



THE FEDERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANISATIONS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Sulanga: The Wind in the Trees

Issue: 14
June 2015

EVENTS UPDATE

Hello Members,

In this issue of the monthly FEO newsletters we have updates on the upcoming 'Sri Lankan Elephant 2015' exhibition, news from our member organisations and current environmental news in Sri Lanka and worldwide.

If there is any project or event details you would like to share in our next issue, which will be out by the end of July, please do not hesitate to get in touch!

Please contact

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Thank you!

Radheeka Jirasinha

Member Relations Officer
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*An umbrella organisation for the
conservation community*



(Photo by Riaz Cader)

Sri Lankan Elephant 2015

The 'Sri Lankan Elephant 2015' is an education and awareness exhibition of the human-elephant conflict prevalent in our country. It will be available in Sinhala, Tamil and English across various locations in Sri Lanka. The exhibition will consist of two sections; the Northern loop and the South-Eastern loop. It will begin in Colombo, at the Independence Square Complex during the third week of July and the Northern loop will commence soon thereafter.

The Matriarch sponsor for the 'Sri Lankan Elephant 2015' exhibition is Colombo Jewellery Stores.

The Tusker sponsor is the John Keells Foundation and media sponsors will be Wijeya Newspapers (WNL). The Kandy City Centre will be the official hosting partner for the Kandy leg of the exhibition.

More details will be sent out soon, please also watch our Facebook page and website for updates!

Member News

Native Tree Planting Project at Hedigalla

By Rainforest Protectors

June 13, 2015 – Rainforest Protectors of Sri Lanka successfully completed a native tree planting project at a privately held land in Hedigalla within close proximity to Roonakanda Rainforest.

A total of 209 native endemic trees purchased from the Roonakanda Conservation Centre were planted to increase the biodiversity in the area. Kumbuk trees (*Terminalia arjuna*) were planted along the water streams to stop soil erosion and other native rainforest trees such as Hora (*Dipterocarpus zeylanicus*), Pelan (*Putranjiva zeylanica*) and Wal Del (*Artocarpus nobilis*)



planted to provide habitat and food for native species.

Twelve volunteers from Rainforest Protectors of Sri Lanka participated in this project which was sponsored by Textured Jersey Lanka PLC.

[Rainforest Protectors](#) of Sri Lanka is a group of volunteers and sponsors dedicated to protecting Sri Lanka's last remaining rainforests through conservation, education and restoration.



MEMBERS ONLY

If you want your organisation's environment related events or projects to be featured in our newsletter please contact

memberrelations.feo@gmail.com

Environment News in Sri Lanka

World Environment Day Message by President Maithripala Sirisena

Sri Lanka's national theme of World Environment Day for this year (2015) is 'Sustainable Consumption Protects the Earth'.

As children of nature, we have a duty and responsibility to protect the environment that we inherited and prevent any human activity harmful to the atmosphere and the ecosystem. It is essential to strictly implement the laws irrespective of their status and ensure that environmental impact assessments are conducted at the embryonic stage of development projects.

The government is determined to protect forests and wildlife and new amendments to the existing laws will be introduced to prevent destruction of forests and environment. Persons who indulge in destruction of forests or harm

the environment will be punished under the laws of this country. This exercise is aimed at creating a generation that loves the environment, flora and fauna.

We must all dedicate ourselves on this World Environment Day to create a tomorrow that protects the environment.

Source: [Presidential Secretariat](#)



Does restructuring property rights hold key to natural resource management in Sri Lanka? [See more](#)



Up in arms over Port City. [See more](#)

10 things we learned about tackling plastic ocean waste

By Hannah Gould (The Guardian)



1. We can't keep up with waste management

More than 50% of ocean plastics are coming from rapidly developing geographies around the world, where population growth and increased plastics consumption is outpacing the capacity to manage waste. Even in the US, waste infrastructure is set up for a material mix that's less relevant today.

"Plastic never dies, and that means every piece we ever produce will stay on this planet," warns Cyrill Gutsch, founder of [Parley for the Oceans](#).

A lot of areas don't have the infrastructure to manage plastic, so even if consumers put their bottles in the right bins, it won't necessarily end up being recycled.

2. We need action from governments and businesses

Tackling ocean waste will require a range of different policies that drive manufacturer participation, combined with voluntary efforts by companies. Key to this will be global corporate leaders that recognise the scale of the problem and its local impact.

3. It's an economic as well as an environmental issue

We're told of ocean plastic [strangling seals](#) and turtles [swallowing](#) it, but the mainstream media rarely frame the problem as an economic one.

Bridget Croke, head of investor and industry partnerships at the [Closed Loop Fund](#), says some big consumer packaged goods companies are demanding more recycled content because they are concerned with the price volatility of raw materials. However, she says its early days and markets must be pushed pro-actively.

We need to show [companies] that designing in a way that holds the value of the materials makes economic sense".

4. Designers and recyclers often feel helpless

Just designing a product with its end-of-life in mind could have a big impact, says Jenna Jambeck, assistant professor of environmental engineering at the University of Georgia. She says that "so many issues [are] caused downstream from not considering this point in a product's life cycle".

But Sandy Roger from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMC) points out that there's a "kind of helplessness pervading this space".

Consumer goods companies keen to design for recycling don't know which system to design for because municipal recycling is so diverse, while municipalities and waste companies are overwhelmed by a growing and changing portfolio of plastics. "It's a stalemate, and both sides end up with lowest common denominator solutions," Roger says.

EMC is trying to bring together the two sides to allow more joined-up thinking, while Croke says the Closed Loop Fund is looking at packaging trends to make sure it builds appropriate infrastructure.

5. There are global solutions to this global problem

One way to solve the end-of-life problem would be to make simple products, such as yoghurt pots and shampoo bottles, from a single material that is recyclable around the world, suggests Alexis Haas, director of sustainability at Adidas. Currently, consumer goods are mostly made from mixed plastics, which are only suitable for downcycling.

[Read the rest of the article here.](#)

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT NEWS



Air Pollution: Delhi is dirty, but how do other cities fare?

The particles are able to penetrate deep into the lungs, and have been linked with an increase in chronic bronchitis, lung cancer and heart disease. The WHO considers the measurement of PM2.5... [see more](#)



The Earth, our home, is beginning to look like an immense pile of filth - Pope Francis

Many of those who possess more resources and economic or political power seem mostly to be concerned with masking the problems or concealing their symptoms... [see more](#)



Asia must invest more in clean energy to cope with climate change, says ADB

The ADB sees coal remaining a dominant energy source in Asia despite a leap in renewable energy use. Use of coal is forecast to rise 50% by 2035 from 2010 levels... [see more](#)

Past FEO Events

Climate Change in Your Island Photography Competition

The competition was a hit with 20 entries sent in by mid-June. Judging of the photographs was carried out by our trustees and the winners receive cash prizes. The concept of the competition was to create awareness on climate change in Sri Lanka for World Environment Day celebrated earlier this month.

Participants were asked to capture images which depicted climate change impacts in their surroundings. The album containing all entries can be viewed on our [Facebook page](#).

The FEO will be organising similar awareness raising competitions in the future, so stay tuned for updates!



Winning Photo by: Munira Mutaher (Dried up reservoir)



1st Runner up: Fazry Ibrahim (Flooded rubber estate)



2nd Runner up: Avisha De Saram (Samanalawewa Dam)

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