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**PROGRESS REPORT**

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**ACTION PLAN**

**MINISTRY OF FORESTRY & ENVIRONMENT**





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**MINISTRY OF FORESTRY & ENVIRONMENT**

"SAMPATHPAYA" RAJAMALWATTA ROAD, BATTARAMULLA.

**Messge from Hon. Nandimitra Ekanayake,  
Minister of Forestry & Environment**

I am pleased to present this document which contains the policy perspectives, the implementation plan, the progress achieved and the future vision of the Ministry of Forestry and Environment. Up to this year, the subjects of Forestry and Environment came under the purview of different Ministries. As such, it was not possible to present a coherent plan which covers both sectors. Since the subjects of Forestry and Environment are closely connected, it made our task easy to develop a common plan of action. I have made arrangements to utilize the human resources available in both sectors in order to jointly protect the forestry and environmental resources at the field level. The appointment of 294 Environment Development Assistants by this Government is a far sighted move to protect the natural resources of the country. I expect an improvement in the protection of natural resources through the joint effort of the two agencies.

the depletion of forestry and bio-diversity has been a matter of great concern of the country. We have hitherto been heavily dependent on the 'command and control' approach to protect these resources. It is evident that it had only limited success. We have no plans to dispense with the 'command and control approach'. However, I will depend heavily on creating awareness in the minds of the younger generation and also on enlisting the support of the people to achieve our goal of environmental protection. I expect the fullest cooperation and political leadership at national level and the sub-national levels as well as the community leadership in order to arrest the current trends of depletion of forestry and environmental resources.

Much of the new approaches were developed through a consultative process with the Hon. Members of Parliament whose views I respect most. I hope to continue this dialogue in the future too in order to develop right strategies as well as in monitoring the implementation of such strategies. Policies and action plans will not yield the desired results unless we are able to understand the aspirations of the people. This is why I expect the assistance of the Hon. Members of Parliament to guide our programmes as they know the aspirations of the people best.

I will be pleased to have considered comments on this document for us to improve our own performance.

**Nandimitra Ekanayake**  
Minister of Forestry & Environment.

**Message from Hon. Munidasa Premachandra,  
Deputy Minister of Forestry and Environment**

It is important to protect environment while achieving sustainable economic development. The wise use of our natural resources and proper economic planning with high level of sensitivity towards environmental protection is essential for Sri Lanka.

A genuine dialogue on the performance of the Ministry of Forestry & Environment during the fiscal year and its future plans should be considered as important at budget discussion stage. This report was prepared with the intention of creating such a dialogue on both issues. It also reflects our vision on forestry and environment in the development process of the country.

We should not isolate a nation from the world, in our progress towards economic growth and environmental protection. Under such circumstances it is important to comply with international conventions and national standards on environment.

Munidasa Premachandra  
Deputy Minister of Forestry & Environment



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# **FORESTRY**



6 **T**he Forest Resources Division of the Ministry of Forestry & Environment coordinates all activities including the formulation of policies and its implementation of the subject of "Forest Resources" which belongs to the Central Government.

The Timber Corporation is involved in the production of timber, its sale and distribution. The Forest Department establishes forest plantations, manages and maintains forests. The implementation of the Forestry Master Plan, preparation of fundamental policies on forestry is being done by the Forestry Sector Development Division of the Ministry of Forestry & Environment.

In addition to these functions, other related projects on the forestry sector are being implemented by the above mentioned agencies with a high level of integration. 9

## **FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

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The Forestry Development Division (FDD) is mainly responsible for matters relating to policy making, legislative, planning and coordination of all forestry development activities. In this regard the FDD functions involve strategic planning for the forestry sector of the country, including the overall implementation of the Forestry Sector Master Plan (FSMP), monitor and evaluate all forestry sector activities, facilitate all donor funding required for forestry development activities, prepare or amend policies and legislations and regulations relating to forestry.

All main activities associated with the Forestry Sector Development Project (FSDP) came to an end in December 1996.

The FSMP was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers in march 1995 for implementation with all line Ministries, stake holders and with assistance from interested donor agencies.

### **PERFORMANCE IN 1997**

The work plan for 1997 mainly involves the closing of credit with regard to the activities funded by IDA under the FSDP. The preparation of a Five-Years Implementation Programme (FYIP) to implement the FSMP was initiated during the first quarter of 1997. The Inception Meeting was held on 17th February 1997 and was attended by all forestry and forestry related institutions, NGOs, and donor agencies.

The preparation of the FYIP was funded by the British ODA. A Project Preparation Team (PPT), comprising of senior officials from the Ministry and the Forest Department, a few International and National Consultants was directly responsible for the preparation of the FYIP. A participatory and transparent process was followed in developing the FYIP where the involvement of the all forest and related institutions, nonstate sector, NGOs and other interested parties were involved. Around 11 workshop were held.

The FYIP has paid attention to conservational biodiversity, soil and water, development of partnerships with communities and local people for efficient management of natural forests and plantations, a key role for the non-state sector participation in the establishment and management of forest plantations and developing home gardens and other agroforestry systems for meeting the demand for various forest products. At the end of the process the FYIP was presented to all donors who have shown interest in assisting its implementation. Further, copies of the finalized FYIP was forwarded by the Department of External Resources to all interested donors.

In order to address the major problems of watershed degradation the Asian Development Bank (ADB) offered a loan of US\$ 16.5 million towards the Upper Mahaweli Watershed Management Project. The feasibility study of the proposed project and preparing a project proposal were carried out during the year concerned. The team of International and National



Consultants were involved with the participation of all state holders in the preparation of this project. The Total project US\$ 23.7 million is due to be implemented in January 1998.

The existing forestry legislation was considered not fully supportive towards the successful implementation of the FSMP. Therefore, steps were taken to prepare a suitable legislation that would complement the implementation of the new concepts included in the FSMP. A national Task Force (NTF) appointed for overseeing this function was assisted by four working groups. The draft Forest Conservation Act (FCA) is a result of a long process, where the participation of all those concerned were obtained in developing the draft FCA. The draft FCA was submitted for public comments and amended to incorporate the comments received.

## **PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 1998**

The main activities planned for 1998 would be the implementation of the FYIP and the Upper Mahaweli Watershed Project (UMWP).

The main objectives of the FYIP are to conserve forests for posterity, increase the tree cover and sustainable production of forest products and services, expand participation of the communities and non-state sector and make forestry and forestry related institutions efficient and effective instruments to implement the National Forestry Policy of 1995.

The FYIP consists of seven programme components namely; Forest land allocation and macro-level zoning; Multiple-use of natural forests; Forest conservation Management; Social/Agro forestry and extension; Commercial forest plantation development, Forest based industries and Institutional development. The total cost of the FYIR is estimated to be Rs. 1880 million (US\$ 33 million, which will be implemented over a period of five years.

Several donors have shown interest in assisting the various programme components in the FYIP and firm commitments from the donors are awaited.

The objective of the UMWP are to promote environmental stabilization through integrated watershed management through protecting and increasing forest cover; low cost soil conservation technologies and poverty reduction by increasing rural incomes through enhancement of employment opportunities, improvement of agricultural productivity through conservation oriented agricultural systems and the diversification of agricultural income through tree-based farming systems including agro forestry.

The major components of the project are; participatory rehabilitation and protection of forests; conservation oriented farming systems and; institutional strengthening. The proposed project covers upper watersheds of Uma Oya, Walawe Ganga, Kirindi Oya and Kalu Ganga watersheds located in the highlands of Central, Sabaragamuwa and Uva Provinces.

## **FOREST DEPARTMENT**

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As the leading organization in conserving the invaluable natural resource forests, the Forest Department is aimed at conserving and maintaining an adequate and appropriate amount of forest cover in Sri Lanka, amelioration of local climatic conditions, conservation of biodiversity, conservation of Soil and Water resources and aesthetic, scientific, historical recreational and social economic requirements of nation.

In order to achieve these objectives there are six (6) functional technical divisions in the Department. They are Forest Inventory and Management, Silviculture, Environmental Management, Protection and Law Enforcement, Forest Research and Forestry Extension and Education. All the Departmental activities are implemented in the field through 18 forest divisions Except for a few divisions rest coincide with the boundaries of the Administrative Districts. These 18 Forest divisions consist of 68 Ranges and these are subdivided into 341 smallest administrative units called Forest Beats. These offices are manned by professional foresters and middle level forest technicians.

The forest policy has also been updated to suit the 21st century and the legislation is being revised accordingly. The activities carried out during the present year and the work plan for the year 1998 are as follows:

### **FOREST INVENTORY AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

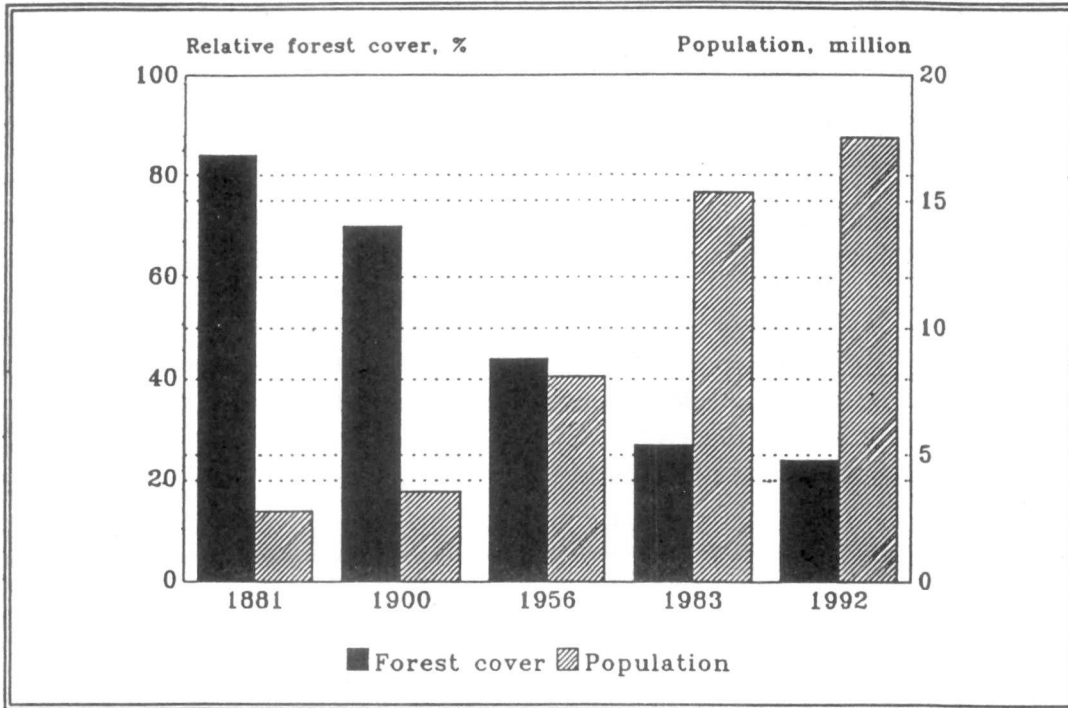
Forest Inventory and Management division is principally involved in sustainable management of the forest resources under the jurisdiction of the Forest Department to obtain forest products on a sound endemic basis.

According to the Management plans 300 ha of teak and Eucalyptus plantations have been released for timber extraction and action taken for planting these before end of the years. To facilitate optimum growth and obtain interim economic dividends 915 ha of plantations have been thinned during the year 1997. Management plans are being prepared for 17000 ha of teak and 4200 ha of mahogany plantations established throughout the country. 1964 of pinus plantations have been released for also resin extraction and a sum of Rs. 2.33 million is expected as revenue from three private companies.

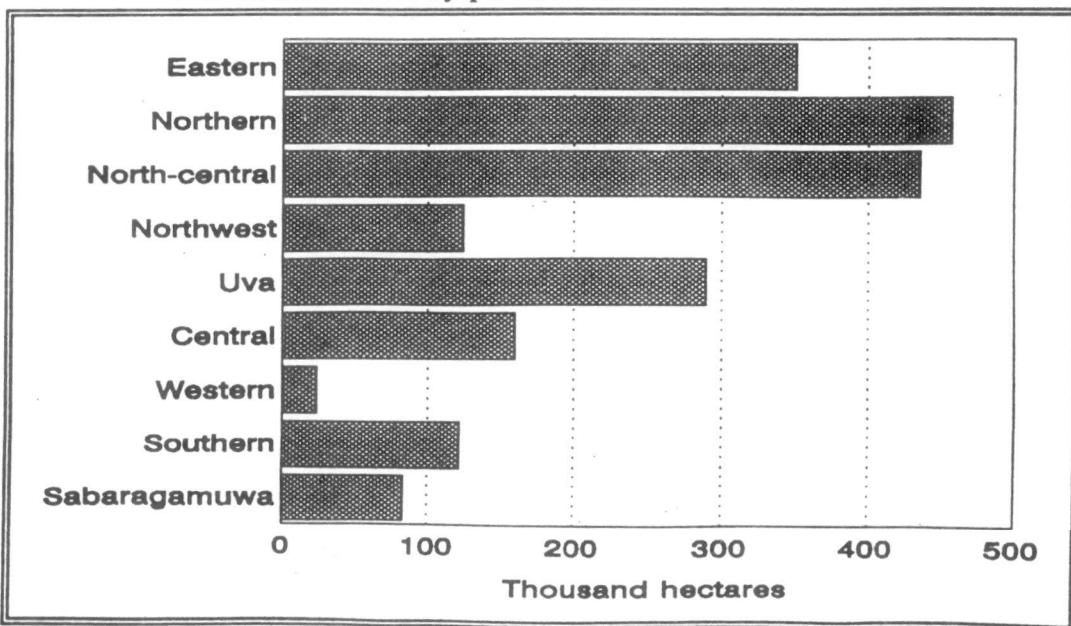
During the year 1998, preparation of Management plans are scheduled for completion. According to these plans teak, eucalyptus, pinus and mahogany plantations will be released for timber extraction. In addition 4 pilot scale management plans for natural forests selected for multiple use management as programmed in the five year investment programme of the FSMP are expected to be completed.



- Relationship between increasing human population and declining forest cover



- Natural forest cover by province in 1992

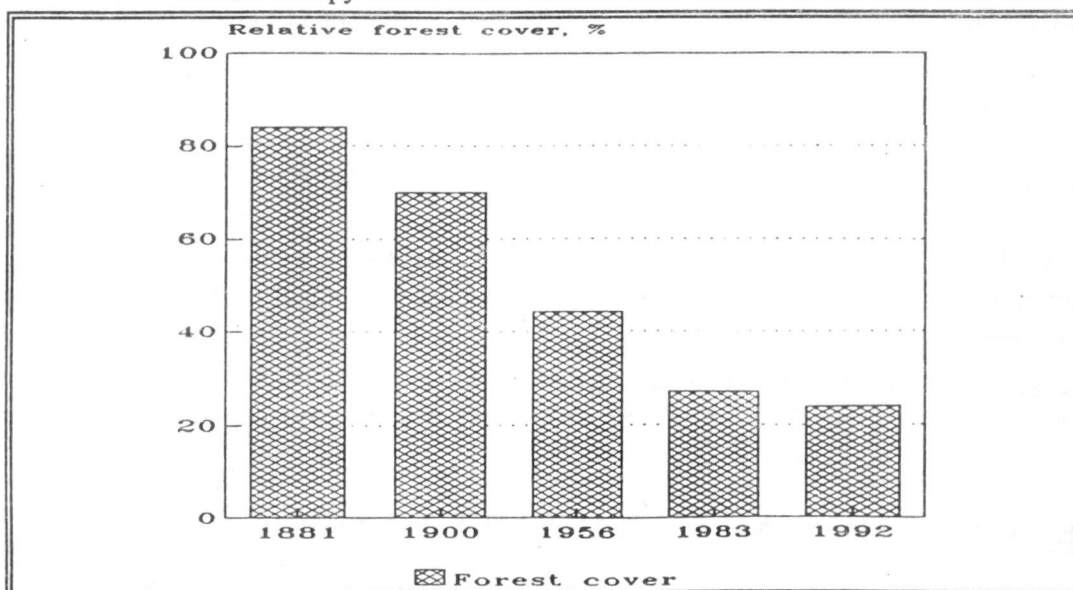


Source - Sri Lanka Forestry Sector Master Plan (July 1995)

An estimate of potential reforestation areas in the dry zone, ha

District	<50 ha	50-99 ha	100-199 ha	200-299 ha	>300 ha	Total
Anuradhapura	825	3450	4485	2500	2300	13,560
Polonnaruwa	-	710	1060	705	300	2775
Puttalam	253	740	1030	400	4860	7283
Matale	675	795	100	-	-	1570
Kurunegala	40	250	420	-	-	710
Moneragala	250	1320	2625	2075	1760	8070
Hambantota	120	280	450	1350	1650	3850
<b>Total</b>	<b>2203</b>	<b>7545</b>	<b>10170</b>	<b>7030</b>	<b>10870</b>	<b>37,818</b>

- Closed-canopy forest cover in 1881-1992 relative to the total land area



Source - Sri Lanka Forestry Sector Master Plan (July 1995)

## **SILVICULTURE DIVISION**

In order to fulfil the timber and fuel wood requirement and to conserve environmentally vulnerable areas 260 ha of plantations are to be established. These areas will be planted in November this year and the priority will be given to local tree species.

The conversion of pinus plantations into local species through under planting and enrichment of degraded natural forests is also being carried out. Plantation maintenance work has been carried out in 6400 ha of plantations established during 1994-1996 in 15 districts.

It is planned to establish 504 ha of new plantations in 8 districts during 1998. A total of 6200 ha of plantations established during 1995-1997 will also be maintained.

## **FOREST PROTECTION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**

The responsibility of protection or the preservation of the natural forests and plantation fallen under this division. Protection of forest areas of the country mainly done through the territorial staff of the 18 forest divisions. In addition to that there are eleven (11) timber checking stations located on the main trunk roads which operate round the clock. Urgent inspections and detections are done by 3 regional Flying squad units located in Puttalam, Kandy and Walasmulla and by the Flying Squad unit at the head office.

It was able to detect 5014 forest offences during the year 1997 and under which 4400 cubic meters of illegal timber (valued at Rs. 35.8 million) have been taken into custody. In addition Rs. 3.98 million was also realized from registering 866 Timber Depots and from sales of minor forest products, during the same year.

Lack of adequate transport and fire arms hampered effective implementation of protection activities. However a Radio Communication network is planned to be established during the current year.

Action will be taken to expedite the registration of Timber depots according to the prevailing rules and regulations in 1988. Forest protection activities will be strengthened with the established Radio Communication network.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

This division is responsible for identification & conservation of natural forests which are rich in biodiversity, important in Soil and Water Conservation. Preparation of management plans for such forests and the implementation of these plans to ensure social and economic requirement of the society is also being carried out by this division. There are 30 such forests identified by the department and during the year 1997 management plans have been prepared

for some of them. Under the wet zone forest conservation project initial activities recommended by nine (9) plans are carried out during the year.

Under the Sinharaja-Knuckles project implemented by this division, various activities leading to upgrade the economic, health and educational needs of the people living in the buffer zones were carried out.

Under the Mangrove Conservation Project, the important mangrove habitats were identified for conservation. During 1997 Five such areas (900ha) have been identified and preliminary action has been taken to declare them as conservation forests. To conserve and develop the degraded mangrove areas replanting work has been carried out through Community Based Organizations. In addition monthly radio programme have been broadcasted to educate people in other areas of the island.

Environmental Impact Assessments of timber production areas of the Forest Department has also been done by the division.

Preparation of Management plans for the balance conservation forests and implementation of the recommended activities of these plans will be done in 1998.

## **RESEARCH DIVISION**

The main responsibility of this division is to provide technical support to the national Forestry Development programmes through research and development efforts and dissemination of useful research findings among the field staff and other end users. These activities are mainly carried out at 2 research stations in Badulla and Kumbalpola.

During the year 1997 trials have been established in order to evaluate tree species and provenances for various agro-climatological zones, tree improvement work, establishment of second rotation in clear felled areas and under planting of broad level species under pine and eucalyptus. In addition an international trial using 12 provenances from various countries will be established under the International Neem Network. The trials established during the last few years have also been maintained.

The vegetative propagation unit will be established in order to produce better quality seedlings in 1998. Trails will be established to look into possibility of enriching the degraded dry zone forest of Sri Lanka. Permanent sample plots will be established in forest plantations in order to obtain the necessary data required for the management of plantations.

## **FORESTRY EXTENSION AND EDUCATION**

Main objective of this division is to bring awareness among the people with regard to conservation, Management and development of forest resources, and to obtain their active participation for the population based programmes. Participatory Forestry Project is one of the main programmes operated by this division.

This project is implemented in 18 Districts and the main objective of this project is to get the participation of village folk in tree planting work and to eradicate poverty and raise the economic level by generating employment and to conserve the environmentally degraded areas with peoples Participation.

In the year 1997 seventy three thousand (73,000) families have participated in this project and 10,300 ha. of plantations have been established. From production of seedlings to establishments of plantation all the activities are done by the people and all the benefits accrued from the plantations including timber are given to the people. This is the uniqueness of this project. As an incentive 47 million Rupees have been given to these people during the year 1997.

In addition a part of the awareness programmes public and school children have been trained on the nursery techniques. Plants that have been raised by them have been purchased by the Department and this has provided them an extra income.

In the Year 1997 Two million plants have been raised and 1.5 million plants have been distributed under the school tree planting programme and 500,000 of plants have been distributed under the National Tree Planting campaign.

During the year 1998 with the participation of the people 12 million plants will be produced and 10,000 ha of plantation will be raised under the Participatory Forestry Project.

## **STATE TIMBER CORPORATION**

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### **PERFORMANCE IN 1997**

The year 1997 will record the highest turnover of Rs. 800 million. The aim of the Corporation is to produce timber to satisfy the demands of genuine house builders and large building constructions. The production during the year records;

Logs 65,000 M<sup>3</sup>, Sawn Timber 7,200 M<sup>3</sup>, Electrical poles 35,000 Nos.

Sleepers 75000 Nos. Fire wood 160,00 M<sup>3</sup>, Fence Posts 98,549 Nos.

Poles 210,430 Nos. Outside Slabs 65,000 Nos.

The above given figures are over the budgeted figures fixed for production during the year. During the year, 95% of the areas released from the Forest Department under their Forestry Management Plant have been harvested.

## **PRODUCTION UNITS**

In addition to the 6 sawmills available at present, action has been initiated to open up a new sawmill at Minneriya and to open up two private sawmills at Matale and Athgala (Gampola) Further, two new Agency depots will be opened shortly at Maskeliya and Mathugama and a Corporation Depot at Athgala.

## **PLANTS**

With the development of the concept "Haritha Wana Arana" introduced by the Hon. Minister of Forestry and Environment, a Sales Outlet was opened at "Sampathpaya", Battaramulla on the 26th of September, to sell plants produced at nurseries maintained by the State Timber Corporation. During the first week the Corporation was able to sell 5000 plants and received a turnover of Rs. 25,000/-

## **FLOWER POTS & FURNITURE**

Flower pots are produced in the Kurunegala Region engaging idle labour. The flower posts are sold with the plants and as empty pots.

Identifying the availability of skilled labour in the Regional Units, Furniture items are produced using idle labour on payment of incentive and profit sharing basis. This is in addition to what is produced at Ratmalana and Ampara Furniture Workshops.

## **WASTE PRODUCTS**

Out of the waste material, eg. off-cuts, saw dust, short lengths of sawn timber, etc., action will be initiated to produce beeralu, curios, toys, etc. Regarding the saw dust sale a fair income is expected.

## **RESIN PROJECT**

The Corporation awaits approval of the Cabinet of Ministers to start a factory to produce Oleo Resins and derivatives using Pinus resins. Already areas have been marked firm the Pines plantations by the Forestry Department for this purpose, and expects to commence the project operations after receiving Cabinet approval. With the implementation of this project, the Corporation expects to provide jobs such as Tappers and other Operational jobs, and office staff and Management staff. A profit of Rs. 26 million per annum is expected frm this project.



## **TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES**

The Management, after realising the loss in conversion which ranges from 40% to 60% has taken action to change over to Saw blades instead of inserted tooth saws presently used and to use saw blades as far as possible. The Corporation expects a reduction of loss in conversion by 5% to 10% with this change in technology.

## **JOINT VENTURE - PROPOSED PROJECT**

It has been projected to open up a joint venture with a Malaysian Joint Venture to produce export quality furniture. It is expected for the Joint Venturer to contribute 49% shares by way of value of all machinery and equipment and part of good quality timber. The labour component, land and building, and other resources upto 51% will be the Share Capital of the Corporation for the proposed project. Profit sharing too will be according to the contribution towards capital.

## **MOTIVATION OF EMPLOYEES - HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**

As a measure of motivation, it has been decided to give training for children of employees who have served for over 20 years in the Corporation, in the particular field. Already training have been provided for Sawyers and Allied grades.

Employment opportunities will be given to children of present employees as for as possible.

Employees are sent abroad for a training and it has been planned to send a team to Malaysia for Technological training, covering all aspects of production.

## **BUDGETED PRODUCTION FOR 1998**

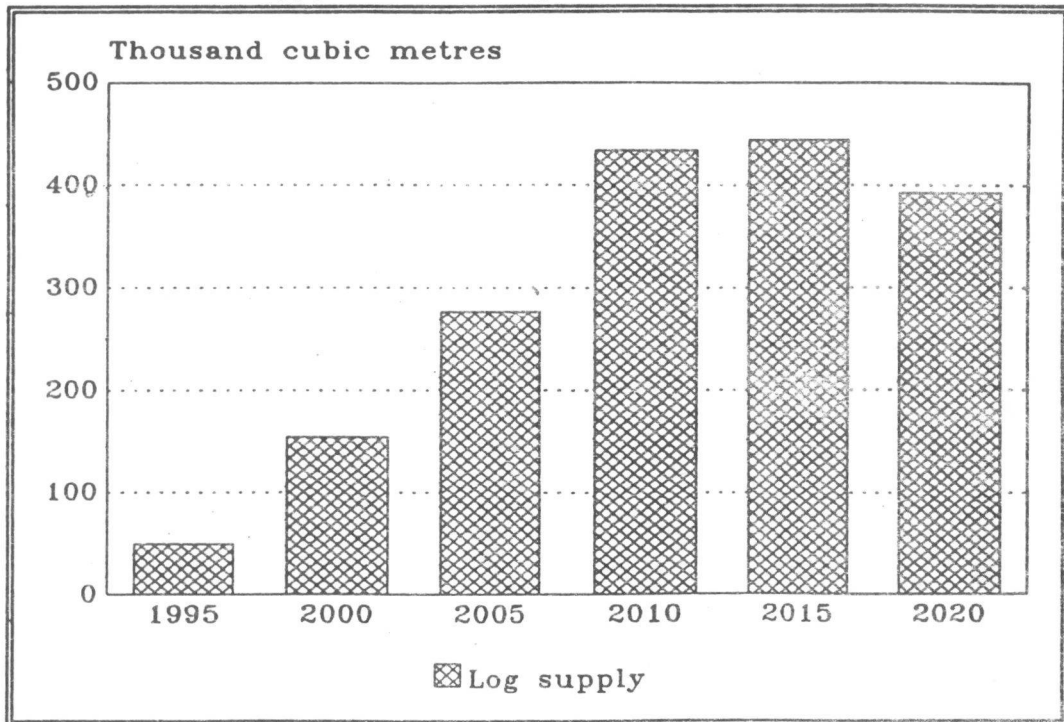
The Corporation's budgeted production for 1998

Logs	-	65,76 3M <sup>3</sup>
Electrical Poles	-	48,000 Nos.
Sawn Timber	-	9,715 M <sup>3</sup>
Imported Timber	-	2,000 M <sup>3</sup>
Poles	-	87,700 M <sup>3</sup>
Fence Posts	-	99,800 Nos.
Firewood	-	120,564 M <sup>3</sup>

## GENERAL

It has been revealed that there is a vast area of Government owned bare land. Some lands are owned by the JEDB according to inquiry available at Matale, Nuwara Eliya, Welimada. It is suggested to vest such land with the Corporation or with the Forest Department to include in their Afforestation Programmes.

Wood supply from the existing forest plantations on *current trends*



Source - Sri Lanka Forestry Sector Master Plan (July 1995)<sup>1</sup>

# **ENVIRONMENT**

**6** In order to protect, preserve and improve the environment to provide a quality of life to the people of our country, following activities that are being implemented now.

Further action will be carried out for the integration of environment policies into all development policies and programmes. In this respect, closer relationship will be built within the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committees.

It is crucial to develop and implement an environment policy. In this regard follow up action will be taken to see that the new law drafted by this Ministry will be passed by the Parliament and come into operation.

Necessary rules and regulations framed under the National Environment Act (NEA) for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Protection Licensing Scheme (EPL) will be enforced to foster environmentally friendly and sustainable growth.

In addition, conservation of Bio-diversity, solid and hazardous waste management, environmental education and awareness creation, delegation of authority of National Environment Act to Provincial Councils, Divisional Secretaries and to relevant ministries, Institutional strengthening and capacity building in related organizations for better environment management, Implementation of the commitments of the International Conventions ratified by Sri Lanka, harness and channel foreign assistance received for environment are the key activities planned for 1998.

## **NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN (NEAP)**

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The first National environmental planning exercise was completed by the Ministry in 1992. It identified the most critical areas of environmental concern and recommended actions to be taken by the Government, Private Sector and the Community in order to arrest further environmental degradation. In 1993 NEAP was up-dated and developed into a coherent planning document. Five priority areas of environmental concern were identified in this exercise. ie.

- Land and Water
- Forest and Biodiversity
- Urban and Industrial Pollution
- Coastal and Marine Resources
- Energy and Minerals

A number of concepts and recommendations contained in the NEAP Update were picked up by varied agencies for implementation. The World Bank 'Environment Action 1 Plan' was based on the findings of the NEAP 1993. The recent update covered few additional areas such as Environment Health and Poverty.

The significant feature about the NEAP is the highly consultative process that it pursued from the very inception. All development agencies in the public sector, private sector, including Chambers and NGOs were represented at the sub-Committees that were formed to deliberate on varied aspects of environmental protection and sustainable development. The Ministry of Forestry and Environment will act as the catalyst in order to ensure that the NEAP concepts and recommendations are implanted in the sectoral and sub-national development plans. The entire process is steered by a senior level subcommittee chaired by the Secretary Ministry of Forestry and Environment.

NEAP has taken into account other development and environment plans in formulating its recommendations. Heavy emphasis was laid on the sustainable utilization of natural resources in order to ensure that future generations will not be deprived the privileges that we enjoy today. NEAP is the finest instrument that the Government Agencies and the Private Sector Agencies could use to achieve this objective.

The National Environmental Action Plan was discussed with all Agencies associated with economic development and environmental protection in 1997 and a number of valuable concepts emerged from these discussions. These concepts should provide a vision for economic development and environmental protection during the next century. Most of the concepts are given below:-

- It is clear that in a small country like Sri Lanka where there is an acute shortage of land, that there should be a well formulated land use plan. There should be an Institutional Framework for the implementation of the land use plan at the National Level, Provincial level, and at Village Level. The national Level macro plan can provide the guidelines for land use in all parts of the country.

- The destruction of the water sheds and the river reservations poses the biggest environmental threats as it affects the whole economy. The issue at hand is in respect of the responsibilities of protecting these environmentally sensitive areas. Watersheds cannot be protected by small subsidies to enable conservation programmes of this nature.
- Presently permits for sand mining, clay extraction for brick making and for other minerals are given on an adhoc basis. It is very necessary to draw up a set of guidelines with the assistance of the geological and Mines Bureau and to develop a systematic programmes for issuing of permits. It is envisaged that there would be a shortage of sand in the major rivers within the next 25 years. The use of water resources particularly the utilization of underground water takes place on an adhoc basis and in certain places under ground water resources are exploited for agricultural purposes through deep well pumps without taking into account the volume of water in the aquifers. There should be a well conceived plan for exploitation of ground water.
- Presently there is a gene bank in operation for the protection of plant genes. There is a need to establish a gene pool for the indigenous animals.
- The efforts for Natural Resources Conservation through 'command and control' methods have not paid dividends. One of the finest strategies to conserve these resources would be to develop or promote substitutes of these raw materials. By promoting substitutes for timber and corals, would be possible to protect and forest coastal resources. It is necessary to provide for research for substitutes for which financial provisions have to be made.
- It is necessary to understand the linkages between economic fiscal policies and environment. These policies have an impact on the natural resources. As an example, a high tariff rate imposed on imported potatoes leads to an artificial price of local potatoes. Motivated by such incentives, farmers tend to cultivate most sensitive slopy lands in the hill country which in turn leads to soil erosion. Similarly it will be useful as ISO 14,000 and eco labelling in formulating our trade policies.
- Bio-Technology has made unbelievable advances in the recent period we are planning high hopes on this technology to solve our food and health problems. However, there are certain risks involved in this technology such as the development of living modified organisms through genetic engineering. The Government should develop a clear policy on the use of Bio-Technology.
- The Urbanization of Colombo and other cities are taking place at a rapid pace. The infrastructure available is not sufficient to serve the growing population. The sewage system in Colombo is said to be over 90 years established to serve a population less than hundred thousand. The consequences of unplanned development can be all local authorities should develop a waste disposal plan and implement such plans with the assistance of Central Government where needed.
- The air pollution in Colombo is reaching problem levels. More than 75% of pollution caused by vehicular traffic. There has to be an adjustment of petrol and diesel price in order to arrest the air pollution trends.



## **NORAD ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME**

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The NORAD Co-operation Programme was launched on the basis of the Agreement between Government of Sri Lanka and the Government of Norway on the 14th August 1989 and had been in operation from 1990. Allocations of funds have been provided each year on the basis of approved projects following each annual consultation meeting.

The NORAD support was given under 6 main areas:

1. Institutional Building
2. Environmental Protection and Management
3. Environmental Pollution
4. Environmental Education and Awareness Creation
5. Environmental Research and Planning
6. Nature protection

Annual block allocations were given for the promotion of NGO Environmental activities and for regional and sub-national Environmental projects. From 1994 an additional block allocation under the title 'Studies & Reviews' has been made available.

### ● **THE TASKS CARRIED OUT IN THE YEAR 1997**

Total releases from August 1996 to June 1997 was Rs. 26,158,292.78. There were 35 on-going projects in last quarter 1996. In 1997 there are 28 on-going projects. In the year 1997 mid-term review of the programme was completed by two local consultants and two foreign consultants. Secondly, according to the decisions taken by annual review meeting of the programme, the NORAD Cell of the Ministry completed the overall study of the programme. The Ministry decided to spend the balance funds in 1997 and to submit a fresh request for a second phase of the programme.

### ● **THE TASKS EXPECTED TO BE CARRIED OUT IN THE YEAR 1998**

The NORAD cell of Ministry of Forestry & Environment has already taken steps to submit a fresh request for a second phase of the programme. New project proposals were called for from clusters and individual proponents. In addition to new proposals, few on-going projects would be operated for their completion. 8 new project proposals had been received and 10 on-going projects would be implemented during the year 1998.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

The emission of Green House Gases namely Carbon Dioxide, Methane, Nitrous Oxide has caused a warming effect in the atmosphere. This was defined as a climate change. An International Framework Convention of climate change was signed by 155 countries in 1992. At the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in to order to protect Global Climatic System.

The Island States like Sri Lanka will be at a vulnerable position with regard to climate change particularly due to the sea level rise.

Sri Lanka has also become a party to International Frame Work Conservation on Climate Change due to the fact that the country will be adversely affected by climate change. These adverse effects could be observed in agriculture, fisheries, costal sector, health and infrastructure etc. Sri Lanka could benefit by obtaining International assistance for mitigation and adoption of adverse impacts of climate change by becoming a party to the convention.

The following work has been completed in 1997 under the assistance provided by US Country Studies Programme.

- Study on Potential Impacts of Enhanced Green House Effects in Malaria in Sri Lanka (Final Draft)
- Potential Impact of Accelerated Sea Leel Rise on Beach Erosion and Innudation of Coastal Lowlands and south west of Sri Lanka.
- Green House Gas Inventory of Sri Lanka (Final Draft)
- Emission of Carbon Dioxide from traditional cooking stoves.

In addition several Awareness Programmes on Climate Change were conducted in 1997.

## **THE FOLLOWING WORK IS PLANNED TO BE CONDUCTING 1998.**

- Preparation of a National Action Plan on Climate Change.
- Up-dating of a Green House Gas Inventory.
- Promotion of activities implemented jointly (AIJ) Projects.
- Conducting of Awareness Programmes on Climate Changes.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PROJECT (NAREPP)**

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Natural Resources and Environmental Policy Project was designed to improve management performance by strengthening capacity and accountability in both the public and private sector through technical assistance, training and research support focussed on the critical needs identified. These critical needs were weak institutional capacities for natural resource management in private and public sector, limited experience in natural resource management, insufficient numbers and quality of personnel trained in impact public sector, limited experience in natural resource management, in sufficient numbers and quality of personnel trained in impact assessment, economic resource analysis and technical skills and limited public reviewing of government plans and decisions on resource management. The goal of this project was to sustain economic growth in Sri Lanka by efficient management of the forests, wild life, soils, water and other coastal and inland natural resources. The project purpose is to improve public and private institutional performance in formulating and implementing effective environmental policies and developing sustainable and environmentally sound development programs. This is achieved through strengthening institutional capacities to enhance the contribution of Sri Lanka's natural resources to sustainable growth.

NAREPP was a six year project funded by USAID and the Government of Sri Lanka. The total cost of the project is US\$ 26.135 million (Approx:Rs. 1307 million) and USAID grant was US \$ 19.0 million. Sri Lanka Government provided US \$ 7.135 million as counterpart funds. The project commenced in September, 1991 completed its major activities by 31.08.1997.

### **PERFORMANCE IN 1997**

The total allocation for the is Rs. 5,000,000.00

#### ● **POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Under this programme NAREPP initiated action in the process of updating the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) early in January 1997. At this seminar 9 sub committees were established to commence the updating process. Since then the activity was taken under the new project, Environmental Action 1 Project. (EAIP). The Legal cell facilitated all legal matters of the Ministry relating to environment Amendments to the Hazardous Waste regulations were drafted and reviewed by the sub committee and Basel Committee. NAREPP supported the National Environmental Law Enforcement Committee for its deliberations. Discussions were held with the Legal Draftsman's office and CEA regarding the draft regulations on the prescribed projects under the National Environmental Act. This was gazetted on 04.06.97 under No. 978/13 under the former Ministry of Transport, Environment & Woment's Affairs. In addition NAREPP supported the MSc Programme on Environmental Sciences at the Post Graduate Institute of Agriculture of the University of Peradeniya during the first quarter of 1997.

● **BIO-DIVERSITY CONSERVATION**

Bio-diversity awareness programmes for school children were held in Colombo, Gampaha, Kegalle, Kandy, Matale and Kurunegala districts during 1997. In addition NAREPP supported the SAARC conference on Bio Safety and Bio Technology.

● **URBAN AND INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT**

Under NAREPP support Industrial siting guidelines were prepared by the University of Moratuwa and they will be used by the Ministry of Industrial Development for its activities.

● **COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

During the first quarter of 1997, The Coastal Zone Management Plan was distributed to all coastal area Divisional Secretaries and District Secretaries for public display. A manual of procedures for CCD officials on implementation of the law and recommendation for revision of the Coast Conservation Act to facilitate enforcement were completed. The Coastal Resources Management sub project was closed on 30.06.97 and commodities and equipment were taken over by the Environment Division of the Ministry of Forestry & Environment.

● **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

NAREPP supported the Kataragama Osu Uyana development program in collaboration with the Dept. of Town and Country Planning and the District Secretary of Moneragala. ●

**RESEARCH SUPPORT**

NAREPP supported 3 research studies and a Bio-diversity and agriculture project during 1997.

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## **ENVIRONMENT ACTION 1 PROJECT (EA1P)**

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Environment Action 1 Project 1 is a five year Project funded by an IDA credit from the World Bank. The total of the Project is estimated at Rs. 1322 Million (US\$20.8). 68% of the cost will be met from the IDA Interim Trust Fund Credit on normal IDA terms while 17% will be met from the Consolidated Fund, the balance 15% will represent contributions by the community directly benefiting from the Project Components.

Expenditure will be phased in the manner shown below.

1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Total
129.5	351.0	483.1	243.1	90.0	23.9	1322.2

The main features of the Project are:

## **INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING FOR**

- Restructuring the Environment Division (ED) in the Ministry of Forestry & Environment to enable it to play a central role in environmental policy planning and co-ordination at the national level
- Restructuring and strengthening CEA to improve its monitoring and enforcement capacity.
- Provision of an office building complex and technical facilities to accommodate both ED and CEA.
- studies on the linkages between sector and economy-wide policies and the environment.
- Community Environmental Initiative Facility (CEIF) which would be established to finance well-planned environmental activities at the grass-root level within the priority NEAP areas and PIP and serve as vehicle for private sector and NGO participation and for decentralizing environmental activities; and
- Pilot Land Management Component which would entail pilot projects involving community participation to rehabilitate degraded lands in 10 selected micro-catchments in the Central Province.

## **PERFORMANCE 1997**

Project activities commenced officially on 22 July 1997. Since that date the activities listed under (a), (b) and (c) above have commenced. Accordingly the following tasks have been completed in 1997.

- The services of consultancy firms have been obtained to implement some components of the project. These firms are currently working in their respective fields.
- 961 Pre-applications for sub project under the CEIF have been screened and eligible applicants have been notified to prepare detail applications.
- Contractors have been selected for the construction of the office building and construction has commenced.
- Initial steps for institutional strengthening have commenced.

## **ACTION PLAN 1998**

It is planned to examine the institutional structure of the Ministry and of the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) and to take necessary steps to strengthen them.

Studies will be undertaken to analyse environment policies and make proposals and policy options to government.

Construction work of the office building complex will be continued.

Steps will be taken to expand the CEIF programme and to introduce necessary modifications based the first year's experience.

Research and field work in 10 micro catchments in the Central Province will be undertaken.

## **BIO-DIVERSITY UNIT**

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The Biodiversity unit in the Environment Division has established for the implementation of the following objectives specially to cater to the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources.

The implementation programme 1997 for the Biodiversity unit has considered the following mentioned 3 main activities to be addressed within the time period of one year.

- Inter agency coordination and advisory services
- Implementation of the provisions of the international convention on Biological Diversity
- Study of the present status of critical areas of Biodiversity

The physical performance target for 1997 to achieve the immediate objectives of Biodiversity unit have been fixed under the three main activities mentioned above. These targets are conducting meetings, preparation of reports publishing of news letter (volumes) and reports organize and conducting meetings, preparation of reports, publishing of news letter (Volumes) and reports organize and conduct the workshops/seminars/mini project and Support to NGOs activities.

The total financial target for the implementation programme 1997 is Rs. 750,000.00

### **PERFORMANCE IN 1997**

#### **INTER - AGENCY COORDINATION & ADVISORY SERVICES**

- 04 committee meeting were held
- Reviewed the International protocol on Biosafety
- Prepared the National List of Invasive Plants
- Data and Information collected for Database of distribution of National Invasive Plants
- Reviewed the cabinet paper to protect the country's Genetic Resources
- 10 Nos. of meetings were held for updating of National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP)
- Reviewed the chapter on Forestry and Biodiversity

### **PUBLICATION OF BIODIVERSITY RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Prepared and edited Biodiversity Newsletter (2 Nos.) and action taken for publication
- Prepared and edited the Biodiversity Status Report -96 and action taken for publication



- Preparation of draft position paper on Protection of Country's Genetic Resources is completed
- Published the Directory of Information Sources for the management of Biodiversity 1996
- Activities on the Sinhala text book of Economic valuation of Biodiversity of Sri Lanka commenced.

## **CONDUCTING WORKSHOP AND SEMINARS FOR BIODIVERSITY**

- Conservation and sustainable use of Agricultural Biosafety
- Biosafety Protocol and National Biosafety Guidelines
- SAARC conference on Biotechnology and Biosafety

## **NGO NET WORKING FOR BIODIVERSITY RELATED ACTIVITIES**

- Contributed to workshops conducted by NGOS
- Prepared and edited the section of NGO Directory and handed over to EAIP for publication

## **ACTION PLAN 1998**

The 1998 programme of the Ministry on biodiversity is designed to promote

- In-situ and ex-situ conservation of biodiversity,
- To protect the terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems,
- promote research and awareness creation
- To strengthen the institutional and the legal framework necessary for biodiversity conservation and its assignable use as well as the equitable sharing of the benefits occurring from research and technological advances based on our biodiversity. An important strategy of this Ministry is to mobilise the support of the public/private sector and the Non-Government Sector in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Ministry is in the process of implementing the following programmes.

(a) Preparation of Biodiversity Action Plan

(b) Inter - Agency Coordination and Advisory Services

(C) Implementation of the articles of the International Convention on Biological Diversity

(e) Awareness programmes

(f) Staff training

(g) Implementation of National Biodiversity Action Plan

For these activities about Rs. 3,327,000.00 will be utilised in 1998

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL

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Certain chemical substances used mainly in refrigerators, freezers and central airconditioners, as well as industry as solvents were found to damage the earth's ozone layer which filters out harmful ultra-violet radiation coming from the sun. Since this would be a threat to the very existence of the mankind in future, with the initiative taken by the two UN agencies UNEP and WMO, over 125 countries have adopted a convention and a protocol with the objective of arresting this situation. These are the Vienna Convention for the Protection of Ozone Layer, and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer.

The protocol came into force on 22 September 1988. Sri Lanka ratified it on 15 December 1989. The Protocol was amended twice, once in 1990 in London and again in 1992 in Copenhagen. Sri Lanka ratified the London Amendments on 16 June 1993 and Copenhagen Amendments on 07 July 1997.

Under the Montreal Protocol, developed country parties are required to phase out ozone depleting substances completely by the end of 1995, while developing country parties were given time till the end of 2009. However, many developing countries are phasing out these substances early as it would be cheaper to do so. Sri Lanka being a party to the Montreal Protocol, the Cabinet has taken a decision on 17.11.93 to phase out these substances by the end of 1999 for new application while allowing their use till the end of 2004 for servicing existing equipment.

The Montreal protocol provides for developing countries to receive financial assistance to meet the incremental costs incurred in changing over to new technologies using alternative ozone friendly substances.

On the initiative taken by the ministry a Rs. 40 million grant was received to change the technology at the three refrigerator factories, M/s AEC Ltd, M/s Reigns Ltd, and M/s Glacio Ltd to manufacture refrigerators and freezers containing non-CFC refrigerants. Work at the first two factories is almost completed. Assistance to the extent of Rs. 2 million was given to M/s ICL Ltd to eliminate the use of CFC in the production of cosmetic aerosol products. The project is under-way.

A grant of Rs. 20 million was approved to launch a project for recovery and recycling of refrigerants used in commercial refrigerators and auto airconditioners which includes distribution of necessary equipment among the selected work shops, training of instructors in technical colleges and training of technicalities engaged in repair and servicing of these equipment. The Project will commence early next year with the arrival of consultants and equipment.

Furthermore, Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka is also engaged in research work, finding an alternative to Methyl Bromide which is used in tea plantation nurseries. Initially, TRI will conduct a survey on the use of Methyl Bromide in estates which is now under-way.

## **POLLUTION CONTROL**

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### **PERFORMANCE IN 1997**

#### **POLLUTION CONTROL - (GENERAL)**

Pollution control and management is a collective responsibility and obligation of all sectors including the state agencies, private sector and citizen groups. A coordinating committee has been set up to review the progress of environmental pollution management activities in the country with relevant organizations. This committee reviews the progress of pollution management activities, identifies constraints and addresses specific problems related to pollution control in collaboration with relevant stake holders.

#### **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT**

- Popularization of solid disposal models

Development of Solid Waste Disposal models and popularization of the developed models are essential components to support solid waste management. The Ministry continues its efforts to assist the development and popularization of such models among the local authorities and households, with the assistance of research organizations such as NERD Centre, NGOs and public sector.

With NORAD funding, action is also being taken to construct biogas digesters in Maharagama Pradeshiya Sabha to produce compost out of Market Garbage with the assistance of NERD Centre. A market survey was carried out in collaboration with a private sector organization to assess the market for compost in the Western Province to encourage compost production from bioderadable waste. Arrangements are being made to carry out a pilot study with the assistance of NERD Centre and in collaboration with the Department of Town and Country Planning to produce compost out of waste fruits and flowers, generated from the Katharagama Devalaya.

#### **DEVELOPMENT OF A DATABASE OF THE GENERATION OF SOLID WASTE (MUNICIPAL WASTE) ISLANDWIDE**

Lack of base line data was a long felt need for the development of solid waste management strategies by Local Authorities and also to develop a national strategy for solid waste management. Data were collected from 255 Local Authorities island wide with the assistance of the Commissioners of Local Government of each Province. Action is being taken to assist local authorities to develop solid waste management strategies aiming at reducing, reusing and recycling of waste before final disposal.

## **INDOOR AIR POLLUTION**

Indoor air pollution has been identified as having significant association with respiratory diseases specially in preschool children and housewives. Poor ventilation, poor illumination, overcrowding, indoor air pollution with exposure to cooking fuel, tobacco smoke and air born bacteria increases the risk of respiratory diseases.

A preliminary community based study is being carried out in Kotte area with the assistance of the Colombo Medical Faculty as the implementing agency, to study the extent of the problem of respiratory diseases in children and house wives and the relationship to overcrowding, ventilation and specific physical and chemical air pollution. Findings of this preliminary study will help to develop a comprehensive study to evaluate the extend of the problems related to indoor air pollution island wide.

## **POLLUTION MANAGEMENT - HAZARDOUS WASTE**

Implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal, is an on going activity of the Ministry.

Sri Lanka ratified the Basel Convention in August 1992. The Ministry of Environment is the Focal Point and the Central Environmental Authority is the Competent Authority to this Convention. Guidelines for the implementation of the hazardous waste regulations are being prepared at present wite the assistance of CEA and other organizations with the Norwegian technical and financial assistance.

The national Coordinating Committee which comprises members of the relevant organizations in the country reviews the progress of the activities of the implementation of the Basel Convention.

## **A SUMMARY OF FUTURE PROGRAMS IN POLLUTION CONTROL**

### **PROPOSED ACTIVITY**

- Co-ordinate Pollution Management Activities with relevant organizations.
- Co-ordination activities with regard to the solid waste management with the relevant agencies.
  
- Identification of research requirements for pollution prevention
- Develop solid waste management models for public sector agencies such as local authorities and the private sector agencies with the assistance of research organizations.
- Provide assistance to investigate polluting industries.
- Promote the introduction of Cleaner Technology.
- Mobilize an effective communication system/network between the Ministry, CEA, trade associations, professional bodies, community groups and the general public.
- Follow up activities for the implementation of the Basel Convention on the control of transboundary movement of hazardous waste and their disposal.

### **PLANNED OUTPUT**

Co-ordination at National level

Co-ordination at

- (i) National level
- (ii) Provincial level
- (iii) Divisional level
  
- Publication of a data base on Solid Waste Management

### **PROMOTE RESEARCH WITH REGARD TO POLLUTION PREVENTION.**

- Document with adoptable measures
- Mobilize relevant agencies to acquire knowledge on pollution.
- Work plan showing the technical assistance required.

Help industries to mobilize waste minimization practices.

CREATE AWARENESS, provide incentives, encourage transfer of industries, technology, avoid misunderstandings, create consumer interest to create markets for green design practice to increase industrial efficiency in an inexpensive manner.

Implementation of Basel Convention

Establish a hazardous Waste disposal facility.

Obtain Technical and Training assistance for waste minimization programme and hazardous waste management.

Formulation of hazardous waste regulations for Import and Export control.

Develop guidelines for the implementation of Hazardous Waste Regulations for internal management.

Create awareness among the industrialists on the implementation activities of the Basel Convention.

## **COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES**

### **PERFORMANCE IN 1997**

Environment Division has placed due recognition for the effective management of coastal and marine resources as well as conservation of wetlands during 1997. Activities regarding these were coordinated with the relevant institutions such as Coast Conservation Department, Central Environmental Authority and IUCN. Coral mining in coastal areas has caused intrusion of sea shore into land areas and this Ministry has expressed its concern over the issue. An agreement is signed between this Ministry and CISIR for a research study on lime produced from Dolomite' and this study will be completed in 1999.

Protection of marine mammals programme was launched by IUCN with the honour assistance from Netherlands. Under the Special Area Management programme, action was taken to protect the coral reefs through NGOs and public participation during 1997.

### **ACTION PLAN 1998**

Ministry of Forestry & Environment has planned to place an extensive concern on Coastal and Marine Resources during 1998. Under the Bio-diversity Action Plan which is under preparation coastal and marine resources are being examined at present. Ministry will design a programme of action on the basis of recommendations contained in the BAP to address the issues relating to Coastal and Marine Resources in consultation with Ministries responsible for Fisheries, Tourism, Irrigation, Agriculture and Wild Life. Funding sources will be identified.

The activities undertaken by Ministry through Inter Agency Coordination of Coastal and Marine Resources, National Wetlands Steering Committee, Southern Regional Seas Programme, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme will be continued during 1998. In addition Research on Dolomite Hydrated lime a substitute for Coral Hydrated lime will be continued. About Rs. 265,000.00 will be utilized for the activities.



## **ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AT SUB NATIONAL LEVEL**

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While action has been taken to establish Provincial Environmental Committees for the Management of Environmental activities at Provincial Level a close relationship has been built up with the North Western Provincial Environmental Authority established in the North Western Province. While District Environmental Law Enforcement Committees have been strengthened, a sum of Rs. 250,000/- has been given for the activities of these committees.

Necessary action has been instituted for better formalisation of the activities of Divisional Environmental Committees. An Environment Development Officer has been appointed to each Divisional Secretariat for the Coordination of these activities and developments and management of environment activities at divisional level.

In order to fulfil the Environmental responsibilities entrusted to Local Authorities while steps have been taken to get the necessary training for the officers, 10 training Workshop have also been conducted at District level for the same.

Accordingly action has been taken to establish Environment Department Units in local government institutions in all the Provinces in the island this year specially in the Municipalities, Urban Councils and large Pradeshiya Sabhas.

It has been planned to continue this arrangement further in the year 1998 and it is hoped to keep the newly elected representatives of the local government institutions informed of this.

Necessary provisions will be allocated in 1998 for decentralised environmental activities.

## **ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENT LAWS**

The National Environment Law Enforcement Committee and the District Environment Law Enforcement Committees have acted satisfactorily in 1997 for the enforcement of Environment Laws. The ministry has provided the necessary financial assistance and advice required by the District Environment Law Enforcement Committees. Several Workshops have been conducted to create awareness among the members of these committees.

While action will continue to be more formalised in 1998 it has also been planned to expand the awareness activities in Environment Laws of the sectors concerned.

## **PROTECTION OF SCENIC RESOURCES**

Sri Lanka is enriched with diverse scenic resources such as water falls, forest reserves, national parks, ancient temples etc. However, scenic resources are not environmentally well managed due to territorial limitations of Agencies, involved in the administration of such resources.

This Ministry has completed a project on establishing a data base on scenic resources during the first three quarters in 1997.

Further, it is planned to classify scenic resources and draft regulations in 1998 to protect them. The legal provision for drafting these regulations could be derived from National Environmental Act or Ceylon Tourist Board Act.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROMOTION DIVISION**

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### **PERFORMANCE IN 1997**

A number of projects were implemented with a view to making the public aware of environmental activities and procuring their active participation in conservation and promotion of environment.

#### **SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS:**

Twenty one seminars and workshops aimed at procuring the cooperation of school children and the youth for environmental activities and getting the attention of adults drawn to environmental activities through them were conducted at divisional level.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLICATIONS:**

The SOBA magazine being the environmental publication of this Ministry, was published in the three languages, Sinhala, Tamil and English, three issues per year. In addition to this, the Environment Handbook was published in the three languages Sinhala, Tamil and English describing the role of Local Government Bodies in relation to environmental activities and a great number of environmental posters and pamphlets was printed and distributed among the public. The biodiversity news bueletin in collaboration with the Biodiversity Unit and "Ozon News" in collaboration with Montreal Protocol Unit of the Ministry are being published bimonthly by the promotion Division.

### **MAHAMEUNA UYANA TREE PLANTING PROGRAMME:**

Tree planting activities initiated in 1994, under the programme of planting trees in Mahameuna Uyana, Anuradhapura, are continuously carried on and under this programme trees have been planted in an areas of nearly 20 areas and are being looked after.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL MODEL VILLAGE PROGRAMME:**

Areas of Botale in Mirigama, Walawwatta and Kotalawalapura in Ratmalan are now being improved under the divisional environmental model village programme which was initiated with a view to implementing environmental conservation work with public participation at village level.

### **TELEVISION AND RADIO PROGRAMMES:**

Several documentary programmes relating to matters such as tree planting, urban parks, foresting, wild life, ozone layer and biodiversity were produced and transmitted a part form the current news telecast/broadcast in collaboration with Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation and other broadcasting services.

In addition to this, 16 live radio programmes based on current environmental information were broadcast.

## **ACTION PLAN 1998**

Priority will be given to the following activities in planning environmental promotion and communication during the ensuing year.

- Creation of awareness at the national level in formulating environmental policies and law enforcement.
- Creation of public awareness in the implementation of the National Environmental Action Plan.
- Promotion of public awareness in relation to international agreements and conservation.
- Organization of national level ceremonies and awareness programmes on days of national and international importance, i.e., Earth Day, World Environment Day, International Ozone Day, International Biodiversity Day and National Tree Planting Day etc.
- Creation of awareness in regard to Agenda 21.
- Organization of workshops and seminars relating to ESCAP Environment Programme.

In all these matters, attention will be drawn to sustainable natural resource management, sustainable production and consumption and promotion of environmental health.

Programmes will be broadcasted over the radio and the television based on the above criteria.

## **CENTRAL ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITY**

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The Central Environmental Authority (CEA) was established in August 1981, under the provisions of the National Environmental Act No 47 of 1980 which was amended in 1988. The Authority presently functions directly under the Ministry of Forestry & Environment.

The CEA is basically a regulatory authority concerned with conservation and management of the Environment.

The Natural Resource Management Division is engaged in the formulation and implementation of strategies for the sustainable utilization, conservation and management of the Natural Resources Base of the island.

The Environmental Protection Division is engaged in regulatory activities in relation to the control of air, water, soil pollution and industrial pollution control.

The Environmental Promotion Division deals with promotion of environmental awareness and education, and ushering active public participation in environmental programmes.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION**

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### **PERFORMANCE IN 1998**

- 135 New Environmental Protection Licences and 285 Renewals have been issued
- Action has been taken with regard to 563 complaints received. Total No: of complaints received is 629.
- Officers of the Local Authorities were trained in the issue of the Environmental Protection Licences and selection of sites for industries.
- The laboratory of the CEA continued its programme on monitoring of major water bodies including Kelani River, Kandy Lake, Greater Colombo canal system and North Western Province Surface and Ground Water. A total of 1200 samples were analysed by the laboratory which includes effluent sample from the High Polluting Sector.

## **PROJECTS**

### **CLEAN AIR 2000**

Continuous Ambient Air Quality monitoring in the Colombo City and the introduction of unleaded gasoline to Sri Lanka.

### **INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION REDUCTION PROGRAMME UNDP/UNDIO PROJECT**

- 40 professionals were trained in Cleaner Production Audits
- Demonstration units for cleaner technology application already established to recover and reuse chrome in tannery sector, save energy and improve efficiency & quality of toddy and molasses distillation in distillery sector and production efficiency through improved technology for electroplating centre of the IDB
- 14 Study Tours on Cleaner Production applications for different industrial sectors had been arranged for Government and Private Sector personnel.

## **ACTION PLAN 1998**

In 1998 the Protection Division will continue its regulatory programmes in relations to the issue of Environmental Protection Licences and site clearances to High Polluting Industries. It is also envisaged that the new Hazardous Waste Regulations will come into force in mid 1998, whereby CEA will be the main implementing agency. Collection of information regarding hazardous Waste Generation from prescribed industries will be commenced during this year. Guidelines will be drawn up for the storage, treatment and disposal of hazardous waste and action will be initiated to finalize a site for the disposal of hazardous waste.

The Protection Division will continue its regular monitoring programmes on industrial operations in order to ensure that industries are operating within the standards and criteria given by the CEA through the Environmental Protection Licence. Appropriate action will be taken against those industries which are found to be violating such standards and criteria.

In addition to the regular monitoring of the high polluting industry sector, the Protection Division will continue the monitoring of major water bodies in the country in order to determine pollution trends. Particular attention will be paid to the Kelani River in view of the fact that the water supply to scheme of Kelani River Water will be continued with particular attention paid to the monitoring of effluents discharged.

## **REGULATORY PROVISIONS**

Implementation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedures.

The implementation of EIA procedures during the year 1997 continued to be coordinated

through the EIA-PAA Inter Agency Committee. 6 Meetings of the committee were held during 1997 at which all actions with respect to the smooth implementation of the EIA process were coordinated with Project Approving Agencies. 48 Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) Reports and 20 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Reports were processed through out the year 10 IEE reports and 04 EIA reports were approved. A cabinet memorandum was submitted with respect to an amendment to the National Environmental Act requesting of or approval of the Cabinet of Ministers to exempt IEE reports from public sector. A concept paper was prepared in the area of "approval processes for development projects" to be considered in the drafting of the model state on environmental for provincial councils. In addition the drafting of regulations, guidelines, criterial etc. to operationlaise the draft National Environmental Act was undertaken. The projects prescribed by the Hon. Minister as requiring IEF/EIA prior to approval was subject to review and the revised list was forwarded to the Legl Draftsman's Department for approval prior to gazetting. 5 sectoral manuals and guidelines were prepared during the year. The 9th ten day EIA Intensive Training Workshop was held at which over 50 participants were trained on EIA related matters. In addition, 3 Awareness workshop for NGO's 1 awareness workshop for Grama Niladaries in the Matale District, 1 Workshop on delegation of powers under the National Environmental Act PAAs and 1 workshop for EIA Reviewers were held.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

Environmental checklists were prepared for 14 development sectors and environmental guidelines prepared for 10 sectors were collated into a guidebook for investors and development planners. An Interim sand study was completed for the identification of alternatives to sand used in the construction industry. A strategy to minimise environmental impacts of mining activities was prepared. Environmental issues to be addressed in the policy for the gem mini industry in Sri Lanka was addressed.

## **WETLAND CONSERVATION PROJECTS**

Phase III of the project continued throughout the year. The project will complete its activities in December 1997. Among the many achievements of the project during the year are street hening the National Wetlands Steering Committee, finalisation of the National Wetland Policy, implementation of an experimental cost recovery mechanism in the Muthurajawela Visitors

Center with over 16,000 visitation over the year, Wetland Site report for the Horton Plains National Park, Site Reports and Conservation Management Plans for Madhu Ganga and Lake Gregory School book on wetland and their values prepared and distributed islandwide, 10 training programme for Divisional Secretaries on harmonisation of development and wetland management.

## **ACTION PLAN 1998**

### **TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

- 1 ten day EIA intensive training Programme
- 3 x 1 day technical programmes on EIA
- 2 x 1 day technical programmes on NRM

### **Preparation of guidance documents**

- 2 sectoral guidelines on EIA
- Guidebook on Monitoring and post auditing of projects

### **MONITORING PROGRAMMES**

- Monitoring and Evaluation of approved EIAs
- Monitoring programmes on river bed gem mining

### **RESEARCH STUDIES**

- Technical review of EIAs undertaken over the past 4 years
- Preparation of wetland atlas
- Integrated Resources Management Project Phase I (with Dutch assistance)

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROMOTION DIVISION**

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### **PERFORMANCE IN 1997**

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR TARGET GROUPS**

- 50 New Environmental Pioneer Brigades were formed. 11 training programmes have been conducted for the leaders and teachers in-charge of brigades.
- 100 Herbaria were established in selected schools.
- A cross word puzzle on environment was published in Vidusara news paper.
- Training programmes were conducted for selected groups.
- "Parisara-gee Prasangaya" programme was conducted in connection with the World Environmental Day.

#### **PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAMME**

- 22 Exhibitions, Garbage Recycling programmes at district level in connection with the Earth Day, Urban Park Competitions were conducted.
- 60 Planting campaigns at Divisional Level, 3 home gardening programmes at 3 housing schemes 16 tree planting Projects by NGO, were conducted. Action has been taken to print a calendar and annual magazine.
- 72,000 plants, 700 garbage recycling programmes, 116 school lectures, were conducted at divisional level. 151 environmental profiles were prepared at district level.

#### **PUBLICITY & INFORMATION**

- 9 Leaflets, 1 booklet, 4 News letters (quarterly) 4 posters (S/T/E) were printed and issued.
- T.V. fillers were telecasted over ITN.
- Action has been taken to produce two T.V. fillers, 11 display boards.
- News paper articles published in connection with special events.
- "Man & Environment", a tertiary level book on environmental education was published.

### **ACTION PLAN 1998**

Environmental Promotion Division will conduct its regular programmes such as environment awareness for target groups, non formal environmental education programme for school children and information through media for the citizens.



- Action will be taken to organize an environmental education stall in connection with 50th Anniversary of National Independent Day.
- Jamboree for Environmental Pioneer Brigade members, training programme and workshops for target groups, special campaigns at island wide campaigns in connection with the World Environmental Day, Earth Day and Tree Planting Day will be organised.
- Action will be taken to obtain NGOs participation by forming NGOs cells at district level for environmental conservation activities.
- Information on environment will be provided by issuing quarterly, New Bulletin, leaflets, posters and Advertisements.
- Electronic media, Radio and News Papers will be used for providing environmental information to the general public.

