



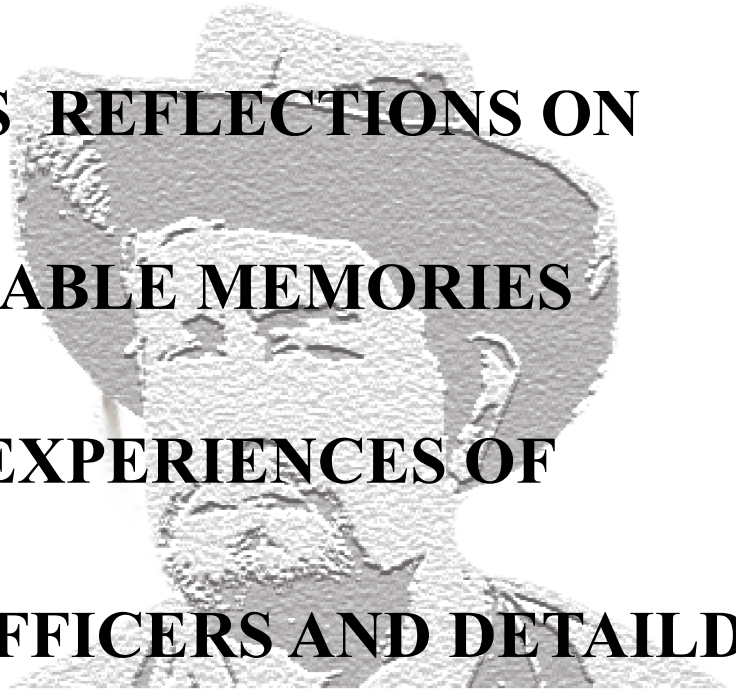
Ministry of Wildlife & Forest Resources Conservation

UNFORGETTABLE WILDERNESS RECOLLECTIONS



**02
Volume**

**IT CONTAINS REFLECTIONS ON
UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES
FROM THE EXPERIENCES OF
WILDLIFE OFFICERS AND DETAILED
REVIEWS OF ALL THE RESERVES
BELONGING TO THE
DEPARTMENT
OF WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION.**



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This e-Book, called Unforgettable wilderness recollections, is dedicated for children and the general public of the Nation.



Volume 2,

Ten Episodes of the Unforgettable Wilderness recollections series on National Parks, which were published on the website of the Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation.

<https://www.mwfc.gov.lk/wild-life-stories/>

Digitalized : 30/06/2023



Foreword

There are 3 Strict Nature Reserves, 26 National parks, 09 Nature reserves, 02 Jungle corridors, 01 Marine National Park, 01 Marine reserve and 68 places are declared as sanctuaries or managed elephant reserves under the management of the Department of Wildlife Conservation covering an area of 1,258,997.55 hectares. All these forests are allocated for protection and conservation of animals. Most of them are open to visitors to entertain the beauty of the nature, thus directly contribute to the national income. These forests, rich in biodiversity, are valuable resources for research and education.

Protected by the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance No. (02) of 1937, there are about two thousand staff to protect these beautiful forests. Immeasurable work load have to be carried out by the staff to ensure the safety of forest and the animals living there. Minimize the risk of accidents to the wild animals, treatment for their injuries, provision of water and other facilities during the drought season, prevent entering of elephants to the neighbourhood villages, chase the elephants back to the jungles in such invasions, prevent hunting, prevent deforestation, avoid illegal encroachments to the forest lands and protect the boundaries, take necessary measures to replace animals in population declining situations and provide facilities for the visitors etc., are among the tasks of the staff.

When carrying out these unique jobs, wildlife officers occasionally encounter exciting unforeseen incidents. It might be exciting as well as unforgettable. Through these stories



others can experience the unforgettable moments felt by the wildlife officers. Collection of stories, with comprehensive details of relevant forested areas are being published on the website of the Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation aiming to enhance the knowledge of the readers.

Dedication and efforts of wildlife officers who described their real life experiences, Mrs. Rifna Rifai of the Ministry's Project Division, who has been working hard from the beginning to prepare each page, publicity officer Mrs. Hasini Sarathchandra and the assistance of the officer Mrs. Mahesha Chaturani Perera of the Wildlife Department, who provide the details should be appreciated since this publication would not have been possible without them. Also, we remember the late Mr. Rohitha Rajapaksa of the Wildlife Department who made the series beautiful by providing many photographs. Mr. Asoka Paliavadana, who translated this series into English , and Ms. Rifna Rifai, who translated it into Tamil, have immensely contributed with interesting language translations.

The work of Ms. N.I. Gayathri and Mr. Dimuthu Asanka Kollure of the Planning Division of the ministry who contributed to publish the series on the website should also be greatly appreciated. Although there are many discussions to publish the series as a book, since it is an expensive task, Mrs. Ruchini Senaviratne of the Project division gave the idea that the series could be published as an e-book. Ruchini, Rifna and Mrs. Thushara Wijeratne from the Project Division worked hard to create this e-book. The encouragement of Mrs. Chandra Herath, Secretary, Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation to publish this e-book is impressive.



This e-book is available in all the three languages. Those who want to read it have the opportunity to read it in the language of their choice. One book has 10 chapters and its details are about 10 forest areas. Volume I, the first volume will be released this year, the second volume in the middle of next year and the third volume in the end of next year. Information about the forests managed by the Department of Wildlife Conservation in Sri Lanka can be obtained by downloading the collection here,

Dammika Malsinghe

Additional Secretary (Project)

Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation



MESSAGE FROM THE HON.MINISTER....



Sri Lanka is one of the world's most beautiful, precious, and biologically diverse countries. We are all fortunate to have been born in a place like this, including the youth of this country. The forest resources and wildlife resources of this nation, which are rich in natural beauty, do an outstanding task of enhancing the value of this nation.

We currently face so many difficulties as a nation that it is crucial to safeguard Sri Lanka's wildlife resources. Unforgettable Wild Memories, a book based on the unique experiences of the officers of the Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation who carry out their duties relating to wildlife conservation, is published as an online book (e-book) in all three languages on the Ministry's website. This is done in consideration of the significance of ensuring that the young generation in Sri Lanka is self-sufficient in knowledge related to forests and wildlife in order to protect the wildlife resource for future generations. I'm hoping that by reading this, people in Sri Lanka would learn more about wildlife. The scope of wildlife resource conservation will be broadened as a result.

I appreciate the efforts and dedication of the staff of our Ministry as well as the staff of the Department of Wildlife Conservation who contribute to the publication of these series and works.

Hon. Pavitra Vanniarachchi, Attorney-at-Law

Minister of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation.



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY



“I reflect on my experiences as a teacher and as a public official in my professional life. I met many people in many places. I enjoyed Sri Lanka's wildlife and forests. I am proud to think that an island with such beautiful and amazing nature has been created. It is also with pleasure that I reflect on the responsibility I have received as the Secretary of the Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation in a country with such a lovely heritage. We are carrying out that duty in a number of ways, and I would also like to extend my compliments to the "Unforgettable Wild Memories" book series, which will be released by capturing the memories of our officers.

My dear children, born, brought up and nurtured on this earth, if you want to fulfill your duty to your motherland, you should consider meritorious deeds by cultivating and preserving the plants and animals. For that, it is important to be nourished by the invaluable knowledge provided through such works.

I also deeply appreciate the dedication of the staff of our Ministry as well as the staff of the Department of Wildlife and Forest Conservation who are working hard to publish these series and this publication.

The conservation of wildlife and forest resources, which is our ministry's goal, will, in my opinion, be accomplished through such initiatives..”

R.M.C.M. Herath
Secretary,

Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation.



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



The Department of Wildlife Conservation was initially established in the year 1949. The Department of Wildlife Conservation has the authority to implement the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance (FFPO) which was created in 1937. All the National Parks, Sanctuaries, Strict Nature Reserves (SNR's) that have been declared in the island come under this Department and the it has the authority to declare National Reserves.

The initial field staff consisted of two Wildlife Rangers , eight Guards and 48 watchers. Currently, there are about 2000 staff, of which 1350 are field staff.

The field of wildlife conservation that has an influence on the environment's attractiveness is distinct from other fields. Officers who have worked in minimal conditions while receiving a variety of experiences in the past have had an amazing duty life. Sharing such wonderful experiences is vital, as it helps streamlining the wildlife sector even further.

The Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Resources Conservation's website recently published a series of articles based on the fieldwork of wildlife officers, along with brief summaries of all the parks, sanctuaries, and protected wildlife forests in three languages. I applaud this initiative and think it is timely and worthwhile.

M.G.C. Suriyabandara

Director General

Department of Wildlife Conservation



පටුන

11. LUNUGAMVEHERA NATIONAL PARK	11
12. HORTON PLAIN NATIONAL PARK.....	20
13. HORAGOLLA NATIONAL PARK	30
14. WILDLIFE RESERVES IN BATTICALOA DISTRICT.....	39
15. MADU ROAD NATIONAL PARK.....	48
16. GAL OYA NATIONAL PARK	57
17. FLOOD PLAIN NATIONAL PARK	70
18. PIGEON ISLAND NATIONAL PARK	81
19. GALVEZLAND NATIONAL PARK	93
20. CHUNDIKULAM NATIONAL PARK	104



LUNUGAMVEHERA NATIONAL PARK



- Experience - The narrow escape
- Description of the officer of his encounter -
Mr. R. P. S. Uduporuwa
- Description of the Lunugamvehera
National Park



THE NARROW ESCAPE

I joined the Department of Wildlife Conservation in 1999. After working in Horton Plains for a short period I was transferred to Lunugamvehera National Park on duty in the year 2002. At that time, I did not have much experience in official duties.

Lunugamvehera is situated Adjacent to the Yala National Park and on the other side is the Udawalawe National Park. There are many elephants in both these parks. That is why elephants are often seen in the Lunugamvehera National Park.

As the Wildlife Officers our role is to help the animals meet their food, water and salt needs. We worked to meet the salt needs of these elephants. Pits were dug and salt was brought from the Hambantota saltern and filled to make salt deposits. This one hole is usually 4 feet x 4 feet 4 x 4 feet. It should be monitored to see if Elephants can benefit from salt deposits. We always vigilant on that.

One day I was traveling with our group on a patrol in Bolhindagala area. Lunugamvehera National Park is accessed also from the site of the Thanamalwila Black Bridge. On my way back to the office after patrolling that day, I wanted to see some salt deposits nearby. I asked to stop the vehicle and went down to the salt deposits.

This salt deposit was located about 20 feet [20 m] from where I was staying. First there is an area like a lawn with occasional trees. Next is the salt deposit. And then the jungle starts.



I checked to see if the salt had been eaten by the animals. There was elephant dung. It was obvious that the elephants had used salt deposits. I was closely observing the salt deposits.

Suddenly I heard a noise and I saw a big elephant behind me. I looked that way because of its sound. The distance between the two of us is about 5 feet. I couldn't utter a word even due to fear of death. The next moment I turned around and ran as fast as a robot. My legs felt amazing strength; I ran fast towards the place where the vehicle was parked. I felt the elephant coming closer and closer behind me.

Our team opened the door of the vehicle and shouted at the elephant. At that sound the elephant's harshness subsided. I was able to get in the car. At the same time we drove the vehicle fast.

That day I learned that when going to the forest, one should go with a good understanding of animals. That incident was the best experience in my life.

I still remember that fear of life.





Mr. R. P. S. Uduporuwa.

Mr. R. P. S. Uduporuwa joined the Department of Wildlife Conservation on 01st June, 1999 as a Wildlife Ranger.

During his 22 years of service, he has worked in the Horton Plains and Wilpattu National Parks, Muthurajawela, Victoria, Randenigala, Rantambe Sanctuaries and is currently the Park Warden of Angammedilla National Park.

Mr. Uduporuwa has completed the Diploma in Wildlife Management offered by the Department of Wildlife Conservation for site guards.

Mr. Uduporuwa's loving wife is a teacher and they live in Mawanella area.



Lunugamvehera National Park

According to the provincial nomenclature of our country, Lunugamvehera National Park, a precious forest area, which is located in the Uva Province is unique for its biodiversity. It extends Thanamalwila, Wellawaya, Kataragama and Buttala Divisional Secretariats in the Moneragala District and Lunugamvehera in the Hambantota Divisional Secretariat. This National Park is an important habitat for birds and elephants. Also functioning as a corridor for migrating elephants from Yala to Udawalawe National Park, it was established on 08th December 1995 as the Lunugamvehera National Park with an area of 23,498 hectares for the protection of wild elephants.

Lunugamvehera National Park is located 261 km southwest of Colombo whilst located in the dry zone of Sri Lanka and is a park exposed to the annual drought. The elevation of the park is 91 meters (299 feet). Lunugamvehera Reservoir occupies a significant area of the park, covering 14 percent of the total land area, or 3283 hectares. The average annual temperature of Lunugamvehera is 30°C (86°F) and thus the total dry area of the park is 20,156.8 hectares. It is abundant of soft, wrinkle-free, plains and rocky outcrops, this arid zone garden is prone to annual droughts.

The significance of history is evident with the presence of the Nilgiri Dagoba and the remains of a ruined temple. Also nearby is the Magul Maha Vihara which is considered to be the place where Goddess Viharamaha got married. You can still see the ruins of a *magulporuwa* built inside the temple and the only moon stone ever found in Asia with four mahouts.



Lunugamvehera National Park consists of several layers of forest. These forests are made up of bushes and grasslands. Teak and eucalyptus plantations are now abundant in the forest. Lunugamvehera National Park consists of several layers of forest. These forests are made up of bushes and grasslands. Teak and eucalyptus plantations are now abundant in the forest. The park is a dry mixed evergreen forest mainly with Weera (*Drypetes sepiaria*), Palu (*Manilkara hexandra*), Kunumella (*Diospyros ovalifolia*), Ulkenda (*Polyalthia korinti*), Kappetiya (*Croton lacciferus*), Kon (*Schleichera oleosa*) as well as plantations including Teak (*Tectona grandis*) and Eucalyptus species. Large grasslands and grasses such as Mayaurathana (*Chloris montana*), Illuk (*Imperata cylindrical*), guinea grass (*Panicum maximum*), Hinthambala (*Carmona microphylla*), and shrubs while this diversity of flora and fauna in the National Park provides food, shade and shelter for the animals that live here.

The area is home to a wide range of fauna, from small ants to large land elephants. It is home to 21 species of fish, 12 species of amphibians, 33 species of reptiles, 183 species of birds and 43 species of mammals. The park is rich in biodiversity whilst it is home for Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*), Water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*), Common Mongoose (*Herpestes edwardsi*), Giant squirrel (*Ratufa macroura*), Sloth bear (*Ursus ursinus*), Common agamid Lizard (*Calotes versicolor*), Red lipped lizard (*Calotes ceylonensis*), Star tortoise (*Testudo elegans*), Python (*Python molurus*). It is a favorable habitat for a large number of animals. Elephants are often seen roaming in the Lahugala electorate due to the presence of Beru grass, one of their favorite foods. This area is also known as the Elephant Food Store.



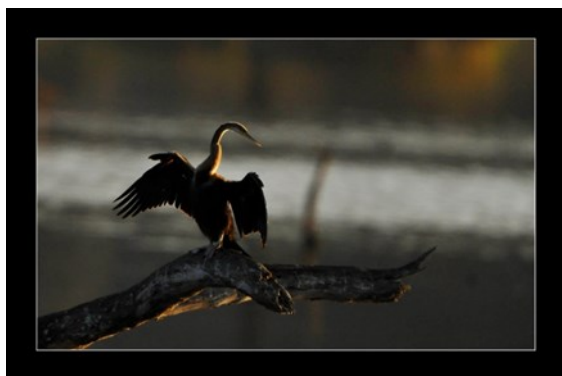


Leopard



Spotted deer

Lunugamvehera Reservoir and thousands of other water bodies in the park are home to water birds. It has become a breeding ground for nearly 200 endemic and migratory species. Bird species found here include the Jungle fowl (*Gallus lafayettii*), Sri Lanka Woodshrike (*Tephrodornis affinis*), Blue faced malkoha (*Phaenicophaeus viridirostris*), Sri Lanka Brown capped Babbler (*Pellorneum fuscocapillus*), Spot-Billed Sri Lanka (*Pelecanus philippensis*) as well as the gray hornbill (*Ocyrceros gingalensis*). Lunugamvehera National Park is home to a wide variety of birds in Sri Lanka and is ideal for bird watching.



Indian darter



Malabar pied horn bill



The two main access roads to the park headquarters are from Colombo to Ratnapura via Udawalawe, Thanamalwila to Lunugamvehera at approximately 231km and from Colombo to Hambantota via Tissamaharama, Thanamalwila to Lunugamvehera at approximately 265km. Lunugamvehera is located in the Moneragala District of the Uva Province, 261 km from Colombo and can be accessed via Tissamaharama in the Southern Province or via Kalawana in the Sabaragamuwa Province.

As a dry zone forest, the park has two entrances to visit throughout the year, as it records a temperature of close to 30 degrees Celsius with rainfall between November and January each year. Lunugamvehera is a National Park with less tourists so you can enter the park peacefully to enjoy the wildlife. One entrance is located near Thanamalwila on the Hambantota - Wellawaya road and the other entrance is on the Sella Kataragama - Buttala road towards Galge. Many people prefer the nearby Yala National Park to the Lunugamvehera National Park, although there is very little traffic at the entrance. Although there is very little traffic at the entrance to Lunugamvehera National Park, this national park is also an area worth visiting and this national park is also an ideal place to visit wildlife.



New Entrance



Sources

National Parks of Sri Lanka (P.M Senaratne)

Forest, Parks and Forest Conservation Laws of Sri Lanka (Peiris Ranasinghe)

Wildlife tour Sri Lanka

Wikipedia

Ecoteam

Reddottours



12

HORTON PLAIN NATIONAL PARK



- **Experience - An Experience of life and Death**
- **Description of the officer of his encounter - Dr.Vijitha Perera**
- **Description of the Horton Plain National Park**



Foreseeing the Risk

I worked at Horton Plains National Park from 2004-2005 and until the end of 2009-2002. Horton Plains is the largest tourist attraction in Sri Lanka. A large number of local and foreign tourists visit this park every year. From 2009-2012, I worked as a gardener there. We had a staff of about 25 members. We stayed in the park quarters. As wildlife officers, we are on duty 24 hours a day.

Most people love to see the World's End in Horton Plains Park. World's End is located in the jungle trek. You have to go about 7 km on that jungle trek to reach the World's End. There are a number of places to visit along this route. Little World's End, Chimney Ponds, and Bakers Falls are among them. The second and third highest mountains in Sri Lanka, Kirigalpotta and Thotupola Kanda, are located in the Horton Plains Park. School children, cadets, photographers and environmentalists are also come to climb the mountain. As the Horton Plains function as a catchment area, ponds and streams are ubiquitous. The tributaries of the Mahaweli, Kelani and Walawe also originate from here. Belihulo Oya originates from Bakers Falls and Agra Oya flows from Dayagama side.

Tourists visiting Horton Plains are fascinated by this beauty. Although the environment is beautiful, there are many dangerous places as well. Tourists forget the risk.



One day, an Australian foreigner went to photograph a beautiful lizard in the Horton Plains at the Worlds End. He came with his wife. He went backwards and fell down from the Worlds End. We worked hard with the police and the locals to find the body. The body was found in an area called Periyalwatta below the world's end.

Another day a group of local tourists came. Among them was a cute boy. This kid has been trying to bathe everywhere. Just as he approached the waterfall, he suddenly jumped into the water. Bakers Falls is freezing cold. Bathing is not allowed. Two children came running crying, saying that a younger brother had drowned. We informed the police and searched for the child. But we could not find him. Later a group from the Navy came and found the body.

When traveling, travel with responsibility and understanding. Then accidents like this can be avoided.

I want to say one more thing. Young groups of tourists pick flowers and plants. These flowering plants do not grow in any other environment. We need to protect them. Horton Plains should be kept beautiful.





Mr. G. U. Saranga

Mr. G. U. Saranga joined the Wildlife Department in 1983 as a Ranger and he was fortunate to work in various National Parks and Sanctuaries. He received his basic training at the Yala and Wilpattu Sanctuaries. He was in charge of the Sigiriya Sanctuary and later worked at the Minneriya National Park and then at the Wasgamuwa National Park for seven years. He also served as Park Warden at Horton Plains National Park from 2004-2005 and 2009-2002. Mr. Saranga was later promoted to Assistant Director and was in charge of the Kilinochchi area and later the Ampara area. He is currently in charge of the Vavuniya region.

Mr. Saranga completed a 9-month Diploma course awarded by the Department of Wildlife in 1995 and trained for three months at the Wildlife Institute in Dehradun, India. He has also completed short training courses in countries such as Korea, the Philippines and Thailand.

Mr. Saranga's house is located in Katugastota, Kandy.



Horton Plain National Park

After a train ride through the tunnels through the mountains, you can enjoy the beauty of the range of quiet tea plantations in the distance through a train window, we have now reached Horton Plains, a beautiful place in Sri Lanka that has attracted the attention of locals and foreigners alike.

This is a unique National Park with a rich biodiversity as well as archaeological value. Horton Plains, the only national park in the wetlands of Sri Lanka, was originally known as Maha Eliya and is the highest mountainous plain in Sri Lanka. Situated in the central highlands at an altitude of 2100-2300 m above sea level, this is a beautiful area spread over an area of 3.169 hectares. Captain William Fisher and Colonel Albert Watson, both Englishmen of the 1920s, are credited with officially discovering Horton Plains. The forest was declared as a Nature Reserve on 05th December, 1969 and was declared a National Park on 16th March, 1988 due to its location value, which is located on the border of Samanala Kanda. In July 2010, it was added to the World Heritage List.

Scenery of bakers waterfall



Horton Plains is a beautiful place located in the Nuwara Eliya District of the Central Province. This area is located in the central highlands between Nuwara Eliya and Haputale and receives Southwest and Northeast and inter monsoon rains. The average annual rainfall of the Maha Eliya is more than 2500 mm and the area receives an average amount of rainfall throughout the year but there is a severe dry season from January to March. The average temperature in the Horton Plains area is around 13 degrees Celsius, with occasional drops to 5 degrees Celsius at night with a mild morning frost occurring from December to February.

The main mountain range is Horton Plateau, the highest plateau in Sri Lanka, at an elevation of 2357m above sea level and the adjoining Kirigalpottha Mountain situated at an elevation of 2389 m. Horton Plains is the coldest and windiest place in Sri Lanka and you can also observe the stunted vegetation due to the high winds blowing through this area. It consists of mountainous evergreen forests, grasslands, swamps and aquatic ecosystems, covering an area of about 7,000 acres. It can be seen that about 4,000 acres of lush grown grasslands. It is one of the most important catchment areas in Sri Lanka and supplies water to the Mahaweli, Kelani and Walawe rivers as well as Belihulo Oya, Kiriketi Oya, Uma Oya and Bogawanthalawa Oya.

According to research conducted in 1992, there are about 101 species of plants here. 49 of them are endemic to Sri Lanka. What is special is that most of them are endemic to Horton Plains. Rhododendron (*Rhododendron arboreum*), a beautiful red



flower, is a popular plant among local and foreign tourists. Maharatmala (*Rhododendron*) is symbolic Central Province flower and *Rhododendron* is usually found in this environment from April to July. Ratu mihiriya (*Adinandra lasiopetala*), Kina (*Calophyllum walkeri*), wal kurudu (*Cinnamomum ovalifolium*), wal sapu (*Michelia nilagirica*) and Binara (*Exacum trinerva macranthum*) are other flowering plants found here.



Maharatmala flower



Binara flower

98 endemic species of birds, 14 species of mammals, 16-20 species of amphibians and 40 species of butterflies have been identified in the Horton Plains Ecosystem as at now. Sambar (*Cervus unicolor*) is the most populous of the four-limbed animals. In addition, Fishing Cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*), Barking Deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*), Giant Squirrel (*Ratufa macroura*), Leopard (*Panthera pardus kotiya*), Indian hare (*Lepus nigricollis*), Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*), Porcupine (*Hystrix indica*) Mammals such as Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra ceylonica*), Gray Slender Loris (*Loris lydekkerianus*), and Purple-faced langur (*Semnopithecus vetulus monticola*) can be



found in this ecosystem. Amphibians include Leaf-nesting shrub frog (*Pseudophilautus femoralis*), Sri Lanka frog (*Fejervarya greeni*), Sri Lanka Narrow-mouthed Frog (*Microhyla zeylanica*), Rhino horned lizard (*Ceratophora stoddartii*) as well as a variety of butterfly or reptile species are also found here. Large mammals are rarely seen in the Horton Plains.



**A Sambar standing in front of the house
Allocated for conservation groups**



Rhino Horned Lizard

Horton Plains National Park is home to about 12 endemic bird species and the following birds are recorded for the Horton Plains only. Sri Lanka blue magpie (*Urocissa ornata*), dusky blue flycatcher (*Eumyias sordidus*), Sri Lanka white (*Zosterops ceylonensis*) and Sri Lanka wood pigeon (*Columba torringtoniae*), Sri Lanka Spurfowl (*Galloperdix bicalcarata*), Sri Lanka Jungle flow (*Gallus latay*), Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush (*Myophonus blighi*), Sri Lanka Yellow-eared Balbul (*Pycnonotus penicillatus*) and Sri Lanka Warbler (*Elaphrornis palliseri*) are some of the birds that can be seen in this park and this is also a butterfly paradise.





Sri Lanka blue magpie



Sri Lanka Yellow-eared Bulbul

Nuwara Eliya is one of the favorite places to visit when you have a break from work. Not only the pleasant climate but also many marvelous tourism places are located in the vicinity of Nuwara Eliya. Horton Plains is one of the attractive destinations among local and foreign tourists. It is also rich in biodiversity and is a valuable area for those engaged in education and research.

Horton Plains, a wet zone evergreen forest, is a scenic place covered with evergreen peaks and constant mist. Located at the southern end of the Horton Plains Park, Worlds End is a beautiful place, preceded by a small Worlds End and the scenic Bakers Falls which is fed by marvelous Belihuloya have become favourite destination among local and foreign tourists as well.



There are three access roads to Horton Plains, the main of which is *via* Nuwara Eliya, Ambewela and Pattipola (32 km). You can also reach Horton Plains via the Haputale - Welimada, Boralanda, Ohia (38 km) route and along the road that passes through Nuwara Eliya, Haggala, Rendapola, Ambewela, Pattipola (38 km). Horton Plains has several lodges that are managed by the Department of Wildlife Conservation. The renovated Ginihiriya (Anderson) and Mahaeliya houses as well as three camp grounds have been set up for eco-lovers to relax in their natural environment. The lodge, which is reserved for groups of up to 50 people, is located in a beautiful setting with scenic views. These lodges and campsites can be booked at the Head Office of the Department of Wildlife Conservation, Battaramulla, Colombo.

It was named a World Heritage Site, a nature reserve and a park because of its valuable, unique ecosystem. Therefore, it should be the responsibility of all of us to protect the Horton Plains ecosystem.



13

HORAGOLLA NATIONAL PARK



- **Experience - The crocodile encounter**
- **Description of the officer of his encounter -
Mr. T. R. Pradeep**
- **Description of the Horagolla National Park**



The crocodile encounter

I served as the Park Warden at Horagolla National Park from 2017 to 2021. Our main duties there included providing amenities for visitors, bringing and caring for orphaned cubs and adults, sending the animals to the Atthidia treatment center if they needed to be kept longer, or releasing them back into the wild, and providing food and water to the animals there. We also engaged in activities like legal matters pertaining to the wildlife department. Due to the fact that Horagolla National Park is the only National Park in Western Province, we frequently received queries regarding specific creatures. We carried out the duties, accordingly.

Horagolla National Park, which is 35 acres in size, was donated to the government by Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike. There is a 3-acre lake right at the entrance to the National Park. During the rainy season, water flows to this lake through a small channel. There is water in the lake even in dry seasons. Tortoise and fish species also live in this lake. The turtles we capture are released into this lake.

There was a young crocodile in the park when I arrived. It might have been carried in there by someone. This little crocodile quickly developed into an adult. This crocodile started wandering around the lawn while he was between the ages of 10 and 15 and had grown robust. We thought that he should be released to Wilpattu. But before that suddenly the crocodile disappeared. He had been missing for several days. Crocodiles can be dangerous to people and other animals and it can be harmed by people and vehicles. Therefore, we were therefore really upset.



We searched everywhere. Then a message came from the nearby village that there was a crocodile. There was a water pond near a hotel near Horagolla walavva. I got the message that the crocodile has gone to the pond. It is not easy to catch a crocodile as it swims here and there and hit with its tail. Those days it was a strike by the Wildlife Guards. I went there with the Field Assistant, Chandrasiri and the Field Assistant Sumit. After about 4 hours of hard work, the crocodile was caught. Heaved a sigh of relief after that. People had gathered to see the event.

We tied the crocodile to a tree and took it to Wilpattu from there. It was morning when I went to Wilpattu. Eluwankulamen went inside and carefully released the crocodile.

Being able to capture the crocodile without causing any harm to anyone was fantastic. I recall the crocodile encounter whenever I think back on my stay in Horagolla.





Mr. T. R. Pradeep

We tied the crocodile to a wood plank and took it to Wilpattu from there. It was morning when I went to Wilpattu. Eluwankulamen went inside and carefully released the crocodile.

It was a great thing to be able to catch the crocodile without harming anyone. When I remember the time, I spent in Horagolla, I remember the incident involving the crocodile.

Mr. Pradeep had the opportunity to study the Diploma Course conducted by the Girithale Training Centre of the Wildlife Department and as a part of it he received 2 weeks of training in Dehradun, India. Moreover, they had the opportunity to study the short course on firearms and the short course on wildlife law as well.

Mr. Pradeep also had the opportunity to participate in a World Wetlands Program in South Korea and a workshop on climate change in China.

His wife Mrs. D.D.N.S.K.Bombuwala is a graduate teacher and works in the primary section of Baminiyawatta High School, Mawanella. Daughter Dasithi Disara, aged 13, is studying in Year 8 at Kegalle Swarna Jayanti School.

Their address is Baminiyawatta, Mawanella.



Horagolla National Park

Horagolla National Park is one of the newest National Parks in Sri Lanka, located close to Horagolla Walavva, which was the home of the Bandaranaike family. Horagolla National Park is given this name because of the abundance of Hora (*Dipterocarpus zeylanicus*) trees and is the only urban park in the Western Province of Sri Lanka. This park is located about 40 km from Colombo and is the smallest National Park under the Department of Wildlife Conservation. This National Park with an area of 13.40 hectares is located within the Nambadaluwa Grama Niladhari Division in Attanagalla Divisional secretariat of the Gampaha District. In the seventies, this land, which belonged to the government, was declared as a sanctuary under the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance in view of the rich biodiversity of the area. It was Gazetted under No. 1351/17 dated 28 July 2004 as the Horagolla National Park.



Name boards



Horagolla National Park is a lowland evergreen forest with a humus soil structure and warm temperatures throughout the year. Among the various native tree species commonly grown in this national park, plants known as hora (*Dipterocarpus zeylanicus*), kekune (*Canarium zeylanicum*), godapara (*Dillenia retusa*), kitul (*Caryota urens*), nedun (*Pericopsis mooniana*), atamba (*Mangifera zeylanica*), sacred fig (*Ficus religiosa*), and Milla (*Vitex altissima*) are found. Despite its small size, this land has a large number of Been entada creepers (*Fabaceae* sps.) whilst it is a park rich in biodiversity. The park is also dominated by tall trees such as teak (*Tectona grandis*) and ebony (*Diospyros ebenym*) and the undergrowth is abundant with thick vines and bamboo.



Hora (*Dipterocarpus zeylanicus*)

A variety of plant species and grasses cover the landscape throughout the park. The park's diverse vegetation provides food and ample water for birds, animals and reptiles and is home to a large number of fauna found in the evergreen forests. But this park is rich in flora rather than fauna. The park has a variety of tall tree species and the constant chirping of various birds that live in the trees brings mental relaxation.





Inside the park



Been entada (*Fabaceae* sps.)

Spread over 33 acres, the park is home to 10 species of mammals, 64 species of birds, 7 species of fish and 28 species of butterflies. The park accommodates various animals including Fishing Cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*) and Barking Deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*), Slender Loris (*Loris lydekkerianus*), Golden jackal (*Canis aureus*), Purple faced langur (*Semnopithecus vetulus*), Giant Squirrel (*Ratufa macroura*), Porcupine (*Hystrix indica*) and Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*). Many endangered species are found in Horagolla Park while python (*Python molurus*) and Cobra (*Naja naja*) are among the many reptiles found in the park.



Common garden lizard (*Calotes versicolor*)



Home to over 100 species of birds, this National Park is another favorite spot for bird watchers. Birds such as Yellow-fronted barbet (*Megalaima flavifrons*), Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot (*Loriculus beryllinus*), Sri Lanka Myna (*Gracula ptilogenys*), Sri Lanka Layard's Parakeet (*Psittacula calthropae*), Forest wagtail (*Dendronanthus indicus*) native to Sri Lanka can be seen here.

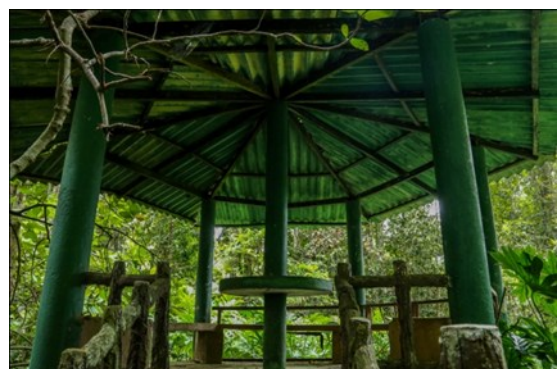


Common hawk cuckoo (*Hierococcyx varius*)

As you walk along the trails in the park, the fresh air will melt away your stress. Instead of a jeep safari in the wild, Horagolla National Park offers a range of activities for visitors to help them connect with the environment in a more relaxing way. Bird watching is a popular activity here and provides ample opportunities to spot endemic and migratory bird species in the park. Also popular for free walks and picnics, the park allows visitors to leisurely explore the natural beauty.



A name board

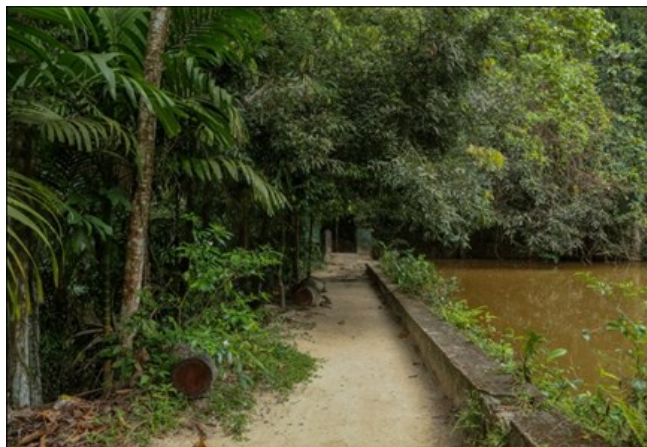


A summer hut



Horagolla National Park can be reached by traveling 35 kilometers on the Colombo Kandy road. After turning from Nittambu and going one kilometer towards Wayangoda, you will find the park office at a distance of 6 kilometers from the Pinnagolla junction.

Horagolla National Park is an important area for conservation efforts in Sri Lanka and due to the park's small size and proximity to urban areas, it is vulnerable to various encroachments and development activities. The Department of Wildlife Conservation has implemented conservation measures including habitat restoration and sustainable tourism to ensure the park's survival and continued biodiversity.



The pond



WILDLIFE RESERVES IN BATTICALOA DISTRICT



- **Experience - A story about brotherhood**
- **Description of the officer of his encounter-**
Mr. Janaka Shantha Kumara
- **Description of the Wildlife Reserves in Batticaloa District**



A story about brotherhood

It was the year 2014 and those days I was working in Batticaloa District. There are several Reserves located in Batticaloa District and they all belong to the Department of Forest Conservation. There were no Reserves belonging to the Wildlife Department in this area. But the problem of wild elephants is there throughout the Batticaloa District. Therefore, the Beet Office was also maintained by the Wildlife Department. It was located near Kal Adi Bridge. Several other officers worked under me in this office.

One day we received a message that a baby elephant was injured. When we went to the place, we saw male elephant calf about five years old lying down. When the calf was given saline, it got up and walked with difficulty towards the forest. Later we continued to look for the young elephant but did not find it. It was the time that L.T.T.E. terror era and we didn't walk much in the forests because there may be landmines planted by the terrorists.

About a week after this incident, a message came at around ten in the morning that an elephant had run into the village and was behaving violently. I had a limited staff to support me. Therefore, we went to the village with two army personnel. The elephant has behaved very violently. Usually, wild elephants attack villages at night but this incident happened in the morning. The elephant had gone to vicinity of a house and trampled a dog in front of it. There was also a pre-school nearby where children and people were shouting. We were looking for the elephant and the officers separated



and went from place to place. In the meantime, we saw the elephant, it chased after us. Our vehicle was parked nearby and the driver was able to get into the vehicle. I did not get into the vehicle until others get into the it. But I realized that I don't have time to get into the car. I ran and hid behind a tree. The elephant ran forward and I escaped. After some time, we shot the elephant and chased the elephant into the forest.

Then we investigated how this incident happened. We got to know that the baby elephant mentioned earlier is dead. While searching further, we found the dead body. The calf has eaten a *hakkapatas* (a food implanted with locally made mines). A male elephant has been crying and screaming near this calf for days. According to the information given by the villagers, it is the same elephant that came to this village. It was thought that the elephant had come to the village because of the suffering elephant calf.

I remembered this as a sensitive and pathetic event. Usually, elephants are accompanied by a mother or a herd, but here a male elephant is sitting with the calf. Maybe another elephant took care of a baby elephant that got away from the herd.

Many lives could have been lost in that incident.





Mr. Janaka Shantha Kumara

Mr. Janaka Shanta Kumara joined the Wildlife Department as a Grade 03 Wildlife Guard on 09.11.1998. He first worked at Bundala National Park, then worked at Thotabowa Site, Leegala Site and Mullegama Sites of the Gallawala National Park, Palatupana Headquarters and 3, 4, 5 Zones of the Yala National Park, Udawalawe Elephant Transit Home, Batticaloa Elephant Surveillance Unit and Turtle Conservation Center at Dodankumbura.

Currently he is working in Boondala National Park as a Grade I Wildlife Guard and also as the park Warden there.

He has completed a Diploma course conducted by the Department of Wildlife and as a part of the same course he has also received training for about a month in India and also received short training in China as well.

The wife of Mr. Janaka Shanta Kumara, Mrs. Thushari Buddhika Abeyratne, is working as a teacher at the Diyangaha East Junior School, Matara. His son is studying for his Advanced Level Examination while his daughter is studying at the Grade Eight.

His address is Ratnamali, Navimana South, Matara.



Wildlife Reserves in Batticaloa District

Wildlife Reserves in the Batticaloa District include the Kayankarni Marine Sanctuary, part of the Trikonamadu Nature Reserve and a small part of the Seruvila Ale Sanctuary.



Map of Wildlife Reserves in Batticaloa District

Kayankarni Marine Sanctuary



Map of Kayankarni Marine Sanctuary

Kayankarni Coral Reef in Madakapu, which is one of the main marine ecological sites on the coast of the eastern region of Sri Lanka, has been declared as a marine sanctuary on April 11, 2019 under the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance. Thus, the



"Kayankarni Marine Sanctuary" declared for the conservation of marine ecosystems consists of an area of 953 hectares located in the Batticaloa District, Korale Pattuwa - North Divisional Secretariat of the Eastern Province and an area of marine land adjacent to that area. It is a precious habitat for a variety of coral reefs and other living plant and animal communities. Kayankarni Marine Sanctuary, located off Kalkuda in Batticaloa District, possess a marine area several times larger than the land area and is highly biologically diverse, including many species of fish that have been discovered so far. This coral reef is said to extend about 800 meters from the north shore of Batticaloa. It is like an underwater garden decorated with colorful fish; this park has been able to attract tourists naturally.



Kayankarni Marine Sanctuary



Kayankarni Marine Sanctuary

18 species of butterfly fish live on coral reefs are found in clear waters here. Examples for butterfly fish include Chaetodon species; Red-tailed butterflyfish (*Chaetodon collare*), Speckled butterflyfish (*Chaetodon citrinellus*), Black-wedged butterflyfish (*Chaetodon falcula*), Yellowhead butterflyfish (*Chaetodon xanthocephalus*), Lined butterflyfish (*Chaetodon lineolatus*), Scrawled butterflyfish (*Chaetodon meyeri*), Black-backed butterflyfish (*Chaetodon melannotus*),



Latticed butterflyfish (*Chaetodon rafflesi*), Melon butterflyfish (*Chaetodon trifasciatus*) and Triangle butterflyfish (*Chaetodon triangulum*). These are very striking and colorful butterfly fish. They only live in healthy coral reefs. The abundance of these species in these habitats indicates the biodiversity of the habitat. Tourists are naturally attracted by the variety of their colors. Among algae, there are *Caulerpa taxifolia*, *Ulva*, *Sargassum* and *Padina* species. Among the coral reefs on the thin muddy bottom are *Halophile* species and sea grass species such as *Enhalus acoroides*. They are the only flowering plants on the sea floor and the only plants that live in the ocean. A diver will see a variety of coral species, including Devil's hand corals (*Lobophytum*) and staghorn corals such as *Acropora cervicornis*, *Acropora formosa*, Rose coral (*Montipora aequituberculata*). Another variety of coral species found in these coral reefs are Cauliflower coral or Lace coral (*Pocillopora damicornis*), Rasp coral (*Pocillopora verrucosa*), *Pocillopora eydouxi*, Stony coral (*Porites rus*), Star coral (*Favites abdita*). Feather duster worms (*Sabella species*), lobsters (*Panulirus species*), common spider conch (*Lambis lambis*), giant spider conch (*Lambis truncate*), coral snails (*Drupa species*), onus species and sea urchin (*Echinethrix calamaris*) are among some of the invertebrates found here.



Melon butterflyfish (*Chaetodon trifasciatus*)



A large number of stakeholders are engaged in a joint round-the-clock effort to protect Kayankarni Marine Sanctuary and the Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA), Wildlife Department and District Secretary are involved in this conservation exercise

Trikonamaduwa Nature Reserve



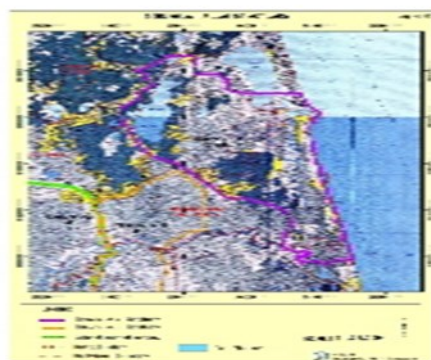
Map of the Trikonamaduwa Nature Reserve

Trikonamaduwa, a little-known wildlife reserve, stretches over the districts of Polonnaruwa, Trincomalee and Batticaloa, where Madu trees are widespread. This land with dry mixed evergreen forest cover was gazetted on 24th October 1986 under Gazette Notification No. 424/24. As the entire land is flat topographical, grasslands are also spread and the land is consisting of high forest density of about 25019 hectares. Plants like Satin (*Chloroxylon swietenia*), Palu (*Manilkara hexandra*), Veera (*Drypetes sepiaria*), Milla (*Vitex altissima*), Ebony (*Diospyros altissima*), Kalumadiriya (*Diospyros quaesita*), Kalumadiriya (*Diospyros quaesita*), Maila (*Bauhinia racemosa*), Grass species such as Vasmen and Mana Mana



(*Cymbopogon confertiflorus*), Illuk (*Imperata cylindrica*), etc. can be seen here. Elephants, who add solemnity to the wilderness, use the Trikonamadu Nature Reserve during their annual seasonal migration. Two tributaries of the Mahaweli River, Verugal Aru and Kandakadu Aru, flow through the reserve and consist of 5-10 tanks and two lakes. This is a native land of animals belonging to the dry region and mammals such as Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*), Spotted deer (*Axis axis ceylonensis*), Sambar bull (*Rusa unicolor*), Leopard (*Panthera pardus kotiya*) can also be seen here.

Ale Sanctuary in Seruwila



Seruwila Ale has been gazetted as a sanctuary on 09.10.1970 under the Gazette Notification No. 14925. This sanctuary is spread over an area of 15,540 hectares in Koddar Pattuwa Grama Niladhari Division under Seruvila Divisional Secretariat Division of the Trincomalee Administrative District. The vegetation of the sanctuary consists of dry zone evergreen forests and due to the diversity of vegetation, the animals living here get food, shade and shelter. A large shallow lagoon, about 2 meters deep, called Ullackalie is located within the territory of this sanctuary.



15

MADU ROAD NATIONAL PARK



- **Experience - Confronting death**
- **Description of the officer of his encounter -
Veterinary Surgeon, Dr. Chandana Jayasinghe**
- **Description of the Madu Road National Park**



Confronting Death

I joined the Department of Wildlife Conservation on 1st October 2004. I had to serve in North West and Anuradhapura North areas. This is a large area; it covers fairly about half of Sri Lanka's wilderness and it is very difficult as well. At that time, most of the areas on this side were controlled by the LTTE. Therefore, there were very few veterinary surgeons served there.

Because of the presence of LTTE in this area, there was a great threat to life. Always sounds of shootings were frequent. Mines were planted almost everywhere. We had to move around about 200-300 km per day to rescue animals. We must go anywhere only with the permission of the Sri Lanka Army. The Army search operations were carried out sometimes for hours. The procedures to get permission were bit longer. Certain days we had to stay in military camps. Mostly, we had to go to treatment with military assistance. The army also does not like to walk much because of landmines. We did not tell our homes about this situation.

In early 2008, there was an elephant that was attacking people in Vedithalau area. This elephant started killing people. The Department of Wildlife decided to capture the elephant. The elephant roams over a considerable area. Out of that, some areas are manifested with land mines, considerable areas were de-mined and some areas were occupied by the LTTE.



We had a team of about twenty people for such operations. Veterinary Surgeon, Dharmakirthi was also there. On that day, we anesthetized the elephant, caught it, loaded it into a truck and took it to another area with the hope of releasing it.

We left with the group around 7:00 that morning. There were about 15 to 20 army men with us. Several vehicles and a lorry were taken for the operation. We saw the elephant inside the Wetkalathivu forest. The elephant was in a mine-free area. After we injected the elephant with anesthetic drug, it ran about 500 meters to the direction of the mine-laden area. When we followed and found the elephant with difficulty, we saw the elephant lying down. If we don't do the reverse anesthesia, the elephant will die. There is no other option but to go there. As per the instructions of the Army, we walked along the road where the elephant had stepped and went there. After being de-anesthetized, the elephant was tied to a rope and dragged to the mine-free area with the help of a backhoe. Then they loaded it into the vehicle with difficulty and left the area safely.

Another incident happened in this area. The country was peaceful then. The Vavuniya District Secretariat notified that an elephant had fallen into a well in LTTE control area, it has been informed by the LTTE. The Vavuniya District Secretariat coordinated between us and the LTTE. A group of 5-6 of us took permission from the army and left. District Forest Officer of Vavuniya, Mr. Herath was also with us. There is no army beyond one place and the area was under the control of LTTE. There was no one in the street. Armed persons were looking at us everywhere. The Women's Corps were also present. There were many child soldiers also. We were very scared.



They don't know Sinhala language and we can't understand Tamil also. We talked in English with people who could speak a little English. They checked our vehicle. In addition to the anesthetic guns, the vehicle had a repeater gun, under the rug. They did not see it. LTTE cadres left with us on two motorbikes each in front and behind. Each man had two weapons.

During this visit, we saw LTTE camps covered with iron plates. Tractors were also parked there. Meantime, we met an Engineer who studied with me at Peradeniya University while they were renovating roads. He coordinated for us. When going to the place, a large group of villagers had gathered. The elephant has fallen into a deep well. When looking from above, the elephant looked small and white. It has been in the well for about 10 days.

It was well lined with granite. Those persons objected to breaking the well. I asked our men to draw water from a nearby well. Later, he found a motor and filled this well from a nearby well. When the water was full, the elephant came up. Then the elephant crawled and came to the land. As soon as it comes out from the well, fallen down lifeless due to weakness.

We gave the elephant 4-5 bottles of saline. Suddenly the elephant got up. We all ran directions where our heads turned. The LTTE cadres also took weapons and ran. I hid behind a tree and I found an LTTE cadre was also there. He started shooting up. After I said not to do so he stopped. Here I took out our repeater gun. LTTE cadre was worried



because he had not seen the weapon before. But they were explained that we will carry the repeater gun anyway in such operations. They checked it thoroughly.

Later LTTE They gave us rice with brinjals and bush meat. Although not tasty, it was Ok. We were taken to their so-called political leader. I don't remember his name now. He gave us a lecture on animal welfare. After leaving there, we came to the army camp. The army was not happy about our journey. When we came back that day, it was around twelve at night. Later I came to know that two people from the LTTE intelligence wing had also searched for details about me.

These two events are among unforgettable wild memories of my life.





Veterinary Surgeon, Dr. Chandana Jayasinghe

Mr. Chandana Jayasinghe, was selected for the service of the Wildlife Department through a competitive examination and joined the service as a veterinarian on 01.10.2004, he completed his veterinary degree from University of Peradeniya. A post graduate in environmental science, Mr. Jayasinghe also completed a Diploma in 'Wildlife & Rehabilitation' in USA.

Veterinary Surgeon Mr. Chandana Jayasinghe, who works in a remote area in Anuradhapura North-West and a Northern area, has a wealth of experience in field of Wildlife.

He is a father of two sons and a daughter. His wife Kalani works as a dance teacher at Central College, Anuradhapura, while both of his two sons study at St. Joseph's College and daughter at Swarnapali Girls' College.

Their address is 186/1, Subhasadhaka Mawatha, Vijayapura, Anuradhapura.



Madu Road National Park

Designated as a sanctuary on June 28, 1968 under the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance, 1937, the Madhu Road area is located about 25 kilometers East of Mannar in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. The sanctuary covers an area of 103 square miles and is located in the Mantai East, Mantai South, Chenkalaveddy and Vavuniya South (Tamil) Divisional Secretariat Divisions of Mannar, Mullaitivu and Vavuniya Districts of the Northern Province. After the end of the civil war in Sri Lanka, in view of illegal sand mining, soil removal and development activities spread without government control, several sanctuaries in the Northern Province were planned to be turned into National Parks. Accordingly, it was recommended by the Joint Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Northern Province, which was published by the government in October 2014, with the support of the United Nations Development Program and the United Nations Environment Program (UNDP), the Madu Road Sanctuary and its surrounding forests, except for developed areas, are designated as National Park. Accordingly, recognizing its biodiversity, the government declared Madupara, Adam's Bridge, Chundikkulam and Delft Forests as National Parks. Accordingly, Madupara Sanctuary with an area of 163,067.39 hectares has been gazetted as a National Park on 22 June 2015 under No.1920/3.



Map of the Maduroad National Park



The shrine of Our Lady of Madu, a more than 400-year-old Roman Catholic St. Mary's Church, which is a holy Catholic shrine in Sri Lanka, can also be seen near the Madu Road National Park.



Name board at the entrance



Sign board at the entrance

Weera (*Drypetes sepiaria*), Stain (*Chloroxylon swietenia*), Kohomba (*Azadirachta indica*), Banyan (*Ficus benghalensis*), Kalumadiriya (*Diospyros quaesita*) can be identified as the dominant plant species found in the park. Madu Road is home to various bird species as well.



Scenaries from Maduroad National Park

Various species of animals live in this park because of the favorable environment for them. Among the animal species found here, Sri Lankan Gray hornbill (*Ocyceros galensis*), Blue-faced malkoha (*Phaenicophaeus viridirostris*), Brown-Capped Barbblber (*Pellorneum fuscocapillus*), SL Crimson-Fronted Barbet (*Psilopogon rubricapillus*), Sri



Lanka junglefowl (*Gallus lafayetii*), S.L Wood shrike (*Tephrodornis affinis*), Malabar pied hornbill (*Anthracoceros coronatus*), Brahmin kite (*Haliastur indus*) are the bird species.

Madu Road Park is home to a significant number of wild elephants and there is also an elephant corridor through the Madupara area. Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*), Sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*), Leopard (*Panthera pardus kotiya*), Water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*), Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*) are the main ones found in the park. Small mammals like giant squirrel (*Ratufa macroura*), golden jackal (*Canis aureus*), common langur (*Semnopithecus entellus*), common mongoose (*Herpestes edwardsii*), Indian hare (*Lepus nigricollis*) are also sheltered in the forest.

Madu Road National Park is not yet open to tourists as it was recently designated as a National Park.



Vavuniya Regional Office at Maduroad



16

GAL OYA NATIONAL PARK



- **Experience - The rescuing of young elephant**
- **Description of the officer of his encounter -
Mr. Pramuditha Deva Surendra**
- **Description of the Gal Oya National Park**



The rescuing of young elephant

As far as I remember, this incident happened in 2008. I then worked as a Veterinary Surgeon in the Eastern Region of the Wildlife Department. At that time, the LTTE was war there. There were guns among the people and hunting of wild animals was frequent. There were incidents where elephants were also shot. Elephants roam throughout the Eastern province especially in Amapara area and we could often see herds of elephants there.

The said elephant calf was shot in the leg and back. The young elephant is about 8 years old. This herd of elephants was in Galoya National Park. When we received the message, the young elephant that was shot was resting on a nearby island. Herds of elephants are visited to these islands in search of food. When the water level decreases, grass grows in the submerged part of the island. Herds of elephants swim back to the park after grazing. Fishermen know when that elephant herds come and go. They do not stay in the island in those days. The island where the baby elephant stayed was an island of about 10 acres; the land area changes depending on the water level and according to the water level at that time. This island is not completely submerged in water. A dense forest was present in the middle while grassland area was around the island. Although it came with a herd to graze, the calf was left alone on the island due to injuries and unable to swim back with the herd.



The fishermen informed the staff of Galoya National Park about the young elephant. We were informed by Galoya Park and Buddhika Withanage who was the caretaker of Galoya Park at that time. Mr. Budhika, a school friend of mine helped us by providing boats, additional staff and necessary things to go there and treat the baby elephant.

By that time, I had only been in the service for 4 years and had little experience. It was my first time to treat an elephant on an island. My staff consisted of Wildlife Assistant Ranger Lawrence Benjamin, Wildlife Guard Sugath Jayathilake, Assistant Wildlife Guard Chamil Prasad, Sandun Hemanayake, who is now a Ranger and driver Karuna-ratne. This driver is also often involved in treatment work.

It was a challenge for us to go by boat and treat the elephant on the island. The elephant comes to the field around 3:00 pm. We all left the boat to treat the elephant. There were about 10 people there and we looked through the binoculars from the boat. After about an hour, the elephant came to the field. We wanted to administer anesthesia from the boat in view of if the boat approaches, the elephant will go to the forest. Lawrence Benjamin was good at giving sedative medicine to the elephant right from the boat.

After medicine, we got off the boat and slowly followed the baby elephant's footprints. We found a half-conscious baby elephant leaning against a tree.



This scene was a surprise to the staff of the Galoya National Park who were with us at that time. They had never seen an elephant that sleeps standing up. When the distance between the elephant and us was about 8 feet, we started injecting antibiotics. After the baby elephant slept soundly, we cleaned the wounds and treated them. There was a wound on the inner side of the front leg. Sugath Jayathilaka went between the elephant's legs and cleansed the wound, although I warned him not to do so. After removing the pus and cleaning the wounds, everyone is very happy. We got on the boat after giving medicine to the baby elephant and waited. After some time, the baby elephant came to the tank field.

After that, we treated the baby elephant on several occasions, and no anesthesia was needed. Elephants that get injured often die. We saw this baby elephant recovering. The baby elephant grew up gradually. The young elephant reportedly swam away from the island, according to the fisherman later.

An indelible memory that makes me happy is saving the young elephant's life despite adversity.





Mr. Pramuditha Deva Surendra

Mr. Pramuditha Deva Surendra is a veterinary Surgeon directly attached to the Department of Wildlife Conservation. Before joining the Department Wildlife Conservation, he worked in a private company and joined the Department of Wildlife because of his love for wild animals.

Veterinary Surgeon Deva Surendra got his first appointment at Udawala. From 2005 to 2006, he worked with Dr. Suhada Jayawardena at Udawalawe Elephant Transit Home. However, the then minister-in-charge summoned him to Ampara after learning of an instance of a person being killed by a wild elephant in Ampara town and from then until 2013 he worked in Ampara district. From 2013 until now he is working in Polonnaruwa District.

In addition to his bachelor's degree, Veterinary Surgeon Deva Surendra, also studied a Master's Degree in Environmental Science from the University of Peradeniya. He has completed short training courses in USA and Tanzania.



Veterinary Surgeon Deva Surendra is also an author of several publications. In 2018, he released two works, *13 Years of Treating Wild Animals* and *Experiences of Treating Wild elephants*

Mr. Deva Surendra's beloved wife Shriani Mangalika is also a Veterinary Surgeon. She runs an animal clinic at home. The elder son Kusal and the younger son Missaka are studying at Madhya Maha Vidyalaya, Piliyandala.

Their address is 14/5, Makulu Duva, Piliyandala



Gal Oya National Park

Located in a quieter environment than other parks, Galoya National Park is a wonderful piece of land where both wildlife and tourists can roam freely.



Under the Galoya Multipurpose Irrigation Scheme started between 1949-1950 by Hon. D.S. Senanayake, who became the first Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, the reservoir built by blocking the Galoya rivulet was named Senanayake Samudraya. As a result of the construction of the Senanayake Samudraya, with an extent of 25900 hectares of land in the immediate catchment area of the Reservoir was declared as the Galoya National Park on February 12, 1954. This park is located in the Eastern part of the island belonging to Monaragala and Ampara districts.



With the objective of maintaining conservation of the area as well as the long-term conservation of wildlife, under the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance, with the prime objective of protecting the Senanayake Samudraya and surrounding watershed forests, four wildlife protection areas were established namely, Galoya National Park, Senanayake Samudra Sanctuary, Galoya Valley Northeast Sanctuary, and Galoya Valley Southwest Sanctuary, in the year 1954.

One of the four protected areas that make up the Galoya National Park, the Buddhangala Sanctuary has a stupa and the ruins of other buildings dating back to the 2nd century BC. Buddhangala Arana is located near the section called Malwatta towards the North from Ampara town. The ruins of this temple are spread over an area of 200 acres. It is believed that Lord Buddha has visited this area at his last visit to Sri Lanka. Ruins of monasteries, dagabs, stone pillars, steps, moon stones, koravak gal and mal asana are abundant there. Furthermore, you can see Buddhist shrines and ruins like Magul Maha Viharaya, Nilagiri Saya, Dighavapiya, Piangala, Pulkunawa etc. closer to the Galoya National Park. In the past, Galoya was known as Digamadulla, which was an Aryan settlement area in the past, whilst Rathugala-Nilgala villages situated in the hilly area of west of the park where the home to Sri Lanka's indigenous people.



Indigenous person



Danigala, Nilgala and Ulpotha mountains are the highest peaks and the highest peak is 900 meters. Located in the dry region of the island, this park receives rain during the northeast monsoon, and the average annual rainfall is between 1600-1700 mm. The soil of this land, located near the Senanayake Sea, is red-brown in color.

The plants native to the dry zone are found in this park and there are three types of vegetation in the forest. They are forests, shrubs and grasslands. About 45% of it is covered by evergreen forests, another 33% by grasslands and 9% by mountain pastures. On both sides of the valleys at the foot of the mountain there are very rich grasses and medicinal plants and the three main medicinal trees of Ayurveda are Ara-lu (*Terminalia chebula*), Bulu (*Terminalia bellerica*), Nelli (*Phyllanthus emblica*) and Gammalu (*Pterocarpus marsupium*) as well as Mana (*Cymbopogon confertiflorus*), Illuk (*Imperata cylindrica*) and other types of grasses are also abundant. The tall plants in this forest are Halmilla (*Berraya Cordifolia*), Etamba (*Mangifera zeylancia*) and Kalumediri (*Diopyros quaesita*), Weera (*Dryptees sepiaria*), Palu (*Manilkara hexandra*), Ebony (*Diospyros altissima*) and Divul (*Limonia acidissima*) and grasses. A number of indigenous trees such as Eraminiya (*Zizyphus sp*) are found in abundance.

Nearly 150 different species of birds who grace the park's skyline build their nests on the islands surrounding the reservoir. The park with a thick green canopy is a haven for birds and among the birds seen close to the waters, Heron family -*Ardeidae* Species, Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*), Gray heron (*Ardea cinerea*) and Lesser whistling duck (*Denbrocygna javanica*) and hawk species - *Accipitridae*



family Species are abundant in Senanayake reservoir. An incredible variety of bird species such as Sri Lanka's largest bird Lesser adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*), Spot-billed pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*), Sri Lanka gray hornbill (*Ocyrceros gingalensis*), Sri Lanka red faced malkoha (*Phaenicophaeus pyrrhocephalus*), Sri lanka jungle fowl (*Gallus lafayettii*), Spur fowl (*Galloperdix bicalcarata*), Brown capped babbler (*Pellorneum fuscocapillus*) can be seen in the park. Among the butterfly species of Galoya National Park are endemic Sri Lankan lesser albatross (*Appias galena*) and many others.



Hérons

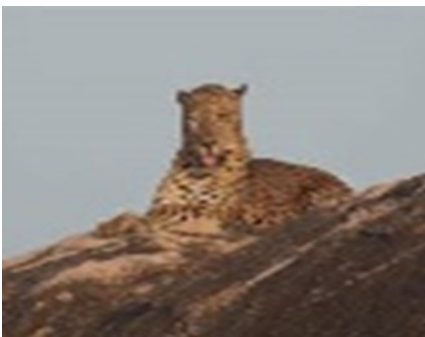
A national park is very friendly to wildlife as there is constant supply of water throughout the year and the constant shade of greenery. One of the most important features of Galoya National Park is the herd of elephants that can be seen throughout the year. Galoya National Park is one of the best places in the world to see Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) living peacefully in their natural habitat. Elephants are also the strongest swimmers among the mammals in Galoya National Park, which exemplifies the harmony between wildlife and environment.





Elephants swimming to close islands

Nearly 32 mammals have been recorded in the park including Sri Lankan elephant, Wild buffalo (*Bubalus arnee*), Sambar (*Rusa unicolor*), Sri Lankan Leopard (*Panthera pardus kotiya*), Sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*), Barking deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*), Spotted deer (*Axis axis ceylonensis*), Gray langur (*Semnopithecus entellus*), Toque macaque (*Macaca sinica*) and Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*).



Sri Lankan Leopard



Toque monkey





Wild buffalos



Sambar



Spotted deer

Reptile species in the park include Mugger crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*) and Star tortoise (*Testudo elegans*) Flapshell turtle (*Lissemys ceylonensis*), Parker's black turtle (*Melanochelys trijuga*) Python (*Python molurus*) and Cobra (*Naja naja*).



Mugger crocodile



Galoya National Park is a truly peaceful place full of life that gives you a unique view of the splendor of nature that has evolved naturally untouched by the hands of man for centuries, where you can experience the true nature of the planet earth. As you walk on the still waters of Senanayake Lake, Galoya National Park you will feel the aliveness of life and you will soon realize that it is filled with marvels. The serene environment of the park allows tourists to explore with maximum freedom.

This land, which is a dry mixed evergreen park, is located about 368 km from Colombo. The entrance to the park is located in Inginiagala, 20 km west of Ampara. Galoya National Park can be reached from Colombo via Ratnapura, Pelmadulla, Balangoda, Wellawaya, Monaragala, and you can also reach Inginniagala by turning at the 17th mile post on the Siambalanduwa-Ampara road, via Colombo, Kandy, Mahianganaya, Ampara.

Tourists are provided facilities by the Department of Wildlife Conservation and permission must be obtained from the Head Office of the Wildlife Department in order to stay in tourist bungalows. Wildlife tourist bungalows are located in Ginniagala, Ekgal Oya and Nilgala and camp sites have been established at Pareviyanara, Mahdorovwa, Kossapola areas at closer Senanayake Tank. Moreover, it is also possible to travel by jeep from Mullegama to Kahlabokka and from Aliwangua to Kossapolla.



FLOOD PLAIN NATIONAL PARK



- **Experience - We were on the same path**
- **Description of the officer of his encounter -
W.D.M.Jayathilaka Wickramasinghe**
- **Description of the Flood Plain Natinonal Park**



We were on the same path

I joined the Department of Wildlife Conservation as a beat officer in 1998. I was transferred to Polonnaruwa in 2006, where Flood Plains National Park is located.

It was a Sunday, when criminal actions like animal hunting are typically committed. Four of us headed in that direction to visit Flood Plain National Park in Manampitiya. Beat Officer Sarath Kumar, Forest Ranger T. Wijesinghe, and Ranger Nimal were with me. We only had a 12-bore gun, three rounds of ammo, and a few elephant shots where I was in charge of the crew.

We received phone call from the office after traveling about a kilometer into the bush that a 12-year-old child had been killed by an elephant in Muslim Colony, a village close to Flood Plain. Thoughts of returning to the workplace crossed our minds, but since the village was closer, we decided to go right away. In situations like this, individuals frequently become irate with wildlife officers. So, we found the phone number of someone we know in the village and talked to them about the situation. He explained to us that in accordance with Muslim traditions, the body should be buried the same day, thus the villagers were getting ready for the funeral. We had faith in that person and there was a feeling that the elephant that killed the child might be nearby. Therefore, the elephant should be chased. The four of us walked to the Muslim Colony.



According to the person who gave us the phone call, the local people were in funeral rituals, and a lot of people were there. We approached the place and asked where the elephant was. They pointed to a forest block about five hundred meters away. When we went there, the people of the village followed us. Although people were asked not to come with us, they were not headed.

We saw the elephant in the forest block. A canal on one side. The day before that, it had rained well, so the canal was full. The village on the other side. On the other hand, chasing the elephant across the canal is dangerous. There is a possibility of coming back without crossing the canal. We thought of driving the elephant into the jungle by avoiding the canal and neither towards the village nor where the elephants are. For that we used two or three elephant shots.

Instead of going to the forest, the elephant ran towards the funeral place in the village. We shouted and tried to drive the elephant away but it didn't work. We shouted for people to run. The gun was in Wijesinghe's hand. He fired a shot at the elephant. It didn't hit the elephant. There was also a second shot. It might have hit the elephant's leg. The elephant screamed and ran towards us.

For a surprise, the elephant stopped about ten meters away from us for the God's sake. Wijesingha was on the other side with the gun in his hand, waiting to see what he would do. If he shoots again, the elephant will come to us. Wijesingha told us to escape from there and run towards the funeral home.



Even when we moved from there, the elephant did not make even a sound. He was looking down.

After about an hour, the elephant went to the forest. If the elephant came forward that day, we would be finished. If the gun was in the hands of a new person, he would fire a shot. If we shot, the elephant would come forward and hit us. Our lives were saved due to the awareness of Wijesinghe who had the gun in his hand.

The people of the village did not say anything to us after seeing the incident we faced. We also attended the funeral and went back. The boy had gone to collect wood apple in the morning and was attacked by the elephant. I want to say that animals are not like humans. Don't hold grudges. It seems that even if this animal was hit by a bullet, there was no hatred towards us. Today Wijesinghe is no more with us.





Mr. W.D.M. Jayathilaka Wickramasinghe

Mr. W.D.M. Jayathilaka Wickramasinghe, a science graduate, joined the Wildlife Department as one of the few persons who passed the competitive examination for the post of Beat Officer Grade 1.

Mr. Jayathilaka Wickramasinghe, who started his duties at the Alahera Range where Alahera-Giritale Sanctuary belongs to, performed his duties in areas throughout Sri Lanka such as Ampara Range, Samanala Range, Polonnaruwa, Maduruoya, Udawalawa, Wilpattu, Girithale training field, and Colombo head office. He is currently serving as the Assistant Director of Giritale Training Section.

Mr. Jayathilaka Wickramasinghe has completed his BSc Degree from University of Kelaniya, Master's Degree in Environmental Science from Open University, Entomology Diploma in Plant Protection, Diploma in Geoprocessing offered by the Wildlife Department affiliated to Colombo University. In addition, a diploma in wildlife training has also been obtained in India.

Mrs. Sajeevani Priyanthika, wife of Mr. Jayathilaka Wickramasinghe, works as a Technical Officer in the Kegalle Education Office. The daughter is studying G.E.C. Advanced level at Kegalle Joseph Convent. Their address is Dewalegama.



Flood Plain National Park

Flood Plain National Park is located in the Polonnaruwa District of the North Central Province and extends northwards from the northern boundary of the Wasgamuwa National Park. This National Park with an area of 17350 hectares was declared by Gazette No. 309/4 dated 07th August 1984. Flood Plain National Park is one of the four national parks designated under the Mahaweli River Development Project. The national park plays more than the role of a protected area, acts as an elephant corridor, an eco-conservation area, a special area for lake elephants and a natural wetland system as well. This park is located at a distance of 225 km from Colombo.



Sceneries of Villus in Flood Plain National Park

The park has a history dating back to the Kingdom of Anuradhapura, and the Mahaweli River is connected to an ancient network of tanks. On the southern bank of the river, at the edge of the Mutugalla lake, remains of an ancient cave ashram with inscriptions dating between the 2nd and 7th centuries BC have been found.



During the rainy season, the wind speed is relatively low and the average rainfall is about 1555 mm. The annual temperature is 32 °C. The Flood Plain Valley is made up of a diverse set of ecological zones consisting of river channels, riparian marshes, lakes, seasonally flooded grasslands and swamp forests. Two rainfall peaks occur in a year, one in April-May and the other in November-December.

It's always an excellent idea to take a stroll in the park to enjoy the breathtaking views of the Mahaweli River. Wasgamuwa National Park is located on the southern end, while Somavatiya Park is situated next to the northern boundary of the Flood Plain National Park, which acts as an elephant corridor between the two parks. This part of the park includes the most important inland wetland in the country. These wetlands are home to a variety of fish and are important for the survival of birds as well. There are eight important wetlands within the National Park. These wetlands along the Mahaweli River are the only sanctuary in the country for a special species of elephant called the Lake Elephant (Vil Ali). The park plays an important role in the conservation of the lower river basin and riverbanks as it has shallow groundwater even during long dry periods of the year to support a good vegetative cover, provide a unique environment for plant and animal communities, and maintain optimal plant growth in all habitats. As a result of all these factors, the park consists of different ecological zones.

The park is located in the lower basin of the Mahaweli River. About 231 plant species have been identified in the large lakes and swamp forests in the flood plains. The total area of the Flood Plain National Park including small lakes and wetlands is about 2823



hectares. All streams flowing through the park are channels connected to the Mahaweli River. There are many sources of water fed by rainwater. There are five main habitat types, open canopy high forest, open canopy low, medium forest, scrub vegetation, grassland. The dominant tree species in the high canopy layer are Weera (*Dryptes sepiaria*), Milla (*Vitex altissima*), Welang (*Pterospermum canescens*), Panakka (*Pleurostyliia opposita*), kumbuk (*Terminalia arjuna*). Some species like Ebony (*Diospyros ebenum*) and Satinwood (*Chloroxylon swietenia*) are rarely observed in this high canopy layer. Palu (*Manilkara hexandra*), Divul (*Limonia acidissima*) plants are among these.



Herd of Elephants

All major groups of animals like mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians live here and Sinica (*Toque monkey*), Gray langur (*Semnopithecus entellus*), Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*), Leopard (*Panthera pardus kotiya*), Golden jackal (*Canis aureus*), Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*), Domestic Water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*), Spotted deer (*Axis axis ceylonensis*), Porcupine (*Hystrix indica*) are among them. The elephant population in the Floodplain Nature Reserve is believed to be between 50 and 100. Spotted deer (*Axis axis ceylonensis*) is the more common species in the park than Barking Deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*). Deer herds frequent the grasslands. Barking Deer is also more common in forested habitats than in open areas.





Asian elephant



Domestic Water buffalo



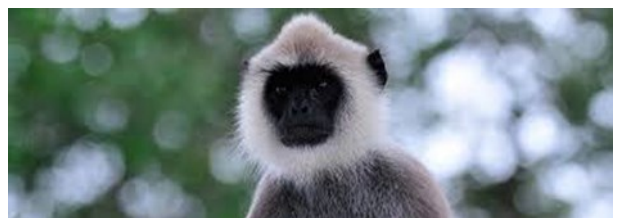
Sinica



Spotted deer



Golden jackal



Gray langur



Indian flapshell turtle



Mugger crocodile



The national park is also home to migratory birds in particular, thus enriching its faunal diversity. Little Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax niger*), Spot-billed pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*), Gray heron (*Ardea cinerea*), Purple heron (*Ardea purpurea*), Asian openbill (*Anastomus oscitans*), Woolly-necked stork (*Ciconia episcopus*), Malabar pied hornbill (*Anthracoceros coronatus*), Brown wood pecker (*Dendrocopos nanus*), Crimson-backed woodpecker (*Chrysocolaptes lucidus*), Sri Lanka Swallow (*Hirundo hyperthra*), Little egret (*Egretta Garzetta*) are the resident birds here.



Painted storks



Indian Roller



White throated kingfisher



Despite being such a valuable and beautiful place, due to human activities like hunting of animals, illegal entry, illicit logging, illegal removal of non-wood products, sand mining etc. which are contrary to the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance, the Flood Plain National Park in Polonnaruwa is on the verge of destruction. may cause damage to the natural resources in the park and deplete them.

The tourists are allowed to enter the National Park, which is situated in the Polonnaruwa district, through the Manampitiya - Yakkure junction.



PIGEON ISLAND NATIONAL PARK



- **Experience - Pigeon Island is even more beautiful now**
- **Description of the officer of his encounter -
Mr. Upali Kumaratunga**
- **Description of the Pigeon Island National Park**



Pigeon Island is even more beautiful now

I took over as Park Warden of Pigeon Island National Park on February 1, 2019. Pigeon Island, which became a sanctuary in 1963, was turned into a National Park in 2003 because of its biological importance, including the coral reefs and fish species around it. Tourists arrive to Pigeon Island National Park, which has two islands by boats. The owners of these boats are located in Trincomalee, Alaswatta, Nilaveli, Gopalapuram etc. Apart from this, there is also a boat service operated by the Navy. Pigeon Island National Park is coordinated by two ticket windows and two marinas.

During 2019, boats were run over the coral reefs. There are more tourists from February, March to September, October. About 300 to 400 boats pass over the coral reefs a day. Because of this, the beautiful ecosystem with coral reefs and fishes is destroyed. Researchers, local and foreign tourists and conservationists accused the department of not protecting coral reefs.

Although, provisions had been allocated for the conservation of coral reefs since 2018, the conservation work had stalled as it was not enough. After I arrived at Pigeon Island National Park as a Park Ranger, coral reef conservation became a priority. We wanted to put a buoyancy line to protect and develop the existing coral reefs. Accordingly, we created a union. The villagers, environmental organizations,



boat owners, divers, hotel owners and volunteers were involved in the association. I told the society that we will provide technology and labor from the Department and they should provide provisions and other requirements. The union agreed for my suggestion. Director General Chandana Suriyarachchi approved it and Director Manjula Amararatne gave necessary instructions. Channa Suraweera is the head of the Marine Division at that time. Lalith Kumara is the Assistant Director in charge of Trincomalee Region.

Floating plastic balls are positioned on a buoy for the aim of long-term conservation. They should have concrete blocks underneath them. A concrete block with the dimensions $1\frac{1}{2} * 1\frac{1}{2} * 1\frac{1}{2}$ feet and weighting roughly 250 kg, and having a handle on top. The block is lowered into the sea by attaching a rope to the handle. By fastening a rope to the handle, the block is lowered into the water. Divers carry out this task with the use of GPS technology. Typically, concrete blocks are dropped from a height of 20 meters. Each concrete block is then connected to a vertical beam. Both sides have fixed corners. Every two meters along here, plastic balls are tied. Once a buoy line is attached, it transforms into a boundary.

50 concrete blocks were made by the society under my supervision. 10 mm thick wire was laid to strengthen the concrete blocks. The 16 mm thick wire was used for the handle and covered with PVC to prevent eroding from sea water.

The society produced 50 concrete blocks under my direction. To make the concrete blocks stronger, 10 mm thick wire was installed. The handle was made out of 16 mm



thick wire that was wrapped in PVC to stop eroding from seawater. The concrete blocks needed to be moved to the beach and then to the designated spot. We loaded it onto the tractor because we don't have any equipment and drove it to the beach where we loaded it onto the boat. Every task was completed by hand. The three people loaded these onto the tractor and the boat while standing on either side of an iron pipe.

A boat can carry only one or two concrete blocks. After loading the block into the boat with difficulty, we carry it for 3 kilometers. Concrete blocks were placed in 10-15 feet shallow water. The empty barrels were placed in the water and the concrete blocks were placed in them. This work helped our divers as well as the divers who volunteered. 12 mm nylon cords were tied to the frame.

We set the buoy about a kilometer away. Lines were laid on both sides of Pigeon Island. There was a way to 'snorkel' in the middle. We worked very hard for this work. 2 separate concrete blocks were placed to 'anchor' the boats. In addition, it was proposed to build a floating jetty, but it could not be done yet.

But eventually the boats were kept their limits. Coral reefs were protected and preserved. Pigeon Island was beautiful to see around. Visits of tourists increased and received an income of 30-40 lakhs per day.

I would also like to mention the Department staff who worked with me. Site Assistant Janaka Chaturanga, Wildlife Warden Chinthana Dasanayake, Senior Assistant K. Nagalavan, Field Assistants Chaturanga Perera, Jayasekara, Ajith



Amarasinghe, Asanka Karunaratne, Dharmatunga, Sisira Kumara and Development Officer Wasantha Dharmasena who supported office work should also be mentioned.

This work was completed on 24.10.2019. The self-satisfaction I got after the successful work was immeasurable. That self-satisfaction was an unforgettable memory of my life.





Mr. Upali Kumaratunga

Mr. Upali Kumaratunga, who passed the Class 3 recruitment exam held by the Wildlife Department after passing the high school biology subject, was appointed to this job on June 7, 2012. Mr. Upali Kumaratunga received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Peradeniya and his MSc Degree in Forestry and Environmental Management from the University of Sri Jayawardenepura. Then he managed to get an excellent pass and the 3rd place bronze medal in the special Diploma Course on Wildlife Management of the University of Colombo, which is offered by the Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Mr. Upali Kumaratunga, who conducted a research in 2017 and 2018 in connection with 50 case files completed in Minneriya National Park and Polonnaruwa site, made a presentation at the Wildlife Symposium held by the Department of Wildlife and won the certificate for the best presentation, regarding raids by wildlife department and lapses by officials in judicial proceedings.

In addition, Mr. Kumarathunga, who played a major role in gazetting the area as a Reserve to remedy the problems related to land reclamation and biodiversity damage around the Trincomalee lagoon, published the related report in the 'Wildlanka' magazine in 2022.



He considers it a victory in his life to be able to stop the construction of an unauthorized hotel in Kaudulla, Minneriya elephant corridor.

Mr. Upali Kumaratunga's wife quits her job and devotes time to her family. Out of the two daughters, the first daughter is preparing for university entrance in mathematics stream, while the second daughter is studying general education at Kurunegala Maliadeva Balika Vidyalaya.

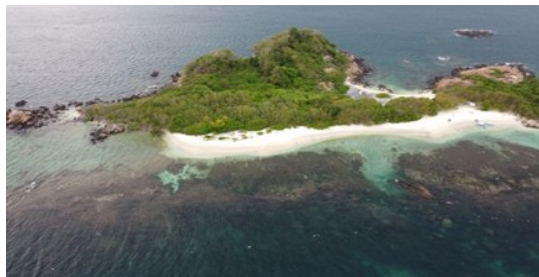
His address - No. 185/A, Maraluwewa, Kurunegala

Email - kumarathungaupali1972@gmail.com



Pigeon Island National Park

The 17th National Park of Sri Lanka, Pigeon Island National Park, is called Paramalei in Tamil, and the island is named Pigeon Island because pigeons inhabit it. Even today, thousands of pigeons can be seen in this location, which is thought to have been used by pigeons to send messages to ancient kings. Pigeon Island National Park is a scenic island park located within the Valai Ukku Gramseva Division of the Kutchveli Divisional Secretariat in Trincomalee District. It was declared a national park by Gazette No. 1291/16 dated June 4, 2003, and officially opened for tourists on May 28, 2011.



This park consists of 02 islands out of which the larger island is Pigeon Island and the smaller island is called Crow Island. Including these two islands, the Pigeon Island National Park covers an area of 471.4 hectares along with the shallow coral reef. The rest is ocean waters. Larger Pigeon Island has two smaller beaches on the Southwest and North sides of the island. Pigeon Island is surrounded by a coral reef that is 200 meters long and 100 meters wide. Its highest point is 44.8 meters above mean sea level. The small island is surrounded by rocks. The park is of a dry mixed forest type. The mean annual temperature is about 27 degrees Celsius. The annual rainfall is 1000-1700 mm and most of the rain falls during the Northeast monsoon from October to March.





This is an island with a high biodiversity along with a dense forest cover. Around the island there is a mangrove community and in the land area plants such as thorn bushes, tamarind, banyan and rare aquatic plant species are found. A mangrove plant community can also be seen around this island, which shows a relatively low level of biodiversity. Mangrove species such as Black mangrove (*Lumnitzera racemosa*), Pandanus (*Pandanus tectorius*), Red mangrove (*Rhizophora mucronata*), Cerbera manghas, Thela (*Excoecaria agallocha*) are also found here. Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*), Banyan (*Ficus benghalensis*) are the tall plant species found in the land area. It shows a diversity of thorny dry zone plants and rare aquatic plant species here.

The shallow seas surrounding this island are home to corals in a variety of colors. This island features a beautiful coral reef that covers a significant portion of the surrounding sea and is rich in marine biodiversity. This coral reef contains over 100 different kinds of coral and about 300 different kinds of fish. Hence, the coral habitat provides tourists with breathtaking views.





Cabbage corals



Staghorn corals

Several turtle species visit the waters of Pigeon Island National Park and Black tip reef shark (*Carcharhinus melanopterus*), a shark species is also common here. Hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Olive ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) can also be seen in this National Park.

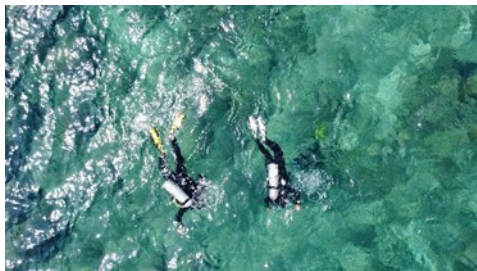


Butterfly fish species among corals

The Blue Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) that lives exclusively in the park has earned it the name Pigeon Island. Pigeon Island is the surest place to meet Rock pigeons which have not crossed with common domestic pigeons. The pigeons that live on the island lay their eggs in April. Zoologists indicate that the island is a suitable breeding ground for pigeons, and pigeons have been living here for thousands of years. The park is once a nesting ground for migratory birds.



The shallow, translucent water surrounding the island is home to many coral species that come in a variety of colors. Here, you may also find plenty of corals from the *Acropora*, *Montipora*, and *Millepora* genera, as well as brain corals (*Faviidae*), stony corals (*Mussidae*), and lobe and finger corals (*Poritidae*). Also visible are places with soft corals including *Sinularia*, *Lobophyton*, and *Sarcophyton* genera. Many vertebrates and invertebrates find habitat in coral reefs, which also serve as excellent nesting sites. Also, this beach area is an ideal haven for marine life and coral reef researchers and divers, as well as those interested in activities like scuba diving, surfing, and snorkeling.



Scuba diving

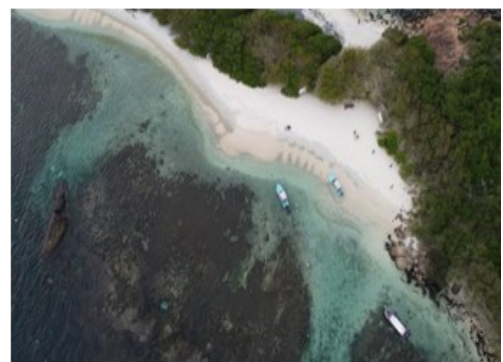
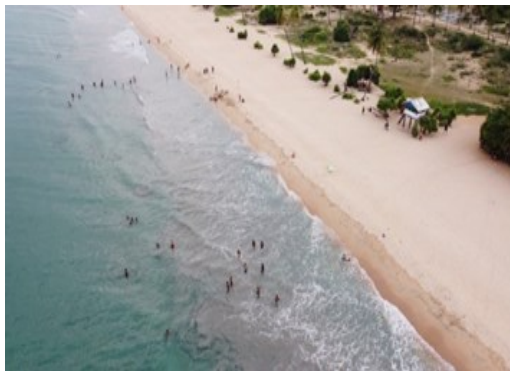


Snorkeling

For the benefit of the visitors to the National Park, five (05) nature trails have also been constructed. From Colombo, it takes 265 kilometers to get to Trincomalee town through Nittambuwa, Kurunegala, Dambulla, Sigiriya, Habarana, Agbopura, and Kantale. From there, they can travel 15 kilometers to the Nilaveli beach and 2 km by boat to get to Pigeon Island National Park.



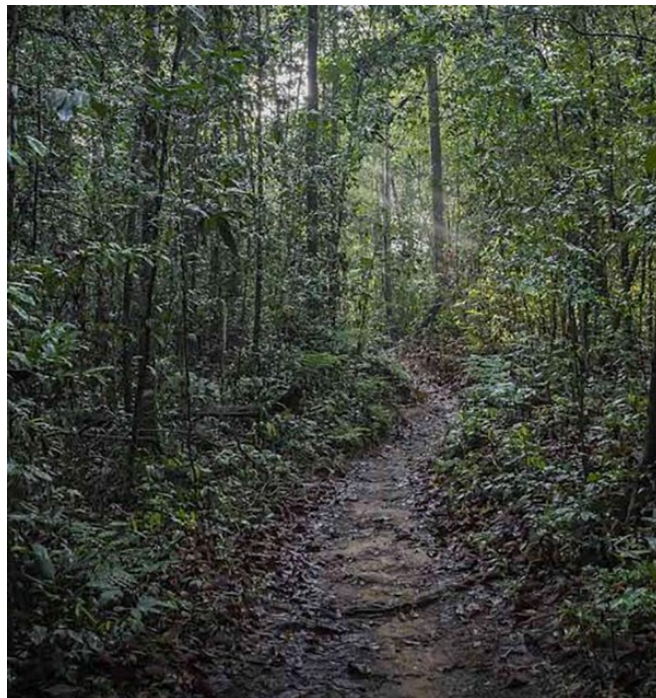
Local and foreign tourists visiting the park can purchase tickets from the ticket counter set up at Nilaveli Beach. A private boat service provides transportation from the shore to the park, which is roughly 2 kilometers from Trincomalee's Nilaveli beach, from 6 am to 6 pm. From May to September, the sea is less choppy, so it is best to visit during that period.



The use of dynamite by fisherman near the coral reefs is currently the largest threat to this lovely island.



GALVEZLAND NATIONAL PARK



- **Experience - A National Park for the Visitors to Small England**
- **Description of the officer of his encounter - Mr. Indika Galpatha**
- **Description of the Galvezland Natinalon Park**



Another National Park has been opened for the Public

In the year 2007, it was decided to open the 'Galves Land National Park' for the public. At that time, 'Galves Land' was a Reserve under the Department of Wildlife Conservation. Although smaller in extent, this area is rich in animals and plants the department as well as the former minister in charge also wanted to the public coming to Nuwara Eliya be given the opportunity to to see this area. I was working in Galvesland as a park warden in those days. Then the current Director General Mr. Suriyabandara worked as the Assistant Director in charge of this area. He Wildlife Ranger A.N. Mr. Jayasuriya also worked with great interest in opening Galwayland to the public.

There was a footpath through the middle of Galwayland. The engineering section of the Department converted this footpath into a new macadamized road. The road is 2 ½ to 3 feet wide.

When walking on the road, from the places where there is no forest, you can see Pidurutalagala and Nuwara Eliya city in the distance. You can walk in 35 to 40 minutes. There are benches for sitting in some places. A ticket counter and toilets were built at the entrance. Benches were also established there.



I had the pleasure of being able to participate in the opening of Galvesland to the public during my period of working there. In addition to those mentioned earlier, it must be remembered M.P. Wimalaratne and K.E. Piyadasa who retired as Rangers also contributed to this work.

Also, a village where low-income Tamil community live bordered Galvezland. They used to enter in to the forest called Galvesland to cut fire wood. This practice destroyed the forest and with opening of the National Park, we conducted Community out Reach Program for the villagers. Efficient wood stoves were provided to every family by the Department and trained the people how to use them. They used to dump their garbage in the forest and we provided them with compost bins for recycling purpose. Also, the village temples were repaired. Accordingly, now they are cooperating with us.





Mr. Indika Galpatha

Mr. Indika Galpatha joined the Department of Wildlife Conservation in 1998. Passing A-Levels in the Biology stream his destiny given him the opportunity for this job after passing a competitive examination.

Mr. Galpatha's first appointment was in Meegalawa, Galgamuwa Range in Anuradhapura Division. Followed by he worked at the Elephant Coordinating Center in Megalewa.

He had the opportunity to work in Wilpattu National Park from 2002-2007 and he considers it a precious opportunity in his life to be able to participate in the opening of Wilpattu to the public in 2003.

Mr. Galpatha worked in Galvezland for 4 years from 2007 and then worked in Polgolla Park and Gampaha Assistant Director's Office for about 5 years. In 2017, after working in the Kurunegala Zonal Director's Office, Mr. Galpatha was assigned to the Legal Department of the Battaramulla Head Office and he is still working there.



In the year 2000, Mr. Galpatha had the opportunity to follow the 09-month diploma course in Giritale offered by the Wildlife Department and study in India. He had visited China.

His wife Mrs. Pramila Ravindika works in the Divisional Secretariat. Daughter Mohanza, who is studying at Gampaha Taxila Vidyalaya, passed her GCE in this year. His son Savindu, who is studying in the same school, in Grade10 and is about to sit for the GCE Ordinary Level Examination.

His address:

Mr. Indika Galpatha, No. 106, Pinigamuwa, Kirindiwela.



Galvezland National Park

The history of the biodiversity-rich Galveston National Park dates back to the era of British rule, providing a fascinating and exciting destination for those who want to be one with nature. Located in the Nuwara Eliya District of Sri Lanka, this is the only park in a city center of Sri Lanka. This is a land owned by the British Lord Galvez, so it is named Galvezland. This sanctuary, which started with 15 acres on 27th May 1938, was designated as a National Park of 29.24 hectares by the Gazette No. 1445/18 dated 18th May 2006, in accordance with the provisions of the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance. One of the main purposes of establishment of this NP was conservation of mountain ecosystems.



Descriptive boards in the park

Since it is located in the mountain wet zone, there are regular monsoons and convective rains for most of the period of the year. With a rainfall of about 2400 mm, there is a cold climate and the average temperature is about 15-16 degrees Celsius. The site is often a red-yellow *podzolic soil with very low exposure to sunlight.





The diversity of plants is also very high here due wet climatic condition for most of the year. Especially, Kina (*Calophyllum walker*), Damba (*Syzygium assimile*) species which found in mountainous moist evergreen forests are common. Since it is a garden established during the British period, *Eucalyptus* sps. *Pinus* sps. and a number of exotic plant species are found. As the underplanting is dense and sunlight is restricted into the ground, many plant species are observed to have limited growth in heart wood and reduced vigor. It is also seen that the stems of the plants have grown up in a twisted manner due to the strong wind currents in the mountains. *Araucaria* (*Araucaria Sps.*), a large open-seeded plant, and Ginihota (*Cyathea Sps.*), a fern species, can be seen in the park. Plants like Valsapu (*Michelia nilagirica*), Wel una (*Bambusa matioter*) can be seen as dominant plants. Also, this NP is famous for beautiful species of flowers of local and foreign origin. In the Park many orchid species can be seen and **Lichen (*Lichen Sps*) and Fungus Sps. are abundant.





There is also a high diversity of animals compared to the size of the park. Although large mammals are not found here, many species of small mammals are found. Among those species, Purple faced langur (*Semnopithecus vetulus*), Giant squirrel (*Ratufa macroura*), Barking deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*), Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), Fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*), Black naped hare (*Lepus nigricollis*) and Porcupine (*Hystrix indica*) are frequently found.



Purple faced langur

Indian Mountain hourglass tree frog (*Taruga eques*) and tree frog (*Polypedates maculatus*) are endemic to Sri Lanka as amphibians. Due to the climatic condition of the park, the number of reptile species living there is limited, but Cobra (*Naja naja*), Boie's rough-sided snake (*Aspidura brachyorrhos*) can be seen. Black-cheeked lizard (*Calotes nigrilabris*), Mahaeliya pygmy lizard (*Cophotis ceylanica*) and Rhino horned lizard



(*Ceratophora stoddartii*) are common endemic lizard species. Although the Horned Lizard endemic to Sri Lanka can be found in the mountainous wet zone, it is special that the highest population can be found in the Galvezland National Park.



Black-cheeked lizard

About 20 species of butterflies can be observed in the park and Common rose (*Pachliopta aristolochiae*), Lemon emigrant (*Catopsilia Pomona*), Great eggfly (*Hypolimnys bolina*), Red pierrot (*Talicauda nyseus*) are common species.

Among the animals in the park, birds show the highest population. Considered by experts as one of the country's most important bird-watching spots, it hosts around 20 rare bird species that migrate every year. About 7 bird species are endemic and the total number of bird species recorded is about 35. Therefore, Galvez Land National Park is famous as a bird watching spot. The species of endemic birds are Sri Lankan yellow-eared bulbul (*Pycnonotus penicillatus*), Sri Lanka whistling thrush (*Myophonus blighi*), Sri lanka Junglefowl (*Gallus lafayetti*), Dusky blue flycatcher (*Eumyias sordidus*), White eye (*Zosterops ceylonensis*) etc. Oriental magpie robin (*Copsychus saularis*), Small minivet (*Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*), Black hooded



oriole (*Oriolus xanthornus*), Emerald dove (*Chalcophaps indica*) are among the local bird species and forest wagtail (*Dendronanthus indicus*), Brown shrike (*Lanius cristatus*) are among the migratory bird species seen here.



Dusky blue flycatcher



Sri lanka Junglefowl



Sri Lankan yellow-eared bulbul

Although one of the smallest National Parks, Galvez Land National Park is one of the few famous National Parks located near cities. A visitor to the park from Colombo has several ways to get here and the easiest way is through Kaduwela-Kosgama-Avissavella-Yatianthota-Kithulgala-Ginigathena-Talawakele to enter Nuwara Eliya city. From Nuwara Eliya city, you can reach the entrance of Galvezland National Park by traveling about one kilometer along the Galvez Road near the Nuwara Eliya Economic Center.



Tickets and guiding for entering the park are available at the entrance and the park is open daily from 6am to 6pm. Also, the park has provided camping facilities for the visiting tourists and the days can be booked from the park office or from the head office of the Department of Wildlife Conservation in Colombo.

Podsoilic soil – soil which is well drained & are leached of clay and organic matter.

** Lichens- Symbiotic relationship between fungi and algae or a cyanobacteria (Photosynthetic bacteria)



CHUNDIKULAM NATIONAL PARK



- **Experience - The end of the leopard**
- **Description of the officer of his encounter -**
Mr. G. U. Saranga
- **Description of the Chundikulam National Park**



The end of the leopard

In 2019, I worked as the Assistant Director in charge of Kilinochchi area. Kilinochchi area has 2 National Parks. Those are Chundikulam and Delft National Parks.

There are small lakes in Chundikulam area. Migrant birds are first to set foot in the ChundiKulam area. Thousands of migratory birds are in the lakes. During the rainy season, these lakes are filled with water. During that time, the migrant birds are abundant in Vankala Sanctuary of Mannar.

There are turtles along the coast in this area, especially the Olive Ridley turtles. Fishermen are engaged in fishing activities on the Northern coast. Turtles get caught in their nets. Because of those practices legs and head of those turtles get injured. There are also cases of illegal transportation as well. There are cases where they are caught and handed over because it is illegal, and there are cases where legal actions were taken. Most incidents are caught by the police. Apart from Batu turtles, other species of turtles are rarely caught.

One day when I was in the Nilinochchi office, I received a message that a leopard had come to the village. The name of the village is Ambala Kulam. It is a little far from my office. I immediately sent a group there. Later a message came from them that the leopard is trapped in the village while they will inform the vet and the leopard can be protected as well.



Later the vet also came there. But when the vet was ready to tranquilize the animal, the people behaved riotously. In this commotion, the leopard jumped on to the back one of our officers. The claws of the leopard cut and scratched the flesh severely. Two people have taken the injured officer to the hospital. The riotous behavior of people increased. They have obstructed our work. Meanwhile, the animal started chasing after the people. Then the people took axes and went to fight with the leopard.

By that time, I was also able to come close to the area. But the police said people were behaving in a restless manner and to wait for a while. At the same time, I heard the news that the leopard had been killed.

When we reached, people were attacking the animal with axes. They were taken selfies with the dead leopard carcass. People behaved as if they had done a great act of heroism. They were shouting loudly.

We went to the police with the body of the dead leopard. We reported to Kilinochchi Magistrate Court regarding this incident. The photos taken by those people are posted on Facebook. We took it and reported it to the court. The court ordered the police to arrest everyone involved and the police arrested about ten to fifteen people.

The case is still pending. When I remember the incident, I feel sorry for not being able to save the leopard.





Mr. G. U. Saranga

Mr. G. U. Saranga joined the Wildlife Department in 1983 as a Ranger and he was fortunate to work in various National Parks and Sanctuaries. He received his basic training at the Yala and Wilpattu Sanctuaries. He was in charge of the Sigiriya Sanctuary and later worked at the Minneriya National Park and then at the Wasgamuwa National Park for seven years. He also served as Park Warden at Horton Plains National Park from 2004-2005 and 2009-2002. Mr. Saranga was later promoted to Assistant Director and was in charge of the Kilinochchi area and later the Ampara area. He is currently in charge of the Vavuniya region.

Mr. Saranga completed a 9-month Diploma course awarded by the Department of Wildlife in 1995 and trained for three months at the Wildlife Institute in Dehradun, India. He has also completed short training courses in countries such as Korea, the Philippines and Thailand.

Mr. Saranga's house is located in Katugastota, Kandy.



Chundikulam National Park

Chundikulam National Park can be introduced as a wetland ecosystem located near the Jaffna Peninsula in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka, with high biodiversity as well as a unique aquatic and coastal ecosystem. With a total area of 19565.33 hectares, this area was first designated as a sanctuary on 26th February 1983 and was declared a National Park on 22nd June 2015 under the provisions of the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance. The park is located between Puchchilaippally and Karachi and the nearest city is Kilinochchi.

Chundikulam Park is located in a lagoon ecosystem, so both freshwater and brackish landforms can be seen here. Located at the sea level height, this is a plain area made up of a combination of several ecosystems showing lowland tropical climate and the salinity of the water also changes from time to time. The rains are brought by the Northeast monsoon and convectional rains while during period from April to September of the year shows a dry weather condition here.

A high diversity of plants can be seen in this park made up of several ecosystems. Accordingly, about 187 plant species have been found, and a large number of them are plant species that grow in wetlands. Mangrove swamp species and sea grass species can be seen in abundance. Grey mangrove (*Avicennia marina*), Black mangrove (*Lumnitzera littoralis*), Thatch screw pine (*Pandanus tactorius*), Red mangrove (*Rhizophora mucronata*), Mangrove apple (*Sonneratia caseolaris*) are the mangrove



(*Rhizophora mucronata*), Mangrove apple (*Sonneratia caseolaris*) are the mangrove species found here. Although there are no fully grown trees within the park, Palmyra plum (*Borassus flabellifer*) occasionally found. In addition, around 18 aquatic plant species have been identified in here.



Palmyra Palm



Red mangrove



Mangrove apple



Mangrove apple

Chundikulam National Park is rich in faunal diversity as it comprises of both wet and dry ecosystems. That is, due to the abundance of food in these ecosystems and the availability of suitable places to breed their species, about 136 species of birds have been identified, and many of them are migratory birds. Bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), Greater flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*), Black-winged stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*), Brown headed gull (*Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus*),



Common sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*), Eurasian curlew (*Numenius arquata*), Gull-billed tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*), Marsh sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*), Black-headed ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*) can be identified as most common bird species found in here.



Bar-tailed godwit



Greater flamingo



Black-winged stilt



Brown headed gull



Common sandpiper



Leopard (*Panthera pardus kotiya*), Sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*), Spotted deer (*Axis axis ceylonensis*) and 26 other species have been identified as the mammals found in here. Mugger crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*), Estuarine crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) are the two crocodile species live in this.



Leopard



Sloth bear



Mugger crocodile

Also, 08 species of amphibians, 05 species of reptiles, one species of turtle, 34 species of salamanders, 20 species of frogs, 30 species of aquatic vertebrates and 17 species of aquatic invertebrates have also been identified in recent studies.

The total distance from Colombo to the park is approximately 361km. A person approaching Chundikulam National Park can enter the park by passing through Negombo - Puttalam - Anuradhapura - Rabewa - Medavachchiya - Kilinochchi - Alimankada - Iyanachchi Junction - Kuveni Junction and can also approach the park through Nittambuwa - Kekirawa - Tirappane - Mihintalea - Rabewa - Medavachchiya - Kilinochchi route.





The tourist bungalow

Tourists coming to visit Chundikulam National Park can be accommodated in the tourist bungalow near the beach, which is maintained by the Department of Wildlife Conservation and can provide accommodation for about ten people. while the bookings can be done from the head office of the Wildlife Conservation Department, Battaramulla, Colombo.



සතුන්ගේ විද්‍යාත්මක නම් ලැයිස්තුව

Sinhala name	Tamil name	English name	Scientific name
අලියා	ஆசிய யானை	Asian elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>
කොටියා	புலி	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus kotiya</i>
හඳුන් දිවියා	மீன்பிடிப் பூனை	Fishing Cat	<i>Prionailurus viverrinus</i>
වල් ඌරා	காட்டுப் பன்றி	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>
දඬු ලේනා	பழுப்பு மலை அணில்	Grizzled giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa macroura</i>
ගෝනා	மரை	Sambar	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>
රිලවා	செங்குரங்கு	Toque Macaque	<i>Macaca sinica</i>
වල්බළලා	காட்டுப்பூனை	Jungle cat	<i>Felis chaus</i>
ශ්‍රී ලංකා අළු වළුරා	இலங்கை சாம்பற் குரங்கு	Common langur	<i>Semnopithecus entellus</i>
හෝතඹුවා	இந்திய சாம்பல் கீரிப்பிள்ளை	Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Urva smithii</i>
පිතකන්කොණ්ඩියා	மஞ்சள் காதுள்ள புல்புல்	Srilanka yelloweared Balbul	<i>Pycnonotus penicillatus</i>
සිතැ-සියා	இலங்கை வெள்ளைக் கண்	Sri Lanka White eye	<i>Zosterops ceylonensis</i>
ගිරා මලිත්තා	இலங்கை தொங்கும் கிளி	Sri Lanka Hanging parrot	<i>Loriculus beryllinus</i>
අළු ගිරවා	லேயார்டின் கிளி	Emerald collared parakeet	<i>Psittacula calthropae</i>
රතුදෙමළුවීවා	ஆரஞ்சு படியாக வாயாடி	Oranger-billed Babbler	<i>Turdoides rufescens</i>



Sinhala name	Tamil name	English name	Scientific name
මහ කවුඩා	துடுப்பு வால் கரிச்சான்	Greater raked tailed drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>
කළුකුසු	கருங்கமுகு	Black eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malaiensis</i>
කැහිබෙල්ලා	இலங்கை நீலச் செவ்வலகன்	Blue magpie	<i>Urocissa ornata</i>
ටිකල් නිල් මැසිරා	செம்மஞ்சள் மார்பக ப்ளைகேச்சர்	Orange breasted fly- catcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>
මුකලන් කොට්ටෝරුවා	மஞ்சள் நிற பர்பர்ட்	Yellow fronted barbet	<i>Megalaima flavifrons</i>
මහ කුරුලු පිය පැපිලියා	இலங்கை அழகி	Sri lanka birdwing	<i>Troides darsius</i>
ඉන්දියානු රතු අද්මිරාල්	இந்திய சிவப்பு அட்மிரல்	Indian red admiral	<i>Vanessa indica</i>
රළු අංකවුස්සා	இலங்கை கருங்காலி பல்லி	Sri Lankan Kangaroo lizard	<i>Otocryptis wiegmanni</i>
කහමුව අංකවුස්සා	முரட்டு மூக்கு கொம்புப் பல்லி	Rough horn lizard	<i>Ceratophora aspera</i>
පළා කවුස්සා	பொதுவான பச்சை வனப் பல்லி	Green Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes calotes</i>
ගරා කවුස්සා	பொதுவான தோட்டப்பல்லி	Common Garden Liz- ard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>
කරමල් බෝදිලිමා	ஹம்ப்மூக்குப்பல்லி	Hump norsed Lizard	<i>Lyiocephalus scutatus</i>
බ්ලයිත්ගේ පෘථිවි සර්පයා	பிளைத் பூமிப் பாம்பு	Blytheearth snake	<i>Rhinophis blythii</i>
ලේමැඩිල්ලා	பாயின் கரடுமுரடான பாம்பு	Boie's rough-sided snake	<i>Aspidura brachyorrhos</i>
දළව මැඩිල්ලා	தலவமெடில்லா	common roughside	<i>Aspidura trachyprocta</i>
ලේ තිත්තයා	லே தித்தயா	Cherry Barb	<i>Puntius titteya</i>
බුලත්හපයා	புலத்ஹபயா	Black ruby barb	<i>Puntius nigrofasciatus</i>



Sinhala name	Tamil name	English name	Scientific name
கித் මුවා	புள்ளி மான்	Spotted deer	<i>Axis axis ceylonensis</i>
මැලි මුවා	கேளையாடு	Barking Deer	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>
ඉත්තෑමා	முள்ளம்பன்றி	Porcupine	<i>Hystrix indica</i>
හීවලා	நரி	Golden jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>
උනහළුවා	தேவாங்கு	Gray Slender Loris	<i>Loris lydekkerianus</i>
කොළ දිවියා	துரும்பன் பூனை	Rusty- spotted cat	<i>Prionailurus rubiginosus</i>
මළු කුකුළා	இலங்கைக் காட்டுக் கோழி	Sri lanka junglefowl	<i>Gallus lafayettii</i>
හබන් කුකුළා	சின்னக் காட்டுக்கோழி	Sri lanka Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix bicalcarata</i>
මල් කොට්ටෝරුවා	சின்ன குக்குறுவான்	Crimson-Fronted Barbet	<i>Psilopogon rubricapillus</i>
අළු කුඳුන්තා	இலங்கை சாம்பல் இருவாய்ச்சி	Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros gingalensis</i>
මහ නිල් මල් කොහා	நீல முகச் செண்பகம்	Blue – faced malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus viridirostris</i>
ලංකා සැළලිහිණියා	இலங்கை மைனா	Sri Lanka Myna	<i>Gracula ptilogenys</i>
පොරෝ කුඳුන්තා	மலபார் கறுப்பு வெள்ளை இருவாய்ச்சி	Malabar pied horn bill	<i>Anthraceroceros coronatus</i>
නිජිමි තිරාසිකයා	புள்ளிச் சிறகுகள் கொண்ட த்ரஷ்	Sri Lanka Spot-Winged Thrush	<i>Geokichla spiloptera</i>
මී හරකා	எருமை	Water buffalo	<i>Bubalus bubalis</i>
තොල වීසිතුරු කටුස්සා	சிவப்பு உதட்டுப் பல்லி	Red lipped lizard	<i>Calotes ceylonensis</i>
තාරකා ඉබ්බන්	நட்சத்திர ஆமைகள்	Star tortoise	<i>Testudo elegans</i>



Sinhala name	Tamil name	English name	Scientific name
පිඹුරා	மலைப்பாம்பு	Python	<i>Python molurus</i>
වන සැරටින්නා	சிலோன் வுட்ஷ்ரைக்	Sri Lanka Wood shrike	<i>Tephrodornis affinis</i>
ලංකා දුඹුරු දෙමලිව්වා	பழுப்பு நிற மூடிய புழுணி	Sri Lanka Brown capped Babbler	<i>Pellorneum fuscocapillus</i>
අළු කැදැන්නා	இலங்கை சாம்பல் இருவாய்ச்சி	Sri lanka Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyceros gingalensis</i>
වන නිල් මල් කොහා	நீல முகச் செண்பகம்	Blue – faced malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus viridirostis</i>
පැස්තුඩුවන්	சாம்பல் கூழைக்கடா	Spot-Billed pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>
ඌන කාලා	இந்திய நெடுங்கிளாத்தி	Indian darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>
දියබල්ලා	நீர் நாய்	Eurasian otter	<i>Lutra lutra ceylonica</i>
වලස් වදුරා (කළු වදුරා)	ஊதா முக இலங்கை குரங்கு	Purple-faced langur	<i>Semnopithecus vetulus monticola</i>
පළා පදුරු මැඩියා	இலை கூடு புதர் தவளை	Leaf-nesting shrub frog	<i>Pseudophilautus femoralis</i>
ලංකා කළුකර මැඩියා	இலங்கை தவளை வாயன்	Srilanka frog	<i>Fejervarya greeni</i>
ලංකා මුව පටු මැඩියා	இலங்கையின் குறுகிய வாய் கொண்ட தவளை	Sri Lanka Narrow-mouth Frog	<i>Microhyla zeylanica</i>
අං කටුස්සා	காண்டா மிருகக் கொம்புப் பல்லி	Rhino horned lizard	<i>Ceratophora stoddartii</i>
ශ්‍රී ලංකා අනු මැසිමාරා	வெளிர் நீல ஈப்பிடிப்பான்	Dusky blue flycatcher	<i>Eumyias sordidus</i>
මයිල ගොයා	இலங்கை மரப் புறா	Sri Lanka wood pigeon	<i>Columba torringtoniae</i>
ශ්‍රී ලංකා අරංගො	இலங்கை விசில் த்ரஷ்	Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus blighi</i>
ශ්‍රී ලංකා වන රැවියා	இலங்கை புஷ் போர்ப்லர்	Sri Lanka Warbler	<i>Elaphrornis palliseri</i>



Sinhala name	Tamil name	English name	Scientific name
කැලූ අශ්වයා	காட்டுக் குதிரை	Wild horse	<i>Equus caballus</i>
වළු හාවා	காட்டு குழி முயல்	Black napped hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>
බොර මුගටියා	குட்டைவால் இந்திய சாம்பல் கீரிப்பிள்ளை	Brown mongoose	<i>Herpestes brachyurus</i>
අලු මුගටියා	சாம்பல் கீரிப்பிள்ளை	Grey mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsii</i>
මා වවුලා	பெரிய வெளவால்	Flying fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>
වැලි පොළහා	சுருட்டை விரியன்	Saw- scaled viper	<i>Echiscarinatus</i>
පොදු උකුසු ගොයා	சாதாரண சிறுநெழால்	Common kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
පුංචි මාල ඔලෙටියා	சிறிய வளையம் கொண்ட பிளவர்	Little ringed plover	<i>Chara driusdubius</i>
කෙන්ට් ඔලෙටියා	கென்டிஷ் ப்ளோவர்	Kentish plover	<i>Charadrius alexan- drinus</i>
වී කුරුල්ලා	நெற்குருவி	Silver bill	<i>Lonchura malabarica</i>
අළු උස්සවවුලා	கௌதாரி	Grey francolin	<i>Francolinus pondic- erianus</i>
මාල කොබෙයියා	யுரேஷியா காலர் புறா	Eurasian collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
මහා කොණ්ඩ මුහුදු ලිහිණියා	பெரிய முகடு டெர்டன்	Great crested tern	<i>Sterna bergii</i>
රැකණ කොකා	கறுப்பு கிரீடம் அணிந்த நைட் ஹெரான்	Black-crowned night -heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
අරුණු සෙව්වන්දියා	சிவப்புடல் அழகி	Crimoson rose	<i>Pachliopta hector</i>
ඉරි කෝන්ගියා	தருகஸ் நாரா	Striped pierrot	<i>Tarucus nara</i>
මලිතරිසියා	சிறிய சால்மன் அரபு	Small samonarab	<i>Colotis amata</i>



Sinhala name	Tamil name	English name	Scientific name
කුරන් විශේෂයන්	தும்பி இனங்கள்	Pruinosed blood tail	<i>Lathrecista asiatica</i>
වයිරපෙද ගොභොද්වන්තා	பட்டைவால் மூக்கன்	Bar-tailed godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
රජ සියක්කාරයා	பெரும் பூநாரை	Greater flamingo	<i>Phoenicopte rusroseus</i>
කළු පිය ඉපල්පාචා	நெடுங்கால் உள்ளான்	Black-winged stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
බොරහිස් ගල්වියා	பழுப்புத்தலை கடற்பறவை	Brown headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus</i>
පොදු සිලිත්තා	சாதா உள்ளான்	Common sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
යුරාසියා කලිත්තා	பெரிய கோட்டான்	Eurasian curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
ගුලුතුඩු මුහුදු ලිහිණියා	பருத்த அலகு ஆலா	Gull-billed tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
වගරු සිලිබිල්ලා	சின்ன பச்சைக்காலி	Marsh sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
හිසකළු කුඳුත්තා	வெள்ளை அரிவாள் மூக்கன்	Black-headed ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>
හැල කිඹුලා	சதுப்பு முதலை	Mugger crocodile	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>
ගැට කිඹුලා	செம்மூக்கு முதலை	Estuarine crocodile	<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>



Sinhala name	Tamil name	English name	Scientific name
සමනල මත්ස්‍යයන් Chaetodon විශේෂ	வண்ணத்துப்பூச்சி மீனினங்கள் Chaetodon வகைகள்	Butterfly fish species Chaetodon species	
		Red-tailed butterfly fish	<i>Chaetodon collare</i>
		Speckled butterfly fish	<i>Chaetodon citrinellus</i>
		Black wedged butterfly fish	<i>Chaetodon falcula</i>
		Yellowhead butterfly fish	<i>Chaetodon xanthocephalus</i>
		Lined butterfly fish	<i>Chaetodon lineolatus</i>
		Scrawled butterfly fish	<i>Chaetodon meyeri</i>
		Black-backed butterfly fish	<i>Chaetodon melannotus</i>
		Latticed butterfly fish	<i>Chaetodon rafflesi</i>
		Melon butterfly fish	<i>Chaetodon trifasciatus</i>
		Triangle butterfly fish	<i>Chaetodon triangulum</i>
පණු විශේෂ	பழு இனங்கள்	Feather duster worms	<i>Sabella species</i>
පොකිරිස්සන්	பாறை இறால்	Lobsters	<i>Panulirus species</i>
බෙල්ලන් විශේෂ	சங்கு இனங்கள்	Common spider conch	<i>Lambis lambis</i>
බෙල්ලන් විශේෂ	சங்கு இனங்கள்	The giant spider conch	<i>Lambis truncate</i>
ගොළු බෙල්ලන්	கடல் நத்தைகள்	Coral snails (Drupa species)	
පණු විශේෂ	பழு இனங்கள்	Onus species	



Sinhala name	Tamil name	English name	Scientific name
මුහුදු ඉකිරියන්	இரட்டை சுழல் முல்லை	Sea urchin	<i>Echinethrix calamaris</i>
කොරල් විශේෂ	பவளப்பாறை இனங்கள்	Devil's hand corals	<i>Lobophytum</i>
		Staghorn	
			<i>Acropora cervicornis</i>
			<i>Acropora formosa</i>
		Rose coral	<i>Montipora aequituberulata</i>
		Cauliflower coral or Lace coral	<i>Pocillopora damicornis</i>
		Rasp coral	<i>Pocillopora verrucosa</i>
			<i>Pocillopora eydouxi</i>
		Stony coral	<i>Porites rus</i>
		Star coral	<i>Favites abdita</i>
වලහා	தேன் கரடி	Sloth bear	<i>Melursus ursinus</i>
වළි කුකුලා	இலங்கைக்காட்டுக் கோழி	Sri lankajunglefowl	<i>Gallus lafayetii</i>
මාහේමා උකුස්සා	செம்பருந்து	Bhaminy kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>



වෘක්ෂයන්ගේ නම් ලැයිස්තුව

Sinhala Names	Tamil Names	English Names	Botanical Name
උඩවැඩියා විශේෂ	ඔක්කිට් වගෙකகள்	Orchid species	
ඇල්ගී විශේෂ	පාඨි වගෙකகள்	Algae species	
බිම් උඩ-වැ-ඩියා	තරෙර ඔක්කිට්	Ground orchid	<i>Spathoglottis plicata</i>
ඉරු රාජ	ඔරු රාජ	Iru raja	<i>Zeuxine regia</i>
මහ හැඩියා	මහ හෙරුදයා	Mahahadaya	<i>Hupergia phlegmaria</i>
නා විශේෂ	නාක වගෙක	Mesuwa sps	
කුරුළු කුඩු මීවණ	කුරුලු කුඩු කලනර්තාවරම	Bird nest fern	<i>Asplenium nidus</i>
පලු	පාලෙ	Palu	<i>Manilkara hexandra</i>
වීර	වීරෙ	Hedge Box wood	<i>Drypetes sepiaria</i>
සඳරාජ	සඳරා රාජ	Sanda raja	<i>Fittonia verschaffeltii</i>
බිම්කොහොඹ	බිම්කොහොඹ	Bimkohomba	<i>Munronia pinnata</i>
අන්නාසි	අන්නාසි	pineapple	<i>Ananas comosus</i>
දෙහි	දෙහි	Lime	<i>Citrus species</i>
දොඩම්	දොඩම්	Orange	<i>Citrus species</i>
හීන් නාරං	හීන් නාරං	Heennaran	<i>Citrus crenatifolia</i>



Sinhala Names	Tamil Names	English Names	Botanical Name
අඹුල් දොඩම්	புளி தோடை	Ambuldodan	<i>Citrus guramtium</i>
කුණුවැල්ල	கரிமரம்	Kunumella	<i>Diospyros ovalifolia</i>
උල්කෙන්ද	உழுவிந்தை	Ulkenda	<i>Polyalthia korinti</i>
කප්පෙටියා	தெப்பாடி	Kappetiya	<i>Croton lacciferus</i>
කෝන්	பூக்கம்	Kon	<i>Schleichera oleosa</i>
තේක්ක	தேக்கு	Teak	<i>Tectona grandis</i>
යුකැලිප්ටස්	யூக்கலிப்டஸ்	Eucalyptus	<i>Myrtaceae species</i>
මයුරතණ	மயுரபுல்	Mayaurathana	<i>Chloris montana</i>
ඉලුක්	இலுக்	Illuk	<i>Imperata cylindrical</i>
ගිණිය තණ	கினியாபுல்	Guinea tana	<i>Panicum maximum</i>
හින්තඹල	குரங்குவெற்றிலை	Hinthambala	<i>Carmona microphylla</i>
මහරත්මල්	மகா ரத்மல்	Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron arboreum</i>
රතු මිහිරිය	ரது மிஹிரிய	Ratumihiriya	<i>Adinandra lasiopetala</i>
කින	கின	Kina	<i>Calophylem walkeri</i>
වල් කුරුදු	வல் குருந்து	walkurudu	<i>Cinnamomum ovalifolium</i>



Sinhala Names	Tamil Names	English Names	Botanical Name
වල් සපු	வல் சபு	walsapu	<i>Michelia nilagirica</i>
බිනර	பினர	Binara	<i>Exacum trinerva macranthum</i>
තල් ශාකය	ஆசியப்பனை	Palmyra Palm	<i>Borassus flabellifer</i>
බයෝබැබ්	பெருக்க மரம்	Baobab	<i>Adansonia digitata</i>
මල් විශේෂයන්	பூ வகைகள்	Flower Sps	<i>Fimbristylis dipsacea</i>
මල් විශේෂයන්	பூ வகைகள்	Flower Sps	<i>Ipomoea coptica</i>
වැල් විශේෂයන්	கொடி வகைகள்	Creeper Sps	<i>Cocculus hirsutus</i>
මල් විශේෂයන්	பூ வகைகள்	Flower Sps	<i>Peplidium maritimum</i>
මුහුදු ශාක විශේෂ	கடற் தாவர வகைகள்	Ocean plant Sps	<i>Sargassum</i>
මුහුදු ශාක විශේෂ	கடற் தாவர வகைகள்	Ocean plant Sps	<i>Caulerpa</i>
කඩොලාන විශේෂ	சதுப்புநில புதர்கள்	Mangroves	
මුහුදු තණකොළ	கடற் புட்கள்	Sea grass	
කිරල	கிண்ணை	Mangrove apple	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i>
මන්ඩා	சாம்பல் சதுப்பு நிலம்	Grey mangrove	<i>Avicennia marina</i>
මහ කඩොල්	சிவப்பு சதுப்பு நிலம்	Red mangrove	<i>Rhizophora mucronata</i>



Sinhala Names	Tamil Names	English Names	Botanical Name
බේරියා	கறுப்பு சதுப்பு நிலம்	Black mangrove	<i>Lumnitzera littoralis</i>
මුදු කෙයියා	கைதை	Thatch screw pine	<i>Pandanus tectorius</i>
බුරුත	முதிரை	Satin wood	<i>Chloroxylon swietenia</i>
කළුවර	கருங்காலி	Ebony	<i>Diospyros ebenum</i>
මිල්ල	காட்டு நொச்சி	Milla	<i>Vitex altissima</i>
කළුමැදිරිය	பதுரங்கலி	Kalumadiriya	<i>Diospyros quaesita</i>
මයිල	அத்தி	Mila	<i>Bauhinia racemosa</i>
මාන	கமாச்சிப் புல்	Mana	<i>Cymbopogon confertiflorus</i>
ඇල්ගී විශේෂයක්		Algae species	<i>Caulerpa taxifolia</i>
ඇල්ගී විශේෂයක්		Algae species	<i>Ulva</i>
ඇල්ගී විශේෂයක්		Algae species	<i>Sargassam</i>
ඇල්ගී විශේෂයක්		Algae species	<i>Padina</i>
හලෝබිලා		Bacteria species	<i>Halobacteriaceae species</i>
එන්හලස්		Sea grass species	<i>Enhalus acoroides</i>
කොහොඹ	வேம்பு	Kohomba	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>
නුග	ஆலமரம்	Banyan	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i>



CONTRIBUTION



Editor :

Dammika Malsinghe,
* Additional Secretary,



Article by:

Hasini Sarathchandra,
** Chief Media Officer



English Translations:

Asoka Palihawadana,
* Translator



Tamil Translations & Setting :

A.R.F. Rifna,
* Development Officer,



Article Assistance by:

Mahesha C. Perera,
** Development Officer



Compilation E-Book:

Ruchini Senevirathne
* Development Officer



Photographs By:

** Rohitha Gunawardana,



Publishing :

N.I. Gayathri,
* Development Officer,



Publishing:

C.A.D.D.A. Kollure,
* Management Service officer



Various Support

Thushara Amarasuriya,
* Management Service officer

Article 13 Photograph:

Kavindu Sandamin Perera

* Ministry of Wildlife & Forest
Resources Conservation

** Department of Wildlife
Conservation



Unforgettable wilderness recollections

The officers in the Department of Wildlife and Forest Conservation engage in their duties with absolute dedication. From ferocious predators on the hunt for prey, to herbivores on the run from predators, Sri Lanka's forests offer an extravagant theatre to observe the fascinating behavior of its diverse wildlife.

Unfortunately, the forests' grandiosity attracts the attention of poachers and trophy hunters. This inevitably leads to hostile interactions between the officials of the Departments of Wildlife and Forest Conservation and the poachers are not uncommon.

This article offers the reader a glimpse into the harrowing experiences of these officials and serves as a testament to their courage and fortitude in the presence of danger to raise public awareness to the perils involved when these dedicated public servants carry out their duty.

