



Sustainable Wetland Management

Protection of diverse Mangrove Forests and Promotion of Energy Saving Lamps in Sri Lanka



13 June – 17 June 2010

**Maduganga & Madampe Wetlands
Ambalangoda, Sri Lanka**



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Mangrove forests are unique habitats in the world. They are adapted to the living conditions of brackish estuaries and coastal areas. In no other biotope the same habitat is shared by so many different living creatures, salt and fresh water species as well as sea and land organisms. All mangrove species have an extensive root system that serves as a barrier against tidal waves. The roots accumulate silt and sediments. In areas where the mangrove forests have been destroyed, the natural protective shield is removed and tidal waves can enter. Traditionally mangroves are used as firewood and for fishing. Due to the destruction of mangrove forests, the income from fishing diminishes as economically usable species depend on mangroves as spawning grounds.

Over the past 100 years, about 50 % of world's mangrove forests have been irrecoverably lost. In contrast to the deforestation of rain forests, the loss of mangroves is widely unknown. The reasons of the loss of mangroves are manifold:

- Continued deforestation and misuse of forests as rubbish dumps
- Missing awareness about the manifold functions of mangrove forests (fish, wood, reed, disaster prevention, natural purification capabilities, coastal protection)

- Insufficient legal protection status of mangrove forests
- The economic benefit of forests for the local population is not adequately recognized
- Loss of traditional knowledge and skills
- The function of mangroves as carbon storage ecosystems is underestimated
- Small number of mangrove protection initiatives worldwide

Mangrove areas are similar to peat areas and important carbon capture and storage ecosystems. Against the background of climate change, the focal point of the project must be the prevention of further deforestation as well as new planting of degraded

The Workshop therefore aims to move the effects of climate change and the value of mangroves in its mitigation into the focus. The possibilities of sustainable use and management are impacted by climate change and opportunities that will benefit the environment as well as the livelihoods of the people will be developed. Moreover, a regional perspective will be introduced to clarify how the results of the projects in Sri Lanka can be transferred to other countries.

The project “Protection of diverse mangrove forests in Sri Lanka” is supported by the Stiftung Ursula Merz

The project “Improving livelihoods of fishermen in Sri Lanka by introducing LED and CF lamps for night fishing and reducing the use of kerosene” is supported by WISIONS in the framework of the Programme “Sustainable Energy Project Support SEPS”



SUNDAY, 13 JUNE 2009 – ARRIVAL DAY

Arrival at Dream Beach Hotel in Ambalangoda

MONDAY, 14 JUNE 2009 – CONFERENCE DAY I

7.00 – 8.30 Breakfast at Hotel

9.00 – 9.30 Transfer to Environmental Education Centre in Godahena

9.30 – 10.00 Opening of Conference

Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, MP

Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Sri Lanka

Hon. Shan Wijayalal de Silva

Chief Minister of the Southern Province of Sri Lanka

10.00 – 13.00 Coffee and Tea Break

10.30 – 12.30 **Session 1: Sustainable Use, Value and Protection of Mangrove Ecosystems**

Moderator: Udo Gattenlöhner, Global Nature Fund

- Mangrove Protection Strategies
 - **Jim Enright, Mangrove Action Project, Thailand**
 - **Dr. Vedharajan Balaji, Organization for Marine Conservation, Awareness and Research, India**
- Ecosystem Services of Mangrove Forests
 - **Bathiya Kekulandala, Practical Action Sri Lanka**
- Mangrove Rehabilitation Approaches in Sri Lanka
 - **Dr. Ranjith Mahindapala, Country Director IUCN, Sri Lanka**
 - **Lal Emmanuel, Nagenahiru Foundation, Sri Lanka**

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch Break



14.00 – 15.30

Session 2: Loss of Mangroves. Problems, Experiences and Solutions from South-East Asia.

- Mangrove Restoration Projects at Lake Pulicat, India
Mrs. Premanjali Rao, CReNIEO, India
- Experiences from Lake Songkla, Thailand
Dr. Noparat Bamroongrugs, Marine and Coastal Resource Institute, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand
- Case Study Tonle-Sap, Cambodia
Om Savath, Fisheries Action Coalition Team, Cambodia

15:30 – 16.00

Coffee & Tea Break

16.00 – 18.00

Parallel Workshops: Solutions and Best Practice Examples

Workshop 1: Eco-Tourism Development in Sri Lanka

Moderator: Roger de Freitas, Global Nature Fund, UK

Introductory Presentations:

- *Ravi de Silva, Aitken Spence, Sri Lanka*
- *Sajeewa Emmanuel, Nagenahiru Foundation, Sri Lanka*



	<p>Workshop 2: Renewable Energy Technologies Moderator: <i>Udo Gattenlöhner, Global Nature Fund, Germany</i> Introductory Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - M.M.R. Pathmasiri, <i>Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority</i> - Harsha Wickramasingha, <i>Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority</i>
19.30	Dinner
TUESDAY, 15 JUNE - CONFERENCE DAY II	
7.00 – 8.30	Breakfast at Hotel
9.00 – 9.30	Transfer to Environmental Education Centre in Godahena
9.30 – 10.00	Short Reports of Yesterday's Parallel Workshops
10.00 – 12.00	<p>Session 3: Renewable Energy Systems & Environmental Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to the Wisions Project “Solar Lamps for Night-Fishing” in Sri Lanka - Sajeewa Emmanuel, <i>Nagenahiru Foundation, Sri Lanka</i> - Potentials of Solar Lamps Technologies - E. Abeyrathne, <i>EMACE Foundation, Sri Lanka</i> - Environmental Education Strategies in Sri Lanka - Bandula Jayaneththi, <i>Nagenahiru Foundation</i> - Environmental Education at Laguna de Bay - Amy Lecciones, <i>Society for the Protection of Philippine Wetlands, The Philippines</i>
12:00 – 14.00	Lunch Break
14.00 – 16.30	<p>Session 4: Wetland Ecotourism Moderator: <i>Ravi de Silva, Aitken Spence, Sri Lanka</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - T. Sooriyagoda, <i>Sri Lanka Tourist Board</i> - H.A.D. Amarabandu, <i>Ruhunu Tourist Bureau, Sri Lanka</i> - Kerstin Sobania, <i>World of TUI, Germany</i> - Sajeewa Emmanuel, <i>Nagenahiru Foundation, Sri Lanka</i> - Basil Schur, <i>Green Skills, Australia</i>

16.30 – 17.00	Closing Programme - Udo Gattenlöhner , <i>Global Nature Fund, Germany</i> - Lal Emmanuel , <i>Nagenahiru Foundation</i>
19.30	Dinner and Evening Entertainment

WEDNESDAY, 16 JUNE - FIELD TRIP DAY

Outlook on future Challenges and Opportunities

9.30 – 17.00	Field Trip (with boxed lunch) Visit of - - Mangrove Nurseries - - Handicraft Centres - - Solar Night Fishing Projects
	Free Evening

THURSDAY, 17 JUNE – DEPARTURE DAY

