



**WILDLIFE AND NATURE
PROTECTION SOCIETY
OF SRI LANKA (CEYLON)**

(Established 1894)

Annual Report and Accounts 2017

124

1st January to 31st December 2017

OFFICE BEARERS 2017

PATRON

HIS EXCELLENCY MAITHRIPALA SIRISENA
PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

WNPS General Committee 2017

President : Mr. Rukshan Jayewardene
Vice Presidents : Mr. Rahula Dassenaieke
Mr. Ranil Pieris
General Secretary : Mr. Spencer Manuelpillai
Treasurer : Mr. Ranil Pieris [appointed Sec. 6. 10]
Immediate Past President : Prof. Lakdas D. Fernando

General Committee Members

Mr. Vidya Abhayagunawardena
Mr. Ravindralal Anthonis
Mr. Darrel Bartholomeusz
Ms. Tami Flamer Caldera
Mr. Jehan CanagaRetna
Mr. Sriyan de Silva Wijeyeratne
Dr. [Ms.] Nirmali De Silva
Dr. Tilak Jayaratne
Dr. Hemantha Perera
Mr. Ishan Rajasuriya
Ms. Ayanthi Samarajeewa
Ms. Caryll Tozer
Mr. Rohan Wijesinha

Hon. Editor - *Loris*

Mr. Rohan Wijesinha

Hon. Editor - *Warana*

Mr. Vidhya Abhayagunawardena

Hon. Auditors

M/s. Tudor V. Perera & Company, Chartered Accountant,
De Mel Building, Upper Chatham Street, Fort, COLOMBO - 01.

WILDLIFE & NATURE PROTECTION SOCIETY of SRI LANKA

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WILDLIFE & NATURE PROTECTION SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

Dear Member,

NOTICE OF THE 124th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WILDLIFE & NATURE PROTECTION SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

The Annual General Meeting of the **WILDLIFE & NATURE PROTECTION SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA [Ceylon]** will be held on **Saturday May 26th, 2018** at the Cinema Hall of the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall [BMICH], Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07, commencing at 5.00 pm. All Ordinary Members of good standing and Life Members are entitled to attend and vote at the AGM. Junior and Honorary Members may attend but are **NOT** entitled to vote. Admission to the meeting will be on production of a valid membership card.

AGENDA

1. Reading of the Notice convening the Annual General Meeting.
2. Two minutes silence in respect of members who have passed away in 2017.
3. Apologies for absence.
4. Adoption of the Minutes of the 123rd AGM held on May 27th, 2017.
5. Matters arising from the Minutes.
6. Adoption of the Report of the Hon. General Secretary for 2017.
7. Adoption of the Statement of Accounts for 2017.
8. Tabling of the Accounts of the WNPS Education & Propaganda Trust.
9. The President's Address.
10. Election of Members to the General Committee.
11. Election of Office Bearers.
12. Election of Auditors.
13. Resolutions for which due notice have been given.
14. Conferment of Honorary Membership.
15. Any other matters for which due notice have been given.



Spencer Manuelpillai
Hon. General Secretary

February 28th, 2018

ANNUAL REPORT

2017 has been an extremely challenging year with the protection and conservation of the fauna and flora of our country. The violations of the Fauna & Flora Protection Ordinance (FFPO) have been rampant in both the protected and unprotected areas. The Society has been in the forefront in battling many of these issues, on its own as well as collectively with other environmental organisations. The progress has been frustratingly slow but the Society will continue to keep up the pressure. The General Committee is encouraged to see the membership rallying behind and extending its support at protest marches and other of its initiatives, details of which are given in the respective sub-committee reports.

On a positive side, there has been a great improvement in the traditional services provided by the Society to its members, and others. After many years, there has been a welcome turnaround in the performance of the Society's bungalows following renovations to the Uda Walawe and Wilpattu Bungalows. All three (3) bungalows are now making a positive contribution to the Society's finances.

The Members' 'Gathering', in December 2017, attracted some of the Society's very senior members to share in the fellowship, and give of their learning and experience. Field Excursions for Members have been successfully recommenced, after a lapse of several years. This has proven to be hugely popular with over-subscription for some venues requiring additional dates to be arranged. It is now a monthly feature the value of which is enhanced with each group being accompanied by a knowledgeable and enthusiastic resource person(s).

In the Society's continuous effort to reach out to the younger generation, it was able to continue with the Wetland Walk Series for the very young and their parents, and it has now officially launched a Youth Wing of the WNPS.

In addition, the process of reviving the District Representative system has begun with the appointment of District Representatives to the 26 Districts. It is hoped to develop a comprehensive network across the country.

All of this enhanced activity has enabled the Society to attract much-needed corporate sponsorship to fund its initiatives during the year. From its publications, to its youth programmes, to its reforestation project, and others, as detailed in the report below,

have been largely made possible by the generous contributions of these enlightened companies who have seen the importance of wildlife and nature conservation for the future of Sri Lanka, and have begun to invest in its long-term protection. The Society is extremely grateful to them for their forward thinking, their generous sponsorships, and for choosing the WNPS to be their partner in these endeavours.

MEMBERSHIP

It is encouraging to note the relatively large number of new members who have joined the Society in 2017, especially the very large number of student memberships. The General Committee will work hard to ensure that this trend continues in the coming year, and beyond.

	31.12.2016	31.12.2017	New 2017
Life	1,723	1,727	4
Ordinary	192	302	102
Junior	91	208	117

It is with deep regret we record the passing away of the following members of our Society during the course of 2017. We salute their commitment to the Society and to conversation.

LIFE	ORDINARY
Dr. N. W. Karunaratne	Mr. L. L. Leanage
Mr. S. Pathinige	Mr. H. S. Mendis
Mr. W. A. Jayasuriya	Mr. M. Piyasekera
Mr. L. H. T. de Mel	Mr. G. Ratwatte
Mr. R. B. Wijesinha	Mr. S. K. Thakshila
Mr. A. Delgoda	
Dr. P. S. Dias	
Dr. M. N. Burhan	
Mr. U. G. Wijetunge	
Mr. S. R. Saputhanthri	

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING 2017

The General Committee of the Society convened a total of twelve times during 2017. The following is a record of the attendance of each Committee Member from January - May 2017, and of the new Committee from June – December 2017.

Committee Member	January - May 2017		June - December 2017	
	Meetings	Present	Meetings	Present
Mr. Rukshan Jayewardene	5	5	7	6
Mr. Rahula Dassaenaieke	5	4	7	4
Mr. Ranil Pieris	5	5	7	6
Mr. Spencer Manuelpillai	5	5	7	6
Mr. Ishan Rajasuriya	5	5	7	1
Prof. Lakdas Fernando	5	4	7	6
Mr. Vidya Abhayagunawadana	5	3	7	5
Mr. Ravindralal Anthonis	5	2	7	4
Mr. Darrel Bartholomeusz	5	2	7	1
Ms. Tami Flamer-Caldera	5	4	7	6
Mr. Jehan CanagaRetna	5	2	7	6
Mr. Sriyan De Silva Wijeyeratne	5	4	7	4
Dr. [Ms.] Nirmali De Silva	5	3	7	6
Dr. Tilak Jayaratne	5	4	7	5
Prof. Hemantha Perera	5	3	7	3
Ms. Ayanthi Samarajeewa	5	4	7	5
Maj. Raajiv Wanigasekera	5	1	-	-
Mr. Rohan Wijesinha	5	5	7	7
Ms. Caryll Tozer	-	-	7	5

EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION

The following members of the General Committee also serve, either in their private (P) capacity or as representatives of the Society (WNPS), in the following conservation-based organizations / committees:

Mr. Rukshan Jayewardene (Hon. President)

Director of the Environmental Foundation Ltd. (EFL) (P)

Trustee of the Leopard Trustees (P)

Chair of the Wilderness & Protected Areas Foundation (P)

Joint President of the Wildlife Conservation Forum (P)

Representative at the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) (WNPS)

Mr. Rahula Dassenaieke (Hon. Vice President)

Joint President of the Wildlife Conservation Forum (P)

Mr. Rohan Wijesinha

Member of the Human - Elephant Coexistence Committee hosted by the Ministry of Sustainable Development & Wildlife Conservation (P)

Chair of the Federation of Environmental Organisations (FEO)

Mr. Ranil Pieris (Hon. Vice President)

Trustee of the Friends of Wilpattu (P)

Member of the Western Province Megapolis Environment & Conservation Sub-Committee (P)

Member of the Protected Areas Management & Conservation Plan (World Bank) (P)

Prof. Lakdas Fernando (Immi. Past President)

Member Advisory Committee - DWC (WNPS)

THE STAFF OF THE SOCIETY – 2017

Name	Designation	Location
Mr. George Thambapillai	Administrative Secretary	Head Office
Ms. Akshika Bodipala	Administrative Assistant	Head Office
Mr. Ivan Prematilleke	Office Assistant	Head Office
Mr. Damith Susantha	Bungalow Keeper	Palatupana
Mr. C. R. Dharmadasa #	Assistant Bungalow Keeper	Wilpattu

Resigned

Status of the legal actions initiated by the Society together with EFL, update as at 7th March 2018.

CASE NAME AND NUMBER	BACKGROUND	CURRENT STATUS	COUNSEL
<p>1.Udawalawe connected matter</p> <p>SCFR 529/11 connected with SC(FR) 410/2008</p>	<p>This case is a connected matter to a case instituted by EFL together with WNPS and WPAF in 2008.</p> <p>The matter was in regard to a proposed electric fence around the Udawalawe National Park, which threatened the movement of elephants between the Dahaiyagala and Bogahapitiya Sanctuary. The Court directed that the elephant corridor should not be blocked by the proposed electric fence.</p> <p>A subsequent FR matter was filed in Supreme Court by aggrieved farmers on the question of a new proposed electric fence, which was encroaching onto their farmland. EFL and WNPS were added as an Added Respondent in 2012.</p>	<p>This matter was mentioned on the 12.01.2018. On this date, alternate lands were identified for resettling aggrieved farmers but they were not satisfied with receiving permits to such lands and requested grants instead.</p> <p>As a settlement could not be reached, the matter was fixed for argument on the 17th of September.</p> <p>EFL is to file objections in this case on behalf of the added Respondents.</p>	<p>Mrs.Wardani Karunaratne</p>

<p>2. Pallenkandal Church Case</p> <p>CA (Writ) 51/2018</p>	<p>EFL together with WNPS filed a Writ against the illegal festive activities that occur inside the Wilpattu National Park (WNP). For a very long time, there was a small jungle shrine in the Pallenkandal/ Pomparippu area which was recognized as a Catholic place of worship. However, after WNP was re-opened after the war, there has been a rapid expansion of a large church with permanent structures within the national park. Moreover, there is increased human intrusion into the national park as a result of the large-scale festivities of the church. EFL is challenging the unlawful/ unregulated activities which are taking place inside the national park resulting from the religious festivities.</p>	<p>This case was taken up on 06.03.2018 for notice returnable.</p> <p>The Petitioners argued that the church is not within the national park and the festivities only happen with a monthly mass and annual feast.</p> <p>The Mannar and Puttalam congregation wanted to intervene in this matter and was allowed intervention subject to objections by the Petitioner.</p> <p>Attorney General's Department was strongly opposing to the activities of the church, in particular the large scale camping sites.</p> <p>The 4th Respondent is to file objections by the 1st of June and the case is to be mentioned on this date.</p>	<p>Mr. Kanag-Ishvaran P.C.</p> <p>Mrs. Wardani Karunarathne</p>
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<p>3. Mahawa Tusker Case (MC Mahawa 1052/2017)</p>	<p>EFL and WNPS was added as an aggrieved party to the case against the killing of the Mahawa tusker, popularly known as the Dala pootuwa.</p>	<p>The case related to the killing of the Galagamuwa tusker was taken up at Mahawa MC on the 28th of February 2018.</p> <p>1st –8th Suspects were presented before the Magistrate.</p> <p>No representation was made by the State.</p> <p>The Genetech Sri Lanka Institute has reported to Court that the CID has not made the necessary payments to carry out the DNA testing, therefore the DNA test to match the arrested tusks with that of the dead elephant was not ready to be presented in court.</p> <p>Submissions were made requesting bail for the 1st – 6th suspects.</p> <p>Bail was granted for all. 1st and 2nd suspects were granted bail by depositing a sum of Rs. 50,000/- and executing a bond with three sureties of Rs.500,000/- each. 3rd – 6th suspects by depositing a sum of Rs. 25,000/- and executing a bond with three sureties of Rs.500,000/- each.</p> <p>The matter will be taken up on the 28th of March 2018.</p>	<p>Mr.Anura Meddegoda PC</p> <p>Mrs.Wardani Karunarathne</p>
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<p>4. Wilpattu road case</p> <p>SCFR 224/2010</p>	<p>EFL together with WNPS instituted action against the illegal construction of two roads within the boundaries of the Wilpattu national park.</p>	<p>When EFL conducted a site visit on the 22nd of January 2018, it was observed that the road was used by public buses as a bus route. There were RDA sign posts by the side of the road which indicated that the road will be developed further.</p> <p>The observations of the site visit were brought to the notice of Mr. Egalahewa who instructed that a letter to the AGD and RDA should be sent along with the pictures taken on the site visit.</p> <p>The pictures of site visit are to be submitted to Court by way of a motion before the next Court date.</p> <p>Argument 5th of June 2018</p>	<p>Mr. Uditha Egalahewa PC</p>
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SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS
REPORT OF THE HUMAN – ELEPHANT COEXISTENCE
(HEC) COMMITTEE

Committee Members

Mr. Rohan Wijesinha (Chair)
Mr. Jehan CanagaRetna
Ms. Caryll Tozer

Mr. Ravindralal Anthonis
Ms. Tami Flamer-Caldera

Co-opted Members

Mr. Charitha Gooneratne

Mr. Rahula Perera

1. WORKSHOP ON THE POLICY FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF WILD ELEPHANTS

On the 24th of January, the Society hosted a workshop, for all relevant stakeholders, on issues relating to the conservation and management of wild elephants. The aim was to have a forum where all relevant stakeholders could share of their knowledge and agree on a unified way forward.

The Director General of the Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) was in attendance, and six (6) of the Additional Directors either made presentations or were active participants on the specialist discussion panels set up on the day. It was gratifying to have the Wildlife & Nature Protection Society and DWC working so closely together again on an issue of such importance. The crucial outcome from this workshop was the urgent necessity to review, upgrade and implement the Human-Elephant Coexistence Policy which incorporates all of the strategies proposed at the workshop – most notably the need for strategic electric fencing based on habitat boundaries rather than institutional boundaries, for which the DWC and the Forest Department need to have close cooperation. Ideally, they should both be under the purview of the same Ministry. In addition, the DWC should have higher profile in the approval of development projects planned in areas already hosting populations of wild elephants. Development agencies who fund such projects have a responsibility to ensure that they do too.

Fundamentally, for any of these strategies to be successful, it is imperative that the relevant laws, most notably those of the Fauna & Flora Protection Ordinance (FFPO), are implemented to their full extent; the FFPO requiring review to make the penalties more feasible for today.

A full report of this workshop is carried in Loris Vol. 27, Issue 5 & 6.

Special thanks are due to the Born Free Foundation who generously sponsored this workshop.

2. WORKSHOP FOR DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES ON THE HUMAN – ELEPHANT CONFLICT

An important strategy recommended at the HEC Workshop in January was that a similar workshop be held for representatives of the Development Agencies to inform them of the issues that result in development taking place in areas that are the natural habitat of wild elephants. It was hoped that with this knowledge these agencies would ensure that funding was only given for those projects which have effective strategies written into them to negate any possible conflict.

With this in mind, on the 22nd of September, the Society, in partnership with the World Bank, organized a workshop for the development agencies. Regrettably, only seven (7) agencies sent their representatives but the response from those who did was extremely positive. Two of these agencies, concerned with agricultural and housing development projects, requested a further such workshop for their staff with a view to ensuring that future development project plans had written in them strategies to mitigate against HEC. This was in addition to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and any recommendation made therein. The Society is in the process of coordinating this workshop.

Our thanks are due to Dr. Prithviraj Fernando and Dr. Sumith Pilapitiya for facilitating this workshop, and to the World Bank for hosting it in their auditorium and for meeting the costs of it. They have expressed a hope of hosting this again for the agencies who were unable to attend this time.

A full report of this workshop is carried in Loris Vol. 28, Issue 1 & 2.

3. KILLING OF THE GALGAMUWA CROSSED TUSKER

On the 6th of December, the Society hosted a Press Conference on the tragic killing of the Galgamuwa Crossed Tusker with the intention of highlighting the need for the perpetrators of this foul deed to be brought to justice and to emphasize that the only way to truly protect the lives of tuskers was by finding solutions to the human-elephant conflict – all of the five (5) other deaths of tuskers at that time being due to HEC and not poaching.

In addition, the WNPS is the primary litigant, with the Environmental Foundation Ltd. (EFL) in the case of the Galgamuwa Crossed Tusker, at the Maho Magistrates Court, where the Society and the EFL have been given the right to give of their expert knowledge when determining the outcome of this case. The Court Case is currently in progress.

For fuller details on this, please refer to Loris Vol. 28, Issue 1 & 2.

4. DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (DWC) POLICY ON HEC

Prof. Lakdas Fernando & Mr. Rohan Wijesinha represented the WNPS at a review of the Policy hosted by the DWC. The same process was followed as before, with the same amendments agreed to (as outlined in the HEC Workshop of 2017). The DWC have now undertaken to have the Policy drafted and ready for public scrutiny by March 2018.

OTHER MATTERS STILL PENDING FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT OF 2016

I. Forming a policy for the Restoration of the Uda Walawe National Park eco-system

The DWC has already begun this on their own. However, there seems to be little progress other than a disastrous attempt to grow agricultural produce (Finger Millet; S. Kurakkan) within the park as fodder for the elephants. None of the plants grew. This is also in breach of the Fauna & Flora Protection Ordinance (FFPO). This matter will have to be pursued further with the DWC in 2018.

II. Elephants killed by train strikes

Due to the delays involved in finding the finances for this research, the team that had been got together took on another project. The Society will try and get another team together to undertake this research in 2018.

III. Elephant drive at Kataragama

Regrettably, there was no further response from the relevant Minister to the offer of the Centre for Conservation Research to have two new housing developments in the area to be fenced off, rather than the fencing off of the conservation areas, thereby allowing free range between these areas to the

elephants, while protecting the villagers and their crops from them. The matter of strategic fencing, however, has been included in the HEC Policy and will be actively canvassed for by the Society in 2018.

IV. Educating the media on the Human – Elephant Conflict & other conservation issues

This proposal is still pending, mainly due to a lack of funding, but will be pursued again in 2018.

V. Illegal clearing of proposed MER at Ehethuwewa for an industrial orchard

The priest from the local temple has recommenced this clearing. The Environmental Foundation Ltd. are in the process of raising this matter with the relevant authorities, and then with the courts if there is no success with them.

VI. A quick response Veterinarian Unit in the DWC

This continues to be an issue with little progress for ‘political’ reasons. The Society will keep on canvassing for a resolution of this problem for the greater care of the wildlife of this country.

VII. Minneriya as a holding reservoir for the Moragahakanda Project

This remains as the most serious threat not only to elephants and villagers of the area, as there will be an inevitable increase in human – elephant conflict, but also to the economy of the country with the world famous ‘Gathering’ of elephants at Minneriya at serious jeopardy. The Society will continue to monitor the situation and canvas strongly for its non-implementation.

REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Committee Members

Ms. Caryll Tozer (Chair)
Mr. Rahula Dassenaik
Ms. Ayanthi Samarajeewa
Mr. Rohan Wijesinha

Mr. Darrel Bartholomeusz
Dr. [Ms.] Nirmali De Silva
Dr. Tilak Jayaratne

2017 was a year of many challenges for the Conservation Committee stemming mainly from the sheer volume of issues created, mostly in the name of infrastructure building and development, and the inevitable corrupt practices that these seem to encourage, by those same individuals whom the people have elected to protect and preserve the natural heritage of this country. 2018 will see the continuation of these same battles, and the commitment of the Society in resisting all that is detrimental to wildlife and nature conservation.

The following are some of the major issues addressed by the Committee in 2017:

1. DEVELOPMENTS IN MANNAR THAT WILL HAVE DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS ON BIRD MIGRATION

- The Society has been at the forefront in supporting the Environmental Foundation Ltd. (EFL) in bringing to the attention of the authorities concerned the dangers posed to the seasonal migration of birds, and on the natural environment in general, by the construction of a Wind Farm across one of its major pathways. In addition to aiding in the presentation of a petition to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Electricity Board, and other of the project's instigators, informing them of the dangers posed by the project, the Society has also made statements to this effect in the general media.
- In addition, the Society has raised concerns, with the Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC), that a Kite Surfing establishment has been set up within what is the boundaries of the Marine Sanctuary. The Society has requested the DWC to take action to investigate and take all remedial actions necessary to ensure the preservation of this protected area intact.

2. **ILLEGAL ENCROACHMENT INTO THE WILPATTU NATIONAL PARK & THE BUFFER ZONES SURROUNDING IT**

Despite public and media outcry targeting just one main group as a threat to the integrity of this priceless National Park, the Society is aware that there are, in fact, six (6) such encroachments that have taken place / in the process of doing so. Whatever their present uses, the ultimate aim, in most cases, will be to dispossess the present population / terminate the present function of these areas and convert them into tourist facilities for the enrichment of these same policy makers who champion these developments.

- a) **Vilathaimulam Forest Reserve / Maraichukkaddi / Karadikkuli (Kallaru) Reserved Forest / Periyamurippu Reserved Forest** – 700+ acres of Forest Department (FD) land in the Wilpattu Buffer Zone have been encroached on and destroyed.
- b) **Pookulum** – a seasonal fishing camp. Despite already having residences in Kalpitiya, these fishermen have had permanent abodes built for them here which, along with a temple and a church, have also now been connected to the electricity grid. The politician concerned is trying to expand the settlement into the neighbouring FD land.
- c) **Cashew Plantation (after road between Vilachchiya & Mullikulum)** – A 35 Km road has been built between Vilachchiya and Mullikulum, within the park, to service 900+ acres of the adjacent FD land which was given to the Civil Defence Force to plant Cashew. Poaching is rampant from this site.
- d) **Fruit Plantation at Eluvankulama (near the Kala Oya)** – An individual, with political patronage, has encroached into the park and is growing fruit. Despite a court case ordering him to return the land to the DWC, this has not happened and, in fact, reports suggest that he has helped himself to even more of the park.
- e) **Pallenkandal Shrine** – a historic shrine, within the National Park, of less than a quarter of an acre in extent now occupies several acres and the church has requested a further 25 acres be given to the shrine. Despite several meetings with the church dignitaries concerned, the events at the shrine have increased, with the buildings surrounding it become permanent structures. Letters have been sent to the Holy See highlighting the fact

that this illegal expansion is against the Law of Sri Lanka, and is causing serious degradation of the habitat in an area frequented by elephants. This matter has now gone into litigation and we sincerely hope the outcome will be favourable for Wilpattu.

- f) **Mahavilachchiya** – NE border of Wilpattu. The villagers have already encroached into the Park and are demanding 3,000 acres of it.

In addition to the Court Case with regard to the Mannar Road, which the Society is continuing to pursue with EFL, it is important that all encroachments are challenged, irrespective of any ethnic, religious or political origin of the perpetrators of these illegal acts.

The Society, with other concerned organisations, participated in a march at the Vihara Maha Devi Park, at the end of last year, to highlight the destruction that is taking place at Wilpattu, while the authorities continue to look the other way. Media statements have also been released.

3. DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

The District Representative System is being revamped and an updated list of possible working partners in the 26 Districts of Sri Lanka is being compiled. This will enable the Society to engage in issues on a more comprehensive level, with first-hand knowledge from those right on the scene.

4. WILDLIFE PRESERVATION FUND

The Committee has written to the Secretary to the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife requesting information from him as to how they disburse monies from the Wildlife Preservation Fund. These monies, which at the end of 2016 exceeded Rs. 3 Billion in value, should be utilized for much needed conservation projects being undertaken by the DWC. The Society has yet to receive a response, and will pursue this matter further in 2018.

5. LIMITS ON VISITATION TO NATIONAL PARKS

The Society hosted a Press Conference, and released media statements, on the early opening of the Yala National Park, after its October recess, purely due to political interference and expediency. With this, the Society has begun a campaign to impose visitor restrictions not only at Yala, but at all the National Parks, to ensure that the parks and their wild inhabitants are protected from the

evils of over-visitation, and also that visitors have a positive experience that will encourage them, especially the tourists, to visit again and again.

DIYAKOTHAKANDA 'ROAR'

Prof. Lakdas Fernando - Chair, Dr. Nirmali de Silva, Dr. Lakmini Senadeera, Mr Praveen Abhayaratne , Mr Jehan CanagaRetna , Mr Rohan Abeygoonewardena, Mr Amrit CanagaRetna, Ms. Achintha Neligama, Ms. Ishara Embogama-Atapattu.

1. The area planted with pioneers and early successional species in Nov. 2016 (Zone A) show an impressive growth of several pioneer species planted viz. Gedumba, Kenda, Bovitiya, Hawari Nuga, Gliricidia etc.
2. As a result of the vigorous growth of the pioneers and early successional, more than 50% of the soil surface in Zone A is now covered with overtopping vegetation cover arresting to some extent, the weed growth and soil erosion.
3. Of all the surviving transplants, nearly 2100 have been tagged with numbered labels by the project staff to facilitate future monitoring.
4. Zone B land clearing in the area above the already planted Zone A was competed with removal of both Kekilla and Pinibaru leaving behind the bushes of Weraniya.
5. A second field hut and a foot path connecting the two huts have been constructed by the field staff which facilitates easier movement along the steep slope while provisioning temporary shelter for both field crew and visitors.
6. Video clips of the entire area, using a drone, were done in order to monitor the progress visually from above and also to help drawing up of suitable sampling designs, for growth estimation.
7. In the open spaces in the already planted sites, especially along the stone terraces and earth bunds, Gliricidia cuttings and Peuraria were planted to improve soil fertility and also cover the soil surface.
8. Seedling nurseries of late successional forest species have been started after collecting seeds as well as wildlings from the nearby forests and nurseries established under the nearby forest shade using forest soil as an inoculum in potting.

9. Among the species recommended to be selected from based on availability of seeds/wildlings in the area are Hora, Nedun, Dawata, Ubberiya, Urukuna, Welipanna, Milla, Kekuna, Kanpotta, Pelang, Wal del, Etamba, Eta-kirilla, Wana Idala, Thiniya-Yakahalu, Weni wel, Goraka, Damba, Kurumbettiya, Alubo, Ankenda, Ruk attana, Kitul, to name some.
10. In addition wildlings found in the forest interior with sufficient numbers were planted in the forest plant nursery.
11. There are about 1200 transplants that are remaining to be tagged which should be completed in early 2018.
12. About 40% of the upper slope was clean-weeded land preparation completed in readiness for planting with the on-set of NE monsoons in late Nov/early Dec.
 - i) completed the weeding program by the end of August,
 - ii) initiated stone terracing immediately thereafter and completed by end September,
 - iii) followed this up with digging planting holes completed by end October.
 - iv) Parallel with land preparation, a fresh nursery of pioneers and early successional species as done in earlier occasion established with about 5,000 plants altogether of all possible species (Gedumba, Kenda, Bu kenda, Bovitia, Pinna, etc.) leaving an allowance for casualties both in the nursery and as replacements in the field after transplanting (August –November, 2017).

Mr. Ajita de Costa has come forward as the principal donor of the project for the next three years with a commitment of Rs.3.5Mn. The first tranche of Rs.1.5Mn was handed over to the Society in December 2017.

Mr. Costa has made this donation in memory of his late father Mr. Ray de Costa.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge the expert knowledge and guidance provided by Profs. Nimal & Savithri Gunatilleke and Mr David Colin Thome for assistance with drone images.

Salaries & Wages	- 761,166.33
Consultancy fees	- 41,000.00
Office & staff quarters [rent/electricity/telephone]	- 174,034.49
Land development [clearing/planting etc]	- 734,048.13

FLOOD RELIEF

Badureliya was one of the worst affected areas in the floods of May 2017. School children in all five schools supporting the Reforestation Project were affected, Badureliya Kanishta Vidyalaya being the worst affected. WNPS initiated a campaign to raise funds to assist the worst affected students which was well responded in cash and kind. At a ceremony held on 02nd July 2017 at the Badureliya Kanishta Vidyalaya 500 school children were each given a package of value around Rs. 2,500/= consisting of utility clothing, including one raincoat, instrument box, exercise books and a voucher for footwear.

Committee Member Dr. Hemantha Perera with the assistance of doctors from Sri Jayewardene General Hospital conducted a medical camp and free milk was provided to all who attended the ceremony by the company M/s. Mead Johnson.

Contributions were received from the following

Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC.

Dr. A. Balasuriya

M/s. Hemas Holdings [IT Division]

M/s. Smart Media [pvt.] &

Mr Vijith Kannangara

Mast. H. T. Amarasuriya

Mr. Gamini Hettiarachchi

Mr. P. Taldena

Mr. R. L. Samarasinghe

Mr. R. Samarasinghe

Mr. S. Sangani

Mr. S. Shiraz

Mr. Travis Ondajje

Ms. A. Wadugodaitiya

Ms. B. De Silva

Ms. D. Puswella

Ms. N. Wickramaratne

Ms. R. W. Jayaratne

Ms. Radika Dias Bandaranayake

Ms. Shaktha Amaratunga

Ms. Y. S. Samarawickrama

OIAL Charity[once in a lifetime

Dr. (Ms.) Nirmall de Silva

Mr. Rahula Dassenaieke

Mr. Spencer Manuelpillai

Mr. Ishan Rajasuriya

Mr. Rukshan Jayewardene

Mr. Ranil Pieris

Mr. Sriyan de Silva Wijeyeratne

Ms. Tami Flamer Caldera

Ms. Ayanthi Samarajeewa

Mr. Rohan Wijesinha

SCHOOL NATURE CLUB

Committee Members

Dr. Hemantha Perera- Chair
Prof Lakdas Fernando

Mr. Spencer Manuelpillai
Mr. Vidya Abhaygunawardena

INCORPORATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION INTO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION IN SRI LANKA

Implementation of the Law and other deterrents alone cannot, and will not, save our natural world for future generations. This will only be successful through genuinely motivated people from the next generation of youth.

WNPS is interested in collaborating with the Government, through the Ministry of Education, with the National Institution of Education as the focal point, in improving the exposure of our schoolchildren to the need for conservation of our nature & wild life, based on the objectives of tH.E. the President of Sri Lanka, who is also the Society's Patron.

The primary objective is to play a catalytic role in ensuring the academic and practical knowledge is incorporated with regard to environmental concerns at a very young age amongst all school goers. Such a programme has to ensure that the correct values in terms of care and concern for Nature is imparted to students so that they grow up with the right values and protect the fragile environment we live in.

Step 1. Curricular learning

- I) Environment and Nature has to be a mandatory component in
 - I.I all syllabi, irrespective of the streams of instruction (i.e. Arts, Science, Commerce etc.)
 - I.II continuous and summative assessments (examinations) from Grade 1 to Advanced Level

Step 2. Extra - curricular learning & exposure

2.1 School Environmental (Nature) Clubs

It is proposed to promote the concept of Environmental Clubs to be set up in every school through a directive by H.E. the President.

This has been already begun in the border schools of the Nature Reserves and Parks.

2.2 Trained Teachers for Environment & Nature (New cadre position)

Teacher/s will be appointed to each school. Until specifically trained teachers are available, new science teachers could be appointed for these posts.

It has to be highlighted that obtaining part-time services of existing teachers with other teaching commitments and responsibilities is **not going to be productive** and should be resisted.

2.3 Teacher Training in Environment & Nature

A special subject syllabus-module to be developed by the academic resources at the Teacher Training Colleges in Sri Lanka with input from the WNPS.

2.4 Responsibilities of the Teacher in Environment & Nature

2.4.1. Train other Class teachers on the curricular components

2.4.2. Set up and manage the Environmental (Nature) Club of the school

2.4.3. Organize field trips

2.4.4. World Environment Day programme

2.4.5. Harness expert resource services to the school

2.4.6. Prepare monthly school activity returns to the Zonal Teachers' Instructor

2.5 Zonal Teachers' Instructor in Environment & Nature (a new cadre position)

A resource person (i.e. Science Graduate) with an advanced environmental knowledge to be appointed to the Zonal Office

2.6 Regional Director in Environment & Nature for each district (a new cadre position)

A special post has to be created within the National Education system.

2.7 Director of Education in Environment & Nature (a new cadre position)

The incumbent will be the liaison officer from the Ministry of Education with the Presidential secretariat.

2.8 Asst. Secretary (Environment & Nature) to the President (a new cadre position)

This will be a SLAS appointment at the Ministry of Environment / Presidential Secretariat who

2.8.1 will be directly reporting to the President

2.8.2 will be responsible for planning/ funding/ implementation / auditing / reviewing of the school/ national programmes through the Director of Education in Environment & Nature

2.8.3 will be promoting international exposure of this educational activity

A pilot project is to be launched in the Polonnaruwa District and a national launch on International Environmental Day following by a meeting with H.E. the President of Sri Lanka.

THE ROLE OF WNPS

1. Work with the NIE to identify the extent & depth of Environment & Nature in the current syllabi / curricula and extracurricular activities
2. To conceptualize and develop events, activities, handbooks, knowledge capsules for the Environmental (Nature) Club of the schools with specific focus on different age groups through a team / panel of experts on the different aspects and areas of environment e.g. Home & Environment, Environment & Nature of Sri Lanka - land & sea, Wildlife Conservation, Related Legal matters, World Nature & Environment, Department of Wildlife, WNPS & children's role, Wildlife photography, Data collection on nature and Environment, Journalism, New media for Conservation, reporting incidents and interesting findings, Nature tourism, Reforestation, Waste Management, Water Management, Climate Change, Pollution, etc.
3. Follow up through regional representatives and develop a central data base
4. Problem solving

Meetings have been planned with the Hon. Minister of Education and H.E. the President of Sri Lanka to explain this plan and canvass their direct involvement

Wetland Walk” – connecting children and parents with Nature

The Junior Membership has more than doubled in 2017 (from 91 to 208), mainly due to the Wetland Walk programmes. The focus of these events is to make Child and Parent connect, as a team, with Nature. The focus is on raising awareness of the flora and fauna in and around Colombo.

In 2018 we intend to seek a sponsorship to extend the Junior Membership program to cover:

- a) Launch a Junior Member ‘Passport’ which will include activities to complete as part of their nature appreciation program with the awarding of ‘WNPS Explorer’ badge.

REPORT OF THE YOUTH WING COMMITTEE

Committee Members:

Mr. Jehan CanagaRetna (Chair)

Mr. Rohan Wijesinha

Co-opted Members

Ms. Farzana Akbarally

Ms. Harshini De Silva

Ms. Rishani Gunasinghe

Ms. Roshini Induruwage

Mr. Pravin Jayasundere

Mr. Rahula Perera

Mr. Anura Ranasinghe

Mr. Shahid Sangani

Mr. John Wilson

Ms. Zainab Akbarally

Mr. Armand Flamer-Caldera

Ms. Shanu Gunasinghe

Ms. Sanjo Jinadasa

Mr. Achala Meddegama

Ms. Amaya Pieris

Ms. Keshana Ratnasingham

Ms. Acushla Wijesinha

At the General Committee Meeting of November 2017, Jehan CanagaRetna and Rohan Wijesinha proposed the creation of a WNPS Youth Wing. The major objective was to commence a programme, in 2018, to increase awareness among schoolchildren of the problems facing conservation in Sri Lanka today, and to engage with them in finding sustainable solutions. A secondary objective was to inject the Society with younger members who would eventually take over its administration and conservation activities, and see it through to the future. The intention is to target 18 schools in 2018, a minimum of six (6) of these being from out of Colombo.

The Project Framework will include the following:

- The target ages of schoolchildren will be from 14 to 19 years
- The initial project will be for a period of three (3) years, to be continued thereafter subject to its success, and available funding
- The Project would be administered by a special committee comprising of both members of the General Committee and coopted members, especially those of the younger age groups

- Six (6) schools would be engaged with in every four (4) months, leading to at least 18 schools being covered over the course of a year
- A presentation to be prepared, in all three languages, which addresses issues relating to conservation, reforestation, waste disposal, the human - elephant conflict and reforestation.
- After the initial presentation, the Youth Wing will establish a working link with the schools' existing wildlife / environmental societies or any other similar society, to plan out a project for that year. If none exists, the Youth Wing will assist in the setting up of such a group in that school
- Organize trips to educate the students e.g. to the Elephant Transit Home at Uda Walawe, the Diyakothakanda Reforestation project, and day trips to a National Park close to the relevant Schools.
- Organize an annual Inter-school Wild Life and Nature Quiz for the schools in the project
- It is hoped to link Colombo schools with those out of the Capital so that the students may share of their experiences and work together on projects
- Create Facebook, Instagram and other social media pages; to be maintained and updated on a monthly basis by these students to spread awareness of relevant issues to the greater public.

The proposed annual budget for this project was estimated at Rs. 1,950,000.00, with a 10% allocation from this for Administrative Costs, including the appointment of a part-time Coordinator. Mr. Jehan CanagaRetna approached several companies for sponsorship, and the Society is very grateful to the National Development Bank (NDB) who has agreed to sponsor this project for a period of three (3) years. A Memorandum of Understanding is to be signed between the Society and the Bank in January 2018.

The General Committee gave its unanimous approval for this project, and all activity and planning commenced in January 2018.

FUNDRAISING SUB COMMITTEE

Mr Jehan CanagaRetna – Chair
Mr. Sriyan de Silva Wijeyeratne

Mr Ranil Pieris (Acting Treasurer)

The efforts of the fundraising committee in 2017 improved significantly compared to prior years with a specific plan of action that was successfully executed. While there is room for improvement in the coming years, the Committee's concerted efforts resulted in an unprecedented level of funds in 2017.

In 2017, the total cash sponsorship collected was approximately Rs. 6.3m whilst in comparison in 2016, the cash sponsorship collected was approximately Rs. 3.7m.

The major fundraising strategy proposed and pursued last year involved devising a project, appointing a lead staffer to spearhead the project and then pursuing funds to implement the project. We expect to follow the same strategy in the coming years and further improving our fundraising goals. The main objective in devising this fundraising strategy was to avoid jeopardizing the cash position of the Society by having to divert funds to implement special projects. Hence, the decision to generate funds for special projects independently of the regular cash flow of the Society improved the overall financial position of the Society.

In 2017, we managed to secure funding from the following companies:

- Nations Trust Bank: Rs. 1,500,000/-. These funds are to be used for the costs associated with printing our magazines LORIS and Warana. The Bank would provide a similar value in 2018 too.
- Sampath Bank – approximately Rs. 950,000/- in 2017 The sponsorship value of Sampath differs monthly depending on the number of credit cards that have been issued in a given month.
- Brandix Lanka. Rs. 750,000/- for the general running of WNPS.
- Nations Trust Bank. Rs. 650,000/- for the sponsorship of the monthly lecture series held at BMICH.
- Ajita de Costa of Rs. 1.5m for the Reforestation of a Rain Forest (ROAR) project.
- Commercial Bank – Rs. 355,000/- towards the ROAR project.
- Otara Foundation of Rs. 200,000/- for legal fees.
- Bureau Veritas Rs. 150,000/- for the ROAR project.
- Born Free Foundation. – Rs. 300,000/- for Human Elephant Workshop.

It was unfortunate that we were unable to accept a confirmed sponsorship of Rs. 7.4m in 2017 for the ROAR project since the potential sponsor's objectives were not in line with the Society's ROAR project objectives. However, Prof. Lakdas Fernando helped us secure Rs. 4.2 million for 3 years from a very generous Ajita de Costa for the ROAR project enabling us to continue the commendable work accomplished under the ROAR project. We received Rs. 1.5m of the initial payment from this total sponsorship in 2017.

The Nations Trust Bank sponsorships of the lecture series elevated the Society's profile as the premier organization in the country showcasing wildlife and conservation topics. The positive publicity and media attention generated by the lecture series has been a tremendous boost to the Society's image. In addition, the sponsorship funds secured from the Nations Trust Bank for the publication of our two magazines has ensured their delivery in a timely and efficient manner. These magazine are now printed on a bi-annual basis. Along with the valuable sponsorship funds from the Nations Trust Bank, the efforts of the editor has to be commended as well.

In the last two years, funds secured from Brandix Lanka have been extremely valuable in ensuring the smooth operation of the Society. These funds, along with the sponsorship funds received from Sampath Bank, have been essential towards paying for general administrative and operational expenses.

We cannot forget Sanjee Lanka for providing their services pro-bono to digitize our LORIS magazines and linked it to our website.

Pro Image have been a show of strength for videotaping our lecture series for free thereby enabling us to post these lectures series on our website as well.

We cannot forget SARVA advertising for their untiring work to help us create our E-Flyers and relevant PR work that the Society has needed every month.

We also received sponsorship in the form of equipment from John Keells Office Automation (3 lap tops and a projector), JC International Trading (Pvt) Ltd (2 lap tops) and Canon Metropolitan (Canon Camera, currently in use in the ROAR project and other activities of the Society).

I would also like to thank my fellow Committee Member and Fund Raising Partner, Sriyan de Silva Wijeratne for our collective and arduous effort of the fundraising Sub-Committee that was critical in securing the funds for the Society in 2017.

We thank all our sponsors for their generous support. Their efforts have enabled us to work purposefully towards the Society's goals and objectives. We appreciate their continued support in 2018 too.

As the Fundraising Committee continues its work in 2018, we intend to focus on securing smaller sponsorship amounts from companies and individuals. If a member has any suggestions or ideas in this regard, please contact either the WNPS office or me and we can proceed towards a mutually beneficial arrangement. In addition, if any member has other fundraising ideas, please do not hesitate to contact me or our Treasurer at your earliest.

The enlightened generosity of our current sponsors is particularly welcome as though there are several corporate entities in Sri Lanka who have adopted conservation as part of their CSR initiatives, there can never be enough. Ultimately, the deterioration of the environment and the loss of the quality of lives of people will impact them too. It is hoped that more companies will become involved for a healthier future for this country.

REPORT OF THE BUNGALOWS COMMITTEE

Committee Members

Mr. Rahula Dassenaik (Chair)

Dr. Tilak Jayaratne

In comparison to previous years, the bungalows have made a remarkable turnaround in terms of their financial contribution to the Society. An annual burden on expenses, they have not proved so in 2017. As per the detailed breakdown below, the Society made a revenue of Rs. 343, 000.00 in 2017 as against a loss of Rs. 416, 000.00 in the previous year.

Palatupana (Yala)

The Yala Bungalow has enjoyed a steady growth in income in 2017, as compared to 2016. Much of this is thanks to the Bungalow Keeper, Mr. Damith, who always goes out of his way to cater to the needs of the guests which has resulted in increased visitation and a consequent increase in revenue for the Society.

Uda Walawe

The Uda Walawe bungalow had been managed by Niluka Safari Ltd., on behalf of the Society, and after many years, began to bring in an income. Unfortunately, mainly due to the poor design of the bungalow, its cramped washrooms and lack of comforts, they were unable to find sufficient custom to make it a profitable venture for their long-term commitment. In fact, many of their guests refused to stay there once they had seen it! As such, Niluka Safari Ltd. ended the contract as from December 31, 2017.

The Committee is, once again, seeking a suitable partner who will not only manage the bungalow, but agree to bear the cost of the upgrade of its facilities, on terms and conditions agreeable to both parties.

Wilpattu

The management of the Wilpattu bungalow has been contracted to Mr. A. Stephen, a member of the Society with previous experience of managing similar properties. He took over the bungalow as from October 2017, and was given a period of two (2) months to renovate it and clear the surroundings to bring it to a standard acceptable to both parties. The bungalow was in operation as from December 1st, 2017, and as of this date Mr. Stephen pays the Society a monthly fee of Rs. 20,000.00. A few members and their guests who patronized the bungalow thereafter have given positive reviews of the bungalow, in comparison to what it was before, especially with regard to the preparation of food, and of the general conduct and obliging demeanour of the Bungalow Keeper, Mr. Kalansooriya.

General

As stated in previous reports, the management of all of the bungalows has been outsourced on the condition that members of the Society are given priority booking at the subsidized rates as stipulated by the General Committee, and as revised by them from time-to-time.

Once again, we kindly request all members to patronize these bungalows, so conveniently located close to the entrances of the major National Parks, and enjoy the benefits of having a tracker of the Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) allocated for the duration of the booking, and of the prime location and services of the bungalow and of its staff, all subject to the rules and regulations **of the Society**.

The Committee extends its great appreciation for the work undertaken by the Administration Secretary, Mr. George Thambapillai, in coordinating the bookings for members with the different management groups, not always an easy task. He always endeavours to ensure that the needs of the membership are paramount.

Income / Expenditure	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	Rs. ['000]						
YALA							
Income from Bookings	759	766	496	461	463	596	660
Expenses							
Staff Costs	283	322	299	325	410	334	362
Maintenance	96	422	180	130	58	74	70
Net	380	22	17	6	-5	188	228
UDA WALAWE							
Income from Bookings	167	188	176	195	180	89	193
Expenses							
Staff Costs	225	319	365	402	442	381	17
Maintenance	426	240	149	163	104	195	50
Net	-484	-371	-338	-370	-366	-487	126
WILPATTU							
Income from Bookings	296	319	205	307	244	206	182
Expenses							
Staff Costs	277	330	350	376	438	275	166
Maintenance	123	247	125	83	63	48	27
Net	-104	-258	-270	-152	-257	-117	-11
CUMULATIVE							
Income from Bookings	1, 222	1, 273	877	963	887	891	1035
Expenses							
Staff Costs	785	971	1, 014	1, 103	1, 290	990	545
Maintenance	645	909	454	376	225	317	147
Net	-208	-607	-591	-516	-628	-416	343

PRESS AND PUBLICITY

Mr Rukshan Jayewardene (Chair)
Mr Rohan Wijesinha

Mr Spencer Manuelpillai
Mr Vidya Abhayagunawardena

The Society held two press conferences and participated in several media debates, interviews, et al, to highlight current issues in conservation.

Two Press Conferences organized by the Society addressed the issue of the politically motivated early opening of the Yala National Park after its seasonal closure during the drought, and the other was on killing Galgamuwa Crossed Tusker and of the lack of a formal Human – Elephant Co-existence (HEC) Policy for the Department of Wildlife Conservation, and other relevant agencies, to work to.

Extensive coverage is now given in the print media on the Monthly Lecture Series, with post-lecture features in some cases.

In the last 12 months, the Society has increasingly used the social media platforms to reach out to its members with good responses and results.

We sincerely thank all media owners for extending their support to the Society in helping to take the message of Conservation far and wide.

MEMBER SERVICES

WNPS Monthly Lectures

Committee Members

Mr. Spencer Manuelpillai (Chair)
Ms. Tami Flamer Caldera

Mr. Rukshan Jayewardene
Prof. Lakdas Fernando

The WNPS monthly lecture is now an event looked forward to by the nature lovers of Sri Lanka. We are grateful to the panel of professionals who have shared of their time and knowledge to enrich the audience. The increasing numbers have compelled us to move to a larger hall at the BMICH. The Society is encouraged by the number of children and youth attending these lectures. We are grateful to our exclusive sponsor the **Nations Trust Bank** for enhancing their sponsorship and enabling us to move to a larger, more comfortable hall at the BMICH.

We thank Mr. Mohan Fernando and the Pro Image Team for recording and editing the lectures which can be viewed on the WNPS website. Our appreciation to CJ and team at Sarva for assisting with the creatives, and last, but not least, Dilmah Tea for the Tea service enjoyed by the members after each lecture.

Month	Topic	Guest Speaker
January	Corals in Crisis: Increasing Resilience to Climate Change	Mr. Nishan Perera
February	Mysteries of the jungle	Ms. Arefa Tehsin
March	Blue whales in a changing world	Dr Asha De Vos
April	No Lecture	
May	CAPTURING WILDLIFE – with the Eye and the Heart!	Mr. L. J. Mendis Wickramasinghe
June	WILPATTU: Place of Legend, History & Wildlife	Mr. Kithsiri Gunawardena
July	PLANT MIGRATIONS: The Way to Environmental and Ecological Balance	Prof. Siril Wijesundara
August	COLOMBO: keeping its head above the waste!	Prof. Ajith de Alwis
September	COMBATING INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN WILDLIFE	Mr. Gabriel Fava.
October	THE WILD ELEPHANT: An Icon of Tourism in Sri Lanka?	Mr. Srilal Miththapala
November	FROM OCEAN DEPTHS TO THE STARS: The Evolution of a Naturalist	Mr. Rex De Silva
December	No Lecture	

WNPS Field Trips

The traditional field trips of the Society were resumed, after a lapse of several years, and from the enthusiastic response of the members, it has now been made a monthly feature of the Society’s calendar. All field trips are led by a knowledgeable resource person, enhancing the learning experience of the participants. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of these ‘experts’ who give voluntarily of their time, and whose knowledge and guidance has added greatly to the enjoyment and enthusiasm of these outings.

Location	Resource
Wilpattu	Mr Rukshan Jayewardene
Seethawaka	Prof Siril Wijesundara
Colombo Natural History Museum	Mr. Kelum Manamendra- Arachchi.
Sinharaja I & II	Mr Rahula Perera
Bundala I	Ms Ayanthi Samarajeewa
Bundala II	Mr Rahula Perera

MEMBERS PARTICIPATION

Committee Members

Ms. Tami Flamer Caldera (Chair)
Ms. Ayanthi Samarajeewa

Ms. Caryll Tozer

On March 17th 2017, the Society hosted the first “Members Gathering” of the year at the Orient Club, Colombo. The Welcome Address, by the President of the Society, spelled out its vision and mission in this present day. It was attended by over 70 members. As an ice-breaker, the members participated in a Conservation-related Quiz. It contributed to a great deal of heated discussion and debate...and fun! The Quiz was followed by a Sri Lankan buffet dinner.

Due to the success of this first event, a second “Members Gathering” was hosted on the 10th of November 2018 at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute. 90 members participated. A film on conservation was followed by a buffet dinner. Once again, the evening was one of tremendous fellowship and discussion.

The Committee would like to see more members participating in these events, with the opportunity to meet other members, as well as the General Committee. Not only do they help generate much-needed funds for the Society to help deal with the multiple challenges facing conservation today, but also gives all members a chance to meet, renew old friendships, and exchange ideas on the needs of protecting wildlife now and in the future. This is your Society. It needs your help.

The Committee hopes to host further such events in 2018. It would appreciate any ideas, and welcomes volunteers, to assist in the planning of them.

IT & WEBSITE

Committee Members

Mr. Darrel Bartholomeusz (Chair)
Ms. Ayanthi Samarajeewa

Mr. Spencer Manuelpillai

Co-opted Member

Mr. Namal Kamalgoda

The Website is now updated regularly and used as an effective medium to share information with the members. The website also hosts the past recordings of the monthly Lectures. The incorporation of the payment gateway is expected to add convenience to the members to pay their annual subscriptions, and other dues to the Society.

One area the society still lacks is with bulk mail software. The Committee would greatly welcome any member who could assist with the cost for an annual subscription for a reliable mail software.

LIBRARY

Committee Members

Mr. Rohan Wijesinha

Ms. Caryll Tozer

The Society has sought the assistance of a professional librarian from the OPA to organize and convert the present library into a Reference Library.

The Society is also grateful to Mr. Jeffrey C. Ebert for his donation of 97 valuable books on Wildlife to the library.

PUBLICATIONS

Committee Members

Mr. Rohan Wijesinha – Editor (*Loris*)

Ms. Ayanthi Samarajeewa – Assistant Editor (*Loris*)

Mr. Vidya Abhayagunawadana – Editor (*Warana / Vaaranam*)

Loris

Volume 27, Issues 5&6 and Volume 28, Issues 1&2 were published in 2017& early 2018. The publication is now up-to-date. The new Editor, Ms. Ayanthi Samarajeewa, welcomes any articles and photographs for the next issue which is due for publication in 2018. As always, all submissions are subject to the final approval of the Editorial Board, as appointed by the General Committee.

Warana/ Vaaranam

Two (2) issues were released in 2017 with articles from contributors all across the country on areas of interest to the members.

Complementary copies of both publications have been issued to selected school libraries across the country.

The Society expresses its sincere appreciation to the Nations Trust Bank for its long term commitment to sponsor the printing cost of both Loris and Warana / Vaaranam.

All past issues of Loris are scanned and available online on the Society's website.

DONATIONS FOR 2017

Our sincere thanks are extended to the following for their generosity and support of the Society:

Name of Donor	Value (Rs. unless otherwise stated)	Purpose
Mr. Rukshan Jayewardene	10,000.00	Society expenses
Ms. P D Aluthge	30,000.00	Legal fund
Nations Trust Bank PLC	650,000.00	Public lecture series
Nations Trust Bank PLC	1,500,000.00	Printing & distribution of Loris & Warana / Vaaranam
Nations Trust Bank PLC	195,000.00	Wetland Walk
Sampath Bank PLC	955,570.00	Administrative Expenses
Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC	355,369.00	ROAR Project
Otara Foundation	200,000.00	Ehethuwewa Court Case
Mr. Nanda Mathew	1,000.00	Society expenses
M/s. Bureau Veritas	125,000.00	ROAR Project
M/s. Richard Pieris & Co. PLC	5,000.00	Society expenses
Mr. Spencer Manuelpillai	U S \$ 109.13	Public Lecture Series
Ms. Tami Flamer-Caldera	2,829.79	Banners for press meetings
Mr. Rahula Dassanaieke	33,609.52	Press Conference
Dr. D. M. Pinto	10,000.00	Society expenses
Mr. Ajita de Costa	1,500,000.00	ROAR project
M/s. Brandix Lanka Limited	753,000.00	Society expenses

Non Financial Donors

Mr. Jehan CanagaRetna	1 Ceiling Fan
Mr. Rex I. De Silva	Book to the library
Prof. Hemantha Perera	Magi-board for the Office
Mr. Spencer Manuelpillai	Books to the library
Mr. Graham Marshall	20 liters of paint for the Head Office
Mr. Andrew Dassanayake	Toilet fitting for ROAR Office
Ms. Ayesha Abdul-Rahman	Pedestal Fan for the Uda Walawe bungalow
Ms. Neesha Nirmalingam	Iron Safe for Head Office
Mr. Rukshan Jayewardene	Conference Table & six (6) chairs
Ms. Caryll Tozer	Paint for the Head Office
Ms. Caryll Tozer	Four [04] cane chairs for the Head Office
M/s. John Keells Office Automation	Multimedia Projector for ROAR project
Mr. Jeffrey C Ebert	97 books to the Library
Dr Harold Schwammer	500 copies of The Sri Lankan Elephant SAGA 3
Ms Gaby Schwammer	
Brig H. A. N. T. Perera	
Mr Douglas Ranasinghe	
Mr Lalith Seneviratne	
Mr Sanjeewa Ratnapala	

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our sincere gratitude is extended to the following without whom many of the activities of the Society would not be possible:

- The Chair and the Board of Directors of **Sampath Bank PLC** for their continued financial support of the Society.
- The Chair and the Board of Directors of **Nations Trust Bank PLC** for their financial support for the Public Lectures, printing and distribution of the Society publications *Loris* and *Warana / Vaaranam* and the Wetland Walk for children.
- The Chair and the Board of Directors of the **Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC** for their annual bulk purchase of the Society's Greeting Cards and financial support in providing relief to the flood victims at Badurueliya.

- The Chair and the Board of Directors of M/s **Brandix Lanka Limited** for their financial support to the Society.
- **Dilmah Teas** for providing refreshments for the attendees at the Society's Monthly Series of Lectures.
- **Ceylon Printers PLC** for the printing of Loris and other stationery items for the Society.
- **Lake House Printing** for the printing of Warana / Vaaranam.
- **Tudor V. Perera & Co.** for its continued services as the Honorary Annual Auditors of the Society.
- **The Otara Foundation & Ms. P. D. Aluthge** for their financial support for the legal cases of the Society.
- **Teejay Lanka PLC, Bureau Veritas, Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC.** and **Mr. Ajita de Costa** for the financial support extended to implement the Reforestation of a Rain Forest (ROAR) Project at Diyakothakanda.
- **Pro Image** for the video coverage of the monthly Lecture Series.
- **Sarva Integrated** for their creative support.
- **Leaf Digital Printing** for their assistance in the restoration and framing of the portraits of the Past Presidents of the Society.
- **Nelun Harasgama Nadaraja** and **K Raghavan Premkumar** for their expertise with the design and formatting of Loris.
- Last, but not least, to the **Staff of the Society** who are responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Head Office and the bungalows.



Spencer Manuelpillai
Hon. General Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT 2017

The elected Treasurer resigned from his post in September 2017 and the General Committee requested the Vice President, Mr. Ranil Pieris, to assume the role of Acting Treasurer until the Annual General Meeting, with the assistance of the members of the Finance Committee. As reported last year, one of the areas of focus was to improve the income streams of the Society. The Committee is very pleased to inform the membership that it was able to deliver one of the best years, financially, for the Society in recent times. It has strengthened the financial footprint and operational discipline of the Society in many ways. The profit for the year was Rs. 1.01 Million after adjusting for several aged provisions and cleaning up of un-reconciled balances. Greater transparency has also been introduced into the Accounts by ensuring that all donations et al are first brought into the general accounts before being transferred into specific areas of Expenditure. The Committee will continue to improve on several aspects of this as part of enhancing reporting and accounting discipline. This, in turn, will improve credibility with the Society's sponsors, who will then be willing to entrust it with more projects and sponsorships.

INCOME

In the Income & Expenditure (P & L) within Subscription Income, of the total approximately 59% are Annual Subscriptions, 13% Past Dues collected and 27% subscriptions paid in advance. The total Subscription Income for the year contributes 15% towards meeting of the Administrative Expenses of the Society, an obviously inadequate amount and the Society is forced to rely on sponsors and donors to fund its regular operations. Interest income has improved over the previous year as rates have improved. The Committee will continue to convert all fixed deposits into monthly earned interest in order to help cash flows, rather than let interest roll over to the FD's.

On the positive side **sponsorships /donations** have grown by about 87% and this has contributed immensely to the better performance and increased activity and overall performance of the Society, both financially and in function, over the year. The Society is appreciative of all its sponsors / donors (as listed in the Fund Raising Committee Report). The Society greatly appreciates their help and support in the battle to save our natural surroundings, and the creatures they host, for future generations. In addition, the Society greatly appreciates the role played by those in the General Committee who have canvassed all of these sponsorships. This year's success has been solely due to their efforts. The Committee made a decision to allocate 10% of donor/sponsor funds towards meeting Administration Costs as much of the project work is being carried out by the Head Office staff.

The profit on sale of Greeting Cards, books and other items has reduced. The Committee decided not to print cards without orders in hand as the Society has a large stock of previously printed greeting cards. There is also a changing trend towards a preference for electronic greetings; an environmentally friendly option.

INVENTORY

The Committee decided to relook at the manner in which some stock items are valued. The Greeting Cards were earlier valued at weighted average cost, thereby not reflecting the “true value” in the inventory. In addition, books donated for sale were reflected at the cost of the publications. The Committee has now taken the actual costs or, as appropriate, the ‘Net Realizable Value’ into the inventory to reflect a “true and fair” picture. In the case of Loris and Warana / Vaaranam, as the Society had a sponsor for each of the four (4) issues printed, the balance stocks not distributed will be written off and tracked separately. With regard to the publication Elephant Saga 3, this again was sponsored and the remaining stock will be treated as with the publications above. All identified Bad Debts, damaged and un-saleable items have been written off. All these steps have helped in the improvement of financial Reporting and Account Accuracy. These adjustments are addressed in detail in the ‘Notes to the Accounts’.

The outsourcing of the management of the bungalows has shown a turnaround in the performance of the bungalows both financially (Rs. 700,000.00 improvement) and in the quality of the service on offer, as per the feedback received from members who have visited them. We hope to improve things further.

One outstanding issue is the design and layout of the Uda Walawe bungalow, particularly of the bathrooms which need some minor investment for their improvement. The Committee hopes that a kind donor can come forward to help us with this task. The direct management and monitoring of bungalows from the Head Office takes time away from the other important activities of administration, in addition to the financial burden. The Committee will continue to monitor and review this strategy very closely.

EXPENDITURE

The large increase in Expenditure on Administration is primarily due to recognising all expenditure incurred on enacted agreements with donors for conservation related project activities (as opposed to it reflected in outside special accounts). In this regard, the most significant is Rs. 1.2 Million of the printing cost of the Society’s publications. Similarly, the cost of hall charges for the Lecture Series shows an

increase of approximately Rs. 260,000.00, and is reflected in the administration costs. The lectures have helped in attracting a number of new members in communicating the message of conservation.

Office repairs & maintenance increased by Rs. 350,000.00 on much needed painting and renovation of the Head Office, most of which has been capitalised. General Administration costs were tightly managed during the year, and as a general rule going forward, the Committee has decided to only undertake projects which have donor / sponsor support in order not to increase our financial exposure.

It would be prudent, perhaps, for the Trustees of the Education and Trust Fund Investment to uplift these funds which remain with the Public Trustee, earning an insignificant interest rate, in order to utilize it better for the work of the WNPS.

Please note that detailed accounts will be available at the Head Office and it would be appreciated if any member who has any specific questions regarding these could please write in, so that the Committee could respond to clarify any matters prior to the AGM.

We thank Corporate Doctors, the Society's outsourced Accountants, Tudor V Perera, Mr. and Mrs. Senanayake the Society's Auditors, and the Administrative Secretary for his role in maintaining the accounts.



Ranil Pieris (Acting Treasurer)

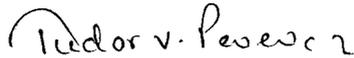
REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF WILDLIFE AND NATURE PROTECTION SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

1. We have examined the Statement of Financial Position of Wildlife and Nature Protection Society of Sri Lanka as at 31st December 2017 and the related Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year then ended, together with the Accounting Policies and Notes thereon.
2. Respective Responsibilities of General Committee and Auditors
The General Committee is responsible for preparing and presenting these Financial Statements in accordance with the Sri Lanka Accounting Standards. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these Financial Statements, based on our audit.
3. In common with similar organizations, Society's system of control is dependent upon the close involvement of the General Committee, who have been appointed by the members. Therefore where independent confirmation on the completeness of accounting was not available, we have accepted assurances from the General Committee Members that all the Society's transactions have been reflected in the books of account.
4. Basis of Opinion
An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the said financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the General Committee Members, evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements, and determining whether the said financial statements are prepared and presented in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles. We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit.

We therefore believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

5. Opinion

In our opinion, so far as appears from our examination, the Society maintained proper books of account for the year ended 31st December 2017, and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said Statement of Financial Position and related Statement of Comprehensive Income and the Accounting Policies and Notes thereto, which are in agreement with the said books and have been prepared and presented in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.



TUDOR V. PERERA & CO.
Chartered Accountants.

Colombo.

Date: 10.4.2018

Partners:

S.M.N.L. Senanayake, B.Sc. (Pub.Admin), FCA

Mrs. B.A.R.W. Senanayake, FCA

B.A. Kapila Ariyatilaka, ACA

M.T. Lantra

WILDLIFE & NATURE PROTECTION SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31st December,

	Notes	2017 Rs. Cts.	2016 Rs.
Funds Employed			
Accumulated Fund	5	9,196,087.79	8,181,117
Specific Funds	6	9,410,361.33	9,492,850
		<u>18,606,449.12</u>	<u>17,673,967</u>
Employment of Funds			
Property, Plant and Equipment	7	7,418,275.40	7,282,212
Specific Fund Investment	8	9,337,561.97	8,852,302
Current Assets			
Stock in Trade		521,683.51	1,035,151
Debtors, Deposits and Advances		41,656.15	110,589
Cash and Cash Equivalents		4,044,814.97	2,682,548
		<u>4,608,154.63</u>	<u>3,828,288</u>
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and Accrued Charges		314,209.06	63,272
Current Tax Liabilities		8,718.55	2,235
Income Received in Advance		449,338.00	549,338
Bank Balance Overdrawn		44,621.97	268,533
		<u>816,887.58</u>	<u>883,378</u>
Net Current Assets		3,791,267.05	2,944,910
Non-Current Liabilities			
Retirement Benefit Obligation		484,750.00	571,200
Projects Repayable	9	1,455,905.30	834,257
		<u>1,860,655.30</u>	<u>1,405,457</u>

The General Committee is responsible for the preparation and presentation of these financial statements.

Approved and signed on behalf of the General Committee.



President



Treasurer

Colombo.

Date: 03-April-2018

WILDLIFE & NATURE PROTECTION SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the Year Ended 31st December,

	Notes	2017 Rs. Cts.	2016 Rs.
Income			
Subscription - Annual		886,400.00	590,775
Donations		5,168,723.31	2,761,073
Entrance fee		187,500.00	51,000
Profit on Sale of Greeting Cards, Books and Other Items		-	560,628
Interest on Investment		375,622.20	268,185
Other Income		357,266.79	9,040
Net Gain in Publishing “Loris” and “Warana”		-	51,307
Profit on Bungalow Operations		302,924.10	-
		7,278,436.40	4,292,008
Expenses			
Administration Expenses		5,739,641.47	3,809,232
Loss on Sale of Greeting Cards, Books and Other Items		123,493.94	-
Net Loss in Publishing “Loris” and “Warana”		392,612.04	-
Loss on Bungalow Operations		-	416,362
		6,255,747.45	4,225,594
Income over Expenditure for the Year		1,022,688.95	66,414
Taxation for the Year		(7,718.55)	(1,235)
Balance Carried Over to Accumulated Fund		1,014,970.40	65,179

WILDLIFE & NATURE PROTECTION SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended 31st December,

1. General

The Financial Statements of the Society have been prepared on the historical cost basis. In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. No adjustments have been made for inflationary factors affecting the Financial Statements. Figures and phrases relating to the previous years have been restated where necessary to conform to the current years presentation.

2. Assets and the Basis of their Valuation

2.1. Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, Plant and Equipment are shown at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is charged on written down value basis at the following rates in order to write off the cost of such assets over their estimated useful lives.

Building and Bungalow	2.5% per annum
Office Equipment	25% per annum
Furniture and Fittings	10% per annum
Sundry Assets	5% per annum

Depreciation is charged in the year of purchase, whilst no depreciation is charged in the year of disposal.

2.2. Short Term Investments

Fixed Deposits, Call Deposits and Treasury Bills are reflected at cost.

2.3. Stocks

Stocks are valued at cost or Net realizable value which ever is less.

2.4. Debtors and Receivables:

Debtors and other receivables are stated at the values estimated to be realized.

3. Liabilities and Provisions

3.1. Current Liabilities

The liabilities which fall due for payment of demand or within one year from the Balance Sheet date are shown under the Current Liabilities.

3.2. Taxation

Provision for income tax has been made in accordance with the Inland Revenue Act No.10 of 2006.

3.3. Retirement Benefit Obligation

Provision for retiring gratuities have been made in the Account under the payment of Gratuity Act No. 12 of 1983 and is not externally funded.

4. Income and Expenditure

4.1. All income have been accounted for on Cash basis.

4.2. Expenses incurred in running the Society and maintain the Fixed Assets have been charged to Revenue Account.

WILDLIFE & NATURE PROTECTION SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended 31st December,

	2017 Rs. Cts.	2016 Rs.		
5. Accumulated Fund				
Balance as at the Beginning of the Year	8,181,117.39	8,115,938		
Excess of Income over Expenditure for the Year	1,014,970.40	65,179		
Balance as at the End of the Year	<u>9,196,087.79</u>	<u>8,181,117</u>		
6. Specific Funds				
6.1. Life Membership Fund				
Balance as at the Beginning of the Year	1,876,852.90	1,811,296		
Add/(Less):				
Interest Credited	5,748.55	227		
Membership Fees	110,000.00	65,330		
Balance as at the End of the Year	<u>1,992,601.45</u>	<u>1,876,853</u>		
6.2. Scientific Research Fund	6,765,576.86	7,012,562		
6.3. Educational and Propaganda Trust Fund	383,143.65	357,062		
6.4. Patron's Fund	269,039.37	246,373		
Total Specific Funds	<u>9,410,361.33</u>	<u>9,492,850</u>		
7. Property, Plant and Equipment				
	W.D.V. As at		Depreciation	W.D.V. As at
	01.01.2017	Additions	for the year	31.12.2017
Building and Bungalow	6,774,048.48	367,810.00	167,406.62	6,974,451.86
Furniture and Fittings	103,088.16	-	9,854.25	93,233.92
Office Equipment	54,337.07	39,846.07	21,541.14	72,642.00
Sundry Assets	350,738.38	(56,703.38)	16,087.36	277,947.62
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	<u>7,282,212.09</u>	<u>350,952.69</u>	<u>214,889.36</u>	<u>7,418,275.40</u>

WILDLIFE & NATURE PROTECTION SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended 31st December,

	2017	2016
	Rs. Cts.	Rs.
8. Specific Fund Investment		
8.1. Life Membership Fund Investment		
<i>Savings Account</i>		
a) Hatton National Bank PLC A/c. No. 002020615642	15,101.95	9,353.91
b) Fixed Deposits		
Hatton National Bank PLC A/c. No. 002031154042	750,000.00	750,000
Hatton National Bank PLC A/c. No. 002031168445	700,000.00	700,000
Total Life Membership Fund Investments	<u>1,465,101.95</u>	<u>1,459,354</u>
8.2 Scientific Research Fund Investment		
<i>Fixed Deposits</i>		
Bank of Ceylon - A/c.No. 368088	392,055.06	353,892
Hatton National Bank PLC - A/c. No. 002031064643	2,248,382.73	2,050,322
National Savings Bank - A/C No.200801074334	1,241,780.19	1,154,178
Hatton National Bank PLC - A/C No.002031168735	1,500,000.00	1,500,000
Hatton National Bank PLC - A/c No.002020228737	3,652.13	3,535
Hatton National Bank PLC - A/c No. 002010014493	317,035.89	317,286
Treasury Bills	1,517,371.00	1,410,300
Total Scientific Research Fund Investment	7,220,277.00	6,789,513
8.3 Educational and Propaganda Trust Fund Investment	<u>383,143.65</u>	<u>357,062</u>
8.4 Patron's Fund Investment		
<i>Fixed Deposits</i>		
(a) Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC - A/c. No. 32900335220	269,039.37	246,373
Total Investment Value	<u>9,337,561.97</u>	<u>8,852,302</u>

WILDLIFE & NATURE PROTECTION SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended 31st December,

	2017	2016
	Rs. Cts.	Rs.
9 Projects		
9.1. Bio - Diversity Project	72,810.00	72,810
9.2. Ehatuwewa Project	8,715.00	8,715
9.3. Koskulana Project	(81,095.00)	(81,095)
9.4. Roar Project	839,666.43	443,254
9.5. Wild Cat Project	358,500.00	358,500
9.6. Human Elephant Workshop	20,119.75	(13,130)
9.7. Wetland Walk	117,034.12	45,204
9.8. Flood Risk Project	120,155.00	-
	<u>1,455,905.30</u>	<u>834,256</u>

WILDLIFE AND NATURE PROTECTION SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

MINUTES OF THE 123rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 27TH MAY 2017

By notice dated March 1st, 2017, the 123rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society (WNPS) was summoned at 5.00 pm on May 27, 2017 at the at the Cinema Hall of the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall [BMICH], Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07. The meeting commenced at 5.10 pm.

The following members were present:

Ms. A. M. G. de S. Siriwardena, Mr. Ravindralal Anthonis, Ms. M. Perera, Mr. Ravi Deraniyagala, Mr. R. I. De Silva, Mr. D. Ranasinghe, Dr. M. Fernando, Mr. N. Ranasinghe, Mr. A. De Vos, Mr. P. A. Kirlisinghe, Mr. J. M. Chandradasa, Mr. S. Canagaratna, Prof. L. D. Fernando, Mr. V. Rajendran, Dr. T. Jayaratna, Prof. [Ms.] A. Fernando, Mr. S. Rodrigo, Mr. S. de Silva Wijeyeratne, Mr. N. Dias Bandaranayake, Prof. U. W. H. C. H. Perera, Mr. C. Wickramasinghe, Mr. N. Kamalgoda, Ms. G. Pieris, Mr. Ranil Pieris, Mr. N. L. B. de A. Edirisinha, Mr. U. L. C. N. Perera, Ms. J. Buultjens, Mr. D. M. Jayasekera, Ms. T. A. Flamer-Caldera, Ms. S. de Silva, Mr. S. Subasinghe, Mr. R. Wijesinha, Ms. M. Gunawardena, Mr. U. Jinadasa, Mr. K. S. Aluthgama, Ms. A. M. Samarajeewa, Mr. S. Ratnapala, Mr. J. CanagaRetna,, Mr. K. Perera, Ms. A. S. Pieris, Ms. N. Wijeratne, Mr. D. Bartholomeusz, Mr. V. Abhayagunawardena, Mr. R. Jayewardene, Mr. S. Manuepillai, Mr. C. Nilanduwa, Dr. N. de Silva, Dr. [Ms.] N. De Silva, Mr. Y. Weerasuriya, Mr. A. W. Fernando, Mr. S. Ramanayake, Ms. A. Seneviratne, Mr. R. Ferdinando, Mr. R. Dassenaieke, Mr. L. Perera, Mr. I. Rajasuriya, Mr. K. Raymond, Mr. G. A. T. D. Kodikara, Ms. I. Samarasinghe, Ms. D. Wijesinha, Mr. S. Shiraj, Mr. S. Sangani.

ITEM 1 – LEST WE FORGET

Two minutes silence was observed in memory of the members who had passed away during the course of the year. The names presented at the meeting were as follows:

Life Members

Mr. D. D. V. Mettananda

Dr. L. D. G. K. Herath

Mr. D K A Samad

Mr. C. B. Bavinc

Mr. W. Wickramasinghe

Ordinary Members

Mr. A. Basnayake

Mr. W. L. Bogtstra

Ms. N. De Mel

Mr. A. Delgoda

Mr. D. V. R. De Vas Gunasekera

ITEM 2 – EXCUSES

The Hon. General Secretary read the names of the members who had excused themselves from attending the meeting. They are as follows:

Mr. K. Ratnapala

Hon. K Jayasuriya

Mr. J. Jayawardena

Mr. S. Edurusuriya

Mr. C. Munindradasa

Rev. V. Tirimanna

Mr. A. L. Bin Ahamed

Mr. A. H. Bin Ahamed

Capt. S Senthooorselvan

Mr. S. K. Attygale

Mr. D. A. Wanigasuriya

Mr. M. R. Pathirage

Ms. A. Gunawardena

Ms. C. Tozer

ITEM 3 - ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 122ND AGM, SGM I & II

The Minutes of the 122nd AGM held on May 28th, 2016 and those of SGM I & II held on July 23rd 2016 and August 18th 2016 respectively, were taken as read.

Proposed by Ms. Manori Gunawardena

Seconded by Sriyan de Silva Wijeyeratne

ITEM 4 – ANNUAL REPORT 2016

The Hon. General Secretary tabled the Annual Report for 2016. The following matter was raised in relation to it;

Independent Panel of Inquiry

Mr. Sanjeeva Ratnapala raised the matter about his request of having the right to nominate one of the three (3) members of the panel. The President explained the process followed in selecting the panel, which was accepted by the membership present.

The Chair of the Panel, Dr. Malik Fernando, presented the report (for the full report please refer Annexure 1 below).

Based on this report the House agreed to the withdrawal of the following statement from the Annual Report of 2016.

“A major drawback was the breakdown of the Society’s relationship with schools that were actively working with us in the Kalawana area. It was an uphill task to convince them that the Society’s main aim was not to piggyback on village schools to grab funds from foreign sources and Banks; an unfortunate image that had been left with them by the Society’s officers of the past. Regrettably, project information and Students Project Reports, unrelated to the Society’s initiatives, had been removed from these schools by these officers and not returned to them. Almost all the schools in question were under the impression that the Society had collected millions of rupees using their material!”

ITEM 5 - ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE HON. GENERAL SECRETARY FOR 2016.

The Report was unanimously accepted by the House.

Proposed by Dr. Malik Fernando
Seconded by Mr. Jehan CanagaRetna

Dr. Malik Fernando commended the General Committee for publishing a comprehensive report for the year 2016.

ITEM 6 - ADOPTION OF THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2016

The accounts, too, were accepted by the House.

Proposed by Mr. Jehan CanagaRetna
Seconded by Mr. Rohan Wijesinha

ITEM 7 - TABLING OF THE ACCOUNTS OF THE WNPS EDUCATION & PROPAGANDA TRUST.

The accounts of Education and Propaganda Trust was tabled

ITEM 8 - THE PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS.

The President, Mr. Rukshan Jayewardene delivered his Address which is appended at the end of this report.

ITEM 9 - ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE GENERAL COMMITTEE.

Dr. Malik Fernando was appointed as the Pro-Temp Chair for this election.

There were six (6) vacancies on the General Committee for which the list of nominations had been submitted to the members on May 17, 2017. Only six (6) nominations were received for these posts and all six nominees were appointed to the General Committee

Mr. Vidya Abhayagunawardena
Ms. Tami Flamer-Caldera
Mr. Spencer Manuelpillai

Mr. Rahula Dassenaieke
Dr. Tilak Jayaratna
Ms. Caryll Tozer

ITEM 10 - ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The list of nominations had been submitted to the members on May 17, 2017. As there were no other nominations received, the following were elected, unopposed, as Office Bearers for 2017 / 18:

President: Mr. Rukshan Jayewardene

Vice Presidents: Mr. Rahula Dassenaieke & Mr. Ranil Pieris

Hon. General Secretary: Mr. Spencer Manuelpillai

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. Ishan Rajasuriya

ITEM 11 - ELECTION OF AUDITORS

As proposed by the Chair, Messrs. Tudor V. Perera & Company, Chartered Accountants, were duly elected as Auditors of the Society for the year 2017.

ITEM 12 - RESOLUTIONS FOR WHICH DUE NOTICE HAVE BEEN GIVEN.

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

NOTICE OF MEETING

10.1.3 To deliver or post the notices, resolutions to the members

We propose that in future, all notifications in respect of General Meetings be circulated by e-mail. Any member who does not use e-mail may request notifications by post.

Proposer: Mr. Spencer Manuelpillai [11229]

Secunder: Prof. Lakdas Fernando [6427]

This resolution was adopted unanimously by the House.

MANAGEMENT

6.1.[c] MEMBERS IN THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

It is proposed that with the objective of creating interest among the younger generation and keeping the Society relevant to the future generations and grooming future Office Bearers to the General Committee of the Society, that from 2018, the General Committee shall include two members below the age of 30. In the event that it is not possible to elect this number at an AGM due to the lack of members below 30 years proposed for election, the General Committee is empowered to co-opt such members to make up the number. Members so co-opted shall have all the rights of elected members including voting but shall retire at the next AGM in accordance with Rule 6.10.

Proposer: Mr. Rukshan Jayewardene [11229]

Secunder: Mr. Ranil Pieris [8651]

This resolution was adopted unanimously by the House.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

5.1 Entrance fees, subscription rates for Ordinary, Junior and Corporate membership and the sum payable for life membership

We propose that due to the escalating rates of inflation and the corresponding rise in administration costs, the ordinary membership fee be increased up to a maximum of five percent [5%] annually, if necessary. This increase needs to be passed by the General Committee and will be effective from the 1st day of January of the following year.

Proposer: Mr. Ranil Pieris [11741]

Secunder: Mr. Ishan Rajasuriya [8651]

This resolution was adopted unanimously by the House.

LIFE MEMBERS

3.8.[c] Ordinary Members and Overseas Members who are in continuous paid membership for over 5 years and have paid such single sum as may be stipulated by the Committee from time to time shall not be liable to pay annual subscriptions and shall be designated Life Members.

It is proposed that the above be amended to read as

An applicant for Life Membership may be granted such membership by the General Committee immediately on joining the Society subject to the payment of the Life Membership Fee which should be 15 times the Ordinary Membership Fee as at that time, and shall not be liable to pay annual subscriptions thereafter, and designated as Life Members accordingly.

Proposer: Mr. Rohan Wijesinha [10100]

Secunder: Mr. Spencer Manuelpillai [11229]

Mrs. G Pieris raised a concern that a young member getting Life Membership could become a financial strain on the Society who would have the responsibility to provide a service for that member for a longer period than otherwise.

The resolution was rejected by the House.

MATTER FOR DISCUSSION:

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Bearing in mind that the Constitution of the WNPS includes the following two articles:

FINANCIAL YEAR

9.1 The financial year of the Society shall be from 1st January to 31st December of each year.

GENERAL MEETINGS

10.1 The AGM of the Society shall be held as soon as possible after the close of the financial year, but not later than the 31st day of May each year.

and no mention is made of the period that should be covered by the Secretary's Report.

We note that:

It has been customary for the Secretary's Report to cover the period 1st January to 31st December of any year in keeping with the financial year – the said report being presented to the general membership at the Annual General Meeting that is usually held in the month of May. This means that activities of the Society, and outgoing committee, for the first four to five months of the year in which the report is presented, are not dealt with in the report – but have to be reported by the succeeding Secretary the following year. To make reporting to the membership rational.

We propose that in future the Secretary's Report covers the period from one AGM to the next, as far as possible.

This proposal does not require a change in the Constitution, as the Constitution is silent regarding the period to be covered by the Secretary's Report. As such, the report for the 2018 AGM should cover the period January to May 2017 as well as the period May 2017 to April 2018.

Proposer: Mr. Rohan Wijesinha [10100]

Seconder: Dr. Malik Fernando [2816]

Above proposal was unanimously adopted by the House.

YOUTH WING OF THE WNPS

It is proposed that the General Committee, prior to the next AGM, prepare a Constitution for the setting up of a Youth Wing of the Wildlife & Nature Protection Society to ensure its relevance to the younger generation and to encourage their participation in the activities of the Society, and eventual integration into, and the perpetuation of, the main Society. The Youth Wing, of members of the age of 25 & below, will form a branch of the main Society, and will be subject to its rules and regulations, and to the final decision-making processes of the main General Committee. A draft of this Constitution is to be presented to the membership, for observation and comment, prior to the next AGM, and voted on at the AGM of 2018 subject to any amendments as approved by the General Committee.

ITEM 13 - CONFERMENT OF HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

There were no nominations submitted by the General Committee.

ITEM 14 - ANY OTHER MATTERS

As there were no other matters of which due notice had been given, the President declared the Annual General Meeting closed.



Spencer Manuelpillai

Hon. General Secretary

ADDRESS OF MR. RUKSHAN JAYEWARDENE, PRESIDENT OF THE WILDLIFE AND NATURE PROTECTION SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

Fellow members of the Wildlife & Nature Protection Society of Sri Lanka.

It has been both a privilege and a challenge to serve as the society's President over the last year. This has been a time of transition for the WNPS. The committee appointed in 2016 has continued with some of the changes brought in during the tenure of my predecessor Prof. Lakdas Fernando. Namely an effort to attract younger members and to have on the committee female members who statistically make up more than 50% of the country's population.

The desire has been to make the society more dynamic and relevant to the times. Even if we achieve a measure of that goal during my tenure, I'm fully aware that it cannot be sustained through constitutional provisions or committee will. It can only happen if those in the general membership and beyond, see the WNPS as an organization that inspires confidence and is seen as a vehicle by which national conservation goals can be achieved. Therefore, I make a direct appeal to young people and ladies, young or older to look at running for office at WNPS and make future committees more dynamic representative and relevant, in order to face the challenges of the near future.

Despite whatever effort on the part of this Society, the environmental and conservation challenges of the present and future cannot be adequately addressed without forging unity among diverse organizations and necessary coalition building. Today WNPS works with Environmental Foundation Limited (EFL), Federation of Environmental Organizations (FEO), Wilderness and Protected Areas Foundation (WPAF), Wildlife Conservation Forum (WCF), Otara Foundation (OF) etc as the need arises. What these non-profit organizations have realized is that we are all fighting governments and organizations that destroy the environment for very profitable reasons. However, that destruction benefits the few, makes the environment unsustainable and unresponsive of the needs of the citizens. Today I'm addressing you here while a massive environmental disaster is unfolding countrywide. Unprecedented flooding and landslides with the onset of monsoon rains is creating havoc for people and claiming hundreds of lives. Despite high rainfall figures, there is no getting around the fact that we have, through our own actions, made this island more prone to these natural disasters than ever before. Therefore, it is safe to say that these disasters are at least in part, man-made. This is especially so when looking at where landslides are occurring. Often recent deforestation, cuttings into the toes of hills, cultivations

of steep sloping land are all plain to see on television. The government itself, is the responsible party, settling people in landscape made vulnerable through human action. When not directly culpable, the private individuals involved in destruction of forest cover or soil extraction or quarrying or whatever have direct political patronage and protection.

Although I now head this venerable 124 year old conservation organization with its storied history and its many distinguished office bearers over the years, those who know me well, know that I am an activist at heart. I believe we now live in a time where direct action such as street protests, demonstrations and mass mobilization brings results. Unfortunately, today many such tactics and strategies are used (hijacked) for narrow political and personal ends. Those now out of power strive to gain power, influence and access to the country's coffers so that those of us who genuinely care about this country's environment and fight for no personal gain will be dished with more of the same tripe but with a different spoon. Nevertheless, there is a huge role for activism, media and out of the classroom education so that people understand what is at stake and thereby a groundswell is created.

Even as I speak, Sri Lanka faces the greatest challenge to its remarkable bio-diversity, its many National Parks and Sanctuaries and its iconic animals all at the same time. The headlong rush to develop, industrialize and urbanize this island is going to be at a great cost to environmental health, people's health and wildlife. While we fight these many fires as they appear, and strive to educate government, in the belief that they are responsible, I would appreciate your suggestions and ideas about how we can most effectively serve the cause of conservation.

This past year WNPS has been addressing the Pallekandal Church expansion within Wilpattu; receiving the illegal activities relating to the Sithulpauwwa temple. We are also in the Supreme Court for the 7th consecutive year with the illegal road through Willpattu National Park; participated in a Joint Press Conference on de-forestation, a workshop on human-elephant conflict, attending workshop on proposed amendments to the FFPO, wetland walks and field instruction for school children, and planting at Diyakathakanda under the ROAR project. We are working on several other issues, including trains hitting elephants and a wildcat research working group. Conservation success is often a long-term result and requires patience and the passage of time. Unfortunately, time is what this island is running out of fast, as the pace of change gathers momentum.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Prof. Lakdas Fernando for his indefatigable efforts to turn Diyakothakanda into a success story. The General Secretary, Spencer

Manuelpillai for his tireless professionalism in attending to all aspects of the society's activities. Rohan Wijesinha for improving the general standard of the LORIS among many other things he does for the society. My thanks to Ishan Rajasuriya and Sriyan de Silva Wijeratne for improving accounting practices and Ishan once again for the children's wetland walk educational initiative. I'm thankful to Lal Anthonis for keeping us informed of the long traditions of the society and being the link of continuity from the past to the present. Also Vidya for bringing up the general standard of 'Varana' and making it a bilingual magazine; Jehan Canagaratne for his tireless efforts fundraising, and for the public relations wizard that he is and all other committee members that I have not mentioned here by name but I am grateful to them for their engagement and their work throughout the year.

Last but not least, I'd like to thank our LORIS and Varana sponsors, NTB Bank and for the financial commitment to our lecture series; Textured Jersey for their generous contributions to the society; Otara Foundation for the Palugaswewa investigation and Dilmah for providing their tea service at the end of every lecture.

Annexure 1.

**Report of the Inquiry Panel
Appointed by the President of the Wildlife &
Nature Protection Society
Regarding Certain Remarks Made by the President at the Time
At the 122nd AGM Held on 28 May 2016**

By his letter ref. GT/54/0059 of 28 October 2016 Mr Rukshan Jayewardene, President of the Wildlife & Nature Protection Society, appointed a panel of inquiry comprising Dr Malik Fernando, Mr Anandalal Nanayakkara and Mr Rohan Pethiyagoda, to inquire into and report on the following statement made by Prof. Lakdas Fernando, the outgoing president of the Society, at its 112nd AGM held on 28 May 2016:

“A major drawback was the breakdown of the Society’s relationship with schools that were actively working with us in the Kalawana area. It was an uphill task to convince them that the Society’s main aim was not to piggyback on village schools to grab funds from foreign sources and Banks; an unfortunate image that had been left with them by the Society’s officers of the past. Regrettably, project information and Students Project Reports, unrelated to the Society’s initiatives, had been removed from these schools by these officers and not returned to them. Almost all the schools in question were under the impression that the Society had collected millions of rupees using their material!”

We, the undersigned members of the above-mentioned panel drafted our terms of reference in accordance with the claims inferred from Prof. Fernando’s above statement, as follows:

1. Did the Society’s relationship with the schools with which it was working (through the Schools Nature Club Programme) break down?
2. Could these schools reasonably have inferred that the Society’s main aim was to piggyback on village schools to grab funds from foreign sources and Banks?
3. Could a negative image of the Society have been created among these schools as a result of acts of commission or omission by the Society’s officers of the past?
4. Had project information and students’ project reports, unrelated to the Society’s initiatives, been removed from these schools by these officers and not returned to them?

5. Were almost all the schools in question under the impression that the Society had collected millions of rupees using their material?

At the outset of its deliberations the panel decided to confine itself strictly to the above questions and to rely purely on the available documentary information. The reason for this is that the events relating to this inquiry date back some five years, during which time memories may have faded or become distorted; students graduated and passed out of school; teachers and other relevant staff transferred etc.

Our report is presented below under the five headings listed above:

1. Did the Society's relationship with the schools with which it was working (through the Schools Nature Club Programme) break down?

• This is a general statement that refers to relationship with a number of schools in the Kalawana area. By perusing the copies of documents in the Society's files that were made available to us we understand that the schools referred to are the following:

- a) Dikhena Kanishta Vidyalaya - Diyakothakanda Reforestation Project;
- b) Minuwangete Maha Vidyalaya - Deduru Oya Left Bank Tree Planting Project;
- c) Gamini Maha Vidyalaya, Kalawana - Biodiversity Gardens Project;
- d) Pothupitiya Maha Vidyalaya - Biodiversity Gardens Project;
- e) Rambuka Maha Vidyalaya - Biodiversity Gardens Project;
- f) Delgoda Janapadaya Vidyalaya - Biodiversity Gardens Project;
- g) Weddegala Vidyalaya - Biodiversity Gardens Project;
- h) Delgoda Kanitu Vidyalaya - Biodiversity Gardens Project.

The only document that refers directly to the relationship between a school and the WNPS is a letter from the Principal of the Pothupitiya Maha Vidyalaya addressed to the President of the WNPS dated 29. 5. 2015 referring to a request by Mr. Nimesh (sic) Jayasinghe. The letter (in Sinhala) was translated into English by a sworn translator at our request. In it, the Principal makes several comments that lend support to the statement of the WNPS President that is the subject of this inquiry. The letter ends with the following statement inter alia "...I do not wish to allow any office bearer of your Society to enter the school." The Sinhala and English versions of the letter are attached to this report.

It is noted that this letter refers only to the Pothupitiya Maha Vidyalaya, which was engaged in a Biodiversity Gardens Project.

2. Could these schools reasonably have inferred that the Society's main aim was to piggyback on village schools to grab funds from foreign sources and Banks?

- We feel that there could very well have been a possibility for such an impression to have been created. We base this conclusion on the widely-held perception that foreign-funded projects are largely for the benefit of the project proponents, with diversion of funds meant for the project to other beneficiaries. This is, no doubt, not a statement that can be applied to all such projects, simply tarring all with the same brush. We feel, however, that this impression may have arisen on account of a number of factors, such as, dissatisfaction regarding the progress of the project that ultimately ended with there being nothing to show for it by way of established trees, and the apparent abandoning of the project by the Society.

The Secretary's Report for the year 2014 states that "the Schools Nature Club Programme has been drifting for some time..." The two projects were evaluated by two professionals who reported that:

- a) The Diyakothakanda Project was initiated in 2009. A Society report of 2011 records that 70% of the plants introduced were still surviving but the sampling undertaken for the report (2014-15) records only 10% surviving.
- b) The Deduru Oya Project was initiated in 2010 to be undertaken in two phases. Phase II was never started. Under Phase I trees had been planted, it was reported, on a canal embankment of about 300 metres in length. During the inspection, it was observed that the whole area had been cleared with a 'brush cutter' and only a single 'Kohomba' (*Azadirachta indica*) plant was to be found.

It would seem that there had been inaction on the part of the WNPS SNC after 2011 that may have given the impression that the Society had abandoned its commitment to the two projects. There were no documents of relevance in the year 2012. The only documents seen from the year 2013 relate to issues surrounding the resignation of the SNC Project Co-ordinator, which appeared to be the result of numerous disagreements.

Supporting the view that there was poor involvement of WNPS officers in the Deduru Oya Project is a letter dated 14.7.2015 from the office of the Deduru Oya Project Director, signed by the Director Irrigation, Kurunegala, in response to a letter from the President WNPS. He says that there was one meeting at the start of the project, at which relevant matters regarding the tree planting programme were discussed, but no subsequent meetings. He ends the letter by saying that regular discussion and follow-up meetings are essential for a project such as this. There is no evidence that such discussion and follow-up meetings ever took place.

The Principal of Pothupitiya Maha Vidyalaya voiced his concerns thus: “Later on, we had not only totally lost our confidence on their projects, but also, we had a fear that it was another non-governmental organization attempting to sell our School’s good name and reputation as a School with a background of its creative ability.”

3. Could a negative image of the Society have been created among these schools as a result of acts of commission or omission by the Society’s officers of the past?
 - Yes.
4. Had project information and students’ project reports, unrelated to the Society’s initiatives, been removed from these schools by these officers and not returned to them?
 - We saw no documentary evidence to support this statement.
5. Were almost all the schools in question under the impression that the Society had collected millions of rupees using their material?
 - We saw no documentary evidence to support this statement.

In conclusion, it would not be surprising if an “unfortunate image” of the Society had been created in the schools in question. There appears no doubt that the Society paid insufficient attention to supervising the projects and working with the schools to ensure success. That said, it appears to us that several other factors too, could contribute to such tree-planting projects involving schoolchildren not ending in success. Schoolchildren come under the supervision of different teachers each year, and teachers’ individual commitment to such projects is therefore vital to their success. In general, however, teachers’ commitment to extracurricular activities is highly variable both within and among schools, and in any event, cannot be relied upon for long periods, certainly not the several

years it takes a sapling to become an established tree. It is doubtful therefore, that a tree-planting project would have succeeded even if the Society had invested sufficient well-intentioned supervisory input and ongoing assistance to these projects. Even though there is little enduring evidence of a reputation loss to the society as a result of the project, it would be surprising, given the failure of the projects, if the Society's image were not tarnished as a result of not only the failure of the projects but also the apparent neglect by the Society that contributed to the projects' failure.

We, the undersigned members of the panel, are of the view that the Society should be mindful of these considerations in the designing of similar projects in the future.

Rohan Pethiyagoda

Member

Anandalal Nanayakkara

Member

Malik Fernando

Member

18th May, 2017

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING _ Notice under Rule 10.1.3

As already intimated to you, in a notice dated February 28th, 2018, the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on May 26th 2018, commencing at 5.00 p.m. in the Cinema Hall of the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall [BMICH], Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07.

In terms of Rule 10.1.3,

The Annual Report for 2017 and the Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting will be available from the 16th of April 2018 at the Head Office. It will be e-mailed to those who provide their e-mail address and request for same. Any member requiring a hard copy of the Annual Report may send their request, in writing, to the Administrative Secretary, or call over at the Office and collect a copy.

In terms of Rule 6.3, the Committee Members retiring are as follows:

1. Dr. [Ms.] Nirmali S. de Silva
2. Ms. Ayanthi M. Samarajeewa
3. Mr. Darrel Bartholomeusz
4. Mr. Rohan Wijesinha
5. Dr. Tilak Jayaratne
6. Mr. Ishan Rajasuriya

There are six [06] vacancies in the General Committee and the retiring members are eligible for re-election. The Hon. General Secretary will receive nominations to the General Committee, duly proposed and seconded by any two [02] members entitled to vote at the AGM, provided such candidate has the required qualifications, together with the candidate's written consent.

The Hon. General Secretary will also receive nominations for the honorary posts of President, two Vice Presidents, General Secretary, and Treasurer, duly proposed and seconded by any two [02] members entitled to vote at the AGM. Candidates must have the required qualifications, at the time of election, and should express their consent, in writing, to be so nominated.

Any members wishing to move a Resolution at the AGM may submit such resolution duly proposed and seconded by any two [02] members entitled to vote at the AGM.

All nominations and resolutions should reach the Society's Head Office, by post or by hand on or before 10.00 a.m. on May 05th, 2018.

If there are any queries related to the accounts, please convey it in writing, to the HGS at least two weeks prior to the AGM so that all necessary responses, with relevant documentation, can be made available at the AGM.



Spencer Manuelpillai
Hon. General Secretary
March 31st, 2018



If undelivered please return to :
Wildlife and Nature Protection
Society of Sri Lanka (Ceylon)
No. 86, Rajamalwatta Road,
Battaramulla.