

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE MANGROVE COSERVATION PROGRAM OF THE SMALL FISHER FEDERATION, SRI LANKA



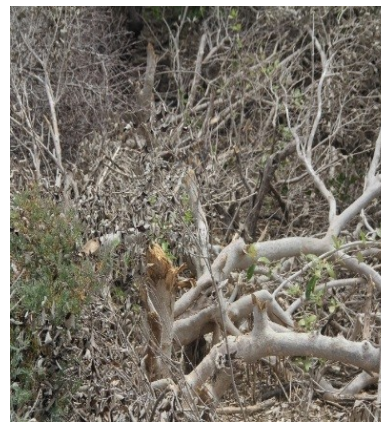


# Mangroves in Sri Lanka

- Recent estimates indicate nearly **18,000 ha of Mangroves with 22 species** (2016).
- 36 species of mangrove associates
- Over **6,000 ha** of mangroves have been cleared during last three decades for **shrimp farming and other commercial purposes** without considering the benefits of mangroves



# Loss of Mangrove cover



In many parts of Sri Lanka mangroves are being destroyed at an alarming rate due to:

- Urban and village expansions
- Coastal zone development projects
- Road construction &
- Construction of salterns





➤ With the patronage of Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment &

with the **Seacology** financial support, **Sudeesa** has launched a mangrove conservation drive with the communities throughout the coastal belt of Sri Lanka



Planted in  
January 2015

## Mangrove Conservation Activities

- Community awareness and empowerment through legally accepted **1,500 community organizations in 48 major lagoon systems in 14 coastal districts** of Sri Lanka
- Economically empowered **15,000 community vigilant members** deployed to protect mangrove cover in all lagoon systems along the coastal belt of the island
- For mangrove areas legally demarcated and gazetted as conservation areas by the Forest Department, Sudeesa continually supply mangrove seedlings for replanting
- Set up a mangrove museum and community awareness center in Pambala and provides knowledge base for the people of the country and the world

## Community Organizations formed in 14 coastal districts

District	No. of CBO 's	Members Trained	Micro Loan	Conservation (ha)	Replanting (ha)
Jaffna	246	2,460	2,460	2,081	400
Mullative	54	540	540	463	263
Mannar	100	1,000	1,000	854	254
Kilinochchi	91	910	910	770	332
Trincimalee	240	2,400	2,400	2,043	620
Batticaloa	167	1,670	1,670	1,421	489
Ampara	34	340	340	292	261
Hambantota	68	680	680	576	291
Matara	24	240	240	200	-
Galle	28	280	280	238	176
Kaluthara	24	240	240	200	-
Puttalam	380	3,800	3,800	3,210	800
Gampaha	39	390	390	223	-
Colombo	5	50	50	39	-
	<b>1,500</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>12,610</b>	<b>3,886</b>



## Mangrove Nursery

- Over 50,000 Mangrove seedlings produced annually &

Provides to all mangrove lovers for replanting throughout the lagoons belt of the country

- Village base community mangrove nurseries set up & each family produce at least 100 mangrove seedlings in their home gardens near the lagoon.

- Necessary technology to maintain mangrove nurseries provided by Sudeesa and Forest Department

- In the nurseries mangrove plants are kept for 9 to 12 months before replanting.



## Mangrove Replanting

- All the vacant land near the lagoons must be **replanted and protected by community organizations**
- Community members and volunteers participate in replanting drive of mangroves
- **Women groups are the most dynamic mangrove conservation forces** with their understanding on mangroves as the fish breeding grounds
- Each community organization must be engaged in protecting at least **8.5ha of mangrove area and replanting 2.5ha of disturbed sites.**
- Members of the Scientific Forum of Sudeesa and Forest Department have commenced research activities on climate change and other services of natural mangrove patches and replanted mangroves







- **Women lead each community organization** engage in protecting mangroves
- **1,500** women headed community organizations in **48** major lagoon systems engage in replanting & protecting mangroves
- All the community organizations are legally registered
- Sudeesa provides **legal and scientific knowhow** to women groups to identify, conserve and replant mangroves





## Women Focused Community Awareness Programs

- Women are the most dynamic groups for mangrove conservation.
- Under Seacology support program, Sudeesa has launched **awareness and livelihood development** training for woman
- There are very encouraging participation of women for livelihood training and conservation effort of mangroves.





## Livelihood Development of Women



- Poverty alleviation and empowerment of women are the main activities of the Seacology-Sudeesa Mangrove Conservation Programme.
- Seacology and Sudeesa identified women as a major conservation force.
- Due to lack of fish in their husbands' nets, poverty encompassed among the fishing families.



- Micro loan, skills training and facilitate on job opportunities for women, is the solution to poverty alleviation
- With above facilitation , they are involved in mangrove conservation activities.
- Women are engaged in diverse self employment activities with reliable marketing network
- Seacology and Sudeesa will open a new job-training center and increase the value of each microloan offered under the program **from \$45 to \$100**



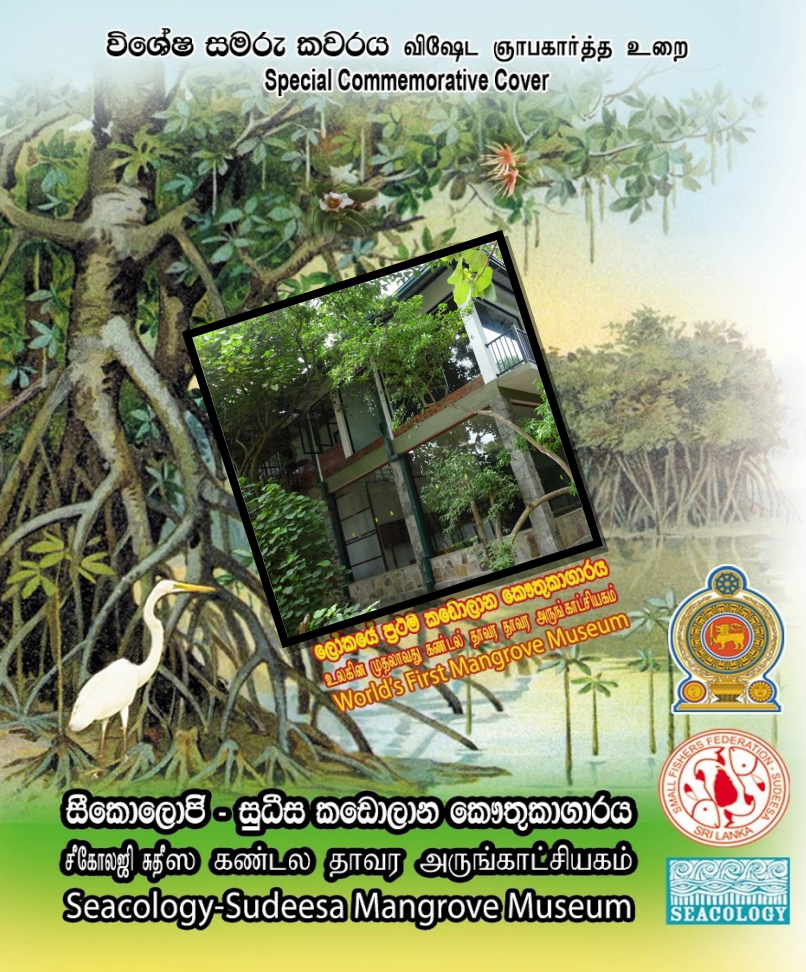
# Seacology- Sudeesa Mangrove Museum

Preschool children  
School children  
University students  
Scientists  
Community members  
visit  
Seacology-Sudeesa  
Mangrove Museum.





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Special Commemorative Cover



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Sri Lanka Government issued commemorative stamp and special cover for World First Mangrove Museum In Sri Lanka on Seacology and Sudetes's effort.

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# Conclusion

- Seacology – Sudeesa Sri Lanka mangrove conservation project makes Sri Lanka the first nation in the world to protect all of its mangrove forests
- A small amount of financial assistance can offer a path out of poverty for some of the country's most vulnerable inhabitants, who are essential partners in our effort to protect the country's remaining mangrove forests

**Source:** [www.seacology.org](http://www.seacology.org)

We wish to acknowledge

Joint organizers of the conference:

ITTO

MoFE

ISME

&

Sudeesa for extending an invitation to attend the conference and all other arrangements



# Thank You



## Seacology-Sudeesa Sri Lanka Mangrove Conservation Programme **Small Fishers Federation Of Lanka(Sudeesa)**

Head Quarters: Pambala, Kakkapalliya  
Tele: +94322248707 Fax: +94322247960



*Sri Lanka : The Land of Eternal Mangroves*