Sri Lanka – a brief outlook on history and culture
Located –
longitudes E 79° 55'-79° 58' and latitudes N 6° 40-6° 48'.

Surface area -
374 km²

Infrastructure around Bolgoda Lake
GREEN FILTER

an environmental friendly solution for waste water management

Plants Breeding Centre

- Plants breeding centre (I)- Athurugiriya
- Plants breeding centre (II)- Bandaragama
Mangrove Nurseries

Green filter in Bolgoda
Environmental Education Center

area before....................................
77 farm plots were established
17 workshops given
100 farmers reached
54 farmers now adopt some of the measures, 23 full converters
Distributed agro tools, different kind of seeds and EM liquids to farmers

Workshop concept
- Extension
  - general organic
  - compost fertilizer
- Practical model farm
- Motivation to convert
Promotion of sustainable fishing techniques

Mangrove Reforestation

Section (I) – Mahabellana Yaya
6,000 plants were grown on 5 ha

Section (II) – Imbullisthota Yaya
7800 plants were grown on 6.5 ha

210 Volunteers & workers involved
- Conservation of habitat

outlook:
- Education concentrating on the Sustainable use mangroves
- Capacity reactivation of large scale nursery
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & Campaigns

- Exhibitions
- Production of various print media
- Brochures in local languages
- Website

Schools programs

Formed 26 school environmental conservation committees around the Bolgoda lake

Activities completed:
- Promotion of school gardens
- Mangrove re-planting programmes
- Solar cooker workshops
- Eco guide tours
- Clean up campaigns
- Competitions – Arts, Essay, Oratory … etc.
- Mangrove exhibitions

26 schools of 30 covered
Clean up campaigns
Oratory Competitions
Events on mobile exhibition unit
Workshops

Re-Establishment of livelihoods (I)
Clean-up Campaigns

Distributing agriculture tools, seeds and EM liquid for farmers.
Environmental Education

Targeting different groups of people
- School children,
- Fishermen,
- Farmers & household women

Conducting programmes using various methods
- Information leaflets
- Workshops
- Exhibitions
- Campaigns
- Mobile Exhibition Unit
- Video Documentary
- Competitions (Art, Essay, Speech ... etc)

Initiation of Bolgoda Lake Conservation Committee

Approach
- Initiation and facilitation of communication between different stakeholders
- Tackling multi-layered environmental problems by involving all stakeholders
Sign board campaigns

Working with communities
Sustainable Agriculture

Change is a slow process

Continuous Motivation - Facilitation

- Provision of tools for interested farmers
- Premium price for organic products
- Model farm
- Face problems of public knowledge
  - Distinction organic / conventional agriculture,
  - Health
- Marketing
### Future EMACE Bolgoda interventions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLLUTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Further promotion/ facilitation of organic agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Targeting consumers, markets</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Continuous Clean Up Campaign</td>
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<td>• Sewage treatment- Green Filter</td>
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<td>• Saw dust treatment &amp; reuse</td>
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<td>• Recycling project</td>
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<tr>
<td>• EDUCATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Nature Recreation Park/Center with range of programmes/ facilites</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Bolgoda Environmental Educational Center</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Promotion/ Marketing of organic products</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• POLITICS</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Eco-tourism programme</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• wetland nature and recreational park with Eco Lodges</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Promotion of environmentally friendly tourism via e-marketing</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Status Bolgoda Area  sensitive area</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Our Future ..........

- Promote responsible tourism in Southern Lakes
- Model certified Ecolodges
- Promotion of Green filter
- Livelihood
You are part of the solution

THANK YOU
BOLGODA LAKE PROJECT

www.bolgodalakesrilanka.com

Bolgoda Lake facts

- Part of the Colombo and Kalutara districts
- Surface area 374 km²
- Low country wet zone
- Mean temperature 27.1 °C
- Annual rainfall ~ 2600mm
- Comprises of 2 lakes
- Two openings to the sea
- Main feeding channels
  - Monsoonal rains
  - Rivers
    - Weras Ganga
    - Bolgoda Ganga
    - Kepum Ela
Bolgoda Lake History

Dutch Period
- Transport of goods, especially timber
- Development as woodcraft center
- Islands as rest places for log crafters

British Period
- Hunting ground and recreation area

Environmental problem fields

- POLLUTION
  - Saw dust
  - Agricultural residues
  - Over growing water hyacinth
  - Service stations
  - Industrial/household Grey water
  - Industrial solid waste
  - Garbage disposal
  - Conventional tourism

- POLITICS
  - Unclear responsibilities
  - Law enforcement

- EDUCATION
  - Environmental awareness

- Encroachment on nature
  - Land filling
  - Destruction of mangroves
  - Unauthorized constructions
  - Abandoned shrimp traps
Dumping Saw dust

Land Filling
Discharging waste to the Lake

Unauthorized constructions
Issues in the South Lake area

- Pollution
  - agricultural residues through Conventional agriculture
- 1600 acres of wetland cultivated
- edible leafy plants to consumers in Colombo and surroundings
- total dependence on chemical fertilizers, pesticides and agrochemicals
- Garbage dumping
- Encroachment on nature
Activities completed in the area:

- Clean up of selected areas of Bolgoda South Lake
- Successfully dredged two areas of the lake with cooperation of a private dredging company. And approximately 3800 Metric-tons of slush has been removed. Total area dredged is 5000 sq meters.
- Promotion of organic farming to reduce the chemical usage

Conventional Tourism

- 32 hotels and guesthouses exist around north Bolgoda Lake.
- Water based recreational activities are; yachting, boating, wind surfing, canoeing, swimming and fresh water fishing.
- Most of the buildings are unauthorized structures
Fishing

- Traditional fishing ground for centuries.
- Traditional fishing techniques such as "Ja-Kotuwa"

Problems encountered,
- Over 300-600 families lost their livelihood due to pollution.
- Lack of knowledge of the fisherman.
- Ignorance

EMACE’s intervention

- Reforestation, conservation
- Promotion & facilitation organic agriculture
- Livelihood development
- Environmental Education centre
- Green Filter
- Programmes for school children, women, fishermen, farmers
- Clean up campaign
- Mobilization/Facilitation stakeholders → BLCC
- Networking/ CBOs
- Awareness, Education and sign board campaign
- Research
- Experimental Composting Facility
Promoted 08 Mangrove nurseries in Alubomulla area.

Introduced Mangroves for re-planting areas.

Distributed among school children & interested stakeholders.

Maintaining nurseries by community involvements

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**Model Farms**

- **Model farm (I)-Bandaragama**
  - Composting
  - Irrigation system
  - Problem: availability of water

- **Model farm (II)- Horana**
  - Totally destroyed by flood.
  - search for other site
Composting Unit

Solution for organic waste

- water hyacinth
- saw dust
- more organic material

Part of model farm

Introducing organic farming

- promotion with farmers through workshops
  * production/ use of compost
  * marketing of compost

Green Filter

- Collaboration with Open University Sri Lanka
- Sample testing filter unit at university premises
- Successfully completed a unit at EEC/Indibedda
- Promotion – “Green filter unit for Bolgoda hotels/motels”: construction at Ranmal hotel
- Established volunteer team who has knowledge about the green filter process
Environmental Education

Contents

11 Workshops held for women; use of solar/saw dust cooker

05 workshops held for mask makers; sustainable use of mangroves

Marketing

17 Training/workshops for Farmers; organic farming methods

Fishermen; sustainable fishing

Hoteliers; waste management

Environmental Education Centre

Construction works are on going & all other primary works completed.

Focused programmes
- Education & creating interest in wetlands/nature
  - Publications, brochures, presentations, exhibitions, place for workshops
- Mangrove nursery
- Tourism
  - Facilitation for visitors to explore the lake and its surroundings
  - Guided tours
- Awareness raising programmes
- Facilitating and conducting research
- Basis for the EEC volunteer staff in the future
Environmental Education: Means of Communication

- Exhibitions
- Production of various print media
- Brochures in local languages
- Website
- Mobile Exhibition Unit

Stakeholders in the committee
- Governmental and municipal representatives
- Community based local ENGOs
- Tourism
- Industry

History
- First meeting September 2006 with 30 participants
- Assembled averagely 30 people in every of 6 meetings

Differing stakeholders at one table
- Confrontation → discussion

Now operating more independently from EMACE

Institutionalization of the committee
- More power, means, effectiveness
- Sustainability and effectiveness of environmental initiatives
Ongoing activities

- Finalization of action plan
- Several solutions and projects for the Saw Dust issue
  - Stakeholder meetings
  - Collaboration with different organizations
- Institutionalization of BLCC
- Creation website

Outlook

- Get approval and funding Action Plan from government/Environmental Ministry
- Gazettes for Bolgoda area
  - Bolgoda environmentally sensitive area
  - Saw dust
- Establishment of communal stakeholder steering groups
- Implement action plan
- Collaboration with different government sectors
- Monthly environmental newspaper for the Bolgoda region together with schools and other organizations