

Report of the International Conference (Project EMBioC):

Conservation of Wetlands - conflicts or compromise -

Linking Scientists, Policy Makers, NGOs and Stakeholders

(16th-19th January 2003, Colombo, Sri Lanka)

Objectives and Scope of the Conference:

Wetlands, both natural and human-made, were the centres of Sri Lanka's ancient civilization, which thrived on the island for over a thousand years and formed the hub of its cultural, economic and social evolution. Coastal wetlands include estuaries and lagoons with associated mangrove swamps, saline marshes, mudflats and coastal seagrass beds. Most wetlands are state owned, but some are either wholly or partly under private ownership. On the other hand there is an overall lack of awareness among the general population of the importance of wetlands. These areas are often considered as wastelands to be cleared and filled for other land uses or to be used as waste dumps. Large sections of these habitats have been lost due to landfill for housing, commercial and industrial development and conversion to prawn farming and agricultural practices. The conference addressed this issue of conservation of wetlands versus conversion for development in developing countries demonstrating specific problems found in Sri Lankan coastal wetlands. Although there is significant knowledge about the importance, value, and vulnerability of these ecosystems, the destruction continues at an alarming rate.

The conference was aimed at a wide range of participants who were interested in the conservation of wetland biodiversity, including scientists, representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local peoples, funding agencies and individuals. The main objective was to stimulate the exchange of knowledge and viewpoints between the different groups. The conference facilitated the realization of the current deficits in the cooperation between science, NGOs and policy makers. An expectation of the conference was the identification and development of improved conservation strategies and a better management of wetland resources.

Conference themes:

Six main conference issues were proposed in the conference for the achievement of the above objectives, which also represented the objectives of the project EMBioC. These issues were:

- I. valuation of wetlands;
- II. socio-economic aspects of wetland conservation;
- III. ecological aspects of wetland conservation;
- IV. policy and legislation on wetlands;
- V. wetland conservation versus conversion for development; and
- VI. community based eco-tourism in wetlands.

In selecting the conference papers for presentation, preference was given to the articles of a multi-disciplinary nature. The outline of the conference program is presented in Annex A.

On the first day of the conference, *Valuation of wetlands* was the key theme. The former head of the Department of Environment, the World Bank, Prof. Mohan Munasinghe, presented a keynote address on this theme. Mohan Munasinghe is a widely known researcher and policy maker on valuation of environment. He has published numerous books and research articles on environment valuation methodologies. There were five paper presentations on this topic including the results of the Project EMBioC on valuation of conservation effectiveness of wetlands. Valuation techniques such as contingent valuation, choice experiments and analytical multi-criteria analysis was discussed in this session.

The second theme of the conference was the *socio-economic aspects* of wetland conservation. The number of abstracts submitted was small for this topic, and as such the selection of the theme as a separate section was not justified. Therefore, the Project EMBioC paper on this theme was presented during the second day sessions. Among the other themes the most popular one was the *ecological aspect of wetland conservation*. Aspects of wetland ecology has been the topic of most wetland research in Asia. The selection of papers for presentation in this section was highly competitive due to the number of abstracts submitted. Aspects such as habitat characteristics, waste water discharge, water quality, invasive plants, population fluctuation, effects of fish and crab farming in mangroves, habitat islands and bird sanctuaries were discussed with reference to wetland conservation.

The second day of the conference was devoted to the debate on *conservation of wetlands versus conversion for development*. The Director General of the International Water Management Institute delivered a keynote address on the debate of conservation versus conversion for development at the beginning of the day. The topic was highly relevant to the participants since it is very difficult to find a balance between the development and conservation of wetland areas in Sri Lanka and also more generally in the Asian region. Populations that migrate into coastal areas looking for economic activities create a high demand for land, for settlement as well as economic expansion. As a result, this expansion worsens the availability of land for economic development and the final result is human approach for publicly available lands such as wetlands. In order to quantify preferences of stakeholders for conservation and conversion for development, Project EMBioC used the Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP). A paper detailing the implementation of this approach and presenting the results was presented. It was well received by the audience since it was the first of known application of the approach in the literature.

Lessons learned from twenty years of implementation experience in conservation of wetlands in Sri Lanka and Indian wetlands were among other important topics discussed during this session. Other themes discussed in the conference were *policy and legislation on wetlands* and *community-based ecotourism in wetlands*.

The session on poster presentations of the conference contained several contributions. Amongst other papers, the study of “Characteristics of Koggala lagoon in southern Sri Lanka in relation to the construction of a breakwater, and associated impact on fishing community, hydrodynamics of a coastal wetland ecosystem and the socio-economic characteristics of Muthurajawela marsh and Negombo wetland (MMNL)” was frequently visited and

questioned by the participants. A poster was also prepared for the conference detailing the activities of the Project EMBioC by the team of the University of Portsmouth.

Many issues arose from presented papers and discussions followed. The conference was felt to have a definite impact in knowledge transfer for the conservation of wetlands in developing countries and the Darwin initiative involvement to help shape policies in right direction was recognised and appreciated.

Conference administration:

The conference was jointly convened by,

- Centre for the Economics and Management of Aquatic Resources (CEMARE), University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth, UK,
- Department of Town and Country Planning, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka,
- Department of Forestry and Environmental Sciences, University of Sri Jayawardanapura, Sri Lanka,
- Ministry of Southern Areas Development, Sri Lanka, and
- Darwin Initiative, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), UK.

The idea of conducting an international conference was not intended at the initial planning phase of the project EMBioC. However, the necessity of such a gathering was discussed in many project meetings during the project period. As a result, the idea was gradually developed during the second year of the project. In the original funding of the project there was no budget allocation for an international conference. The low cost of conducting such an event in Sri Lanka allowed planning for the event to start in the middle of the second year of the project.

Much of the conference organisation was carried out by CEMARE. Initial announcement of the conference (see Annex B) was made through several international distribution lists such as IIFET, FAO, RESECON, SLNET and World Fish Centre. Further, announcement was distributed among all academic institutions in UK via electronically. The response rate was good and scholars from all over the world submitted very attractive abstracts. However, in order to attend, many of them expected financial assistance from the organisers to cover the high cost of travelling from Europe and North America to Sri Lanka. This was not possible as there were no funds for this in the project EMBioC.

Abstract selection and initial conference planning work was carried out in the UK. Local partners arranged the venue, duplication of conference materials and conducted all local organisation. Further, the local partners arranged invitations to policy makers, NGOs and local scientists in Sri Lanka.

Conference Recommendations:

The conference was very successful in terms of achieving the objectives that were set out. It was the best platform to discuss the findings of the project EMBioC. Local researchers,

policy makers, wetland users, politicians and NGOs were able to discuss their concerns over the project findings (see Annex C for the participants list). Moreover, Asian wetland researchers were able to interpret the results based on their experience in the respective neighbouring countries. A session was convened at the end of the conference to state the major recommendations from the conference. These are summarised below:

1. Recommend to Department of Wildlife and Ramsar Secretariat that Muthurajawela Conservation Zone be designated as a Ramsar site.
 - Recommendation to be brought to a meeting of the competent authorities.
2. That the interdependence of lagoon ecosystems be recognised in planning actions.
 - Competent authorities to be advised of relevant research findings.
3. Information about issues relating to wetland conservation is included in school and university curriculum
 - Strengthen content by dissemination of research findings and by involvement of schools in monitoring activities.
 - Seek to establish a source of funding to support school and university activities.
 - Seek out and disseminate indigenous knowledge about wetland utilisation.
4. Develop a clear demarcation, categorisation and ranking of wetlands to assist the planning framework.
 - Collate research reports, co-ordinate the enhancement of mapping with the National Physical Planning Department and determine action required at a meeting of relevant experts and Government agencies.
 - Ensure that indigenous knowledge is incorporated into the planning process.
5. Ministry(ies) responsible for environmental issues to finalise the National policy for wetlands.
 - Make a formal request to the Ministry(ies) to revive the National Wetlands Steering Committee.
 - Co-ordinate policy development with the National Physical Planning Council.
6. Encourage development of local initiatives in wetlands to generate income through ecotourism.
 - Establish community-based ecotourism enterprises.
7. Improve communication between wetland researchers.
 - Establish a network of researchers, policy-makers and stakeholders.
8. Use the value of wetland (wherever possible) in cost benefit analysis when cost and benefits of development activities are being carried out in wetland areas.
 - Test the reliability of using wetland value in policy decisions.
 - Prepare rules and guidelines to use such values in extended cost-benefit analysis.

General Recommendation: These points to be circulated to all participants for comment and in order to seek volunteers to lead or assist with actions.

Annex A: Conference Program:

Venue: Trans-Asia Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Thursday, 16-01-03

14:00 – 17:00 Arrival in Colombo

Friday, 17-01-03

8:00 – 9:00 Registration of participants

9:00 – 10:30 **In-augural session:**

9.00 – 9.15 Welcome address by Vice Chancellor, University of Moratuwa

9.15 – 9.30 Theme of the conference

9.30 – 10.00 Address by Hon. Minister of Environment

10.00 – 10.30 Tea break

10:00 – 11.15 **Wetlands, Environmental Valuation and Sustainable Development**

Session Chair: Dr. Premachanadra Wattage, Project Leader, Project EMBioC

Keyspeaker: Prof. Mohan Munasinghe, Chief Energy Advisor to the Government of Sri Lanka, former Division Chief for Environment policy, World bank, Washington DC, USA..

11:15 – 11:30 Discussion

Session Chair: Dr. Sunil Siriwardana, Head, Aquatic Division, National Aquatic Resources Agency (NARA), Sri Lanka

11:30 – 11:50 Determining conservation value of wetlands using contingent valuation method (CVM), by Dr. P. Wattage, CEMARE, University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth, UK.

11:50 – 12:10 Multiple criteria method and the analysis of wetland resources, by Dr. Simon Mardle, CEMARE, University of Portsmouth, UK.

12:10 – 12:30 A conjoint based choice modeling approach using the PHREG procedure to evaluate the importance of fisheries management objectives, by Dr. P. Wattage, CEMARE, University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth, UK.

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break

Session Chairman: Prof. Jayantha Wijeratne, Professor of Zoology, University of Kelaniya

14:00 – 14:20 Effects of waste water discharge of shrimp farms on seagrass productivity by Mr. V. Pahala Watearachchi and Dr. P.P.G.S.N. Siriwardena, National Aquatic Resources Agency (NARA), Sri Lanka

14:20 – 14:40 Habitat characteristics are key factors that determine faunal group dynamics in rekawa mangrove ecosystem and its environs: a case study from Rekawa, Sri Lanka, by Dr. L. Samayawardhena, Mr. S. Hettiarachchi, Mr. L.P. Jayatissa and Mr. C.N.L. Bogahawatte, Department of Botany, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka.

14:40 – 15:00 Water quality of the three lagoons of Bundala wetlands and its controlling factors, by Mr. S.C. Piyankarage, Mr. A.P. Mallawathantri, Mr. Y. Matsuno

and Mr. K.A.S. Pathiratne, International Water Management Institute, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

- 15:00 – 15:20 Bio control for the management of invasive plant: *Prosopis juliflora* (L) in Bundala Ramsar wetland, Sri Lanka by Dr. C.N.L. Bogahawatte and Mr. W.A.J.P de Silva, Department of Zoology, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka.
- 15:30 – 15:40 Feeding guild analysis and fish abundance studies in the aquatic environments of Bundala National park – A Ramsar site, Sri Lanka by Mr. E.P.S. Chandana and Mr. L.A. Samayawardhena, Department of Zoology, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka.
- 15:40 – 16:00 Tea break

Session chairman: Dr. Simon Cragg, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Portsmouth, UK.

- 16:00 – 16:20 Population fluctuation of eleven species of aquatic avifauna in and around Tissawewa by Mr. D.N.Ariyasena, Mr. K.A.D.W. Senarathna, Prof. S.W. Kotagama and Mr. W.A.H.P. Guruge, Agrarian Service Department, Haldummulla, Sri Lanka.
- 16:20 – 16:40 Impact of crab fattening on the lagoon environment and the livelihood of fishers in Negombo lagoon, by Dr. A.W.S. Pathmi, Mr. S.C. Jayamanne, Dr. P.P.G.S.N. Siriwardena and Mr. Y. Hirimuthugoda, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka.
- 15:40 – 17:00 Relationships of habitat islands and bird densities in major aquatic environments in Bundala National park: A Ramsar site, Sri Lanka, by Mr. E.P.S. Chandana and Mr. L.A. Samayawardhena, Department of Zoology, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka.
- 17:00 – 17:20 Study of characteristics of Koggala lagoon in southern Sri Lanka in relation to the construction of a breakwater, and associated impact on fishing community, by Dr. K. B. Suneetha, N. J. De. S. Amarasinghe, E. P. S. Chandana, K. M. S. J. J. Bandara, Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna, Matara, Sri Lanka.

From 20:00 Conference Dinner

Saturday, 18-01-03:

Session Chair: Dr. Premachanadra Wattage, Project Leader, Project EMBioC

9:00 – 9:45 Conservation of Wetland versus Conversion for Development Debate

Keyspeaker: Prof. Frank Rijsberman, Director General, International Water Management Institute, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

9.45 – 10:00 Discussion

Session Chair: Mr. K.D. Frenando, Head, Town & Country Planning, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, Local Coordinator, Project EMBioC.

10:00 – 10:20 Multiple criteria analysis of conservation versus development of wetland areas: A case study of Muthurajawela and Negombo wetlands in Sri Lanka, by Dr. Simon Mardle, CEMARE, University of Portsmouth, UK.

10:20 – 10:40 Conservation of Wetlands – Lessons from Twelve Years of Implementation Experience, by Dr. Jayampathy Samarakoon, Team Leader, Integrated Resources Management Programme, Central Environmental Authority, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka

10:40 – 11:00 Wetland Conservation and Economic Development: Exploring synergies to allay conflicts, by Ms Cordelia Fernandez, TERI, New Delhi, India.

11:00 – 11:20 Tea Break

Session Chair: Prof. Dayantha Wijerathna, Vice Chancellor, University of Moratuwa.

11.20 – 11.40 The wetland conservation - Eco-friendly Pokkali paddy- cum- prawn farming along south west coast of India, by Mr. Joseph S. Paimpillil, Envirosolutions, 37/1387, Elemkulam Road, Cochin 17, India

11.40 – 12.00 Community strengthening for mitigating pollution in the wetland catchment, by Johan Bentinck, Co-Team Leader, Integrated Resources Management Programme (IRMP), Central Environmental Authority, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka.

12.00 – 12.20 Wetland resource use conflicts : A case study of Muthurajawela and Negombo Lagoon Wetland, by Mr. P.K.S.Mahanama, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.

12:20 – 14:00 Lunch break

Session Chair: Dr. Simon Mardle, CEMARE, University of Portsmouth, UK

14:00 – 14:20 Dr. Simon Cragg, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Portsmouth, UK

14:20 – 14:40 Demand and other socio-economic impacts on mangrove resource use in Muthurajawela and Negombo Lagoon, by Prof. Hemanthi Ranasinghe and Wilson C., Department of Forstry, University of Sri Jayawardanapura, and the Department of Wild-life Conservation and Management, Sri Lanka.

14:40 – 15:00 Critical issues relating to the Engineering Management of Coastal Wetlands – Case Study, by Professor S.S.L. Hettiarachchia and Dr. S.P. Samarawickrama, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.

- 15:00 – 15:20 Potential for community-based ecotourism in wetlands with special reference to India by Mr. Sagar Singh, Tata Energy Research Institute, New Delhi, India.
- 15:20 – 15:40 Impact of land use changes on the hydrological dynamics of wetlands in the semi-arid environment of the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa, by Mr. Jörg Helmschrot Geographic Institut, University of Jena, Germany and Prof. Wolfgang-Albert Flügel, International Water Mangement Institute (IWMI), Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- 15:40 – 16:00 Do salinity sensitive copepods *Pseudodiaptomus annandalei* Sewell, 1919 (Pseudodiaptomidae) and *Acartiella minor* Sewell, 1919 (Acartitidae) share same niche: a case study from Malala lagoon Bundala National Park, A Ramsar site Sri Lanka by K.H.M.A.Deepananda, E.P.S.Chandana, A.H.P.Lasanthi, W.Rawindra and L.A.Samayawardhena* Department of Zoology, University of Ruhuna, Matara, Sri Lanka

16:00 – 16:20 Tea Break

Session Chair: Prof. S.S.L. Hettiarachchi, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa.

- 16:20 – 16:40 A framework for spatial development trade-off in the context of community participation in effective management of bio-diversity conservation, by Mr. K.D. Fernando, Head, Town and Country Planning Department, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
- 16:40 – 17:00 Study on selected coastal and marine habitats of Southern Sri Lanka with reference to physicochemical parameters and selected aquatic organisms, by P.R.T. Cumaranatunga, M.F.M. Fairoz, P.B. Amerasinghe and K.K.D. Dahanayake, *Dept. of Fisheries Biology, University of Ruhuna, Matara, Sri Lanka.*

Session Chair: Dr. Premachanadra Wattage, Project Leader, Project EMBioC

17:00 – 17:30 Final resolution and closing of conference

Poster presentations:

Study of characteristics of Koggala lagoon in southern Sri Lanka in relation to the construction of a breakwater, and associated impact on fishing community, by Dr. K. B. Suneetha, N. J. De. S. Amarasinghe, E. P. S. Chandana, K. M. S. J. J. Bandara, Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna, Matara, Sri Lanka.

Hydrodynamics of a coastal wetland ecosystem; Muthurajawela marsh & Negombo lagoon by Aruna Devendra.

Socio-economic characteristics of Muthurajawela and Negombo wetland project area by Medha Gunawardhana, University of Portsmouth.

Poster outlining Project EMBioC, University of Portsmouth

Sunday, 19-01-03: Field Trips.

9:00 – 12:00 Trip to Bundala Ramsar wetland site

12:00 –20:30 Trip to Yala wildlife sanctuary

Annex B: Conference announcement:

First circular, September 2002

Conservation of Wetlands - conflicts or compromise -

Linking Scientists, Policy Makers, NGOs and Stakeholders



**16th – 19th January 2003,
Hambanthota, Sri Lanka**

- I - VALUATION OF WETLANDS***
- II - SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF WETLAND CONSERVATION***
- III - ECOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF WETLAND CONSERVATION***
- IV - POLICY AND LEGISLATION ON WETLANDS***
- V - WETLAND CONSERVATION VERSUS CONVERSION FOR DEVELOPMENT***
- VI - COMMUNITY BASED ECOTOURISM IN WETLANDS***

Call for papers



Jointly convened by

- Centre for the Economics and Management of Aquatic Resources (CEMARE), University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth, UK
- Department of Town and Country Planning, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka,
- Department of Forestry and Environmental Sciences, University of Sri Jayawardanapura, Sri Lanka,
- Ministry of Southern Areas Development, Sri Lanka and
- The Darwin Initiative, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), UK.

Objectives and Scope

Wetlands, both natural and human-made, were the centres of Sri Lanka's ancient hydraulic civilization, which thrived in the island for over a thousand years and formed the hub of its cultural, economic and social evolution. Coastal wetlands include estuaries and lagoons with associated mangrove swamps, saline marshes, mudflats and coastal seagrass beds. Most wetlands are state owned, but some are either wholly or partly under private ownership. On the other hand there is an overall lack of awareness among the general public of the importance of wetlands, and these areas are often considered as wastelands to be cleared and filled for other land uses or to be used as waste dumps. Large section of these habitats has been lost due to landfill for housing, commercial and industrial development and conversion to prawn farming and agricultural practices. The conference will address the issue of conservation of wetlands versus the conversion for development in developing countries demonstrating specific problems found in Sri Lankan coastal wetlands. Although there is significant knowledge about the importance, value, and vulnerability of these ecosystems, the destruction continues at an alarming rate.

The conference aim is to attract a wide range of participants who are interested in the conservation of wetland biodiversity, including scientists, representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local peoples, funding agencies and individuals. The main objective is to stimulate the exchange of knowledge and viewpoints between the different groups. The conference should facilitate the realization of the current deficits in the cooperation between science, NGOs and policy makers. As a result we expect the development of improved conservation strategies and a better management of wetland resources.

Conference Topics

The congress focuses on scientific contributions as well as on the presentation of applied projects or traditional knowledge. The individual papers, posters (format max. A0) and contributions should be related to one of the following six main topics.

- 1) **Valuation of wetlands**
- 2) **Socio-economic aspects of wetland conservation**
- 3) **Ecological aspects of wetland conservation**
- 4) **Policy and legislation for conservation of wetlands**
- 5) **Wetland conservation versus conversion for development**
- 6) **Community-based ecotourism in wetlands – chances and risks**

Call for Papers

Abstracts of 100-200 words are invited for papers or posters addressing any issue listed above from all participants wishing to make a presentation at the conference. Along with the abstract, please include: all authors' names, the complete address of the contact author, the title of the paper, and whether an oral or poster format is preferred.

The abstracts, which should be posted via email or facsimile. The individual papers should be related to one of the six main topics. The poster format should not exceed 90 x 120 cm.

Deadline for the presentation of the abstracts is December 15, 2002.

Authors will receive notification of acceptance or rejection from the conference secretariat on or before the

December 20, 2002. All abstracts will be published in the form of conference proceedings.

Submission by email is preferred and should be sent to:

premachandra.wattage@port.ac.uk. Submissions may also be posted to:

Dr. Premachandra Wattage

Centre for the Economics and Management of Aquatic Resources (CEMARE)

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Journal of Wetland Ecology and Management

The editors of the Journal of Wetland Ecology and Management have expressed interest in publishing selected contributions in the journal or in a special issue volume after peer review. The Scientific Committee will decide soon on the forum. For those interested in the above option please plan to bring with you a manuscript of your contribution following general guidelines for authors of the Journal "Wetland ecology and management"
<http://www.wkap.nl/journals/wem>.

Conference Language: English

Registration

The registration fee includes a copy of the conference proceedings, lunches, refreshments for the coffee breaks, excursions to Bundala Ramsar Wetland site and/or Yala national park (wild-life sactuary).

Normal fee: 200 US\$ before December 10, 2002

Normal fee: 250 US\$ after December 10, 2002

Reduced fee *:100 US\$

* students from any part of the world (excluding banquet).

A reduced local fee is available for researchers and policy makers from developing countries.

Visas

Participants from a few countries will need visa for entering Sri Lanka. Please check with the authorities in your country. Please also check if a letter of invitation is needed to get a visa.

Banks-currency

Sri Lankan rupee is the currency use in all part of the country. Visa/MasterCard cash-dispensers are available in a number of locations including the airport, regional towns and the Colombo city limits. Foreign currency and travellers cheques can be converted in all banks including rural banks. Major credit cards are accepted in hotels, department stores, and in most of the restaurants. There is an on-site service for exchange foreign currencies. Banking hours are 8.30–15.00.

Electric power

Voltage 220/240 AC 50-60 Hz

Message board & Internet access

A message board will be located near the registration desk at the hotel ground floor. A computer with internet access will be available for attendees convenience.

Preliminary Conference Program:

Thursday, 16-01-03

14:00 – 17:00 Arrival and Registration of participants

Friday, 17-01-03

8:00 – 9:00 Registration of participants

9:00 – 10:00 In-augural session, Hon. Minister of Environment

10:30 – 11.15 **Valuation of wetlands**

Keyspeaker: Prof.. Mohan Munasinghe, Chief Energy Advisor to the Government of Sri Lanka, former Division Chief for Environment policy, World bank, Washington DC, USA..

11:15 – 11:30 Discussion

11:30 – 11:45 - coffee break –

11:45 – 13:30 Contributions¹ to session 1:

13:30 – 14:30 - Lunch break -

14:30 – 16:00 Further contributions to session 1 and 2

16:00 – 16:30 - coffee break -

16:30 – 18:30 Contributions to session 2:

¹ Contributions should not be longer than 15 minutes (with extra 5 minutes for the answering of questions)

From 20:00 Conference Dinner

Saturday, 18-01-03:

9:00 – 9:45 **Conservation of wetland versus conversion for development debate**

Keyspeaker: Prof. Frank Rijsberman, Director General, International Water Management Institute, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

9.45 – 10:00 Discussion

10:00 – 11:00 Contributions to session 3:

11:00 – 11:15 - coffee break –

11.15 – 13:00 Contributions to session 4:

13:00 – 14:00 - lunch break –

14:00 – 16:00 Contributions to session 5:

16:00 – 16:15 - coffee break -

16:15 – 17:15 Contributions to session 6:

17:15 – 18:00 Policy discussion, Hon. Ministers of Fisheries and Southern Development

18:00 – 18:30 Final resolution and closing of conference

From 19:30 Cultural event

Sunday, 19-01-03:

9:00 – 12:00 Trip to Bundala Ramsar wetland site

12:00 – 20:30 Trip to Yala wildlife sanctuary

Further details of the sites are available on following web sites:

www.baobabtravel.com/link_to_us.shtm

www.ecotourismsrilanka.com

Conference Venue:

Peacock Beach Hotel, Hambanthota, Sri Lanka.

Further details of the venue is available on following web-site:

<http://asiatours.net/srilanka/hotels/peacock.html>

Response sheet

I would like to join the conference “Conservation of Wetlands: Conflicts or Compromise” between the 16 - 19 January 2003, in Hambanthota, Sri Lanka

Name:**Title:****Profession:****Organization/University:****Address:****Country:****Phone:****Fax:****Email:****Web-address:****Title of presentation:****Contribution to session number:****Form of presentation:** I would like to give a lecture (15 minutes) I would like to present a poster**Abstract (max. 100-200 words):**

Accommodation (estimated prices)

Please choose type of accommodation: (The exact prices and the address of your hotel will be sent to you later)

Basic accommodation,

- Single rooms 10 - 25 US\$ / night
- Double rooms 20 – 35 US\$ / night
- Dormitories (3 to 8 persons) 5 US\$ / night

Middle class accommodation

- Single rooms ~ 30 US \$ / night
- Double rooms ~ 50 US \$ / night

High class accommodation

- Single rooms ~ 80 US\$ / night
- Double rooms ~ 95 US\$ / night

For me it is important to have a

- single room private bathroom
- I would like to share a room with (an)other participant(s)
Name(s):

Conference Secretariat

In UK:

Christopher Martin
CEMARE,
University of Portsmouth
Locksway Road, Portsmouth, PO4 8JF, UK
Tel. +44 (0)23 9284 4082
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Department of Town & Country Planning
University of Moratuwa
Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
Tel. 94 1
Fax. 94 1
pksm@mail.ac.lk

Conference Organizing Committee

Organizing committee:

Dr. Premachandra Wattage*, CEMARE, University of Portsmouth, UK

Mr. P.K.S. Mahanama, Department of Town and Country Planning, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

Dr. P. A. Nandasena, Southern Development Authority of Sri Lanka, Nupe, Matara, Sri Lanka

Correspondence*

Further information can be obtained from: premachandra.wattage@port.ac.uk

Scientific Committee

Prof. Upali Amarasinghe, Department of Zoology, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

Dr. Simon Cragg, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Portsmouth, UK

Dr. Victoria Edwards, Department of Environmental Design and Management, University of Portsmouth, UK

Dr. Charles Lufumpa, African Development Bank, Abidjan, Cote D' Ivoire

Dr. Simon Mardle, CEMARE, University of Portsmouth, UK

Prof. Willie Mendis, Department of Town and Country Planning, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

Prof. Hemanthi Ranasinghe, Dept of Forestry and Environmental Studies, University of Sri Jayawardanapura, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka

Prof. K.A. P. Siddhisena, Department of Demography, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Dr. Premachandra Wattage, CEMARE, University of Portsmouth, UK

Mr. Dominic Waughray, Director, International Development Services, Environmental Resources Management, UK

Important deadlines:

Submission of abstracts:	December 15, 2002
Confirmation of acceptance:	December 20, 2002
Final program and list of participants:	December 20, 2002

Annex C: List of participants:

1. W.S.I.C Pathirathne
Assistant Director
Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWLC)
No. 18 Gregery's Road
Col. 7. Tel: 696517
2. H.T.S. Fernando
Deputy Director
DWLC
No. 18 Gregery's Road
Col. 7. Tel: 696920
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