are also the environmentally vulnerable areas. Australian educational and research institutions are world-renowned for their research and development in agriculture and livestock management. The SLWCS (Australia) will act as a conduit for transferring knowledge and technology that will be of use in SLWCS's livelihood development projects.

The SLWCS (Australia) will also act as a public relations entity to publicize and garner community support in Australia for initiatives in Sri Lanka and other countries. Contributions in this respect may be financial or by way of expertise made available on a voluntary basis. It is expected that undergraduates from Australian Universities, students taking a 'gap year' prior to joining a tertiary institution and PhD/Masters research students will be attracted by the SLWCS volunteer program and thereby help to strengthen the capacity building aspects of our work.



Networking and Fund Raising by

Vindhya Gunawardhana

(Program Coordinator, Charitable Giving)

In December 2008, the SLWCS initiated an outreach program to promote the organization amongst the Sri Lankan expatriate community in the United States. In 2009, we anticipate making a more concentrated effort to engage expatriate communities in a number of countries, with membership drives encouraging financial donations and volunteerism. In the interest of encouraging membership, the Society is in the process of upgrading its website. The revamped website will be more user-friendly to promote online donations and will also be updated more frequently to keep membership and the public informed of the Society's continuing efforts in conservation. The distribution of the quarterly eNewsletter will be resumed in support of the Society's networking and fund raising efforts.



Challenges and
Obstacles of
Implementing Conservation
Projects by
**Chandeeep
Corea**

(Operations Director and
GIS Specialist)



Development is a basic human need. Unfortunately most development projects are often perceived as being detrimental to the environment mostly because when development plans are drafted due consideration is not given to environmental issues and concerns. Not surprisingly this often leads to conservationists bringing public pressure against development projects. The downside is that solely obstructing development projects on this basis without suggesting alternative options does more harm than good in the long term. While a large project might get stopped or delayed due to pressure from the environmental lobby, in the interim the authorities and the public continue to meet their development needs by resorting to smaller projects or continuing with "business as usual." Generally the adverse environmental impacts from a single large project can be minimized or mitigated by integrating appropriate conservation measures from the planning stages. Whereas the cumulative impact or net negative effect from a number of widely distributed small projects can be far worse and the problems more widespread than having a single large project. We have seen this clearly in the Bellanwila-Attidiya Sanctuary (BAS) which was one of the sites of our Wetlands Conservation Project. I joined SLWCS in 1998 to work on a plan to conserve the BAS. When we submitted a proposal for its conservation management to the Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC), the department asked us to join a steering committee established by the department for the conservation of the BAS. Unfortunately nothing ever happened mainly due to the steering committee members not been able to work through issues such as propriety rights over the project and due to lack of funds, which was pledged but never materialized.

Meanwhile, the continued dumping of garbage into the marsh was used as landfill for unauthorized and illegal construction, while industrial effluents continued to pollute the canals destroying most of the aquatic life. All of this degradation of a once pristine marsh happened despite the fact that funds had been passed to establish sanitary landfills in the greater Colombo area. Ironically the landfills were stopped by legal action by parties who were concerned about their impacts on the environment of Greater Colombo. So, as a result the degradation of the Bellanwila Attidiya Sanctuary which is located in Greater Colombo continued with impunity! Eight years later, in 2006 the DWC asked us to conduct a study to assess the conservation potential of the BAS. By this time the sanctuary had lost most of its biodiversity, was highly polluted, extensively colonized by invasive species, and lost a considerable area to illegal encroachment. We had to therefore inform the DWC that without applying costly intensive wetlands restoration and conservation measures BAS cannot be saved. The only other option is to just maintain the BAS in its present condition to provide green space. We recommended the Bandaragama Wetlands as an alternative site for a sanctuary even though it does not have the same diversity or proximity to Colombo as that of the BAS.

The SLWCS has always followed a policy of engagement and working WITH rather than AGAINST or FOR development agencies. The Saving Elephants by Helping People project and other subsidiary projects such as the Coast/Wetlands Conservation by Helping People projects and Project Orange Elephant exemplify this approach to conservation.

CONSERVATION FUND



Through these projects we have piloted concepts to show that development and conservation projects can work together in symbiosis developing their own synergies and why rural communities and field research is crucial to achieve this level of integration.

One of the key issues we have faced when working with government departments such as the Mahaweli Authority and the Seruvila Management Authority is that they perceive us negatively due to the actions of some of the other conservation organizations and environmental activists who have a nihilist attitude towards all development projects. Due to these reasons we have to spend a considerable amount of time convincing these institutions that we have the integrity and the credibility to suggest actions which are beneficial to all parties, and that we give serious consideration to community aspirations, environmental conservation, sustainable development and research needs when planning our conservation strategies. As a result of our growing involvement with development agencies we are now facing the issue where some conservation organizations and individuals are accusing us of "selling out." This means we now have to spend more resources trying to engage with all of these parties so that they can understand the need to work with development organizations. All of these issues and concerns that are an impediment to environmental conservation and sustainable development can be very easily resolved by creating national policies that encourage public private partnerships. The biggest drawback has been the stubborn reluctance of government departments and even ministries to develop such policies that would allow public private partnerships.

Which is unfortunate since such partnerships would contribute tremendously towards creating a more conducive environment where scientists, conservationists and development planners can work together than against.

It is essential that we adopt a landscape approach to conservation and development. Understanding the Geo-spatial complexities and interwoven nature of environmental, social, political, technological, and financial facets is essential for long term sustainability. While the period under review (2006-2008) has seen SLWCS focus more on development than in previous years, this experience has made us realize how important our principles and philosophy of conservation by helping communities is critical to the success of these endeavors. In all we completed 4 major projects and have 11 projects which are ongoing, along with 2 consultancies, 5 planned projects and a number of facilitation programs (assisting other conservation organisations and conservationists).

In 2009 we will continue to engage with communities and development agencies while conducting pioneering research such as our Elephant ID and eleAlert systems which will be world firsts and form an integral part of our toolbox for ensuring long term conservation. Within the last 3 years we have presented at 13 international and local forums and attended numerous workshops and training programs. We have also been showcased in 2 Animal Planet documentaries and 3 documentaries produced by French, German and Asian documentary production companies.



Canada

As a result of the devastating Asian Tsunami of December 2004, coastal communities were shifted to the interior of the country. This meant that land from previously forested areas had to be used to provide emergency shelter, to build permanent settlements, and for agriculture. These efforts increased human elephant conflicts and also created friction and animosity between the original settlements and post tsunami settlements. In 2007 SLWCS received a grant of over a quarter of a million dollars from the Local Tsunami Response Facility (LTRF) of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to restore the natural ecosystem in an environmentally degraded area by applying agro-forestry concepts and human-elephant conflict resolution strategies.

The SLWCS-CIDA project was originally called the Reforestation and Human Elephant Conflict Mitigation Project and was subsequently modified in November/December 2007 due to local exigencies. Presently the project comprises three components or subsidiary projects:

1. Social Agro-forestry Project (Lahugala Divisional Secretary Division)
2. Home-Garden Development Project (Lahugala & Pottuvil Divisional Secretary Divisions)
3. Biodiversity Research, GIS and Human Elephant Conflict Mitigation Programs (Lahugala and Pottuvil Divisional Secretary Divisions).



The agro-forestry component of the project has been undertaken against the backdrop of rapid deforestation and destruction of biodiversity in the Lahugala area and in Sri Lanka in general. The expectation is that it will result in regeneration of a natural ecosystem, supplement the participating villagers' nutrition and income, enhance their knowledge of environment and its conservation and encourage the adoption of environment friendly behavior. The project directly benefits 55 villagers with potential benefits to 510 villagers. The Agro-forestry Project is located in the village of Hulannuge. Under the Agro-forestry Project beneficiaries were provided planting materials, equipment and relevant training. Planting of trees was completed by mid February 2008. A Local Coordinating Committee (LCC) comprised of project participants and a representative from SLWCS was formed to monitor and to provide supervision. A complete assessment of the survival rates, biodiversity baselines and changes in the land is being currently undertaken by SLWCS which is the basis for the following recommendations:

- Facilitate the establishment of links to financial and extension services, including the feasibility of establishing a micro-finance scheme.
- Conduct market driven research to develop higher quality standards and improved quality control; and
- Provide training programs to enhance farmers' capacity to diversify into agribusiness

The Home Garden Project covers 6 villages. The program implemented in the Pottuvil Divisional Secretary Division is in collaboration with Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). The Home Garden Project provides plants, training in planting, planting equipment, aftercare operations and composting and has created 6 community-based Local Coordinating Committees to monitor and supervise the project. Baseline biodiversity and GIS surveys were conducted in the area and the mapping of present and past land use practices have been utilized to envisage landscape level land management strategies to balance human and animal needs. The Project directly benefits 422 households.

At present further biodiversity and socio-economic surveys are being undertaken to facilitate a more accurate assessment of progress and determine future needs of the project. Along with this the project will be able to utilize its' savings through the establishment and operation of plant nurseries (managed mostly by women) and other innovative cost saving measures to increase the number of home gardens, conduct/participate in several lessons learned conferences/exhibitions and to increase the length of the electric fence that SLWCS had erected before the Tsunami.

The LTRF project along with the work done by SLWCS under its SEHP banner since 1996 has shown the following results: increase in agriculture production by 92%. Since elephant raids have been practically eliminated; expenditure on crop protection paraphernalia has decreased by 99% as also time spent on night vigil to protect crops-from 9 hours to 45 minutes. General environmental awareness among community members has increased by 43% in some villages.

The SLWCS' efforts to promote gender equality has resulted in the role of women in managing household finance increasing by 90% and in agricultural (or livelihood) decision making by 60%. In sharp contrast to elephants lining up inside a national park boundary imprisoned by an electric fence that is curtailing them from their natural ranging, the Society's electric fences allow elephants to feed in the vicinity of villages but effectively stop them from entering the villages or the fields. This situation can be clearly observed in the Society's project sites at Wasgamuwa, Somawathiya Temple and at Lahugala.

Without exception villagers acknowledge reduced stress, fear, improved well-being, and increased mobility in the night, better social interactions and regular school attendance by children due to the reduced risk of elephant raids and attacks. The SEHP electric fence project along with the LTRF funded extension directly benefits 2217 villagers in four villages in the Lahugala Divisional Secretary Division.

In land that have been managed using agro-forestry and holistic land use concepts the following changes can be observed:

- Conversion of abandoned Chena lands into agriculture and agro-forestry production.
- Minimized soil degradation and maximized resource utilization.
- Increase of farmer's incomes from intercropping in the agro-forestry lands.
- 100% utilization of the land for both agriculture and agro-forestry.
- Increased production of land throughout the year.
- Increased food security and reduction of the uncertainties associated with monoculture cultivation.
- Increase of forest cover in 100 acres of abandoned Chena land by planting 40,000 plants.
- Increased carbon sequestering ability of the area.
- Increase the green cover in the area through improving 450 home gardens by planting 6750 plants.

The following negative impacts were observed in some of the agro-forestry land where participants had reverted to monoculture*:

- Increase in soil degradation.
- Decrease in water holding capacity of the soil.
- Tremendous reduction of biodiversity in monocultures especially in land cultivated with maize.
- Increase in the populations of grain feeding birds especially Alexandrine and Rose Ringed Parakeets.
- Increase in the quantity and diversity of weeds in mono-cultivation lands.

*These farmers were removed from the agro-forestry project because they violated the terms of the agreement with the LCC.

These negative impacts clearly show the importance of proper implementation of the SLWCS/CIDA Agro-forestry Project and the benefits accrued by the communities and the environment within less than 1 year since planting.

The initial biodiversity research in the Lahugala area which is the first long term biodiversity monitoring study in the Lahugala and Pottuvil DSDs since the 1970s has recorded:

- 94 species of butterflies, 5 species of dragonflies, 12 species of amphibians, 109 species of birds, 11 species of mammals, 46 species of plants and 7 species of vines.
- The third sighting record in Sri Lanka of the White-tailed lora or Marshall's lora (*Aegithina nigrolutea*) in the Hulannuge agro-forestry site.

Overall the SLWCS projects implemented in the southern part of the Eastern Province funded by the CIDA-LTRF would provide benefits to over 12,000 villagers.

Phase II

The following activities will be implemented during Phase II which will be initiated in January 2009. The project will provide agro wells, tube wells, increase the number of home gardens, conduct environment education programs in schools, organize several Lessons Learned Conferences and Exhibitions, establish a Micro Finance and Credit program and establish a permanent organizational presence in the area by constructing 2 field stations.





The North Western Region (NWR) is a Department of Wildlife Conservation administrative region and is 16,827 square kilometers in area and comprises the administrative districts of Puttalam (3,013 km²), Kurunegala (4,813 km²), Anuradhapura (7,034 km²) and Vavuniya (1,967 km²). The four districts are located in the Dry Zone of the country and receive less than 1700 mm of rainfall annually distributed over roughly 4 months from November to February. The vegetation of the NWR is comprised of dry ever-green forests, moist deciduous forest, thorn forests, and tropical forests. The first ecological study of elephants in the NWR was done by John Eisenberg and M. Lockhart in the late 1960s. Their study concentrated primarily on the ecology of the Wilpattu National Park, which at 1,317 km² is Sri Lanka's largest national park as well as the only major protected area in the NWR.

Elephant population estimates and rates of human-elephant conflict

The protected areas (PAs) in the NWR make up just 2,250 km² or 13% of the total land area and are insufficient to afford complete protection for the elephants distributed over this vast region. It is estimated that nearly 1,500 elephants are scattered in small pockets of habitats throughout the NWR as herds and individuals accounting for 38-60% of Sri Lanka's remaining elephant population. For this reason, the importance of successfully managing the elephants in this region cannot be overemphasized.

The highest incidence of HEC in Sri Lanka is recorded from the NWR. The NWR accounts for 37% of all the elephant deaths and 43% of all the human fatalities recorded in the island due to HEC. Of the elephants killed, 60% are sub-adult males, 17% are females and 22% are of undetermined sex (mostly calves and juveniles). The high incident of killing males is also creating an unnatural male to female sex ratio. While the normal adult male to female sex ratio is 1:3, in the NWR adult male to female sex ratio is 1:7.

In 2004, the SLWCS conducted a survey to assess HEC as well as to gauge the attitude and perceptions of stakeholders in regard to elephants and HEC

The main objectives of the survey were to:

- Determine the socio-economic conditions of people living in the North Western Region.
- Examine the frequency and intensity of damages to crops and property by elephants.
- Solicit feed-back on stakeholder perception in regard to HEC and elephant conservation.
- Assess the efficacy of mitigation methods, if any, being used by communities.
- Develop a GIS system to look at conflict at the village level for the whole region.

All of these objectives were considered crucial since they provided information to develop strategies integrating elephant conservation with the improvement of livelihoods of these rural communities. The surveys were conducted in 239 villages which represented 43% of the total number of villages in the Puttalam, Kurunegala, and Anuradhapura

Districts in the NWR. The village headman or the village level government administrative officer also known as the Grama Niladhari was the primary respondent. The survey results showed that the people earned between two and five thousand rupees (~US\$20-50) a month, with the majority of villagers surviving via subsistence farming. At least one third of all the communities were reliant on loans from formal government and private banking and money lending institutions for agriculture activities. They also borrowed cash and in kind informally from neighbors to meet their daily requirements. Ninety percent of the surveyed villages had their rice crops destroyed by elephants at some point. In addition, 67% of the surveyed homes in the Puttalam District, 65% of the homes in the Kurunegala District, and 55% of the homes in the Anuradhapura District have had their homes raided by elephants at least once.

Land Use

Three types of cultivating based on the prevailing rainfall patterns in the Dry Zone are practiced in the NWR: Chena or slash and burn, lowland which is mainly rice cultivation and home gardens. The reason behind multiple agricultural strategies is that income from one type of cultivating alone does not provide a sustainable income by itself. The most economically profitable crop to cultivate is rice (*Oryza sativa*), followed by perennial home garden produce such as coconut (*Cocos nucifera*), mango (*Mangifera indica*), jak (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*), breadfruit (*Artocarpus altilis*), tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*), and semi perennials such as bananas (*Musa acuminata*) and papaya (*Carica papaya*), and lastly Chena cultivation. However, when elephant depredations on crops types were compared, cultivating crops such as maize (*Zea mays*), chili (*Capsicum annum*), millet (*Panicum miliaceum*), and sesame (*Sesamum indicum*) were more profitable. In most cases, Chena is carried out illegally in the forest or scrublands near homes where elephant raiding and the incidence of human deaths is comparatively higher. More than half the families practice Chena since it is a low cost system that does not require inorganic fertilizer or chemicals, and allows farmers to grow drought-tolerant crops such as maize, millet, chili, and sesame that have minimal water needs unlike rice. Therefore, Chena cultivation is practiced by most farmers. However, Chena cultivators have to spend more time and money to protect their crops since it is being practiced in elephant habitat. For the farmers it is a vicious cycle since majority of them fall into the monthly income range of Rs.2000 to 5000 (~US\$20-50). A sizeable amount from their income, on average Rs 1000/month (~US\$10) is spent to purchase items such as firecrackers, flashlight batteries, bulbs and kerosene oil needed to protect crops and homes from elephant raids.

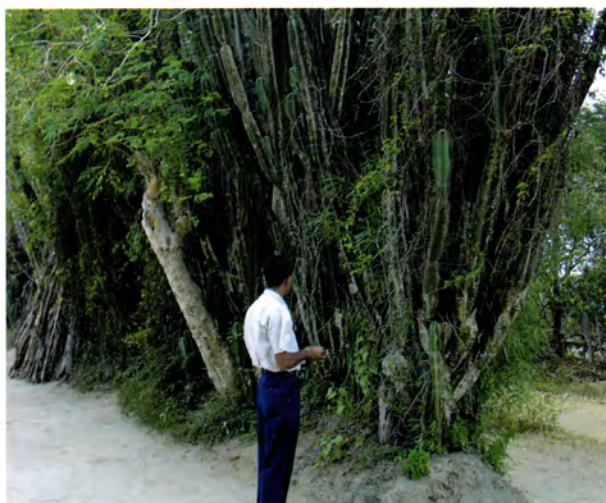
Although Chena cultivation can be advantageous for people, it has a negative impact on wildlife. While it is known that elephants also prefer slash-and-burn and other disturbed areas since they provide higher nutrients in the form of secondary growth and leftover crop plants, the practice of Chena reduces habitat for other wildlife that tend to disappear quickly from habitats that have been disturbed in this manner. Additionally with the progressive clearing of jungle for Chena, elephants will initially withdraw and when pressure for food and water increases they return to the areas they had vacated. On their return they are chased off by the farmers who are now occupying their former habitats. Damages are highest to rice and Chena cultivations with nearly 65% of the crops destroyed seasonally. Chena as it is practiced now contributes immensely to HEC in the NWR and has been a problem in the NWR for a long time. Some of the Chena cultivations are being converted into permanent cultivations and settlements.



The biggest problem in the NWR is that elephants and humans inhabit a homogenous habitat. The lack of clear demarcations between areas of human and elephant use results in conflicts throughout the year.

The following short-term recommendations were made for HEC mitigation in the NWR

- Support the efforts of the Department of Wildlife Conservation.
- Identify HEC hot spots as a first step on which to focus HEC resolution work.
- Work collaboratively with communities to determine the most effective mitigation methods for HEC.
- Encourage communities to grow biological fences around their villages and fields e.g. Palmyra palm (*Borassus flabellifer*), sudu hana (*Agave angustifolia*), daluk (*Euphorbia antiquorum*), bougainvillea (*Bougainvillea spectabilis*) and citrus (*Citrus* sp.).
- Educate villagers on preemptive and precautionary measures that will reduce their risk of elephant attacks e.g. minimize mobility after dark, choose safe times for bathing in water tanks that are also frequented by elephants, travel in groups at night, carry noise makers or thunder flashes in case elephants are encountered.
- Assess the possibility of early or late sowing and harvesting as a means of reducing crop damages.
- Encourage crop diversification as an important measure to mitigate HEC. Promote the cultivation of different crop species (secondary crops), e.g. citrus varieties (*Citrus* sp.) and bitter melon (*Momordica charantia*) that are not attractive to elephants.
- Conduct education programs to create awareness about the importance of conserving the elephant.
- Develop adequate and consistent compensation programs for farmers who suffer crop and home damages.
- Encourage the DWC to actively involve communities in their HEC mitigation and elephant conservation efforts.



The following long-term recommendations were made for HEC mitigation in the NWR

- Work with communities to clearly demarcate areas for human use and areas for elephant use.
- Reorganize scattered communities into organized clusters to support the first recommendation.
- Develop a regulatory system to ensure that Chena cultivators work in predetermined areas rather than throughout forests.
- Give farmers the necessary training and support to develop sustainable agriculture practices.
- Introduce better animal husbandry practices as a long term solution to mitigate HEC since conflict between elephants and domestic animals is non-existent.

- Make the elephant an asset to farmers by providing prospective farmers with the training to provide services as trackers and guides to tourists.
- Initiate a product line using elephant dung e.g. elephant dung paper, biogas, incense sticks, etc.
- Improve and increase the carrying capacity of habitats within and outside the PAs through habitat enrichment programs and by providing supplementary water sources during dry periods.
- Conduct research on elephant ecology, behavior and ranging to develop long-term elephant conservation management measures. Understanding the human aspects of the issues and concerns is just seeing half of the picture. To develop realistic and sustainable solutions it is essential to gather information on the needs of elephants.

Post-Tsunami Ecological Assessments



The SLWCS was one of the organizations that were appointed to a seven-member committee by the Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) to conduct the first official ecological assessment of all the protected areas impacted by the tsunami of 2004. One year after, the SLWCS was again requested by the DWC to conduct a re-assessment of the same areas to assess how well the impacted ecosystems were recovering from the effects of the tsunami. The SLWCS conducted both the assessments in partnership with the Nature Conservancy.

GIS Based Rapid Ecological and Resource Utilization (RERU) Surveys of two provinces in Sri Lanka for UNESCO Sri Lanka Mission.



As consultants to UNESCO Sri Lanka Mission we conducted RERU surveys in Seruvila (Trincomalee District, Eastern Province) and Lunugala (Badulla District, Uva Province). The surveys showed how important parts of these areas are for long term conservation action and suggested a number of practical development programs that could be implemented in these two administrative divisions with minimal investment.



A Rapid Assessment of the Lunugamwehera Elephant Drive



In 2007, the Director General of the Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) asked the SLWCS to advise them on the impacts of an elephant drive that was conducted by the DWC in the southern province. The drive was held to remove all the elephants in the Hambantota District to settle people in the newly established Walawe River Left Bank Development Project of 6,000 hectares, including from the proposed Hambantota Harbor and Mattala Airport development areas to the Lunugamwehera National Park (LNP). The government wanted to create an elephant free zone. The elephants were driven from Madunagala to Lunugamwehera, a distance of about 60-70 kilometers (37-43 miles). What is unfortunate is that they drove elephants out of areas that they didn't have to and where with some basic HEC management methods the levels of HEC could have been minimized. At the time there was a lot of controversy about this elephant drive. The SLWCS conducted rapid surveys by visiting stakeholders and field sites in the key areas.

As a result we learned the following:

- ✦ The DWC did not object to the drive or provide alternative options due to political pressure.
- ✦ Monetary incentives: The drive brought in a large sum of funds, ~US\$1.6 million which was a huge incentive to hold the drive.
- ✦ The DWC held only one local stakeholder discussion which was mostly attended by local government administrative officers. They consulted with two elephant experts before going ahead with the drive.
- ✦ The consultants who were hired to conduct the preliminary surveys grossly underestimated the number of elephants in the area. They estimated 100-150 elephants for the whole area where as once the drive was undertaken there were more than 350 elephants in the area.
- ✦ The LNP already had a population of about 250 elephants. So the LNP now has over 500 elephants, which is probably far more than the carrying capacity of the park.
- ✦ Because of the drive there are now more elephants in some areas due to animals that evaded the drive and are now trapped in unfamiliar territory.
- ✦ The media, DWC and the Ministry of Environment highly publicized about 86 families residing in the elephant corridor connecting LNP with the Udawalawe National Park who were refusing to vacate their land even when they were offered alternative land.
- ✦ The villagers side of the story was that with the alternative land they had requested a monetary compensation for the buildings and other perennial crop plants such as coconut, jak, breadfruit, mango, cashew that they had to abandon.
- ✦ The money would help to tie them over until they could establish themselves and their crops in the new lands. This is not an unreasonable request and even if they had paid the asking monetary compensation amount of ~US\$1,000-2,000 per household it would not have cost \$1.6 million.

- ✦ Between the two main roads: the Gonnoruwa Road and Tanamalwila Road there are vast forest areas that could be managed for elephants. Unfortunately they drove most of the elephants out from these forests too. We met with some of the villagers living in scattered villages in these forests and they are willing to live with elephants if they are provided with the necessary protection.
- ✦ What is most unfortunate is that a series of mitigation, adaptive and preemptive strategies would have helped to resolve these issues much more effectively than moving elephants to a national park and fencing them like cattle.

The drive generated a lot of international and national attention and concern at the time which has unfortunately died down. Bowing to public pressure the Ministry of Environment held a half day symposium to discuss this issue. Unfortunately a half a day of deliberations were not enough to discuss a problem of this magnitude. Hopefully the Ministry will follow up on some of the recommendations that were made at the forum and after. The SLWCS presented the following suggestions to the ministry based on the information that was gathered during its surveys at Lunugamwehera:

1. Stop the current elephant management strategy of driving herds and trans-locating problem males to various parts of the country.
2. Move problem males to a park that is specifically managed for them.
2. Pay attention to ecological issues when development programs are planned.
3. Involve the local elephant experts, scientists, and conservationist to develop long-term solutions to the elephant and other biodiversity management and conservation issues in the country.
4. Develop a forum of proven organizations and individuals who could work in collaborative partnerships with the Ministry and the departments such as the, DWC, FD, NARA, CCD, and CEA to conserve Sri Lanka's biodiversity, environment, and culture.
5. Develop policies to encourage public/private partnerships. The private sector is a vast resource source that could be tapped to contribute to the ongoing conservation efforts.
6. Promote, encourage, and provide incentives to conduct scientific research, because without the proper knowledge and empirical information it would not be possible to develop viable and effective solutions.
7. Provide incentives for the public to support elephant conservation.

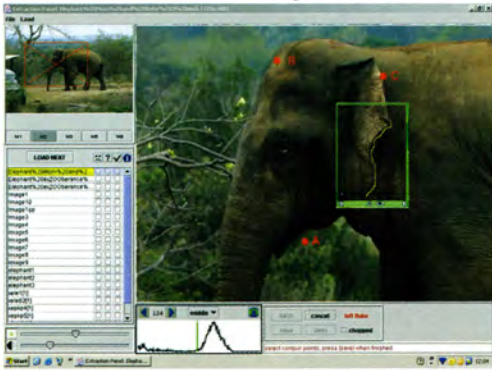
The SLWCS is waiting to see what kind of new policies the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and the DWC will come up with to address the issues and concerns that were brought up due to the elephant drive. Once there is a clear indication of their attitude as well as the direction of their solutions to address these concerns then it would be possible for the SLWCS to initiate several programs to help develop strategies for people and elephants to co-habit in this region with minimum HEC.

FMI www.slwcs.org/reports

FRONTIER



Software based Elephant Identification (eleID) Project



One of the biggest challenges is to estimate correctly the number of elephants in an area and the amount of land (home range) they require to survive. The usual methods of obtaining this information is both costly and time consuming. Developed in partnership with the Dialog Mobile Communication Research Laboratory of the Department of Electronic & Telecommunication Engineering of University of Moratuwa and Google Earth the eleID program will provide online facial/pattern matching software to identify individual elephants and then utilize the Google Earth API to allow researchers and the general public to be able to enter their pictures through an online interface and be presented with a number of "highest match individuals" based on last observed location and identifying traits. The system will look for characteristics (based on nodal points) on matching photos of the same elephant from one particular area. If the image is a completely new entry an online form will open up to provide information about it. For existing records the location will be logged so that movement can be tracked. This process can then be used for mark and capture based estimates of elephant numbers and range.

AsianElephant.info

The AsianElephant.info is a dynamic geo portal with an interactive map to collect and share geo-spatial and research information relating to Asian elephant research and conservation. It will be an Interactive dynamic online forum for researchers, activists, government agencies, students, media and the general public to discuss and present their viewpoints, share knowledge and experiences. The portal will also host the eleID and eleAlert projects, in partnership with organizations working towards conservations of Asian elephant.



Trans-climatic Zone Protected Landscape Project (TCZPLP)

To provide protection to the most diversity of species and to ensure sustainable livelihoods for people over the long term it is essential to formulate protected areas over large contiguous landscapes encompassing various ecosystems, ecological processes, altitudinal gradients, species, habitats and climatic zones. Conservation efforts must be applied over a scale sufficient enough to encompass and sustain these natural processes and to ensure their protection. When established the TCZPLP will extend from the watershed of the Mahaweli Ganga river in the mountains of the Central Province to the wetland ecosystems along the seacoast in the Eastern Province. The proposed project will cover approximately a 3,000 square miles area extending over the Central, North Central and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka.

Benefits of the project

- Provide a living landscape laboratory extending from the coast to the mountains to track, monitor and assess the effects of climate change/global warming over time.
- Protection of nearly 3000 square miles of biodiversity and culturally rich land area.
- The largest protected landscape in Sri Lanka.
- Provide habitat and ecosystem connectivity to a landscape extending over three climatic zones.
- Facilitates gene flow.
- Protection to the source point, watershed and catchment area of the Mahaweli, Amban, Kalu Ganga and Kiri Oya rivers and their tributaries up to ocean discharge.
- A vast and valuable landscape linking World Heritage sites, protected areas and man and biosphere reserves.
- Increased employment opportunities.
- Increased economic opportunities.
- Increased land value.

Peak Wilderness Project

The Peak Wilderness is an area where very little research has been done. It is the last refuge of forest elephants in the wet zone mountains of Sri Lanka and holds immense ecological value. There is an urgent need to conduct GIS based ecological and socioeconomic surveys of the area to gather baseline information to develop practical long term conservation strategies.





Hosting Foreign Study Tours & Official Visitors

The Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society facilitated as well as hosted a number of study tours that visited Sri Lanka to observe and experience elephant conservation and human elephant conflict issues, concerns and mitigation methods practiced in Sri Lanka. In addition, these study tours helped the participants to gain further understanding and knowledge about the various challenges that are faced by conservationists throughout the Asian elephant range countries. The study tours also provided a great opportunity for visitors to meet local researchers, conservationists and with officers of government and non-governmental organizations who are working for the conservation of the endangered Sri Lankan elephant.

- A team from the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. lead by Kara Blond of the National Zoo visited the SLWCS project sites during their visit to study human elephant conflicts for improving the zoo's Asian elephant exhibit with information about HEC. The National Zoo is one of the few zoos to incorporate this aspect of living with elephants into its elephant exhibit design.
- A team lead by Dr. Bibhuti Lahkar from the AARANYAK organization based in Assam, India visited all the field research, HEC mitigation and community development projects and programs of the Society.
- Dr. P.S. Easa from India came to conduct an assessment of HEC mitigation methods in Sri Lanka for a report that he was compiling on HEC for the International Fund for Animal Welfare.
- Dr. Sujit Bairagi, the Chairman of the Dolphin Foundation with two colleagues and an officer of the Forest Department of India came on a study tour to visit the projects of some of the leading elephant conservationists in Sri Lanka.
- Dale Leeds, the Curator of Mammals of the Denver Zoo, Colorado, U.S.A., came down on a study tour to assist with an assessment of the impacts of the Moragahakanda and Kaluganga development projects on elephants and HEC in the Central Province.
- In addition to the study tours the Society also hosted officials from funding agencies such as the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Born Free Foundation as well as members from the Society's USA Board of Directors.



Supporting Research Students

The Society as part of its efforts to support academic research hosted several international short to medium term research students working on their undergraduate and Master's thesis work. Their projects supplemented the Society's research and conservation efforts. Mark Weckel from the Fordham University, New York, USA established a mark and capture research project using camera traps to estimate leopard populations and density in the buffer areas of the Wasgamuwa National Park. Lisa Haberl from the Columbia University, New York, USA worked on estimating parasite loads in leopards. Jenny Lagergren also from Columbia University studied the physical condition and maternal behavior of elephants. Timothy Hancock from the University of Manchester, England gathered information on human-elephant conflicts in Sri Lanka for his undergraduate dissertation. Georgina Daw from the Curtin University of Technology, Perth, Australia conducted a study to gather information for her undergraduate dissertation on micro-scale human elephant conflicts in the Wilgamuwa Divisional Secretary Division in the Matale District of Sri Lanka.





International Elephant Foundation/Indonesia Forest Department, Bengkulu Province, Sumatra.

The Society was hired as consultants by the International Elephant Foundation to train Indonesian Forest officers to use some of the tools that had been developed by the SEHP project to resolve human-elephant conflicts.

UNESCO Sri Lanka Commission Consultants.

The SLWCS conducted surveys to develop ecological and socio-economic baselines for two sites that are been nominated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites and to assist in their development plans for the 10 Year Horizon Development Project.

Biodiversity and Elephant Conservation Trust (BECT)

The SLWCS provided grants to the Biodiversity and Elephant Conservation Trust to conduct its Rural School Awareness Program and to do a Sinhala translation of a book on elephants. The Rural School Awareness Program is conducted in areas that suffer intense human elephant conflicts.

The Leopard Project/Wilderness and Wildlife Conservation Trust

The Society provided a grant to Anjali Watson and Andrew Kittle for their study of the leopards in the Yala National Park in Southern Sri Lanka and subsequently helped expand this project. Since then Anjali and Andrew have established the Wilderness and Wildlife Conservation Trust.

IUCN/SSC AsESG

The president of the Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society is the current Coordinator of the *Human-elephant Conflict Task Force of the IUCN/SSC Asian Elephant Specialist Group*.

GIS

The Operations Director of the Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society serves as the *Country Coordinator for the Society for Conservation GIS, USA* and is also the *Editor of the Geo-Informatics Society of Sri Lanka*.

FMI www.slwcs.org/consultancies

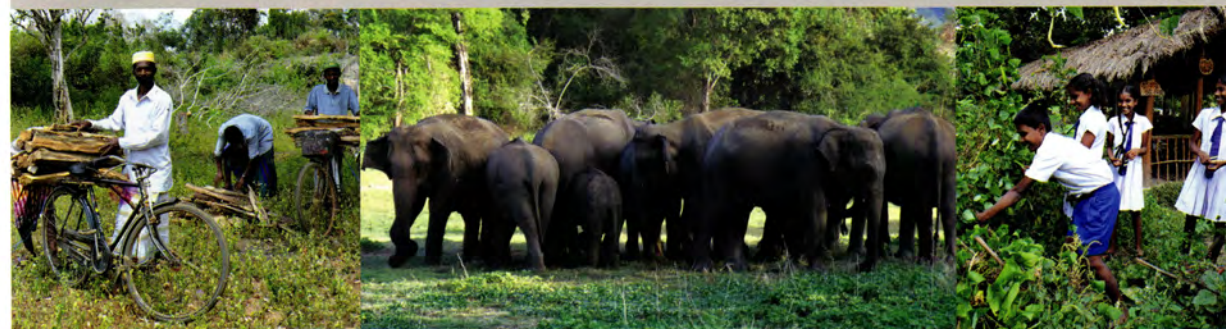
Travel Grants

The Society provided financial support for two BECT staff members to attend the 2008 International Elephant Symposium in Thailand. The SLWCS provided travel grants for Dr. Vijitha Perera, a veterinarian of the Department of Wildlife Conservation of Sri Lanka to attend two international conferences.

Research Support Grants

The SLWCS provided a grant to Dr. Bhupen Sarma, Associate Professor, Department of Surgery, College of Veterinary Science, Assam Agricultural University, Khanapara, Guwahati, Assam, India. The grant was given to Dr. Sharma to continue his research efforts to develop an effective method to immobilize captive elephants.

FMI www.slwcs.org/grants/



A chronological list of reports, presentations and papers

1. November 2008. PRESENTATION - International Elephant Foundation 2008 Symposium "A Land use Approach to mitigating Human Elephant Conflicts: Reconciling agriculture and elephant conservation" - by Ravi Corea
2. November 2008. PRESENTATION - International Elephant Foundation 2008 Symposium. "Keeping the elephant visible in the public eye: Establishing a veterinary healthcare, husbandry and breeding program for captive elephants in Sri Lanka" - by Ravi Corea, Professor Indira Silva, Dr. Ashoka Dangolla, Sandith Samarasinghe & Chandee Corea.
3. November 2008. PRESENTATION - International Elephant Foundation 2008 Symposium "The Outcomes and Lessons Learned from 10 years of Saving Elephants by Helping People" by Ravi Corea, Chandee Corea, Upul Karunasinghe, Nishantha Dharmasiri, Samantha Mirindu, Chintaka Weerasinghe, Chandima Fernando & Harsha Gammanpila.
4. October 2008 - PRESENTATION - UNDP Equator Initiative Equator Prize, IUCN World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, Spain. A Community Based Approach to Conservation and Sustainable Development - by Ravi Corea.
5. 9th June 2008 - PRESENTATION - "Ponds of Mercy - Can urban wetlands survive and flourish in Sri Lanka? - A preliminary discussion about the conservation and development of the Bellanwilla and Bandaragama Urban Wetlands - 14th Annual Scientific Sessions of the Sri Lanka Association for Fisheries and Aquatic Resources." By Chandee Corea & Ravi Corea
6. 9th June 2008 - PRESENTATION - "A Fish Story from a Riverscape in the 1st Penetration of the Eastern Knuckles - Riverscapes Conference." - By Samantha Mirandu, Chandee Corea and Ravi Corea
7. 9th June 2008 PRESENTATION - "A GIS based socio-ecological assessment of the current human uses of the Flood Plains National Park (December 2005 - April 2006) - Riverscapes Conference." - By Nishantha Dharmasiri, Zeenath Khalid, Chandee Corea and Ravi Corea
8. 9th June 2008 - PRESENTATION - "Kalpitiya-Karaitive-Puttalam (KKP) & Seruvila-Allia-Ullakalie (SAU) Coastal Wetland Complexes - A Comprehensive GIS based assessment and suggestions for conservation actions - Riverscapes Conference." - By Chandee Corea & Ravi Corea
9. May 2008 - REPORT - "Project Progress Report - Preliminary field surveys to assess the status of the endangered Dugong (Dugong dugon) and to record sea turtle nesting, poaching, by-catch mortalities and other threats in the Kalpitiya-Karaitive Puttalam Coastal Wetlands Complex". - By Chandee Corea & Ravi Corea
10. 16th April 2008 - PRESENTATION - "GIS and Community Tools for Conservation and Development" - By Chandee Corea - for Senior Staff and researchers of Conservation International, Jakarta, Indonesia
11. 28th April 2008 - PRESENTATION - "GIS Based Rapid Ecological and Resource Utilization Baseline Survey of Lunugala Area - UNESCO - GoSL Horizon Development Roundtables for Trincomalee and Badulla Districts". - By Chandee Corea, Samantha Mirandu, Chintaka Weerasinghe & Ravi Corea
12. 28th April 2008 - PRESENTATION - "GIS Based Rapid Ecological and Resource Utilization Baseline Survey of Seruvila Area - UNESCO - GoSL Horizon Development
13. Roundtables for Trincomalee and Badulla Districts". - By Chandee Corea, Samantha Mirandu, Chintaka Weerasinghe & Ravi Corea
14. April 2008 - REPORT - "GIS Based Rapid Ecological and Resource Utilization Baseline Survey of the Proposed Seruwila UNESCO World Heritage Site and Environment." - By Chandee Corea, Nishantha Dharmasiri, Samantha Mirandu and Ravi Corea
15. April 2008 - REPORT - "GIS Based Rapid Ecological and Resource Utilization Baseline Survey of the Proposed Seruwila UNESCO World Heritage Site and the Seruvila Division - Summary of Pertinent Information." - By Chandee Corea, Ravi Corea, Nishantha Dharmasiri, Samantha Mirandu
16. April 2008 - REPORT - "GIS Based Rapid Ecological and Resource Utilization Baseline Survey of Lunugala Division, Badulla District, Uva Province, Sri Lanka." - By Chandee Corea, Chintaka Weerasinghe, Lara Doherty, Ravi Corea and Samantha Mirandu
17. April 2008 - REPORT - DRAFT - "GIS Based Rapid Ecological and Resource Utilization Baseline Survey of the Lunugala Division of the Badulla District - Table Summary." - By Chandee Corea, Ravi Corea, Lara Doherty, Samantha Mirandu, Upul Karunasinghe and Chintaka Weerasinghe
18. March/April, 2008 - PRESENTATION - "Community based Conservation and Development including GIS, PRA/RRA and research methodologies" - By Chandee Corea - For Senior Staff and researchers of the Bengkulu, Natural Resources Agency, Indonesia.
19. March 2008 - PRESENTATION - "A Study of Mortality pattern and Health Hazards Facing by Wild Elephants in the Mahaweli Wildlife Region in Sri Lanka." - By B. Vijitha Perera, Department of Wildlife Conservation, Sri Lanka February 2008 - REPORT - "Report to SCGIS as recognition of 2007 Software and Training Grant." - By Chandee Corea
20. February 2008 - PRESENTATION - "Conservation GIS Center - Spatial Approaches to Conservation." - By Chandee Corea
21. February 2008 - PRESENTATION - "Saving Elephants by Helping People - Spatial Approaches to Human-elephant conflict mitigation." Conservation GIS Short Course - By Chandee Corea
22. February 2008 - PRESENTATION - "Practical GIS Help - Support for Conservation GIS in Sri Lanka and Moving Forward." GISSL, SCGIS - Conservation GIS Short Course - By Chandee Corea
23. 26th January 2008 - PRESENTATION - "A Land Use Approach to Elephant Conservation - Human-elephant conflict mitigation through research, sustainable development, and GIS tools." - By Ravi Corea and Chandee Corea - Born Free Foundation Symposium, Colombo, Sri Lanka
24. 26th January 2008 - PRESENTATION - "Human Elephant Conflict in the North West Region." - By Nishantha Dharmasiri - Born Free Foundation Symposium, Colombo, Sri Lanka
25. July 2007 - REPORT - "Saving Elephants by Helping People - Establishing Alternative Incomes through Agriculture Diversification to Develop Economic Buffers for Communities with Human Elephant Conflict - Project Orange Elephant Interim Report." - By Ravi Corea, Nishantha Dharmasiri, Chandima Fernando and Chandee Corea
26. June 2007 - PRESENTATION - "Use of GIS in Small Conservation Organizations - Human-elephant conflict mitigation through community integrated approaches." - By Chandee Corea - ESRI and SCGIS
27. February 2007 - REPORT - "Lahugala "Saving Elephants by Helping People - Lahugala Extension Project - Phase 1, Electric Fence." - By Nishantha Dharmasiri, Chandee Corea and Ravi Corea
28. 12th January 2007 - REPORT - "Human-Elephant Conflict - An Assessment of the Potential Success of the Lahugala Electric Fencing Project." - By Timothy Hancock
29. 2007 - REPORT - "An Assessment of the Kalpitiya Karaitive Puttalam Coastal Complex with Recommendations for its water security issues." - By Chandee Corea, Chandima Fernando, Nishantha Dharmasiri, Ravi Corea, Zeenath Khalid
30. 2007 - PRESENTATION - "An Assessment of the Kalpitiya Karaitive Puttalam Coastal Wetland Complex with Recommendations for its conservation and water security issues." - By Chandee Corea, Chandima Fernando, Nishantha Dharmasiri, Ravi Corea, Zeenath Khalid
31. 2007 - REPORT - "Saving Elephants by Helping People" - Field Scouts Program Final Report." By Harsha Gamanpila, Chandee Corea and Ravi Corea (in draft)
32. October 2006 - DRAFT REPORT - "Coastal Conservation by Helping People (CCHP): Alleviating Poverty by linking sustainable livelihood development to participatory coastal and marine resources conservation in the Southern Province of Sri Lanka." - By SLWCS
33. 5th February 2006 - REPORT - "Saving Elephants By Helping People - Report to the IUCN Asian Elephant Specialist Group." - By Ravi Corea
34. 2006 - PRESENTATION - "Impact of Tsunami on Protected Areas in Sri Lanka: One Year Later." - By Ravi Corea, M. Sanjayan (Lead Scientist, The Nature Conservancy), Jedediah Brodie (Researcher, University of Montana), Chandee Corea (Director, SLWCS)
35. 2006 - INCOMPLETE REPORT - "Saving Elephants By Helping People: International Elephant Foundation to support and operate Elephant Conservation and Education Programs." By Ravi Corea, Chandee Corea, Harsha Gamanpila, Nishantha Dharmasiri, Zeenath Khalid and Chandima Fernando
36. 2006 - ARTICLE - "Wasgamuwa the best National Park to get to." - By Chandee Corea, Future Magazine
37. 2006 - REPORT - "Flood Plains National Park - A socio-economic baseline survey." - By Zeenath Khalid, Nishantha Dharmasiri, Chandee Corea and Ravi Corea.

Media

Print/Website Articles.

PROMOTIONAL MEDIA (Brochures, Posters and Logos).

1. Outdoor Environmental Education (2008)
2. SLWCS Human-Elephant-Conflict Mitigation Brochure (2007)
3. Poster for SCGIS-ESRI Conferences (2007)
4. Earthwatch-SLWCS Poster (2005)
5. SLWCS Logo
6. Escape Tourism Logo
7. Wetland Community and Conservation Logo
8. Code of Conduct

NEWSPAPER/WEBSITE ARTICLES

1. Drogheda Independent - "It's a Jungle out there" December, 2008
2. The Nation - They Do Sri Lanka Proud September 7th, 2008
3. Lonely Planet-International. The Local Alternative in Sri Lanka
4. The Nation. Villages In, Elephants Out -Sri Lanka, September 2nd, 2007.
5. Cotswold Catalogue - Spring 2006
6. Future Magazine - Wasgamuwa the best National Park
7. Various articles about SLWCS's activities regarding the Tsunami.
8. Sunday Observer - "Serene Waters" April 18th, 2004,
9. Sunday Observer - "English with a Smile" April 5th, 2004
10. Sunday Observer - "Hidden Serenity" March 28th, 2004
11. Sunday Observer - "Learning to Co-Exist" and correction 28 September 2003.
12. Columbia University - USA, May 16th, 2003 - Granting of award
13. Daily News - Sri Lanka, 24th January, 2003, "Wildlife Conservation in the 21st Century"
14. Petfinder Library - Fighting to survive in Sri Lanka.
15. Young Asia Television - Asia, May, 2002
16. Sunday Times - Sri Lanka.
17. Island Newspaer - Sri Lanka, March 17th, 2001
18. Island Newspaper - Sri Lanka. Sept 17th, 2000.



Organizational Structure

The President heads the organization and its direction along with the USA Board, International Trustees, Sri Lankan Board, and staff members. The USA Board provides strategic guidance for the Society, help builds partnerships with international organizations and helps raise most of the funds. The Sri Lanka Board is responsible for raising funds from Sri Lankan funding sources, providing guidance to the overall operations, and building relationships and networks with government institutions and local organizations. The Sri Lankan board also helps to obtain permission and approvals from local authorities as needed. The Sri Lankan managerial team is responsible for organizing the day to day needs of

the Society and working with local authorities and communities to achieve the goals and objectives of each project. The field teams implement the projects along with foreign and local volunteers. The field teams are responsible for keeping the Operations Director, President and the Board members updated by providing information to assist them in overall development planning for the whole organization. Currently, the Society has twenty-three men and women working on projects spread across the country. Additionally, approximately on average every month 3 - 5 international and local volunteers work on projects assisting the field staff.

Officers

Ravi Corea	<i>President / Chief Executive Officer / Biologist</i>
Dr. Natarajan Ishwaran	<i>Chairman of the Board</i>
Chandee Corea	<i>General Secretary / Operations Director / GIS Specialist / Biologist</i>
Ajith Wijayamana	<i>Treasurer / Finance & Administrative Manager</i>
Ms. Marie Fernando	<i>Board Member</i>
Devaraj Ratnam	<i>Country Director Australia / Advisor</i>
Vindhya Gunawardhana	<i>Program Coordinator, Charitable Giving</i>

Logistic Staff

Amarasena Desaram	1999 - Present
Darshana Desaram	2003 - Present
Indika Sampath	2004 - Present

Field Staff

Chandana Rajasinghe	2005 - Present
W.A Indika	2008 - Present
Dhevika Mihirani	2007 - Present
J.H. Lasanthi	2008 - Present
Jagath Ekanayake	2003 - 2006
Maduranga Amarasena	2003 - 2006
Thushara Ekanayake	2003 - 2007
Mahesh D Weerasekara	2006 - 2007
W. Rathnayake	2004 - 2007
K. Jayathilaka Banda	2003 - 2007
Anuradha Jayasinghe	2003 - 2007
Veroni Jayalath	2003 - 2007
Sandamali Kulasekara	2003 - 2007
Thusitha Kavindha	2007 - 2008
Jayanthi Malkanthi	2007 - 2008
Vijaya Surendra Sekara	2008

Office Staff

Book Keeper

Senaka Samarasekera 2005 - Present

House Keeper

Mallika Wijeweera 2008 - Present

Security

W.K. Senapala 2008 - Present

Project Managers

Nishantha Dharmasiri	2003 - Present
Chinthaka Weerasinghe	2005 - Present
Samantha Mirandu	2007 - Present
Harsha Gamanpila	2004-2006
Chandima Fernando	2004-2007
Zeenath Khalid	2003, 2005-2007

Service Staff

A.G. Siriya	2000 - Present
U.G. Yasawathie	2004 - Present
W.A. Karunaratne	2005 - Present
W.A. Menike	2005 - Present

Research Assistants

Upul Karunasinghe	2004 - Present
Sarath Rajapaksha	2007 - 2008





Professor
Mangala De Silva

Professor Mangala de Silva is a Senior Professor of Zoology at the University of Peradeniya. He obtained his doctorate from the University of Edinburgh in the field of Developmental Biology. Professor De Silva teaches Developmental Biology, Genetics, Evolutionary Biology, Conservation Biology, Wildlife Ecology and Management, and Environmental Biology. He is actively involved in the work of Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS) and is a member of its Board of Management. He is also the Chairman of the PGIS Board of Study in Environmental Science. In addition, Professor Mangala coordinates the M.Sc. programmes in Environmental Science and Biodiversity, Ecotourism and Environment Management at the PGIS. Professor Mangala has jointly organized the National Survey of Wild Elephants, which was carried out in 1993.

Prior to the survey, he conducted jointly a field-based workshop to the Senior Field Staff of the Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) on the survey techniques of elephant populations. He was one of two authors responsible for drawing up the 1994, National Action Plan for the Conservation of Elephants in Sri Lanka. He has also studied all of the major faunal groups in the Yala Protected Area Complex, particularly the Ruhuna National park, from 1995-1996. He was the National Consultant for elephant conservation for the DWC under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) project during the period 1997-1999. During this period he studied mainly the elephant populations of the North-Central and Southern Provinces. He jointly prepared for the DWC the reports on Resolving People-Elephant Conflict in Sri Lanka and Habitat Improvement for Elephants in Ruhuna National Park. During this period, he also conducted workshops on Wildlife Conservation and Management to the field staff of the Department of Wildlife conservation.



Professor
Padma De Silva

Professor Padma de Silva is a Senior Professor of Zoology in the University of Peradeniya. She won a British Council Scholarship to read for her PhD in Freshwater Biology at the Institute of Freshwater Biology in Windermere, UK. She also teaches M.Sc. students in Environmental Science, Biodiversity, Ecotourism and Environment Management at the Postgraduate Institute of Science. Her research work is mainly in the fields of Limnology, Ecology and Conservation of Mammals, particularly the otter. Prof de Silva's research work has been published in several refereed international and national journals. She had also co-authored several books with her husband on the ecology and wildlife of Sri Lanka.

From 1994 -1998, Prof de Silva served as the Chairman of the IUCN Otter Specialist Group. Since then at the request of its members, she is continuing as the Asian Coordinator of the Otter Specialist Group. Based on her research on freshwater fauna and particularly the Sri Lankan otter (*Lutra lutra*), Prof de Silva has conducted training workshops for otter researchers in Thailand, Taiwan, India, Nepal, Vietnam and Cambodia on survey methods of otters in the wild. Prof de Silva has been instrumental in bringing to international attention the endangered status and the importance of conserving the otter species of the world. In recognition of her dedicated work on otters, in 2001 the International Otter Survival Fund (IOSF) of U.K. appointed her as the Asian Coordinator for the IOSF. In 2002, she was appointed a member of the Advisory Research Board of the Department of Biology, Kuyangyam University, South Korea.



Edmund Wilson

After completing his General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) Examination in the Sciences, Edmund joined the Department of Wildlife Conservation of Sri Lanka in 1968 where he worked until 2008. During his distinguished career of 40 years at the Department, Edmund has served as a Range Wildlife Officer, Park Warden, Assistant Director, Acting Deputy Director, and Deputy Director. From 2003 onwards until his retirement Edmund served as the Deputy Director in charge of elephant conservation, and prior to that he served as

the Acting Deputy Director in charge of Law Enforcement and Operations for 3 years. Among some of his many responsibilities were taking measures for the long term conservation of wild elephants, resolution of human elephant conflicts, allocating funds and monitoring expenditure in the Elephant Conservation Division, procuring electric fence equipment, thunder flash firecrackers, and other necessary equipment for elephant management, and the capture and removal of dangerous rogue elephants. Along with these duties Edmund had provided effective guidance to the department's field staff in law enforcement activities and coordinating with Attorney General's Department. Edmund was also a lecturer at the Giritala National Wildlife Training Center of the Department Wildlife Conservation on Human Elephant Conflict Management and Law Enforcement.





Zeenath Khalid

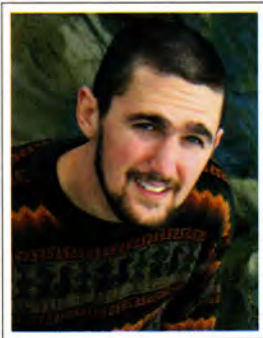
Zeenath completed her International Baccalaureate Certificate the equivalent of the American High School Diploma at the Overseas Children's School in Colombo, Sri Lanka. After which she attended Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore, Pakistan from 1993-1995 where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Geography, Social Work and Philosophy. In 1998, Zeenath received a Master of Arts in Sociology from the Punjab University, Lahore, Pakistan. Soon after she was accepted at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden where she received a Master of Science in Development Research Application and Theory (MADRAT) from the Department of Rural Development Studies. With an academic background in

the fields of Sociology and Development Research, she started her professional career by working for 2 years on issues related to gender and water at the International Water Management Institute in Sri Lanka. From there she moved on to working with a grass root institution that focused on poverty eradication through community mobilization initiatives. She worked on their planning, monitoring, evaluation and research section for a year where her primary task was to monitor, supervise and evaluate the management and quality of 100 community run schools in 21 districts of Pakistan. Zeenath was also a member of their gender "think tank" to address the needs of women, both at the program and organizational level. After a 5 year stint with the Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society, in 2006, Zeenath joined the Brooke Organization in Lahore, Pakistan that works for the welfare of working equine animals by providing services to stakeholders by building their capacity in equine veterinary treatment and care. Zeenath currently works as their Partnerships and Program Development Manager.



Elizabeth Smith

Elizabeth is a doctoral candidate in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics at the University of Rhode Island. She is also currently a NMFS/Sea Grant Fellow, with research focused on auction and market mechanisms for public goods, specifically, marine based ecosystem services. Her focus on market creation for public goods and development issues is highlighted through recent participation in the following workshops; "Environmental Justice in the Energy Age: Meeting Energy Demand with Equity" and "Measuring, Valuing and Creating Markets for Non-Extractive Ecosystem Services Associated with Bivalve Shellfish." Liz holds a Masters in Public Administration from Columbia University, with a focus on conservation policy issues.



Phil Buccellato
(Greener Media)

After graduating from the NYUTisch Film Program with a Bachelors in Fine Arts, Phil Buccellato founded Greener Media LLC, a multi-media production company specializing in non-fiction content, ranging from direct-to-web travel series to feature length documentaries. While Phil has years of experience working in the art department for a host of notable directors like Wes Anderson, Charlie Kaufman, and Mira Nair, his true passion is documentary. In September 2007, the feature documentary Calvin & Sweetpea, a portrait of a family faced with Alzheimer's which was directed by Jon Fletcher and shot by Phil Buccellato, won best documentary at the Boston Film Festival. Phil also recently shot and co-produced another award winning feature documentary entitled I Think We're Alone Now, a pop culture tragedy about obsession, and winner of the Best Documentary at the Fantasia Film Festival. He was also involved with Wild Combination: A Portrait of Arthur Russell, and a PBS documentary titled Why We Love Cats and Dogs. Phil is currently working on a co - production with SLWCS entitled "Common Ground"





Ajith Wijayamanna
Treasurer/Finance &
Administrative Manager

to the previous year largely due to the prevailing war on terror and the global financial crisis.

SLWCS Financial Review

Income:

The Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society's (SLWCS) income during the years 2006 to 2008 was primarily from grants. This was mainly because of the tremendous impact the war on terrorism had on the international volunteers program. The volunteer

program saw a substantial decrease in numbers from 2007 onwards. During the financial year 2008, there was a 45% reduction of income compared

A significant portion of the total income for the years 2007 and 2008, comprising 56% and 70% respectively was due to the Canadian International Development Agency, Local Tsunami Recovery Fund grant. An overview of the CIDA project is given separately in the Annual Report.

Expenses:

SLWCS's total expenditure has increased mainly due to macro economic factors such as local currency depreciation and high inflation. The expenditure has increased by approximately 20% over the previous year. As per the official data released by the Government of Sri Lanka, the inflation in the country during this period has been approximately 15%. Seventy percent of the total annual income generated is spent on projects and only 30% is spent on overhead and administrative expenses. This is a remarkable achievement when taken in the context that the SLWCS has field operations in three administrative provinces.

Net Assets:

Despite the difficult macro and global socio economic circumstances, the Net Assets of the SLWCS has increased from Rs. 6 million in 2006 to Rs. 9.5 million in 2008.

	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
	Rupees Million			% of Total Expenses		
Income	15.54	25.97	14.21			
Expenses						
1. Projects	7.55	13.60	13.59	48.36%	71.54%	73.90%
2. Administration	5.94	4.99	1.42	38.05%	26.24%	7.72%
3. Logistics	2.12	0.42	3.38	13.59%	2.22%	18.38%
Total Expenses	15.61	19.01	18.39			
Excess/(Deficit)	(0.07)	6.95	(4.18)			
Notes:						
2. Administration	<i>This includes costs for salaries, communications, staff welfare, security, postage, audit fee, bank charges, tax consultancy,</i>					
3. Logistics	<i>This includes costs for vehicle maintenance, hire charges HO rent & maintenance, office equipments purchase & maintenance</i>					

KEERTHI MIHIRIPENNA & CO
Chartered Accountants, Colombo.

Summary of Key Financials:

	2006	2007	2006	2007
	US \$ thousands		% of Total Expenses	
Income	286	86.5	14.20	
Expenses				
1. Projects grants & contracts	156.7	60.3	61.57%	63.08%
2. Administration ¹	59.8	24.3	23.50%	25.42%
3. Logistics	38	11	14.93%	11.51%
Total Expenses	254.5	95.6	100.00%	100.00%
Excess/(Deficit)	31.5	-9.1		
Notes:				
2. Administration	<i>This includes costs for salaries, communications, staff welfare, security, postage, audit fee, bank charges, tax consultancy,</i>			
3. Logistics	<i>This includes costs for vehicle maintenance, hire charges HO rent & maintenance, office equipments purchase & maintenance</i>			

SANJIV S. SAHNI
Dinowitz & Bowe, CPAs
New York, USA



LAcNet

SPOT
IMAGE





"Giving to protect the environment can change lives"

By giving to protect the environment even in little ways can change the world in larger ways. The Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society is an organization that has received international recognition and praise for the tremendous efforts it has put

forth for wildlife conservation, poverty alleviation, and sustainable development in Sri Lanka. Giving to support any one of the worthwhile projects of the Society will lift your spirits, warm your heart, make you look at the world in a new way, and just perhaps change your life. Support the Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society to continue its conservation efforts in Sri Lanka to make the world a better place.

The Society is a fully incorporated non-profit, 501c3 tax-exempt organization based in the U.S.A. (verifiable through the IRS search for charities <http://www.irs.gov/app/pub-78/>), a fully registered voluntary social service non-governmental organization with the Ministry of Social Welfare in Sri Lanka and a registered non-governmental organization in Australia.

Please visit our website at www.slwcs.org and follow the links to the secure online donation form.

Thank you for your support.

"Community organization is a process by which a community identifies its needs or objectives, orders (or ranks) the needs or objectives, develops the confidence and will to work at those needs or objectives, finds the resources (internal and/or external) to deal with these needs or objectives, takes action in respect to them, and in so doing extends and develops cooperative and collaborative attitudes and practices in the community." Murray G. Ross, 1967

The Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society (SLWCS) is an international community-based organization committed to working with rural communities in Sri Lanka. If the strength of an organization is measured by the sum of the people that are integral to it, then for the SLWCS they are definitely the communities with whom the Society works in partnership and in collaboration to address a multitude of environmental, social, economic, land use, and livelihood issues and concerns. The participatory community based approach of the SLWCS is one of the primary reasons for its successes. These efforts of the Society have received international acclaim and recognition.

In 1997 when the SLWCS was initiating its seminal efforts to address human elephant conflicts (HEC), the Society selected to work with communities that had the fewest alternatives. From the very beginning the SLWCS showed a willingness to get involved at the grassroots level and engage systematically in some of the most challenging work, which was to organize communities to be effective over the long term to address HEC. The SLWCS has always strived to encourage and develop potential community leaders. Today these efforts have resulted in several community organizations that are primarily and completely lead by community leaders. The rationale and basis for the Society's participatory approach was that if provided with the proper capacity development then communities could deal with their own problems. The basic premise being people wanted change and will and can change if provided with proper guidance, right approach, tools, skills and technology. Ideally people in a community should participate in making, adjusting and controlling the changes that are taking place in their lives. External efforts to build capacity and implement development should be "demand" based rather than "supply"

based which is what unfortunately happens most of the time. Moreover changes in a community that are self imposed have meaning and permanence which externally driven changes do not have. It is important to also keep in mind that communities frequently need help to get organized and become cohesive and effective bodies to deal with their needs. Today the SLWCS works in partnership or in collaboration with a number of communities in three Administrative Provinces of Sri Lanka. In Wasgamuwa in the Central Province the Society has established two electric fence societies in the villages of Pussellayaya and Weheragalagama to manage HEC. In the villages of Irriyagasulpotha and Himbiliyakade in Wasgamuwa the SLWCS has helped the farmers to form an organization to promote the cultivation of orange (*Citrus sinensis*) as an alternative crop to buffer them from economic damages caused by crop raiding elephants. An electric fence maintenance team has been established at the historic Somawathiya Chaitiya in the North Central Province. A number of community-based organizations for HEC mitigation, home garden development, agro-forestry and to operate a microfinance and credit program has been established at Lahugala, Pottuvil and Panama in the Eastern Province. These efforts of the Society directly benefits over 14,000 villagers and over 165,000 villagers indirectly due to the Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka (MASL) adapting some of the concepts developed by the Society for its Saving Elephants by Helping People (SEHP) project to mitigate HEC in the vast agriculture settlement schemes established by the MASL. The current focus of the SLWCS is the continued development of the internal capabilities of existing as well as new community organizations to maximize their effectiveness in managing community resources and addressing socio-economic and environmental concerns that impact their lives.



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The Society for Conservation GIS

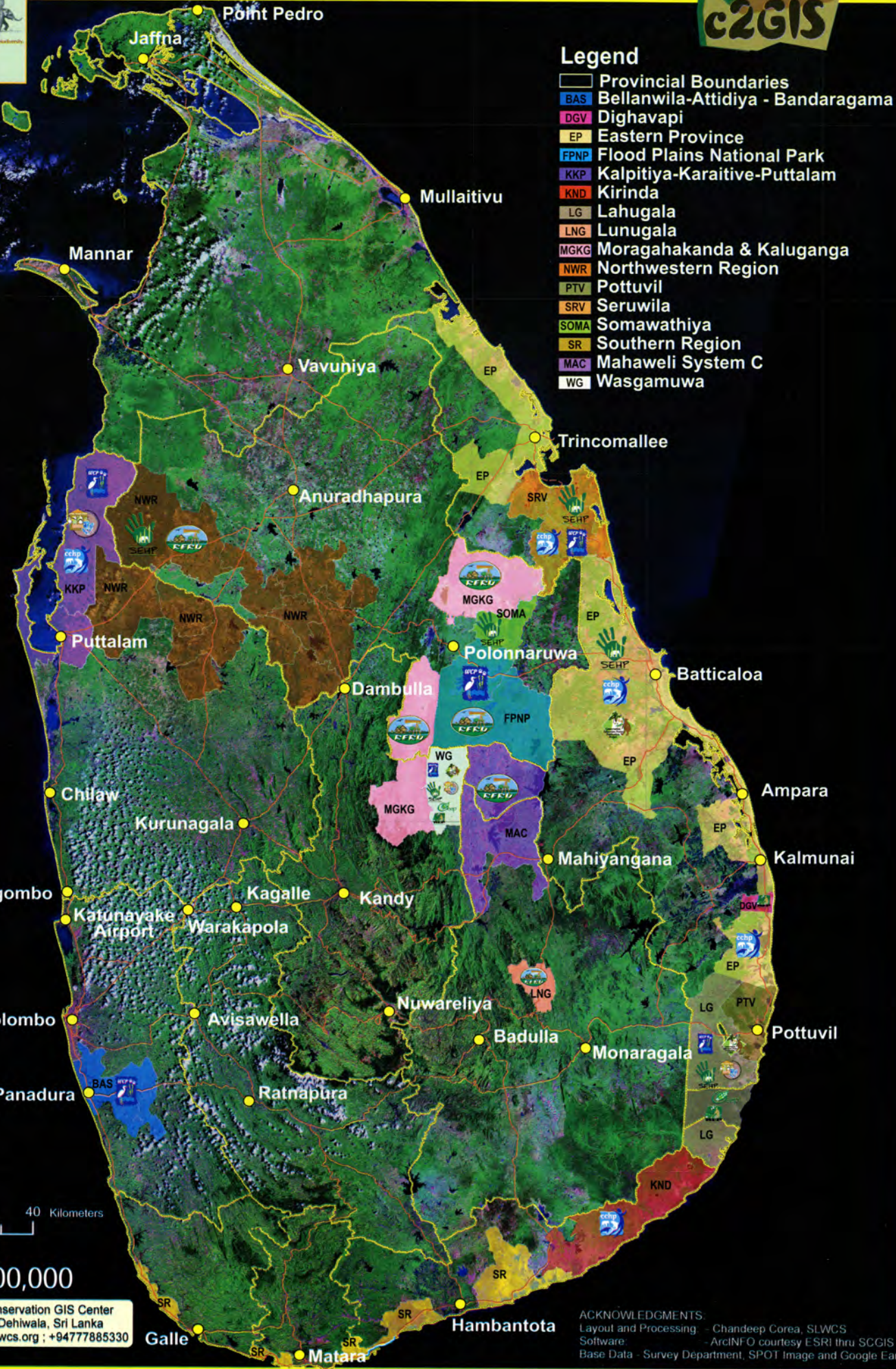
Donations and Contributions

Working WITH Communities and
not just FOR Communities





SLWCS Project Areas by Divisional Secretary Division



Legend

- Provincial Boundaries
- BAS Bellanwila-Attidiya - Bandaragama
- DGV Dighavapi
- EP Eastern Province
- FPNP Flood Plains National Park
- KKP Kalpitiya-Karaitive-Puttalam
- KND Kirinda
- LG Lahugala
- LNG Lunugala
- MGKG Moragahakanda & Kaluganga
- NWR Northwestern Region
- PTV Pottuvil
- SRV Seruwila
- SOMA Somawathiya
- SR Southern Region
- MAC Mahaweli System C
- WG Wasgamuwa

0 10 20 40 Kilometers

1: 800,000

(C)(R) SLWCS.Conservation GIS Center
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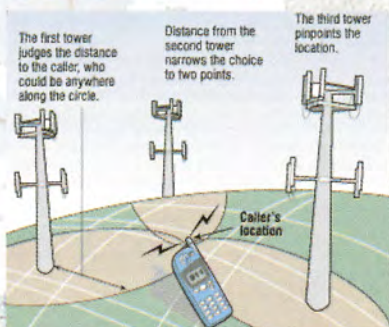
SLWCS Center for Conservation GIS (c2GIS)

GIS is a mapping technology that integrates databases with geo-referenced spatial data (maps and aerial photographs tied to specific known locations) and allows the user to create visual displays of tabular information. It reveals trends and patterns which aren't immediately apparent from traditional tabular datasets. In a GIS the user decides how the data will be displayed and is also able to select, query, overlay and analyze physical and social features of the world (or a specific place) in an integrated display.

It is a versatile management tool adaptable to global, regional, national and site specific situations and therefore used in practically every sphere of socio-economic activity including, agriculture, industry, mining, marketing, health-care, tourism, government and environment management.

Linked with Rapid Ecological Resource Utilization (RERU) and RRA/PRA survey techniques it is a resource that can be used to acquire store and analyze data relating to geography (terrain, natural features, climate), natural resources, demography and a range of related socio-economic variables and to display them in one integrated map or image. The maps and images can be customized; 'zoomed in' on selected areas to display greater detail (high resolution) or 'zoomed out' with additional details superimposed

The purpose of developing the SLWCS' Remote Sensing/GIS capacity is to further our knowledge of ecosystems dynamics and how they are impacted by human activities. This knowledge will enhance our ability to understand the conservation challenges we face. We will then use these models and outputs for effective strategic planning at the local, regional and national levels.



The SLWCS Center for Conservation GIS (c2GIS) has developed rapidly through donations of Arc software from ESRI and imagery from SPOT Image which were facilitated by the Society for Conservation GIS (SCGIS) in the USA. The Center has ongoing collaborations with the Geo-Informatics Society of Sri Lanka (GISSL), Google Earth International, All-in-One GIS Services of Colorado, USA, Sri Jayewardenapura University, and with several volunteer GIS specialists. The GIS Center of the Society is helping to develop effective strategies to resolve human elephant conflicts. We are also working with Sri Lankan universities and arranging training programs in GIS for conservationists. We were one of 12 projects showcased in the SPOT Image Planet Action calendar for 2009.

Since the inception of c2GIS in 2007, it has raised over US\$450,000 worth of software, imagery (covering 60% of Sri Lanka at 20 to 5m resolution), hardware, spatial data (covering all of Sri Lanka up to the scale of 1:10,000) and training in GIS. The Center provides the GIS based work for all the SLWCS field projects and project proposals. Since we undertake commercial projects to support SLWCS, we have been awarded a contract by the Fire Department of Sri Lanka to implement a GIS based Emergency fire response system for Greater Colombo.

THE GOAL of SLWCS Conservation GIS Center is "to use socio-economic and bio-diversity data to produce accurate maps and models which can be used by stakeholders to make informed land use decisions for effective environmental conservation and sustainable development."

THE OBJECTIVES are to

- Promote GIS use within the organization.
- Educate communities and government agencies about the power of GIS.
- Promote sharing of GIS resources.
- Assist in standardizing the collection and distribution of GIS.
- Undertake commercial GIS projects to support the work of SLWCS.



GIS is invaluable in all the different aspects of SLWCS's conservation, research, community development and capacity building projects and is used to:

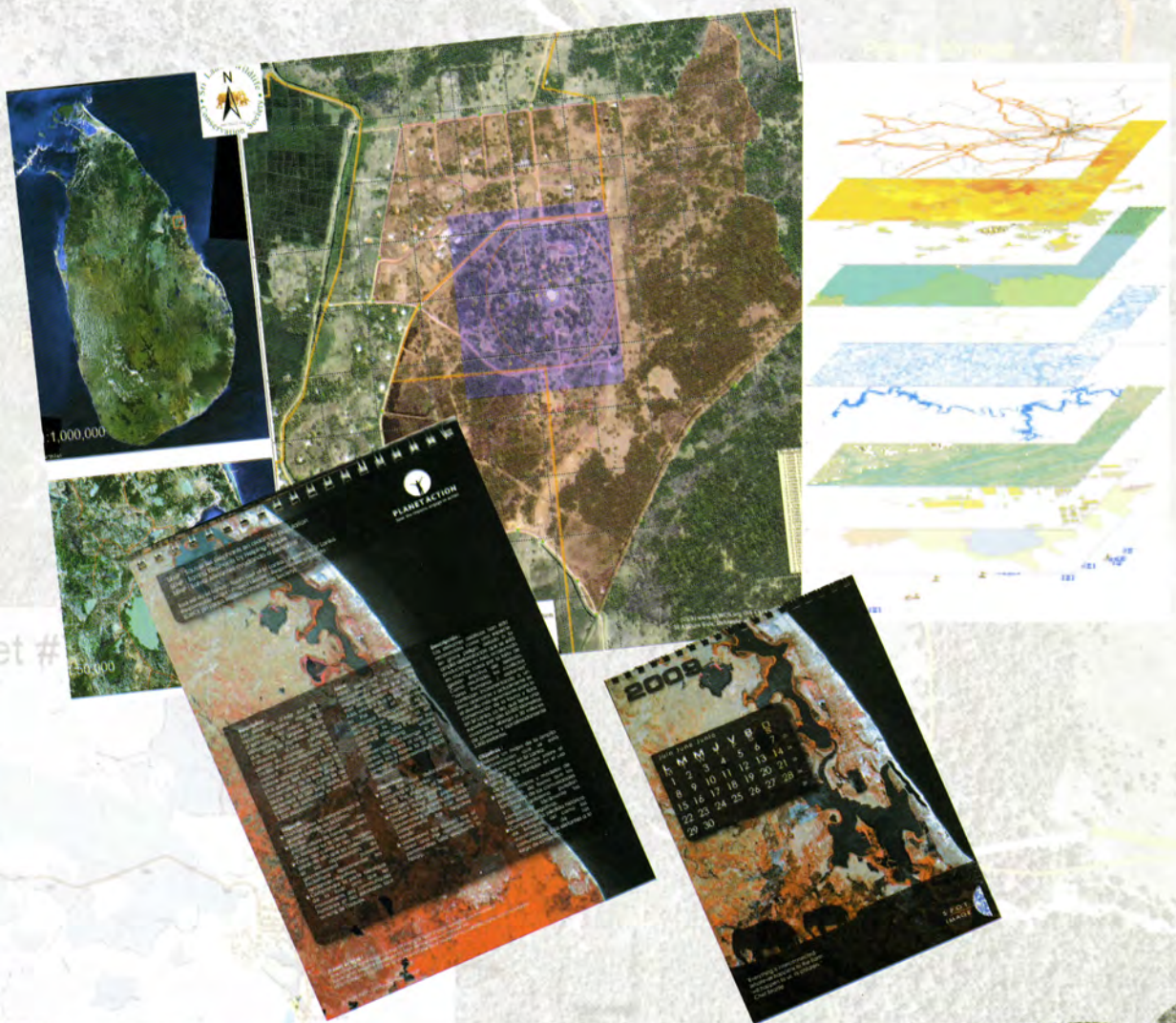
- Create models and maps.
- Work with communities, government agencies and NGOs.
- Suggest optimal land use strategies.
- Develop tools and strategies for HEC resolution
- Provide information at the landscape level for conservation and economic development.

Work executed by C2GIS international agencies include:

- Conducting the GIS based survey and producing relevant maps of the biodiversity, resource utilization and socio-economic status of the Seruvila area of Tricomalee District of the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka for the proposed UNESCO declaration of the area as a World Heritage Site.
- Carrying out a GIS based land-use change analysis of Lahugala in the Ampara District of the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka.
- The c2GIS has a contract with Google Earth to supply information pertaining to Sri Lanka for international publication. Other ongoing work includes:
 - GIS based surveys of coastal fauna and flora including sea turtles and dugongs along the East Coast of Sri Lanka
 - Developing an emergency Fire Response System for the Sri Lanka Fire Department
 - Developing a GIS-based Asian elephant Geo-Portal and Internet based automated elephant recognition system

The work that c2GIS has performed, for SLWCS and other organizations, has been recognized by the Government of Sri Lanka and leading academic and professional institutions including:

- *IUCN (Human Elephant Conflict Task Force)
 - The University of Peradeniya (GISSL events)
 - Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies (Environmental Forum)
 - United Nations Development Program (Sri Lanka Association for Advancement of Science National 2 Day program on GIS for Disaster Risk Mitigation)
 - Asian Conference on Remote Sensing organized by the Survey Department of Sri Lanka.
 - University of Moratuwa (National Conference on Geo-Informatics)
 - Discovery Channel (Filming of Snake Busters)
 - Born Free Foundation (National Symposium)
 - University of Sri Jayawardenapura (Lecture on Field Conservation GIS).
- *The quality of c2GIS' work and its contribution to GIS has been acknowledged by SCGIS, Earthwatch, Ocean Park Hong Kong and SPOT through development grants amounting to approximately US\$ 450,000.





Saving Elephants by Helping People (SEHP)

The Saving Elephants by Helping People (SEHP) project's main focus is to develop solutions that integrate mitigatory, adaptive and preemptive strategies to successfully resolve human-elephant conflict (HEC). Recognizing that one of the biggest threats to elephants in Sri Lanka is conflict with humans over crop raiding, and that human settlements are increasingly encroaching further into elephant habitat, SLWCS works with communities to use solar-powered electric fences, adapt alternative livelihoods and crops to protect homesteads and crops from elephant raids and to keep elephants out of human settlements rather than in protected areas. The SEHP project is a multi-faceted holistic approach to elephant conservation that combines HEC resolution, capacity building, economic development, scientific research, agriculture, and tourism to support elephant conservation in Sri Lanka. Concurrently the SEHP project addresses interconnected issues such as sustainable land use, livelihoods, poverty alleviation, capacity building, and gender equality by applying agro-forestry, animal husbandry, home garden development, technology transfer, and microfinance and credit concepts.

Key Impacts:

Biodiversity

- Made it possible for humans and elephants to co-exist.
- Elephant deaths have decreased.
- Introduction of pioneering and innovative land-use practices have facilitated agricultural biodiversity.
- Increase in diversity of plants in home gardens and improved soil fertility.
- Reduced dependency on forest resources.

Socio-economic

- 70% of the land abandoned due to frequent elephant raids is now being cultivated for profit.
- Increased agriculture production by 92%.
- Crop losses have been reduced in some villages by 100%.
- Reduced property damage and associated costs of repairs.
- Substantially reduced expenditure of resources and time on elephant deterrents and crop protection.
- Attitude change towards elephants and greater environmental awareness (increased by an average of 43%).
- With the introduction of electric fences, elephant raids are down 100% in some villages.
- The social life of villagers has vastly improved, increasing their quality of life. Reduced stress due to the lower risks of elephant attacks and children do not have to miss school because of elephants and potential damage or deaths in the village.

Partnerships and Policy

The SEHP Project works closely with the Department of Wildlife Conservation, Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka, Irrigation Department, national, local and provincial governments. One of our key goals is to incorporate the lessons we have learned into the development and wildlife policies and action plans so that mistakes of the past are not repeated.

Replication

Plans are underway to extend the program to the 8 of the 9 administrative provinces of Sri Lanka that have human elephant conflicts.

The project has yielded valuable information as to what improvements and refinements are necessary for successful duplication; SEHP projects have been established in three administrative provinces of Sri Lanka.

The SEHP project is continually developing and expanding from the lessons learned from the field and from the experience of fellow researchers and conservation groups.

The SEHP projects are active in the Central, North Central and Eastern Provinces and had also conducted surveys in the Northwestern Province.

Two pilot projects were initiated recently to develop solutions to reduce the risks rural communities face from crop raiding elephants. The pilots are established at Wasgamuwa where they are undergoing field testing, monitoring and evaluation.

1. Project Orange Elephant (POE)



POE is a pilot study that is using citrus varieties, especially orange (*Citrus sinensis*) to provide farmers with an alternative crop that is not susceptible to elephant depredations. Feeding trials have showed that elephants do not preferentially eat oranges and neither do they eat citrus leaves. Due to this reason as well as the huge market demand orange has, it is a crop that farmers suffering intense HEC can cultivate.

2. Habitat Enrichment Project (HEP)



The HEP project attempts to address the root cause of HEC - the nutritional needs of people and elephants. By planting different types of food and timber species, herbs and medicinal plants the project will improve the habitat in a 20 acre pilot plot to provide for both human and wildlife needs.

Rapid Environmental & Resource Use (RERU) Surveys



RERU surveys are a PRA/RRA based survey method that is done by the Society before any permanent/long term projects are established. The Society has conducted RERU surveys for other organizations to help in their strategic planning.



Sites:

- Wasgamuwa
- Northwestern Region (NWR)
- Somawathiya
- Lahugala
- Seruvila

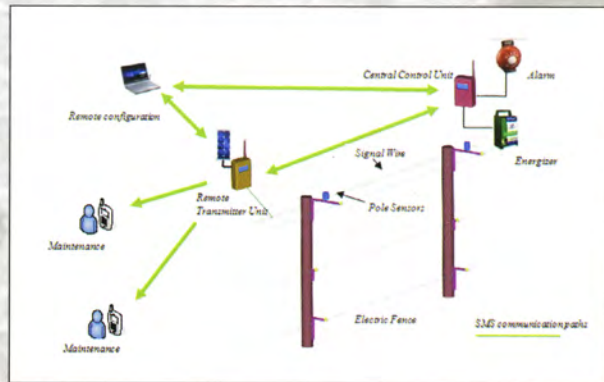


Elephant Intrusion Early Warning System (eleAlert)



The Elephant Intrusion Early Warning (eleAlert) System will detect elephants that are attempting to breach electric fences and other deterrents using Mobile GSM phone technology powered by solar energy.

When the eleAlert system detects an intruding elephant it immediately sends text messages to electric fence maintenance teams and elephant patrol units and remotely activates audible and visual alarms. The system also sends information to a master GIS based computer database which logs information for analysis.



The eleAlert system can be easily integrated with any existing system in place to deter raiding elephants or even other wildlife such as lions, leopards, cheetahs which raid livestock, and wild boar, monkeys, deer and rabbits that devastate crops and gardens. This project is done in partnership with the Dialog Mobile Communication Research Laboratory of the Department of Electronic & Telecommunication Engineering of University of Moratuwa.

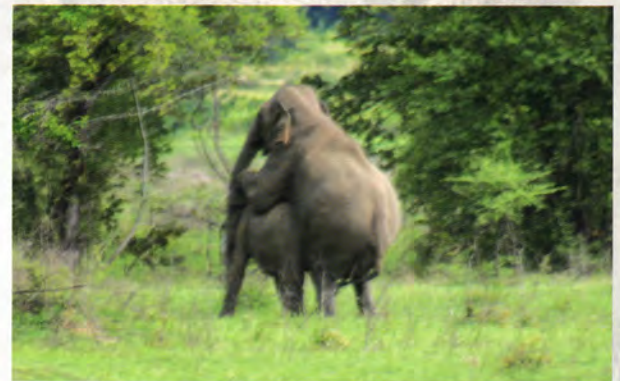


FMI see www.slwcs.org/eleAlert

Site:
 ■ Wasgamuwa
 ■ Lahugala

Captive Elephant Breeding Project

Since the 1970s in Sri Lanka there has been a government moratorium on the capture of wild elephants for domestication. In addition, there had been no systematic effort made to breed elephants in captivity. As a result the current population of captive elephants in Sri Lanka is estimated to be approximately 132-150 elephants of which nearly 80% of the elephants are over 50 years old. It is a population that is in rapid decline. Therefore, as a preliminary effort to address this crucial issue, the Captive Elephant Breeding Project intends to establish a breeding program for the privately owned captive elephants using natural and artificial insemination methods. The project is done in partnership with the Millennium Elephant Foundation and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences, University of Peradeniya.



www.slwcs.org/elebreeding

Site:
 ■ Pinnawela

Diviya Pooping Ghost Project



The Diviya Pooping Ghost Project is a remote camera trapping and survey of leopards in the Central Province of Sri Lanka.

Recently conflicts with leopards have been on the increase. Due to encroachment, loss of habitat and reduced prey densities leopards are forced into marginal habitats near human habitations. They find livestock easy to prey on. So it has become imperative that we gather data about this illusive carnivore to develop a sustainable conservation strategy to ensure its tolerance by local communities. An extensive manual for the project was developed. Currently the project is being conducted at a very small scale mainly due to lack of funds.

The project is being extended to the Eastern Province where no research on leopard has been done even before the war even though there are frequent reports of their presence



www.SLWCS.org/diviya

Sites:
 ■ Wasgamuwa
 ■ Lahugala



Among the threatened ecosystems of Sri Lanka, wetlands take a high priority. A majority of the wetlands in Sri Lanka are facing various threats due to harmful human activities such as encroachment, habitat deterioration and degradation, pollution, direct loss and exploitation of species, spread of invasive alien species and destruction due to natural phenomena. Working on the assumption that the protection and management of such large and diverse habitats and ecosystems such as wetlands requires active community participation, the main objectives of the SLWCS Wetlands Conservation Project are to develop a new model for sustainable conservation of wetlands with the following goals:

- 1) The protection of wetlands in Sri Lanka.
- 2) The promotion of sustainable use of wetlands.
- 3) The strengthening of rural institutions and promoting cooperative governance and community involvement in the conservation of wetlands.

The SLWCS conducted socio-economic and biodiversity baseline studies in four important wetlands. They are the Bellanwillia-Attidiya Sanctuary (BAS), the Bandaragama Wetlands, the Flood Plains National Park (FPNP), and the Kalpitiya-Karaitive-Puttalam (KKP) Coastal Wetland Complex. Through our Rapid Environmental & Resource Use (RERU) surveys we also studied the Seruvila-Allia-Ullakalie (SAU) Coastal Wetland Complex. Currently the SLWCS is working in partnership with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) who is creating a Wetland Database for the Central Environmental Authority (CEA).

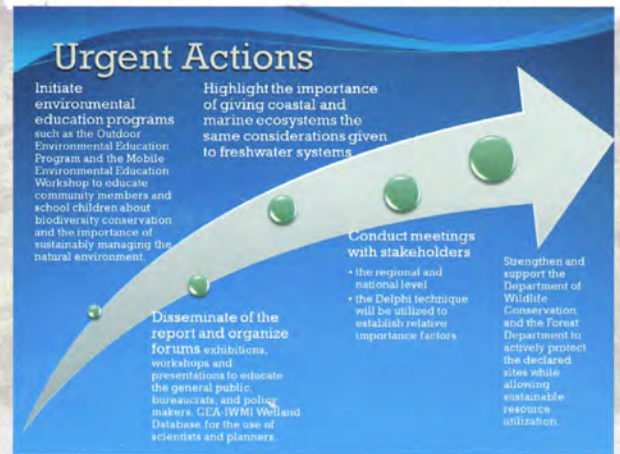
As part of our Wetlands Conservation Project we launched a program to study the avifauna and marine/terrestrial biodiversity on a long term basis at the KKP and the SAU Coastal Wetland Complexes. The comprehensive assessment conducted by the Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society on the KKP and SAU were the first efforts to gather primary data on all the issues that affect these unique wetlands that form the flood plains of the Kala Oya, Mi Oya, Moongiluru and the Mahaweli Ganga rivers

KKP: Over 250 species of birds are found here during the winter season (October to March). It is the only refuge for the rare and endangered Dugong (*Dugong dugon*) in Sri Lanka. The Bar Reef Marine Sanctuary lies just west of the area and the Wilpattu National Park is the eastern boundary of the wetlands complex. We recorded the threatened endemic Sri Lanka Wood Frog (*Rana gracillis*), the Mourning Gecko (*Lepidodactylus lugubris*), which was a 1st record from this area, the Crimson Tip (*Colotis danae*) and the Large Salmon Arab (*Colotis fausta*) butterflies along with Jackal (*Canis aureus lankae*) and Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) in the offshore islands. A significant fact was that while no live sea turtles were encountered during beach surveys shells of slaughtered Green (*Chelonia mydas*) and Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) turtles were found regularly. The offshore area is increasingly being recognized as a hot spot for dolphin and whale watching. The research found that By-Catch is one of the most serious environmental issue at the KKP Wetlands Complex. Ten percent of the resident population are war refugees who were displaced in the mid-1980's and an additional 12.5% are migratory. Economically the Kalpitiya area has being rated as one of the 10 poorest administrative divisions in Sri Lanka.

The impending tourism development plans is another huge threat to the KKP wetlands, while the coal and industrial development projects planned for both KKP and SAU sites will have tremendous negative impacts on these fragile ecosystems unless they are carefully regulated and monitored. The outcomes of the assessments clearly identified the need to address these issues at KKP and SAU as well as for the overall water security issues in coastal, marine and brackish water systems since they are vital to human survival and quality of life. A set of recommendations and actions based on the findings of the assessments for the conservation and sustainable management of the KKP and SAU wetlands complexes were provided.

The WCP also studied the degraded urban BAS wetland in 2006 for which SLWCS proposed a conservation development program way back in 1998. Within the period of 1998 to 2006 the BAS had lost most of its diversity (as much as 40% of its faunal assemblage). The biggest issues are illegal landfilling and garbage dumping along with pollution of fresh water sources. As an alternative urban wetland sanctuary we have been studying the Bandaragama wetlands complex around the Bolgoda Lake in the Western Province of Sri Lanka. The area is only 1 hour away from Central Colombo and initial indications are that it would be an ideal site to develop as an urban wetland sanctuary for wildlife, environmental education and recreational activities. The SLWCS is recommending public/private cooperatives and conservation easements rather than strict regulatory processes to ensure the long term conservation of the area.

Summary recommendations from WCP Project:



- Sites:
- Bellanwillia-Attidiya Sanctuary (BAS)
 - Bandaragama
 - Flood Plains National Park (FPNP)
 - Kalpitiya-Karaitive-Puttalam (KKP)
 - Seruvila-Allia-Ullakalie
 - Lahugala (SAU)



A Fish Story



The Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society conducted a biodiversity survey prior to initiating a habitat enrichment project in Wasgamuwa. The area had never been studied before therefore no previous data was available. The study site is located in the Matale District of the Central Province of Sri Lanka. The stream that was surveyed belongs to the Mahaweli Ichthyological Province which has the highest endemism next to the South Western Ichthyological Province. The annual stream originates in a moist monsoon forest and its flow and depth are highly variable and dependent on rainfall. Within a two hundred meter long stretch the survey yielded eleven species including four endemics. Among the four endemics there was *Channa orientalis*, which is supposed to be confined only to the South

Western Ichthyological Province. This is a highly significant finding from the Mahaweli Ichthyological Province where no previous records exist for this species. *Channa orientalis* can be easily identified from the other *Channa* species due to the absence of the pelvic fin. The survey site lies only a few kilometers from the Moragahakanda-Kaluganga Development schemes, which is the final phase of the Accelerated Mahaweli Development Program.



FMI see www.slwcs.org/wcp



Marine Turtles for the Future Initiative (MTFI)

In 2007 the SLWCS initiated the Marine Turtles for the Future Initiative (MTFI) to gather information on the conservation status of sea turtles in the Kalpitiya peninsula. According to the preliminary data that was collected the Kalpitiya beaches could be important to nesting sea turtles and there was also considerable poaching of sea turtle eggs and turtles by the locals. Efforts to continue the study was disrupted due to the intensifying security situation in Kalpitiya and eventually in 2008 the project was moved to the Eastern Province which has been liberated from the LTTE terrorists after 25 years. There was no current information for the Eastern Province and whatever information that existed was more than 25 years old. All the five species of sea turtles were known to nest in the area and the major livelihood along the coast is fishing. The main objectives of MTFI are to identify the nesting marine turtle species, nesting beaches, threats and conservation priorities and to develop the capacity of local stakeholder conservation organizations. The initial study area in the Eastern Province was along the coastline extending from Arugambay to Panama. The study was a combination of interviews and questionnaire surveys of administrative officers and local communities.

The main findings from the current field surveys are the identification of potential sea turtle nesting beaches and the nesting season. Poaching and predation are the biggest risks to sea turtle eggs and nestlings. Field surveys conducted at Panama at the beginning of 2008 identified that basically 86% of the nests were destroyed. They were either robbed by poachers (30%) or were devoured by predators (70%) with just 12% of the nests having a chance to hatch. By April 2009, the percentage of nests that were robbed by poachers went down to 19% and nests destroyed by wild boar decreased to 58%, increasing the number of nests that had a chance to hatch to 23%. The reason for the reduction in poaching and predation is due to SLWCS encouraging and facilitating local community-based conservation groups to increase their monitoring and beach patrolling of sea turtle nesting beaches.



www.slwcs.org/cchp

Sites:

- Eastern
- Kalpitiya Karaitive Puttalam (KKP)



Donation of Computers to Rural Schools and the Establishment of Computer Centers



Today we live in a world where technology is developing at a tremendous pace with new discoveries being made practically every day. Computers have become a common piece of equipment in homes and offices all over the world. In time to come countless employees will be left behind due to their inability to work with computers or lack of knowledge of current IT technology. For people who have the knowledge and skills in using the web and other internet technologies there are other added benefits because it exposes them to incredible learning and other opportunities including employment, knowledge and information.

The philosophy of SLWCS has always been that community involvement is paramount to achieving success with environmental conservation as well as development goals. In pursuit of this new paradigm the Society has invested heavily in capacity building and community development programs at its project sites. SLWCS has successfully integrated conservation and livelihood development projects with English and Computer education in three public schools in these provinces. The initial SLWCS pilot project to introduce computer education to public schools at its project sites was initiated in mid 2006 and was sponsored by the USA-based LacNet organization. LacNet provided the computers whilst SLWCS developed infrastructure and sourced teaching personnel through its international volunteers program.

With the assistance and support of corporate and individual donors, SLWCS hopes to establish dedicated educational

centers at our project sites to provide comprehensive computer and English skills training to rural communities. These centers will operate as for-profit ventures-meaning they will charge minimum fees based on annual operations overheads to cover salaries, administrative costs and establish a development reserve for the Centers to be self-sustaining at the end of the first year. Charging a nominal fee is also to ensure that communities will not take the services offered by the Centers for granted or considers it as a "hand out." The Centers will also employ locally recruited and trained teaching staff. The trained Centre staff will be used to conduct extension services for the schools in the project areas where they will teach computers, English and also help in the maintenance of school computer labs. The project envisages an output of roughly 300 rural youth in Phase I with a functional competence in English and Computer skills. The impact on the community will be increased employability, access to opportunities outside of the traditional subsistence farming activities, improved cultivation practices and increased incomes.



FMI see www.slwcs.org/ocep

Sites:

■ Wasgamuwa

■ Lahugala

■ Somawathiya

■ Kalpitiya-Karaitive-Puttalam (KKP)

Conservation Education Poster Publication Project



Together with the Zoologists Association of the University of Peradeniya we have launched a series of posters on the wildlife of Sri Lanka. The first in the series is a set of posters on the MAMMALS of SRI LANKA. Each poster has information on the behavior, distribution and characteristics of each species, along with the common and scientific names in Sinhalese and English. A poster on the Snakes of Sri Lanka will be next in the series.

The objective is to publish posters on the wildlife of Sri Lanka by first filling the gaps in the current range of posters and also concurrently translate them into Sinhalese and Tamil and distribute them to schools around the country. This is an ideal project for company Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives or for individuals and students of international and private schools who want to make a huge impact by providing a small grant.



www.slwcs.org/posters

Sites:

■ All Sites



Approved by
the Ministry of Education of Sri Lanka

Outdoor Environmental
Education Project (OEEP)

Outdoor Environmental Education Program (OEEP) is an exciting interactive and experiential learning opportunity for children to study ecology, evolution, sustainable development and environmental conservation in the field. The Outdoor Environmental Education Program is approved by the Ministry of Education.

The purpose of the OEEP is to inspire young people to have a deep and personal concern for conservation along with instilling in them the need for research and community integration for the success of any conservation or development program. The pilot program, "Show me, I may remember. Involve me, and I'll understand!" showed that students had a 54% overall increase with some as high as 300% in their knowledge of wildlife conservation and environmental sciences after the program.



Sites:
Wasgamuwa
Lahugala

FMI see www.slwcs.org/oEEP

English Teaching Program



In 2002 the SLWCS initiated its capacity building efforts with the launching of the English Teaching Program with two international volunteers. The project was started at Wasgamuwa since the Society has been working there since 1997. The SLWCS formed a partnership with Travellers Worldwide, a volunteer placement company based in

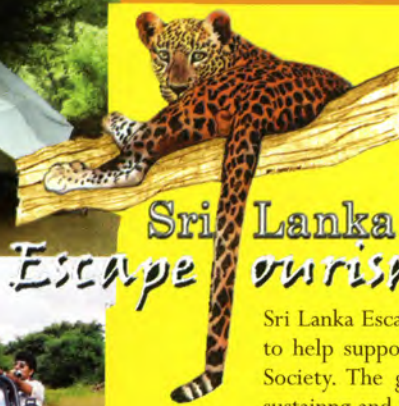
England to send volunteer teachers. Since its inception Travellers Worldwide has sent over one hundred volunteer teachers to participate in the program. The benefits to rural students have been tremendous as can be observed by the increased English language skills of students who had basically no knowledge of English prior to the program. Later the program was expanded to include local Teacher Training Workshops which was done in collaboration with an organization called E-Drive. Independent and direct volunteer teachers from Travellers Worldwide, Global Vision International, World Wide Experience, and Global Crossroads participated in the workshops. Several essential books were donated to the English teaching program by Mrs. Maureen Seneviratne.

The aim of these workshops is to help local teachers to participate in spoken English games and activities through computers to help raise confidence levels in the classroom. Volunteer teachers involved in the workshops will eventually form small traveling teams that would visit schools in the region. The vision of the SLWCS English Program is to establish a well-structured and properly managed English language training center to provide opportunities to some of the neediest and underprivileged rural communities.

The SLWCS programs provide the volunteers with challenging situations to fully realize their own potentials. The volunteer teachers are highly committed and when they see the progress in the children due to their efforts they take pride in what they are doing. The volunteer teachers teach English in rural primary and secondary schools. They are also encouraged to involve the wider community outside of school hours in the English training programs.



Sites:
Wasgamuwa



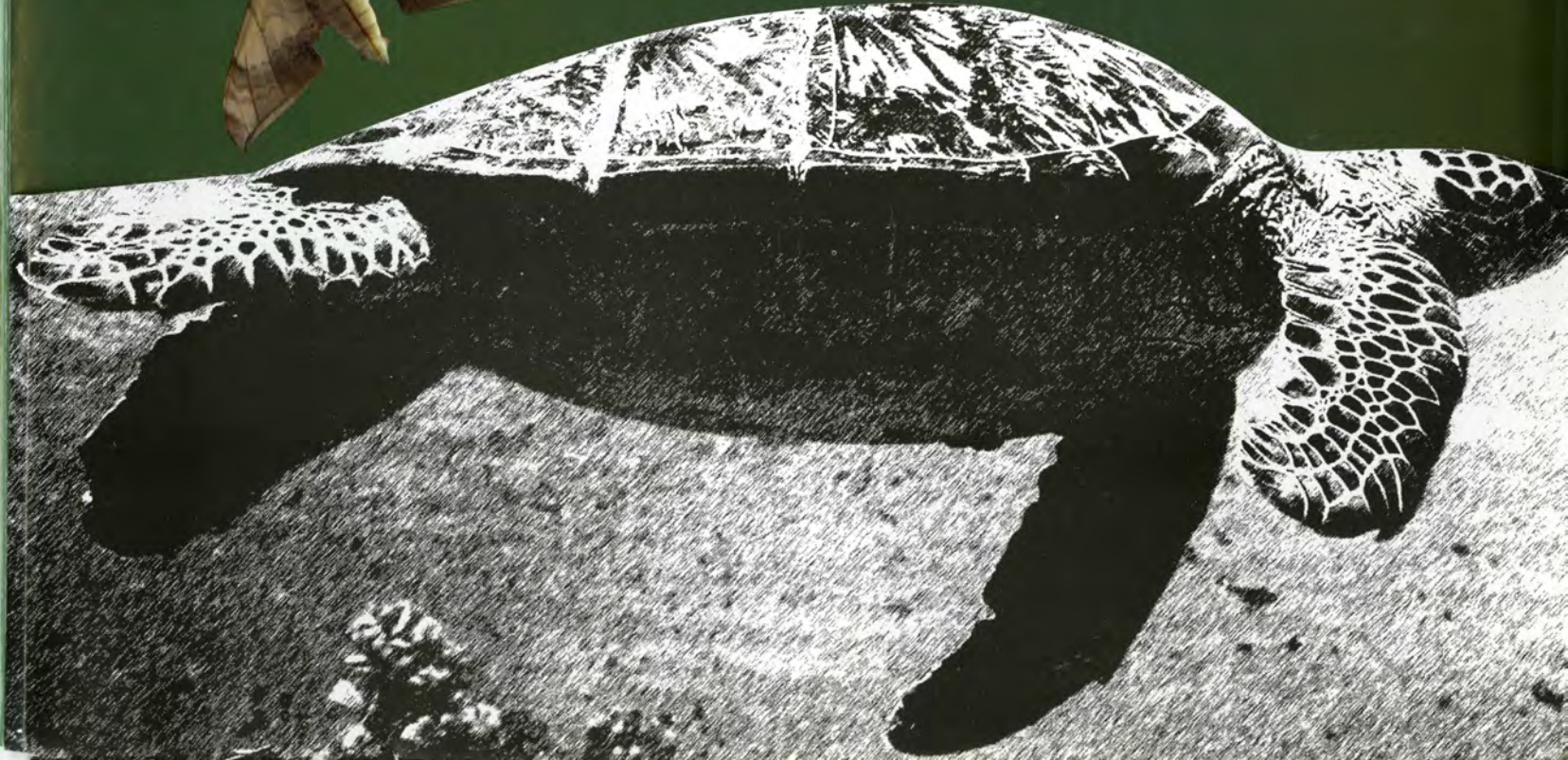
Setting new benchmarks for ethical and sustainable tourism



Sri Lanka Escape Tourism is an ecotourism initiative that began in 2003 to help support the programs of the Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society. The goal is to create conservation projects that are self-sustaining and function independently of grants. To this end, 70 % of all profits go directly towards supporting the projects of the Society.



Escape Tourism is focused on giving the client an "insider's view" of Sri Lanka attained through its many local relationships and always giving back to these communities in every way possible. Through the partnership with the SLWCS, Escape Tourism has the ability to create an exclusive opportunity for travelers, showing them not only how, but also where their tourism dollars can affect communities and wildlife in meaningful ways. Always working with this main goal in mind Escape tours allow visitors to see the country, its culture and history by giving them an understanding of Sri Lanka, its people and wildlife. This is achieved by customizing tours to suit our clients' interests and giving the international community unique access and privilege insight into project sites supporting multiple levels of conservation. Through educating visitors about the issues and the work being done, we are always supporting the overall vision of SLWCS.



A Historic Precedent...

Twenty-five centuries ago,
Arahat Mahinda, a Buddhist monk and son of Emperor Ashoka of India 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 Devanampiya Tissa established the world's first wildlife sanctuary,
named the Maha Meghawanaya, which means,
the Great Raincloud Forest.

That led to a modern historic event, the beginning of
The Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society

The Origins

The Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society (SLWCS) was founded in 1995 to develop a new paradigm for wildlife conservation in Sri Lanka. The SLWCS is committed to addressing issues that are considered priorities globally to increase the quality of life of people and their welfare, i.e. education, community development, capacity building, sustainable development, and a healthy environment. The Society recognizes the fact that the issues that beset wildlife conservation are the symptoms of a varied and diverse regimen of mostly socioeconomic causes that drive rural communities to negatively impact their environment. By approaching environmental conservation through a participatory approach, the SLWCS formulates its projects and programs from the aspects of human needs and aspirations. The SLWCS operates on the philosophy and basic premise that local communities must actively participate in, as well as, benefit from conservation and research efforts to save threatened ecosystems, endangered wildlife and their habitats. In pursuing this objective, the Society develops its projects and programs in a bottom to top process by assessing the resources, strengths, weaknesses, threats, and needs of a community and their environment. At the same time, the Society also approaches conservation in a top-down process as it realizes that it is essential that regional, national and international planners and stakeholders are involved for effective conservation to happen.

Since 1997 the SLWCS has promoted conservation through community-based initiatives, because the Society firmly believes it is the only way to achieve sustainable conservation. The overall vision of the SLWCS is to develop a new model for sustainable conservation with the following goals: 1) The protection of biodiversity in priority areas, 2) The promotion of sustainable use of biodiversity, and 3) The strengthening of rural institutions and promotion of cooperative governance and community involvement in conservation.

Human elephant conflict (HEC) is the biggest environmental and rural socio-economic crises in the Dry Zone of Sri Lanka today. The main reason is that 70% of Sri Lanka's population of 3,200-4,500 wild elephants lives outside the Protected Areas, sharing land with rural people. As a result, HEC is prevalent in 51 of the 325 Divisional Secretary Divisions in 13 of the 25 Districts and 8 of the 9 Administrative Provinces in Sri Lanka, affecting nearly 3 million people. The Society's efforts to address HEC through its land mark program, Saving Elephants by Helping People (SEHP) stands out as one of the most successful attempts to resolve HEC in areas where humans and elephants share space. Today the SEHP project and its concepts directly benefits ~165,000 villagers in 3 Administrative Provinces of Sri Lanka. The President of the Society, Ravi Corea, is also current Coordinator of the Human-Elephant Conflict Task Force of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Asian Elephant Specialist Group.

In October 2008, the SLWCS was honored with an Equator Prize from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Equator Initiative (<http://www.equatorinitiative.org>), in recognition of the Society's "outstanding work in poverty reduction through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity."

The Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society is the only international Sri Lankan community organization. The Society is a fully incorporated non-profit, tax-exempt organization based in the U.S.A., a fully registered voluntary social service non-governmental organization with the Ministry of Social Welfare in Sri Lanka and a registered society in Australia. All SLWCS projects are designed to support and contribute to the national environmental conservation and sustainable development needs. The Society is firmly committed to supporting the Sri Lanka government to achieve its goal of systematic ecology based economic development.

The SLWCS projects are funded through grants received from various international government and private funding agencies and foundations.