



Sulanga: The Wind in the Trees

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THE FEDERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

EVENT UPDATES:

Dear Readers,

This issue of the FEO monthly newsletter includes a science based solution to the human-elephant conflict in Sri Lanka and the importance of placing the earth's ecosystems at the center of sustainable development.

There is also an update on the upcoming 'Sri Lankan Elephant 2015' exhibition organised by the FEO. If you are a member of FEO and would like to share information on environmental news or awareness raising events, then please email Vinod Malwatte (Coordinator of operations) at contact@feosl.org

Happy reading!

Radheeka Jirasinha

Member Relations Officer
Federation of Environmental Organizations Sri Lanka.
An umbrella organisation for the conservation community



Photo by Riaz Cader

'The Sri Lankan Elephant 2015'

The trilingual travelling awareness and education exhibition has been postponed to October 2015. It was intended to begin on August 6th 2015, but has been postponed due to focus of media coverage and public interest on the elections.

The date of the opening ceremony to be held at Independence Square, Colombo will be confirmed shortly so stay tuned for updates!

Environmental News in Sri Lanka



The risk of destroying Lakshapana Falls and mountain ecosystems

By: LankaDaily



Police stumble upon large-scale timber racket in Passara

By: Tharushan Fernando



Sri Lanka bans phones in safari park to save Leopards

By: AFP

Sri Lanka Watawala Plantations tea estates Rainforest Alliance certified

By: Economynext

Hambanthota wildlife officers arrested owners of restaurant for selling deer meat

By: Swarnavahini

Human-Elephant Conflict: A Science Based Solution



By: Prof. Devaka Weerakoon

The national media ever so often carries news reports of either people being killed by elephants or vice versa, which is referred to as elephant-human conflict in common parlance. Even though respective governments have invested heavily to mitigate this problem (around Rs.300 million annually), which maligns the vast majority of Sri Lanka's rural populace, to date no significant progress has been made towards finding a long-term solution to this problem. Does that mean that there is no solution to the problem, or that the approach taken thus far to solve the problem needs to be changed? This article aims to provide evidence to support the latter hypothesis and thereby maintain the position that it can be resolved provided we are prepared to abandon the current ad hoc approach and adopt a science-based approach in managing wild elephants.

The present strategy for management of wild elephants was

conceived several decades ago based on a report drawn up in 1959 by a committee appointed to develop a plan to preserve wildlife. The report recommended that elephants should be restricted to protected areas managed by the Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) and a system of corridors should be established to link the protected areas to facilitate free movement of elephants. This recommendation has been based on two beliefs, that the preferred habitat of elephants is undisturbed forest and elephants undertake long-range seasonal migrations. Unfortunately, six decades later, we are still pursuing this strategy even though there is mounting scientific evidence to prove that both these beliefs are untrue ... [Read more.](#)

Global Environment News

Putting the “Integrity of the Earth’s Ecosystems” at the Centre of the Sustainable Development Agenda

By: Kanya D’Almeida



Credits: Kanya D’Almeida Mangrove forest, Sri Lanka

UNITED NATIONS, July 6 2015 (IPS) – By 2050, we will be a world of nine billion people. Not only does this mean there will be two million more mouths to feed than there are at present, it also means these mouths will be consuming more – in the next 20 years for instance, an estimates three billion people will enter the middle class in addition to the 1.8 billion estimated to be within that income bracket today.

These changes are going to put unprecedented pressure on the world’s natural resources according to a new report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)’s International Resource Panel (IRP).

Entitled ‘Policy Coherence of the Sustainable Development Goals: A

Natural Resource Perspective’, the [report](#) warns that maintaining and restoring healthy ecosystems will be critical for the successful realisation of the U.N.’s post-2015 development agenda.

Unless the new development blueprint is centered on protecting and respecting the earth’s limited bounty, the goals of poverty eradication and ensuring decent lives for current and future generations will fall by the wayside, experts predict.

For instance, IRP studies have shown that annual global extraction increased “by a factor of eight in the 20th century” from seven billion tonnes of material in 1900 to 68 billion tonnes of resources by 2009 ...

[Read more.](#)



[Turtle’s future at risk as scientists show rising sea levels affect egg hatchings](#)



[Benefits far outweigh costs of tackling climate change, says LSE study](#)



[Indian companies target children to push green messages... and sell products](#)

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