



*WILDLIFE AND NATURE  
PROTECTION SOCIETY  
OF  
SRI LANKA (CEYLON)*  
(Established 1894)

**Annual Report  
and  
Accounts  
2016**

**123**

**1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016**

## **PATRON**

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

### **OFFICE BEARERS - 2016**

*President* : Mr. Rukshan Jayewardene  
*Vice Presidents* : Mr. Rahula Dassenaieke  
Mr. Ranil Pieris  
*General Secretary* : Mr. Spencer Manuelpillai  
*Treasurer* : Mr. Ishan Rajasuriya  
*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 Jayaratna  
Dr. Hemantha Perera  
Ms. Ayanthi Samarajeewa  
Maj. Raajiv Dias Wanigasekera  
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.

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# **WILDLIFE & NATURE PROTECTION SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA**

Dear Member,

## **NOTICE OF THE 123<sup>rd</sup> 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 27th, 2017** 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 2016.
3. Apologies for absence.
4. Adoption of the Minutes of the 122<sup>nd</sup> AGM held on May 28th, 2016 and SGM I & II held on July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016 and August 18<sup>th</sup> 2016 respectively.
5. Matters arising from the Minutes.
6. Adoption of the Report of the Hon. General Secretary for 2016.
7. Adoption of the Statement of Accounts for 2016
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***

March 01<sup>st</sup>, 2017

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

### **(January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016)**

I take great honour in presenting the annual report of the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society for the year 2016. Our task of defending our precious wildlife and nature is turning out to be an extremely difficult challenge with violations on the increase by individuals, organisations and groups with political affiliations. The Society has carefully chosen its battles in the last year, identified the issues that have long-term impact on the environment, and taken upon itself to try and mitigate these issues. For this, it has adapted a two pronged strategy:

1. To educate and inform the general public, and
2. To work with teams of experts, both from within the Society and externally, in formulating policies and procedures. These policies and procedures are elaborated on in the relevant sub-committee reports.

The perennial issue the Society has had with the financial losses of the bungalows has taken a turn for the better with a new approach to manage the bungalows while providing the Membership with an improved facility.

The Society has also initiated activities to create interest amongst the younger generation by using the monthly lecture series to attract young recruits to energize the Society.

2016 also saw a turnaround in the fund-raising initiatives of the Society with the efforts of the Sub-committee bearing fruit in the finding of long-term sponsors for its regular activities and publications. Details of the membership as at December 2016 are shown below:

The introduction of online payment for members to pay their subscription is expected to improve the renewal process.

The Society has commenced the appointment of District Representatives to keep the General Committee updated on environmental issues emerging in their respective districts so that more proactive measures could be taken to address these issues at a very early stages.

The initiative of the Wetland Walk Programme has enabled the Society to start the education process of young people on environmental issues at a very early stage. Through these junior groups we are also able to activate and involve their parents. The programme is scheduled to be conducted during the school holidays and plans are being made to extend it to outstation schools as well, with the involvement of the District Representatives.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

As at December 31, 2016, the following was the composition of the Society's membership (members who have paid their subscriptions):

<b>Membership Category</b>	<b>Dec-14</b>	<b>Dec-15</b>	<b>Dec-16</b>	<b>New in 2016</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Life	1,719	1,721	1,723	2	
Ordinary	339	259	192	34	
Junior	59	59	91	91	
Overseas	118	118	0	0	Not recorded

## **OBITUARIES**

It is with deep regret that we record the passing away of the following members of our Society during the course of 2016. We salute their commitment to the Society and to conservation.

### **Life Members**

Mr. D. D. V. Mettananda  
 Dr. L. D. G. K. Herath  
 Mr. D K A Samad

Mr. C. B. Bavinck  
 Mr. W. Wickramasinghe

### **Ordinary Members**

Mr. A. Basnayake  
 Ms. N. De Mel  
 Mr. D. V. R. De Vas Gunasekera

Mr. W. L. Bogtstra  
 Mr. A. Delgoda

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS - 2016

The General Committee of the Society convened a total of twelve times during the course of 2016. The following is a record of the attendance of each Committee Member from January - May 2016, and of the new Committee from June - December 2016.

Committee Member	January - May 2016		June - December 2016	
	Meetings	Present	Meetings	Present
Mr. Vidya Abhayagunawardena	5	1	7	6
Mr. Ravindralal Anthonis	-		7	3
Mr. Darrel Bartholomeusz	5	1	7	3
Mr. Rahul Dassenaik	5	2	7	5
Mr. Jehan CanageRatna	-		7	6
Mr. Ravi Deraniyagala	5	3	-	
Mr. Sriyan De Silva Wjeyeratne	-		7	6
Dr. (Ms.) Nirmali De Silva	5	4	7	6
Prof. Lakdas Fernando	5	5	7	7
Ms. Tami Flamer-Caldera	5	5	7	5
Mr. Charitha Gooneratne	5	3	-	
Mr. Imran Jabeer	5			
Dr. Tilak Jayaratna	5	2	7	4
Mr. Rukshan Jayewardene	5	4	7	7
Mr. Namal Kamalgoda	5	1		
Prof. Hemantha Perera	-		7	5
Mr. Spencer Manuelpillai	5	5	7	7
Mr. Ranil Pieris	5	4	7	5
Mr. Ishan Rajasuriya	-		7	6
Ms. Ayanthi Samarajeewa	5	4	7	7
Mr. Naresha Supramaniam	5	1	-	
Major Raajiv D. Wanigasekera	5	3	7	6
Mr. Rohan Wijesinha	5	5	7	7

## **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)

### **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 – 2016

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Location</b>
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. M. P. Jayatilleke *	Bungalow Keeper	Wilpattu
Mr. C. R. Dharmadasa	Assistant Bungalow Keeper	Wilpattu
Mr. Priyantha Withanachchi #	Bungalow Keeper	Uda Walawe
Mr. Ajith Kumara #	Assistant Bungalow Keeper	Uda Walawe

\* Retired

# Resigned

## **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **REPORT OF THE HUMAN - ELEPHANT COEXISTENCE (HEC) COMMITTEE**

#### **Committee Members**

Mr. Rohan Wijesinha (Chair)  
Mr. Ravindralal Anthonis  
Ms. Tami Flamer-Caldera

Mr. Charitha Gooneratne  
Mr. Rahula Perera (Co-opted)  
Ms. Caryll Tozer (Co-opted)

In addition to the above, the Hon. President, Mr. Rukshan Jayewardene and the Hon. General Secretary, Mr. Spencer Manuelpillai, supported the Committee with their active participation in meetings.

Working on the principle that effective change can only be achieved by influencing the formulation and implementation of policy, the HEC Committee undertook the following challenges during the course of the year:

#### **1. WORKSHOP ON HUMAN - ELEPHANT COEXISTENCE**

It was proposed that the Society host a workshop, for all relevant stakeholders, on issues relating to Human - Elephant Coexistence. The purpose is to have a forum where all relevant stakeholders can share of their knowledge on this and reach some consensus on a unified way forward. The Human-Elephant Coexistence Policy is currently being reviewed, and this would be an ideal time to introduce progressive amendments to it. Pressure can then be placed on the Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) and the Ministry of Wildlife & Sustainable Development to implement its policies, by upholding the Law. With this in mind, it is important that the stakeholders invited to the Workshop are those who can assist in adding knowledge to the discussion, and with facilitating this process. Fundamental to its success will be the active participation of the DWC in the presentations and the panel discussions.

The workshop was held on January 24, 2017.

In addition to the members of the HEC Sub-committee, the following volunteered of their time and effort in the formation of a special Planning Committee for this workshop:

Dr. Sumith Pilapitiya (Chair)  
Ms. Deepani Jayantha  
Dr. Prithiviraj Fernando  
Mr. Jayantha Jayewardene

Dr. U. K. G. K. Padmalal  
Mr. Dhammika Pebotuwa (DWC)  
Dr. S. Wijeyamohan  
Mr. Jehan CanagaRetna

We thank them all for their hard work and commitment. The Society also owes a debt of gratitude to the Born Free Foundation who has generously agreed to sponsor this workshop. Special thanks to Ms. Manori Gunawardena who has been of major assistance in obtaining this sponsorship.

## **2. FORMING A POLICY FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE UDA WALAWE NATIONAL PARK ECO-SYSTEM**

The Uda Walawe National Park is in dire straits with there being a dramatic change in habitat, due to a variety of reasons, from grassland into scrubland - mostly the invasive Lantana camera. This is having serious impact on the hundreds of elephants who use this Park, especially during the months of drought. They have little food and are in poor condition. The majority seem to be leaving the Park, thereby increasing the prospect of conflict with humans.

If Uda Walawe, is to be restored to its previous status which has earned it the reputation of being the only National Park in the world where a wild elephant can be seen at any time, on any day of the year, then immediate action is necessary to restore these grasslands, based on scientific knowledge and expertise. It may be necessary to try a variety of methods but even if they should succeed, it will take considerable time to restore what has been lost.

Once again, a special committee was formed to address this issue. Our sincere thanks to them all.

Mr. Rukshan Jayewardene  
Prof. Devaka Weerekoon  
Dr. Prithiviraj Fernando  
Mr. Jehan CanagaRetna

Mr. Sumith Pilapitiya  
Dr. Eric Wikramanayake  
Ms. Manori Gunawardena

The DWC has expressed its interest in working with the Society on this plan and it is hoped that a joint workshop will be held and a plan of action devised early in 2017.

### **3. ELEPHANTS KILLED BY TRAIN STRIKES**

There was much press publicity over the year of several incidents, particularly on the Batticaloa Line, of elephants being knocked down and killed by trains. The majority of such strikes seem to take place between Habarana and the Gal Oya Junction, in broken terrain where the tree line often comes close to the tracks. Fundamental to this is the speed at which the trains travelling, well over what they are supposed to on this stretch. The management of the Department of Railways (CGR), regrettably, does not seem to be able to discipline their drivers to adhere to these slower speeds, and they are likely to continue in the future. Though the number of elephants killed by trains over the course of a year are a very small percentage of the number killed in conflict with humans, it is still a situation that requires control. Sri Lanka is lucky in that unlike in India, a train has yet to be derailed in an elephant strike, and there has been no loss of human life.

Letters were sent to the Directors General of the Department of Railways and DWC requesting a meeting to discuss this issue, regrettably, for which no response was received. Various measure have been suggested by both to mitigate this problem, from ultrasound bleeps to infrared cameras to overhead bridges - all expensive investments and unlikely to succeed in that terrain, apart from the bridges which will cost a lot of money to build. In addition, though the Department of Railways claim to have records on train strikes, these have not been analyzed in detail to try and find suitable ways of getting elephants off the tracks when trains are approaching.

After consultation with elephant expert Dr. Joyce Poole, and based on current literature on the subject, it was proposed to raise the funds for a short-term research in the affected areas to ascertain the frequent elephant crossing points, the frequency of crossing, the terrain at these points, and how this tallies with the information collected by the Railway Department, et al. Based on this information, it would be possible to make an informed decision as to how to alleviate this problem. It has been estimated that an amount of Rs. 350, 000.00 would be necessary to fund such research. Hopefully, this could be found in 2017 to alleviate this tragedy from happening too often.

Our sincere thanks to Dr. Sumith Pilapitiya who is assisting the Society with this initiative.

#### **4. ELEPHANT DRIVE AT KATARAGAMA**

Against all expert advice, an Elephant Drive was held at Kataragama; allegedly on political insistence. Adult male elephants are the main intruders into cultivated land but during elephant drives, it is predominantly the herds of females, juveniles and young that are driven into the Parks, in this case the Lunugamvehera National Park, that has insufficient food for them. Predictably, at the final count, just five (5) adult males were driven out, the rest remaining in the Forest Department land from which they were driven. These lands will now be encroached on by villagers, and the conflict will continue. The question of Elephant Drives will be raised in the Workshop referred to in Point 1 above.

In the meantime, the President, Mr. Rukshan Jayewardene, Ms. Caryll Tozer of the HEC Sub-Committee and Mr. Jehan CanagaRetna of the General Committee, along with Dr. Prithiviraj Fernando, were able to meet with the Minister for Housing Development whose electorate is in this region. The Hon. Minister was willing to listen to the presentations made on alternatives to these drives and has accepted an 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. This will be attempted in 2017. The matter of Strategic Fencing is also on the agenda for the HEC Workshop (Point 1).

#### **5. EDUCATING THE MEDIA ON THE HUMAN - ELEPHANT CONFLICT & OTHER CONSERVATION ISSUES**

It has been custom for the media, with a few notable exceptions, to blame elephants for the human - elephant conflict, even to the extent of implying that they plan these attacks. Much of this reporting is due to ignorance, and the need to sensationalize a story.

The Society has approached the Press Council to request that its training schedules include a slot for reporting on environmental issues, inclusive of the human - elephant conflict. In addition, it is proposed to host a workshop, in 2017, for the Media - to give them some basic information on the human - elephant conflict, its causes and possible solutions.

## **6. ILLEGAL CLEARING OF PROPOSED MER AT EHETHUWEWA FOR AN INDUSTRIAL ORCHARD**

The priest from a local temple started clearance of a proposed area of 1, 000 acres in Ehethuwewa, a well-known elephant corridor that has been proposed for a Managed Elephant Reserve (MER). Thanks to a financial donation from the Otaru Foundation, the Environmental Foundation Ltd., with the assistance of the Society, investigated the case with the intention of instigating action against the priest. Discussions were held with the Commissioner for Buddhist Affairs and the Wayamba Environmental Authority and they supported the view that the corridor should not be cleared. The priest changed his request to asking for the release of just 40 acres for this project. This new area requested, however, remains right in the middle of the elephant corridor and the request was not agreed to. The potential human - elephant conflict, if these elephants are deprived access to the only water available in the area, will be catastrophic. The need for legal recourse was averted by this action.

Though the priest concerned had stopped clearing the elephant corridor for his fruit farm, it seems that this was only a temporary measure to put the authorities' minds at ease. He has now, illegally, fenced off a large area and is beginning to have it cleared. EFL have recommenced legal proceedings on this, and the Otaru Foundation has agreed to continue its funding of this case.

Our gratitude to the Otaru Foundation for enabling this important action to be taken.

## **7. A QUICK RESPONSE VETERINARIAN UNIT IN THE DWC**

This is now a big problem as the DWC Vets are on a work-to-rule demanding an additional monthly payment of Rs. 20, 000.00 as the locations they are placed in deprive them of doing private practice. The Rangers, in turn, have said that if the Vets are paid this amount, they will go on strike too, as they work nights as well and deserve this payment as well. There is not going to be a quick solution to this issue. In the meantime, the animals suffer!

There are just six (6) vets for the whole country. Strategies were discussed, including the authorization of vets in private practice in other parts of the country to treat wild animals, on a contractual basis, or even those in the Forces. The other option is to canvas the appointment of several more vets to the DWC, and that they be given an appropriate training.

This is a matter that requires further thought in formulating an effective strategy for positive intervention, and will be on the agenda of the Committee for 2017.

#### **8. MINNERIYA AS A HOLDING RESERVOIR FOR THE MORAGAHAKANDA PROJECT**

The intention is to have the reservoir full of water all year round. The 400 - 600 elephants that visit this Park during the drought, to feed off the grasses of the drying reservoir bed, will then have no food. This will result in an enormous escalation of the human - elephant conflict in the area. The EIA has been approved by renowned environmental scientists on the premise that there will never be enough water in the feeder channels to fill Minneriya. If so, why designate it as a 'Holding Reservoir'? What if there is a year of heavy rainfall and there is sufficient water? Just one season is all it takes for calamity to occur.

The Habarana area contributes an approximate Rs. 1.5 Billion to the country's economy during the season - the major attraction being 'The Gathering' at Minneriya. The logic in making Minneriya a 'Holding Reservoir' is to try and induce three (3) harvests a year. Last year, there was excess paddy production in the area based on just two (2) harvests. Will the revenue from an additional harvest offset the loss of revenue and employment in the area generated by 'The Gathering'?

In addition to this matter being raised in Points 1 & 5 above, the WNPS will engage in a programme of awareness raising for the policy makers and public on this matter.

# **REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION & ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEE**

## **Committee Members**

Nirmali De Silva (Chair)  
Rahula Dassenaiké  
Lakdas Fernando

Ayanthi Samarajeewa  
Rohan Wijesinha

In addition to the above, as per the Constitution, the Hon. President, Mr. Rukshan Jayewardene and the Hon. General Secretary, Mr. Spencer Manuelpillai, are members of this committee.

The following are the conservation and environmental issues addressed by the Society during 2016:

### **1. Pallenkandal Shrine Expansion**

The apparent illegal expansion of this shrine, inside the Wilpattu National Park, was brought to the notice of His Excellency, the President, the Director General of the Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC), the Bishop of Chilaw, the Bishop's Conference and the Papal Nuncio. The Society received a response from, and has been in discussions with, the Papal Nuncio as well as the Bishop of Chilaw.

The Society also hosted a Press Conference in partnership with the Environmental Foundation Limited (EFL) to educate the Media as to why this expansion was in direct violation of the Fauna & Flora Protection Ordinance (FFPO).

The Bishop of Chilaw has given the assurance that there will be no further expansion of buildings and also that only the Annual Feast will be held at the shrine.

### **2. Proposed Amendments to the FFPO**

The Society, in partnership with EFL and the Federation of Environmental Organisation (FEO), requested and obtained a meeting with the Hon. Minister for Wildlife & Sustainable Development. The following issues were raised with him:



- (a) The proposed amendments to the FFPO, and the importance of transparency when presenting these amendments for public scrutiny and comment.
- (b) Habitat restoration in National Parks, particularly Uda Walawe, and the undesirability, on legal and environmental grounds of growing crop species within them.
- (c) The importance of all interventions within National Parks being a part of the Management Plans developed for that Park, and not be instituted on an ad hoc basis.
- (d) The Gazette on Captive Elephants - to express opposition to the proposal that elephant owners who purchased elephants in good faith - with fraudulent papers being shown them - be allowed to keep the elephants in their custody.
- (e) The formal gazetting of the Managed Elephant Reserve (MER) at Mattala, either under the Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) or Forest Department (FD), before it all given away by local politicians.

**(a) Proposed Amendments to FFPO**

The Hon. Minister agreed to the proposal made for the DWC to host a Workshop on the Proposed Amendments to the FFPO to which all relevant stakeholders will be invited. The purpose of the workshop is as follows:

1. For the Review Committee to present its proposed areas for amendment to the assembled stakeholders, with justification for their proposals.
2. For the stakeholders to register their concerns and make informed recommendations of their own to the Committee thereafter.
3. The Revised FFPO will also be made available for public scrutiny and comment prior to being submitted to the Cabinet for ratification (there maybe changes imposed by the Legal Draughtsman without the knowledge of the Review Committee that also need to be seen by the Public).

4. In the interim, Dr. Sumith Pilapitiya and Dr. U. K. G. K. Padmalal will also be invited onto the Review Committee.

This workshop was hosted by the DWC in December 2016, to which several stakeholders were invited. Apart from the above, other concerns were also raised and an undertaking given that the principles of transparency referred to above will be strictly adhered to.

The President, Mr. Rukshan Jayewardene, and Mr. Rohan Wijesinha represented the Society at this Workshop.

**(b) Habitat Restoration in National Parks**

The Hon Minister agreed to the proposal that a Technical Expert Committee on Habitat Restoration be set up, of relevant members of the scientific community, PRIOR to any restoration being undertaken. He requested the representatives to submit their proposals for this committee, and those who have already engaged in discussions on this on the Society's invitation will be proposed. The Hon Minister and the DWC will also nominate their own representatives to this Committee. The WNPS Committee comprised of the following:

Dr. Sumith Pilapitiya (Chair)  
Mr. Rukshan Jayewardene (President)  
Mr. Spencer Manuelpillai (Hon. General Secretary)  
Prof. Devaka Weerakoon  
Dr. Prithiviraj Fernando  
Dr. Eric Wikramanayake  
Mr. Rohan Wijesinha  
Mr. Jehan CanagaRetna

**(c) Protected Area Management Plans**

The Hon Minister agreed that a Committee comprising independent experts and representatives from environmental / wildlife NGOs will be appointed to monitor the implementation of Protected Area Management Plans and that all interventions in Protected Areas will be based on the activities identified in the respective Protected Area Management Plans.

#### **(d) Gazette on Captive Elephants**

The Hon Minister informed the Delegation that this was all a misunderstanding and that there was no intention of giving these elephants back to the owners in question. The Delegation made it clear that it would strongly oppose any such move.

It was also pointed out that the Gazette proposed that elephants held at the orphanages both at Pinnawala and Uda Walawe could be used as a population from which animals could be extracted for domestic / religious purposes. While there was no objection to them being taken from Pinnawala, there was strong objection to extraction from Uda Walawe as the purpose of the Elephant Transit Home (ETH) was to try and rehabilitate these young elephants back into the wild. This had brought the country much kudos and funding from overseas agencies and should not be compromised. The Hon Minister promised to look into this.

#### **(e) The Gazetting of the MER at Mattala**

As land is being grabbed by local politicians from areas previously designated for the MER, the Delegation emphasised the importance of gazetting the MER as soon as possible either under the DWC or Forest Department. The Hon Minister undertook to look into this and appoint a Committee to fast-track its implementation. Some of the lands involved come under the Mahaweli Authority so that Ministry would also have to be involved too.

Mr. Rohan Wijesinha represented the Society at this meeting with the Minister.

### **3. Establishment of a Wild Cat Group**

The Wild Cat Working Group, Sri Lanka was established under the patronage of the Society. The working group will address all of Sri Lanka's wild cats - leopard, fishing cat, jungle cat and rusty spotted cat. The initial funding for the project is from the sponsorship donated by Dr. Jim Sanderson for the Wild Cat Symposium held in November 2015. The group will be managed by the Conservation Subcommittee of the Society.

## **R O A R: RESTORATION OF A RAIN FOREST**

Location: Diyakothakanda, Dikhena, Badureliya

The aim of the project is to restore a denuded and badly eroded steep hill slope of five (5) acres in extent, a piece of land of exposed rocks covered by a mat of bracken (*Kekilla Glychenealinear*is), which was under the Forest Department, back to rainforest. The reference site on which the restoration is based is the Sinharaja Rainforest which is located in the same geographical and environmental setting with similar elevation, rainfall and soil type, containing complete or near-complete communities of native plants and animals.

The Wildlife & Nature Protection Society (WNPS) made its first attempt to restore this forest in 1996 with the support of a German Environmental Non-governmental Organization (NGO), Nature Life International. During this attempt, the bracken was cleared and primary forest trees planted in its place. This methodology did not prove successful as the primary species could not tolerate the strong sun, the learning being that the slow growing, primary rainforest species need shade in their early years. This first attempt was referred to as the 'Diyakothakanda' Project.

A second attempt to ecologically restore Diyakothakanda was commenced in 2015 / 16 under the guidance of world renowned rainforest experts, Professors Nimal and Savithri Gunatilleke. The methodology adopted is that of 'Relay Floristics', where pioneer species (locally abundant varieties) are first introduced to generate cover, and once they have achieved the necessary height, Primary Rainforest Species are planted in their shade. This second project has been entitled the 'Restoration of a Rainforest' (ROAR).

In March 2016, 1.25 acres of the site was selected for Phase 1 of this project and a dedicated Project Officer was appointed to undertake nursery development, land preparation for planting, community engagement and to conduct a School Nature Club initiative in five (5) schools in the vicinity of the site. The inauguration ceremony was held at the Dikhena Kanishta Vidyalaya on November 19, 2016 with the participation of the village community, students and teachers from the five schools, the sponsors and representatives of the WNPS. This included the planting of 3, 500 well established pioneer plants at the site, from the nursery of 8, 000 plants which had been established for this purpose. The Sunday Times of June 10, 2016 carried a full page report on the day's proceedings.

Phase 1 of this project was sponsored by the Rotary Club - Colombo West, Teejay Lanka PLC, and Bureau Veritas Pvt Ltd. The WNPS is extremely grateful to them all for their generous support of this unique initiative.

The status of the ROAR Fund as at December 31, 2016 is as follows:

<b>Income (Rs.)</b>		<b>Expenses (Rs.)</b>	
Diyakothakanda Fund balance transfer	402, 849.96	Project start up costs	79, 819.96
Rotary Club - Colombo West	968, 200.00	School engagement programs	217, 183.00
Teejay Lanka PLC	500, 000.00	Land preparation and planting	795, 793.00
Bureau Veritas Pvt Ltd.	125, 000.00	Coordinator + Consultant fees	460, 000.00
		Fund balance by end 2016	443, 254.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1, 966,049.96</b>		<b>1, 966, 049.96</b>

Prof. Lakdas Fernando, Chairperson of the ROAR Management Committee and Mr. Dineth Danushka, the Project Coordinator, presented a paper at the International Research Symposium “Blue-Green Era and Environment” held at the BMICH from October 17 - 19, 2016 in the Special Session on Community Forestry under Valuation of Forest Ecosystems and their Services. The title of the paper was the ‘Ecological Restoration of Diyakothakanda’.

### **Plans for 2017**

All the plants on the field will be numbered and tagged, with a plant inventory maintained by the WNPS. The Carbon Consulting Company has also partnered with the WNPS to provide technical expertise on the calculation of carbon sequestration.

The remainder of the site will be planted with the next rainy season in October/ November 2017. Funding for this will be sought from suitable corporate partners and other channels.

The School and Community Engagement Programmes will continue utilizing the balance funding available. It is envisaged that in 2017 most of the required pioneer

species for planting will be obtained from a community led nursery to create project ownership within the area. The programme to encourage teachers and students of the five schools in the area to be custodians of this project for the long term is being pursued with them being encouraged to get involved in data collection at the site, with the guidance of the Project Coordinator.

We gratefully acknowledge the advice and guidance given by Profs Nimal and Savithri Gunatilleke who regularly visited the site and helped us to achieve the project's current success. The project's initial phase would not have been possible but for the kind donations of our sponsors as listed above and the support received from the Forest Department. This project will remain a key WNPS initiative for the next decade or more as the site develops, as it is proven to be the most sustainable model for Rainforest Restoration in Sri Lanka. We encourage members and their families to volunteer to assist in this programme, thereby becoming partners in this living laboratory.

## **SCHOOL NATURE CLUB**

Mr Spencer Manuelpillai - Chair  
Dr Hemantha Perera  
Prof Lakdas Fernando  
Mr Vidya Abhayagunawardena

With the ROAR Project at Diyakothakanda, the Society was able to conduct the school programmes through the project resource person Dineth Danushka.

Additionally, the Society initiated the Wetland Walk Programme targeting Primary school children in Colombo. The first programme was held during the December school holidays at the Thalawathugoda Biodiversity Study Park drawing 88 participants of which 88 enrolled as Junior Members of the Society. This programme is scheduled to be conducted during the school holidays with a minimum of three events in Colombo, with plans to extend the programme to outstation schools as well. It is proposed that the latter be conducted by the District Representatives.

The Society has initiated discussions with National Institute of Education to incorporate environmental education at the primary level. The discussions are continuing to set up a specialist group to work and implement this long term project.

## REPORT OF THE BUNGALOWS, FINANCE AND FUND RAISING, GREETING CARDS SUB-COMMITTEE

### Committee Members

Mr Jehan CanagaRetna (Chair)  
Mr Rahula Dassenaieke  
Mr Ishan Rajasuriya  
Major Raajiv Wanigasekera  
Mr Sriyan De Silva Wijeyeratne

Fund raising has been an arduous task with the struggle to get funds into the society a constant problem. Trying to convince companies to provide funding for conservation is not easy but the Committee persevered and drew up a plan.

The Hon. Treasurer created a structure called “Green Corp” where we broke down our potential sponsorships into different categories. They were:

Platinum	-	Rs. 1, 000, 000/- per year
Gold	-	Rs. 500, 000/- per year
Silver	-	Rs. 350, 000/- per year
Bronze	-	Rs. 200, 000/- per year

The idea of Green Corp was to provide our administration the visibility of funding thereby providing the Committee with the initiatives to plan better, along with the option of building the reserves of the Society.

It was also agreed that the Society follow a format of coming up with a project, appointing a Project Leader, and finding the funds for the project before the project was practically initiated. There had been the practice of starting the project and then trying to find the funds which this Committee felt the Society should move away from.

With Green Corp in mind, the Committee has managed to solicit the sponsorship of the following companies:

- **Nations Trust Bank.** From 2017, Rs. 1, 500, 000/- per year for 3 years, for printing the Society’s *Loris* and *Warana* journals.
- **Brandix Lanka.** Rs. 700, 000/- per year from 2016 for 3 years for the general administration of the Society.

- **Nations Trust Bank.** Rs. 600, 000/- per year for the sponsorship of the monthly lecture series
- **Sampath Bank** - approximately Rs. 1, 200, 000/- per year - the monthly value differs depending on the number of credit cards that have been issued. This is an ongoing sponsorship for over a decade, and has been a lifeline to support the general administration costs of the Society. A discussion was initiated with the Management team of Sampath Bank to re-structure the monthly donations.
- **Teejay Lanka Plc** - Rs. 500,000 for 2016 for use on Society projects, with opportunity to expand this commitment for future years

Our sincere thanks to all of our sponsors for their commitment to the Society and to the cause of conservation.

The Committee formulated a three (3) year plan for key projects from 2016 - 2018:

1. Reforestation of A Rainforest - ROAR
2. Schools Nature Clubs - SNC
3. WNPS Photography Competition
4. Wetland Walk
5. Enhance Environmental awareness with Journalists
6. Human Elephant Conflict Mitigation policy
7. Conserve Net - finding a solution to increase the number of veterinarians within the Wild Life Department

These plans are still in their infancy but, we believe, the Society is moving in the right direction. The Committee is in discussions with the Commercial Bank, Sampath Bank, People's Leasing, Canon - Metropolitan and a few other companies to work towards the goal of achieving the funding for all the chosen projects. If any member has an idea to find the Society more funding, please get in touch with either the Chair of the Sub-committee or the Hon. Treasurer. Your assistance will be greatly valued.



## **Bungalows**

In 2016, the bungalows continued to be a drain on the resources of the Society, as they have been for some considerable time now (see analysis below), that is except for the Yala Bungalow.

For year 2016, Yala Bungalow generated a surplus for the Society of Rs 188, 455.00 (as opposed to the loss of over Rs. 5, 000.00 in 2015). The improvement was a result of the bungalow being made available to non-members, with the new bungalow keeper also encouraged to promote the venue where possible. These occupants, however, are subject to the rules and regulations of the Society as per the terms of occupation of the bungalows, and can only book them if there has not been a prior booking by a member. The Yala Bungalow has the potential of raising an even greater income for the Society in 2017.

Sadly the same success cannot be reported for the Uda Walawe and Wilpattu Bungalows. They made losses of Rs 487, 874.40 (which includes Rs. 100,000/- as society expenses for refurbishment) and Rs 116, 942.70 respectively in 2016. The Society cannot afford to sustain this continuing loss which deprives the organisation of resources necessary for its primary purpose - that of addressing issues pertinent to the protection of wildlife and nature.

With not even members patronising these bungalows in any reasonable number to meet the cost of their maintenance, the only recourse for the General Committee is to outsource the Management of these two bungalows, for a fixed monthly remuneration, while retaining the priority for members' bookings, at a subsidised rate. As with Yala, the rules and regulations of the Society would be maintained in the administration of the bungalows.

As such, from January 1, 2017, the Uda Walawe Bungalow will be managed by Niluka Safaris for a sum of Rs. 20,000/- per month during the 1st two years and Rs. 25,000/- per month for the 3rd year. The bungalow has been refurbished and the garden re-designed, and we would recommend our members to patronise it once more. The location and easy access to the Park are added attractions when occupying it.

It is hoped to find a similar partner to manage the Wilpattu Bungalow..

<b>Income/Expenditure</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>Rs. ['000]</b>	<b>Rs. ['000]</b>	<b>Rs. ['000]</b>	<b>Rs. ['000]</b>	<b>Rs. ['000]</b>	<b>Rs. ['000]</b>
<b>YALA</b>						
Booking Income	759	766	496	461	463	597
Expenses						
Staff Costs	283	322	299	325	410	334
Maintenance	96	422	180	130	58	74
<b>Net</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>188</b>
<b>UDA WALAWE</b>						
Booking Income	167	188	176	195	180	89
Expenses						
Staff Costs	225	319	365	402	442	381
Maintenance	426	240	149	163	104	195
<b>Net</b>	<b>(484)</b>	<b>(371)</b>	<b>(338)</b>	<b>(370)</b>	<b>(366)</b>	<b>(488)</b>
<b>WILPATTU</b>						
Booking Income	296	319	205	307	244	207
Expenses						
Staff Costs	277	330	350	376	438	276
Maintenance	123	247	125	83	63	48
<b>Net</b>	<b>(104)</b>	<b>(258)</b>	<b>(270)</b>	<b>(152)</b>	<b>(257)</b>	<b>(117)</b>
<b>CUMULATIVE</b>						
Booking Income	1, 222	1, 273	877	963	887	891
Expenses						
Staff Costs	785	971	1, 014	1, 103	1, 290	990
Maintenance	645	909	454	376	225	317
<b>Net</b>	<b>(208)</b>	<b>(607)</b>	<b>(591)</b>	<b>(516)</b>	<b>(628)</b>	<b>(416)</b>

## **PRESS AND PUBLICITY**

Mr Rukshan Jayewardene - Chair  
Mr Spencer Manuelpillai  
Mr Rohan Wijesinha  
Mr Vidya Abhayagunawardena

The WNPS organised a press conference to draw attention to the long-term environmental damage being caused by the increased activity at the Pallenkandal Church in the Wilpattu National Park. In addition, the Society has increased its use of the media to highlight other environmental issues. As well as traditional media, the Society has deployed its social media platforms to amplify its messages.

## **MEMBERS PARTICIPATION & MONTHLY LECTURE SERIES**

Mr Spencer Manuelpillai  
Mr Rukshan Jayewardene  
Ms. Tami Flamer Caldera

The public Lecture Series of the Society has gained popularity due to the hosting of a variety of environmental and conservation topics being presented by eminent speakers. Due to the increasing attendance at these lectures, the venue was moved from the Meteorological Department to the Dutch Burgher Union, eventually finding a permanent, convenient and comfortable venue at the BMICH. We sincerely thank the Nations Trust Bank for their long-term support of the Lecture Series. The series has also created extensive media coverage with both pre-event and post-event reviews of selected lectures.

The monthly lecture is recorded and edited with the compliments of Pro Image. Most of the programmes are available on the WNPS website.

Our appreciation to Sarva Integrated for the creative support extended and Dilmah Tea for providing a refreshing cup of tea to members for fellowship after the lecture.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Guest Speaker</b>
January	Monkey Kingdom - Primate social evolution and conservation	Dr. Wolfgang Dittus, Ph. D.
February	Butterflies of Sri Lanka and their origins	Dr. George Michael van der Poorten, Ph.D
March	The leopard in Sri Lanka	Dr. Andrew Kittle & Ms. Anjali Watson
April	No Lecture	
May	The Leopards of Londolozi	Mr. Don Heyneke
June	Human-crocodile conflict in Sri Lanka	Mr Dinal J S Samarasinghe
July	Horton Plains under Threat	Mr Rohan Pethiyagoda
August	The birth of the Indian Ocean	Prof Mathias Harzhauser
September	Civil Society's Role in Conservation	Dr. Sumith Pilapitiya Ph. D.
October	Sri Lanka's Small Cats in big trouble!	Ms Anya Ratnayaka
November	The Importance of Bird Illustration in Ornithology	Mr Lester Perera
December	No Lecture	

## **IT & WEBSITE**

### **Committee Members**

Mr Darrel Bartholomeusz - Chair  
 Mr Ravindralal Anthonis  
 Ayanthi Samarajeewa

Mr Sriyan De Silva Wijeyeratne  
 Mr Namal Kamalgoda - Co-opted

The website is being re-designed to incorporate online payment facilities to enable members to pay their subscriptions more conveniently, and promptly.

## **LIBRARY**

### **Committee Members**

Mr. Rohan Wijesinha (Chair)

Mr. Naresha Supramaniam

The scanning of the old issues of Loris continues apace. In addition, a project is pending to bring the Indices of Loris up-to-date.

The Library continues to be for reference purposes only.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### ***Loris***

Volume 27 (issues 3 & 4) was published, though it is regrettable that the promised sponsorship from the Sri Lanka Tourism Authority (SLTA) is still pending, despite numerous reminders and assurances. The last issue carried a message from the Chairperson of the SLTA and an advertisement, as well. The Committee intends to continue pursuing this with them.

In this context, it is pleasing to note that the Nations Trust Bank (NTB) has given a firm undertaking to sponsor both *Loris* and *Warana*, from 2017, for the next three (3) years. The total value of the sponsorship will be Rs. 4.5 Million. This ensures that the Society can now revert to two (2) issues of each publication every year. Our sincere appreciation to NTB for their generous investment in the Society's publications. Particular thanks are due to Committee Member Mr. Jehan CanagaRetna whose tireless efforts made this agreement possible.

It is hoped that the next issue of *Loris* will be ready for publication in April 2017.

### ***Warana***

The very first bilingual issue of *Warana* was published, the publication has gone through an overhaul to improve the finished product.

## **DONATIONS FOR 2016**

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

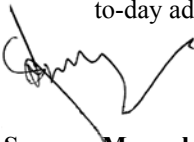
<b>Name of Donor</b>	<b>(Rs.)</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Donation from members	82,065	
Mr. Rahula Dassanaieke	8,000	Repairs at Udawalawa
Little Explorers Pre School	110,000	ETH heaters
Mr. A.N. Delgoda	5,000	Legal fund
Mr. M L A C Sanjeeva	1,700	Society Expenses
Prof. L.D. Fernando	10,000	Society Expenses
Mr. Rohan Pethiyagoda	102,400	Proceeds of books and posters provided for sale
Collection from Tills	19,763	
Mr. Daya Gunawardena	1,000	Legal fund
Mr. Sriyan De Silva Wijerathne	75,000	Society Expenses

Mr. Sriyan De Silva Wijerathne	75,000	Legal fund
Nations Trust Bank	260,000	Public Lecture series
Sampath Bank	1,338,995	Society Expenses
Brandix	747,150	Society Expenses
Total	2,761,073	
<b>NON FINANCIAL DONATIONS</b>		
Mr. Imran Jabeer	Linen	ROAR Project
Mr. RohanPethiyagoda	Books & posters	Society Expenses
Mr. Navin de Croos	20 piece tea set, 12 glasses & 6 tea cups and saucers	Roar Project
M/s. J. C. International	4 Lap tops	ROAR Project
Mr. J. Thoradeniya	2 Lap tops	ROAR Project
Prof. Lakdas Fernando	Roar office items	ROAR Project
Mr. Darrel Bartholomeusz	12 glasses & 2 mosquito nets	Wilpattu Bungalow
Dr. M. N. Burhan	Maintenance items	Yala bungalow

## 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 the **Sampath Bank** for their continued financial support of the Society.
- The Chair and the Board of Directors of **Nations Trust Bank** for their financial support for the public lectures.
- The Chair and the Board of Directors of **Brandix Lanka Ltd.** for their 3 year commitment to support Society projects.
- The Chair and the Board of Directors of **Teejay Lanka PLC** for their financial to support Society projects.
- The Chair and the Board of Directors of the **Commercial Bank** for their annual bulk purchase of the Society's Greeting Cards.
- The Chair and Directors of **David Pieris Group of Companies** for their bulk purchase of Society Greeting Cards.
- **M/s Dilmah Teas** for providing refreshments to the attendees at the Society's Monthly Series of Lectures.
- **M/s Ceylon Printers Limited** for the printing of Loris and other stationery items for the Society.
- **M/s Tudor V. Perera** for its continued services as the Annual Auditors of the Society & **M / s Corporate Doctors** for their audit verification.
- **The Rotary Club of Colombo West and M/s Bureau Veritas**, for the support extended to implement the ROAR Project.
- **Pro Image** for video coverage for monthly lectures.
- **Sarva Integrated** for creative support.
- Nanu Perera and Sheranga Rajasuriya for assistance with the Press Conference.
- **Leaf Digital Printing** for restoration, re-print and framing of Past Presidents' portraits.
- 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*

# WNPS TREASURER'S REPORT 2016

## Executive Summary

The focus for 2016 was to improve the sustainability of the Society's income sources, whilst reducing losses through its operations, thereby providing a base from which to expand membership in 2017 and continue the Society's involvement on key issues pertaining to environmental conservation.

The Society recorded a surplus of Rs. 65,179.27, a positive compared to the loss of Rs. 900,978 recorded in 2015. It is notable that the donations exceeded Rs. 2,700,000 during the year, and with the initiative of 'Green Corp' funding of Rs. 2,200,000 has already been committed for 2017. In addition to above the contribution of Rs. 500,000 from Teejay Lanka PLC, provided in total within 2016 for general WNPS conservation initiatives was channelled directly to ROAR Project. The Administrative costs have increased by 15.7%, however this included Rs. 232,536.93 which was a readjustment charge for Rates on the WNPS Secretariat. Operational losses on Bungalows had been an ongoing challenge as highlighted in the relevant Sub Committee report. An improvement is seen on this front with the loss for 2016 being Rs. 416, 362, a reduction of 33% compared to 2015.

The Fund Raising Committee has put greater focus on securing longer term funding from corporate donors through the 'Green Corp' initiative. This included numerous engagements with Corporates, with some results being realized in 2016. To support this it was identified that the Society needed to streamline the financial management policies and practices. The Sri Lanka Statement of Recommended Practice For Not-for-Profit Organizations, developed by Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka was adopted as a base document by which to draft a 'Guideline on Financial Management' within WNPS. Whilst put into practice at the start of 2017, the policy was adopted by the General Committee and implemented from 1st April 2017.

As mentioned above, whilst operational losses on bungalows reduced in 2016, the General Committee was keen to develop a sustainable solution to ensure that the membership is provided the benefit, but the operations do not continue to drain the Society's reserves. Based on priority, as explained in the relevant Sub Committee report the Udawalawe bungalow was out-sourced WEF 1st January 2016 for a period of 3 years, whilst the management contract scheme would be considered for Wilpattu bungalow in 2017. WNPS would continue to manage Yala directly, but look at opportunities to improve its occupancy rates. The General Committee is pleased to be able to offer the membership better bungalow facilities at the same cost.



Whilst our external focus on funding was strong we could have improved on the collections of Membership subscription payments by Ordinary Members. A total of only 192 members had paid the annual subscriptions on time for 2016 (with 168 members paying within the year, balance being advances paid in 2014/2015). The subscription income reflects Rs. 1,500 being membership fee from 3 Junior members. Whilst 88 new Junior members joined WNPS in December 2016 at the ‘Wetland Walk’ event their subscription fee for 2017 is retained under the project fund, and will be adjusted in the 2017 accounts. Collection of subscription payments from 400 Ordinary members would be the target for 2017, including collection of arrears.

<b>Name of Donor</b>	<b>2015 Rs.</b>	<b>2016 Rs.</b>
Annual subs paid for current year	504,750	339,500
New Life membership	30,000	
Arrears	143,000	161,525
Advances for 2016	46,250	
Advances for 2017		89,750
<b>Total as in audited report under Annual Subscriptions</b>	<b>724,000</b>	<b>590,775</b>

*Note: The subscription charge for 2 new Life Members are reflected in the Life Member Fund as per agreed policy.*

Shortcomings within the Society membership database management system has been identified as key reason why subscription collections and membership engagement cannot be streamlined. Whilst the system shows a membership of 3,592 in total, of which 1,911 are Ordinary Members actual paid membership has been below 400 in the recent past. Several initiatives to address this gap have been put in place and will yield positive results in 2017. This includes a re-vamped membership management system, activation of online & card (debit/ credit) payment facilities, increased focus on membership servicing by the WNPS Administrative team. The re-vamping of the WNPS web site will also support this. The General Committee sees great opportunity to expand membership using the successful platforms in place, i.e., Public Lectures, ‘Wetland Walk’, ‘Green Corp’, etc. By 2020 the goal for WNPS should be to manage its operational expenses solely from membership subscriptions, leaving all other funds generated for important conservation related programs.

Whilst we continue our expansion on projects and membership, we need to continue manage our costs more prudently. There is a need for WNPS to adopt technology where relevant. Opportunities to leverage Email, Mobile and other internet platforms for correspondence, thereby reducing postage charges is an obvious example. Certain legacy practices must be reviewed, whilst ensuring the objective is met. This would also enable the Society to become more relevant for the younger age groups, who need to be attracted into the WNPS membership as a priority. It was with this in mind that the 'Future Leaders' Internship was launched in 2016, with 2 interns having completed short stints with the Society within 2016. The inputs obtained from the Interns were very useful to re-visit some ways of working within WNPS, especially how we market ourselves as an organization. This program will continue in 2017 as well.

The below table provides a view on some key indicators on the Society's position;

### Financial Evaluation of last Five (5) years

Income	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Subscriptions	493,600	497,200	551,690.00	724,000.00	590,775.00
Donations	1,467,925	1,706,046.00	2,660,065.00	1,434,785.00	2,761,073.00
Profit on sales of Greeting Cards & other items	896,627	908,228.00	311,908.00	426,000.00	560,628.28
Interest on Investment	55,966	207,517.00	329,740.00	230,061.00	268,184.55
Gain / (Loss) on Bungalows	(960,673)	(591,412.00)	(515,006.00)	(626,539.00)	(416,362.10)
Gain / (Loss) on Loris / Warana			42,520.00	117,225.00	51,307.44
<b>Administration</b>	2,604,949	2,753,387.00	3,117,094.00	3,268,273.00	3,781,886.14
Income over expenditure	321,607	113,827.48	298,136.30	(900,978)	65,179.27
<b>Fund Employed</b>					
Accumulated Fund	7,568,381.00	7,624,995.00	10,127,215.00	8,115,938.12	8,181,117.39
Specific funds	8,831,652.00	9,411,845.00	8,490,473.00	8,948,322.00	9,492,849.83
Net current asset	758,573.00	840,159.00	2,173,310.00	2,048,629.67	2,944,910.42

The differences on the Life Membership and Scientific fund continue from 2015. As explained at the last AGM/SGM the difference is a result of monies being utilized from said funds to cover operational expenses and bungalow losses. Plan of action to close this gap includes a proposal to amortize the Life Membership fund over 15 years, which will enable the variance to be closed in under 4 years. It is intended to re-invest into the Scientific Fund once the bungalow losses are addressed and close this variance by end 2018.

	<b>Fund balance</b>	<b>Investment</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Life Membership Fund	1,876,852.90	1,459,353.40	417,499.50
Scientific Research Fund	7,012,561.95	6,789,512.72	223,049.23
Educational and Propaganda Trust Fund	357,061.93	357,061.93	-
Patron's Fund	246,373.05	246,373.05	-
	9,492,849.83	8,852,301.10	640,548.73

Our focus in 2017/18 should be to address the financial sustainability of the Society by closing all loss making avenues, driving fund raising & subscription collections more aggressively to support projects/ initiatives and manage expenses better.



**Ishan Rajasuriya**  
*Hon. Treasurer*

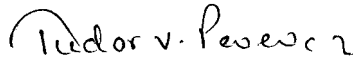
## **REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF WILDLIFE AND NATURE PROTECTION SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA**

1. We have examined the Statement of Financial Position of Wildlife and Nature Protection Society of Sri Lanka as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016, 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: 7.4.2017

**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**

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As at 31st December,

		2016	2015
	Notes	Rs. Cts.	Rs.
<b>Funds Employed</b>			
Accumulated Fund	5	8,181,117.39	8,115,938
Specific Funds	6	9,492,849.83	8,948,322
		<u>17,673,967.22</u>	<u>17,064,260</u>
<b>Employment of Funds</b>			
Property, Plant and Equipment	7	7,282,212.08	7,503,932
Specific Fund Investment	8	8,852,301.61	8,447,773
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Stock in Trade		1,035,151.47	741,064
Debtors, Deposits and Advances		110,589.43	217,912
Cash and Cash Equivalents		2,682,547.85	1,954,803
		<u>3,828,288.75</u>	<u>2,913,778</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Creditors and Accrued Charges		63,272.22	31,177
Current Tax Liabilities		2,235.00	1,000
Income Received in Advance		549,338.00	449,338
Bank Balance Overdrawn		268,533.11	383,634
		<u>883,378.33</u>	<u>865,149</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		2,944,910.42	2,048,630
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Retirement Benefit Obligation		571,200.00	394,500
Projects Repayable	9	834,256.38	541,575
		<u>17,673,967.22</u>	<u>17,064,260</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-2017

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

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**For the Year Ended 31st December,**

	Notes	2016	2015
		Rs. Cts.	Rs.
<b>Income</b>			
Subscription - Annual		590,775.00	724,000
Donations		2,761,073.00	1,434,784
Entrance fee		51,000.00	64,500
Profit on Sale of Greeting Cards, Books and Other Items		560,628.28	425,653
Interest on Investment		268,184.55	230,062
Other Income		9,040.00	16,300
Net gain in publishing “Loris” and “Warana”		51,307.44	117,225
		4,292,008.27	3,012,523
<b>Expenses</b>			
Administration Expenses		3,781,886.14	3,268,273
Financial Expenses		27,345.76	17,758
Loss on Bungalow Operations		416,362.10	626,538
		(4,225,594.00)	(3,912,569)
<b>Income over Expenditure for the Year</b>		66,414.27	(900,046)
Taxation for the Year		(1,235.00)	(932)
<b>Balance carried over to Accumulated Fund</b>		65,179.27	(900,978)

# WILDLIFE & NATURE PROTECTION SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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**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,**

	2016 Rs. Cts.	2015 Rs.
<b>5. Accumulated Fund</b>		
Balance as at the Beginning of the Year	8,115,938.12	9,081,143
Adjustments	-	(64,227)
Excess of Income over Expenditure for the Year	<u>65,179.27</u>	<u>(900,978)</u>
Balance as at the End of the Year	<u><u>8,181,117.39</u></u>	<u><u>8,115,938</u></u>
<b>6. Specific Funds</b>		
<b>6.1. Life Membership Fund</b>		
Balance as at the Beginning of the Year	1,811,295.99	1,796,914
<u>Add/(Less):</u>		
Interest Credited	226.91	14,382
Membership Fees	<u>65,330.00</u>	-
Balance as at the End of the Year	<u><u>1,876,852.90</u></u>	<u><u>1,811,296</u></u>
<b>6.2. Scientific Research Fund</b>	7,012,561.95	6,565,191
<b>6.3. Educational and Propaganda Trust Fund</b>	357,061.93	339,399
<b>6.4. Patron's Fund</b>	<u>246,373.05</u>	<u>232,435</u>
<b>Total Specific Funds</b>	<u><u>9,492,849.83</u></u>	<u><u>8,948,322.00</u></u>

**7. Property, Plant and Equipment**

	As at 01.01.2016	Additions	Depreciation for the year	As at 31.12.2016
Building and Bungalow	6,947,742.03	-	173,693.55	<b>6,774,048.48</b>
Furniture and Fittings	114,542.40	-	11,454.24	<b>103,088.16</b>
Office Equipment	72,449.42	-	18,112.35	<b>54,337.06</b>
Sundry Assets	369,198.29	-	18,459.91	<b>350,738.37</b>
Total Property, Plant and Equipments	<u>7,503,932.14</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>221,720.06</u>	<u><u>7,282,212.09</u></u>

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

**For the Year Ended 31st December,**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>Rs. Cts.</b>	<b>Rs.</b>
<b>8. Specific Fund Investment</b>		
<b>8.1. Life Membership Fund Investment</b>		
<i>Savings Account</i>		
a) Hatton National Bank PLC A/c. No. 002020615642	<b>9,353.40</b>	3,797
<i>Fixed Deposits</i>		
b) Hatton National Bank PLC A/c. No. 002031154042	<b>750,000.00</b>	750,000
c) Hatton National Bank PLC A/c. No. 002031168445	<b>700,000.00</b>	700,000
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>1,459,353</u></b>	<u>1,453,797</u>
<b>8.2. Scientific Research Fund Investment</b>		
<i>Fixed Deposits</i>		
a) Bank of Ceylon - A/c.No. 368088	<b>353,892.16</b>	330,468
b) Hatton National Bank PLC - A/c. No. 002031064643	<b>2,050,321.66</b>	1,934,332
c) National Savings Bank - A/C No.200801074334	<b>1,154,178.63</b>	1,089,053
d) Hatton National Bank PLC - A/C No.002031168735	<b>1,500,000.00</b>	1,500,000
<i>Savings Account</i>		
e) Hatton National Bank PLC - A/c No.002020228737	<b>3,534.38</b>	3,422
<i>Current Account</i>		
f) Hatton National Bank PLC - A/c No. 002010014493	<b>317,285.89</b>	254,072.36
g) Treasury Bills	<b><u>1,410,300.00</u></b>	<u>1,310,794.01</u>
<b>Total Scientific Fund Investment</b>	<b><u>6,789,512.72</u></b>	<u>6,422,142.06</u>
<b>8.3. Education and Propaganda Fund Investment</b>	<b>357,061.93</b>	339,399.41
<b>8.4. Patron's Fund Investment</b>		
<i>Fixed Deposits</i>		
a) Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC-A/c. No.32900335220	<b>246,373.05</b>	232,435.34
<b>Total Investment Value</b>	<b><u>8,852,301.61</u></b>	<u>8,447,773.30</u>

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

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**For the Year Ended 31st December,**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>Rs. Cts.</b>	<b>Rs.</b>
<b>9 Projects</b>		
9.1. Diyapothakanda Project	-	402,850
9.2. Bio - Diversity Project	<b>72,810.00</b>	72,810.00
9.3. Ehatuwewa Project	<b>8,715.00</b>	65,915
9.4. Koskulana Project	<b>(81,095.00)</b>	-
9.5. Roar Project	<b>443,253.63</b>	-
9.6. Wild Cat Project	<b>358,500.00</b>	-
9.7. Human Elephant Workshop	<b>(13,130.25)</b>	-
9.8. Wetland Walk	<b>45,203.00</b>	
	<u><b>834,256.38</b></u>	<u>541,575</u>

**WILDLIFE AND NATURE PROTECTION SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA**  
**MINUTES OF THE 122<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING -**  
**28<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016.**

By notice dated March 1, 2016, the 122<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society (WNPS) was summoned at 5.00 pm on May 28, 2016 at the Auditorium of the Department of Meteorology, 383 Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7. The meeting commenced at 5.10 pm. The following members were present:

Mr. R. A. Abeyaratne, Mr. C. J. Abeygunasekera, Mr. Vidhya Abhayagunawardena, Dr. I. Amarasinghe, Mr. R. L. Amarasinghe, Mr. A. Anandagoda, Mr. Ravindralal Anthonis, Mr. Dayananda Athuraliya, Mr. L. D. Bartholomeusz, Ms. S. Bhairavi, Mr. A. H. Bin Ahamed, Mr. A. I. Bin Ahamed, Mr. J. CanageRatna, Mr. W. N. S. Canagaratna, Mr. Rahula Dassenaik, Mr. Ravi Deraniyagala, Ms. Bernadine De Silva, Dr. Nirmali De Silva, Mr. Ravi de Silva, Mr. Sriyan de Silva Wijeyaratna, Mr. Anil Dharmasena, Mr. Niranjan Dias Bandaranayake, Mr. Ekendra Edirisinghe, Mr. S. C. Edussuriya, Dr. Anoja Fernando, Mr. Gamini Fernando, Prof. Lakdas D. Fernando, Dr. Malik Fernando, Cmdr. N. G. A. Fernando, Mr. Sena Fernando, Mr. Shamindra Fernando, Ms. T. A. Flamer Caldera, Dr. J. H. Gallangoda, Mr. Charitha Gooneratne, Mr. Upali A. Gooneratne, Mr. Deepal Gunaratne, Mr. M. M. S. C. Gunaratne, Mr. Prasad Gunaratne, Ms. Manori Gunawardena, Ms. Ashani Gopallawa, Ms. Soraya Hassan, Mr. N. Herath, Mr. P. B. Herath, Mr. K. Jayakumar, Dr. Tilak Jayaratne, Mr. Anura Jayasundara, Ms. Menake Jayawardene, Mr. Jayantha Jayewardene, Mr. Rukshan Jayewardene, Ms. Indira Kahandaliyanage, Mr. M. Karunaratne, Ms. S. Kotagama, Mr. D. J. S. Kumarajeewa, Mr. Gayan Maduwage, Mr. Spencer Manuelpillai, Ms. Charmaine Mendis, Eng. Anton Nanayakkara, Mr. M. Shari Omar, Mr. Chandrawansa Pathiraja, Mr. Arjuna Perera, Mr. E. P. Perera, Dr. Hemantha Perera, Mr. Lalantha Perera, Mr. U. L. C. N. J. Perera, Ms. Damayanthi Pieris, Ms. Gun Pieris, Mr. Jehan Pieris, Mr. Ranil Pieris, Mr. Riahn Pieris, Mr. Ishan Rajasuriya, Mr. V. Rajendran, Mr. Shehan Ramanayake, Mr. Douglas Ranasinghe, Mr. L. P. Ranasinghe, Mr. Nandalal Ranasinghe, Mr. C. J. Ratnapala, Mr. R. S. Ratnapala, Mr. Sanjeeva Ratnapala, Mr. Janek Rodrigo, Ms. I. Samarasinghe, Maj. Gen. W. BhaniSoysa, Mr. D. A. Thenabadu, Ms. M. Thompson, Mr. G. V. Tissera, Ms. A. G. Menike Tittagalle, Maj. Raajiv Wanigasekera, Mr. S. A. Welgama, Mr. Rohan Wijesinha, Mr. John D. Wilson,

## **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:

Mr. P. I. Pieris

Mr. A. M. De S. Ubeysekera

Mr. E. J. I. Elapatha

## **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. Sunil De Costa

Mr. Dammika Attygalle

Rev. Fr. Vimal Tirimanna

Capt. S. Senthorselvan

Ms. Chandima Munindarasa

Mr. Jayantissa Ratwatte

Hon. Mr. Karu Jayasuriya

Mr. P. M. Abeyesekera

Mr. Ranjith Dias

Mr. Naresh Supramaniam

Ms. Caryl Tozer

Mr. Buddhika Kurukularatne

Mr. Cecil Dharmasena

Ms. S. Abeysuriya

Mr. E. S. Rajiah

Mr. Nalin Ranatunga

Mr. S. K. Attygalle

Mr. Lalith Ranatunga

Rev. Fr. K. I. Padukka

Mr. Nihal Gunawardena

Mr. S. Miththapala

Mr. Leonard C. Ludekens

## **ITEM 3 - ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 121<sup>ST</sup> AGM**

The minutes of the 121st AGM were taken as read as proposed by Dr. Malik Fernando and seconded by Mr. Janek Rodrigo.

## **ITEM 4 - ANNUAL REPORT 2014**

The Hon. General Secretary tabled the Annual Report for 2015. The following matters were raised in relation to it:

### **Wilpattu Case**

- Mr. Sanjeeva Ratnapala queried as to the latest status of the Wilpattu Case as referred to in the report of the Conservation Sub-committee. Mr. Rukshan Jayewardene informed him that in March 2016, the case appeared in Court and the Road Development Authority were made a party to the case which was then adjourned for later in the year.

## **Suggestion for the future appointment of a Director - Operations**

- Messrs. Sanjeeva Ratnapala and Arjuna Perera raised concerns about the Hon. General Secretary's reference in the Annual report that in future, the Society would have to consider the appointment of a salaried Director of Operations to drive the decisions made by the General Committee. Mr. Ratnapala stated that the Society had, traditionally, had volunteer Committee Members and that in such case, committee members should be appointed who had the time to devote to the Society's functions. Mr. Arjuna Perera stated that such a policy decision should be approved by the General Membership and not just be a decision of the General Committee.

The Hon. General Secretary informed the meeting that this was just his suggestion for future consideration. The volume and complexity of the issues facing conservation today are such that the Society cannot handle them all alone, with many requiring legal intervention, and a full time officer was needed to monitor these issues, implement the Committee's policy and form partnerships with other like-minded organizations to ensure that as many matters as possible could be dealt with - the Society not having the resources to tackle everything on its own. He also assured the House that such a decision, if it was ever taken by a future Committee, would be placed before the membership for its approval.

- Mr. Sarath Edussuriya recommended that the District Representative System be reactivated to assist the General Committee with its work. The President endorsed this proposal referring to the accessibility that the country now has to the forests of the North & East, and the potential threats facing them.

## **Schools' Nature Club Programme**

- Mr. Sanjeeva Ratnapala objected to the following statement in the report of the Schools Nature Clubs Sub-committee:

*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!*

Mr. Ratnapala believed that it was not factual, and brought the Society into disrepute. He also accused the President of being prejudiced against the sub-committee concerned at the time, and of sabotaging its funding by the Nations Trust Bank. He stated that certificates had been printed distributed to all participants, and that there projects had also been returned to them.

The President reported that these were the sentiments expressed by the teachers of the school not only to him but also to Mr. Himesh Jayasinghe who conducted some programmes at these schools. In addition, he informed the house that he has never even stepped into a Nations Trust Bank let alone request them to withdraw their funding.

Mr. Sarath Edussuriya commented on the fact that the feedback he received from these schools was very different with them being extremely disappointed that the project came to an end, and that students and teachers had been in touch with him since the end of the project to express their satisfaction with it. He also stated that a report had been submitted by Mr. Athureliya and himself on the project.

Dr. Malik Fernando asked Mr. Edussuriya as to when the project was completed, and as to whether the accounts for the project were presented to the membership at an Annual General Meeting. Mr. Edussuriya responded that the project was completed in 2013, but that no accounts had been presented to the general membership, but that they were available with the project papers at the Head Office.

Mr. Edussuriya went on to accuse the President of raising this matter at an international forum in the Phillipines, thereby bringing the Society into further disrepute. Mr. Arjuna Perera stated that he had been at the same forum representing his company, and had been requested to represent the Society as well by the then Hon. General Secretary, Mr. Sarath Edussuriya. The present Hon. General Secretary asked Mr. Perera if his representation at the conference had been endorsed by the General Committee, as per procedure. He replied that he was not aware but that he had been asked to do so by the Hon. General Secretary. Mr. Edussuriya responded that he was not aware that the President was going to attend and that he had asked Mr. Perera to represent the Society. The Hon. General Secretary pointed out that this was against the procedure of the Society.

Mr. Sanjeeva Ratnapala proposed that an Independent Inquiry be held into the allegations leveled against the previous Schools Nature Club Committee, and to report back to the membership on the validity of the allegations made. The House was in favour of this. Subject to the findings of this Committee, the above paragraph will be withheld from the Annual Report, and expunged from it dependent on the outcome of the inquiry.



## **Bungalows**

Messrs. Arjuna Perera and Deepal Gunaratne raised the issue of the possible outsourcing of the bungalows and requested that nothing be done without checking the legal position first as these sites were given to the Society for its use and giving out the Management of these bungalows to a third party may breach the conditions under which the Society has been granted these lands. They also warned against the bungalows being sub-let for nefarious purposes, especially if given to former bungalow keepers to run.

The Chair of the Bungalows Committee explained that the idea was not to lease out the bungalows, but just to outsource their Management with the Management Company paying a monthly fee to the Society. In response to a question from Mr. Prasad Gunaratne, he also clarified that the Management Company would be responsible for the cost of the maintenance of the bungalows and of the payment of any staff recruited to it. He also confirmed that if any such decision was taken, it would be with the consent of the membership, and that in any case, the rights already enjoyed by members in booking the bungalows would be honoured in any such agreement.

The Hon. Treasurer explained to the house that apart from the two years immediately after the ending of the War, when the bungalows were patronized by members, that they have been making a loss to the Society of between Rs. 500, 000.00 to Rs. 600, 000.00 every year. There was insufficient income being generated from subscriptions to meet the administrative expenses of the Society, let alone effect refurbishments to the bungalows or even pay the Bungalow Staff competitive salaries. Members were no longer patronizing the bungalows and a solution had to be found.

Mr. Susantha Weligama recommended that the Committee contact the Tourist Board to see if they would be interested in entering into a partnership with the Society to place the bungalows on the itinerary of tour operators. He offered his assistance in such negotiations.

Mr. Kingsley Ratnapala stated that members were not patronizing the bungalows because of their lack of facilities. He made a plea to the Committee to find a way of attracting the funds to upgrade the bungalows without having to hand them over for others to manage.

## **Presidential Address**

Mr. Sanjeeva Ratnapala pointed out to the President that in 2009 two (2) resolutions had been passed, the first to reduce the Life membership Fee to Rs. 25, 000.00, and the

second to members of good standing, who had completed five (5) years as ordinary members, the opportunity to become Life Members for a reduced amount of Rs. 7, 500.00. He inquired as to why the President who was on the Committee had not objected to this then? He also pointed out an inaccuracy in the speech which stated that Life Membership could be obtained immediately on the payment of Rs. 7, 500.00, and wished this statement deleted. The President agreed to delete that statement from his speech.

Dr. Malik Fernando requested that the meeting return to the business of the day.

Subject to the above, the Annual Report was accepted as proposed by Mr. Arjuna Perera and seconded by Mr. Deepal Gunaratne.

## **ITEM 5 - ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

The Hon. Treasurer tabled the audited Annual Accounts for 2015. Mr. Deepal Gunaratne had a series of questions with regard to the following:

### **Life Fund**

- Between 2010 and 2013, 255 immediate Life Memberships were given out which, at a subscription of Rs. 15, 000.00 each, amounted to an income of approximately Rs. 3, 825, 000.00 (there may be some slight variation as a few of these may be conversions). In 2014 & 2015, just 23 Life Memberships were given out to the subscription value of Rs. 690, 000.00. This gives an approximate total of Rs. 4, 515, 000.00.

As per the tabled accounts, however, the Life Fund shows an amount of Rs. 1, 811, 295.99 in it. In addition, only an amount of Rs. 1, 453, 796.49 has been invested. What happened to the shortfall?

- The Life Fund needs to be prudently invested in order that the Society gains an income from it. Why is it that between 2010 & 2015, the monies collected have not been invested?
- What was the rate of interest given by the Hatton National Bank for the Life Fund Deposit in 2015?
- Why is a part of the Life Fund in a Savings Account?
- The membership details given should reflect how many members joined and how many left / were removed in a particular year.

The Hon. Treasurer explained that a part of the Life Fund had been ‘borrowed’, at that time, for the building of the Head Office and that this amount had never been paid back into it. As such, the accounts were adjusted to show the actual figure remaining in the fund.

Mr. Gunaratne continued:

### **Specific Fund Investment**

- Whereas on Page 30, the Specific Fund Total is given as Rs. 8, 948, 322.03, on Page 31 the Total Specific Fund Investment is given as Rs. 8, 447, 802.53. Why is there a shortfall of Rs. 500, 548.73 in investment?
- What does the total of Rs. 1, 954, 802.54 on Page 31 reflect?

The Hon. Treasurer explained that this was the total investment inclusive of the net interest earned. Mr. Gunaratne stated that the General Membership should be given transparent details on how these monies were invested with the provision of a detailed statement, and accompanying notes.

Mr. Gunaratne had these further points to raise:

### **Cash & Cash Equivalents**

- On Page 32, Cash & Cash Equivalents are given as Rs. 1, 954, 802.53, almost the identical figure to 2014. This figure is too high and a break up is required. In addition, why is it necessary to hold so much?

### **Balance Sheet**

- Page 26, which used to be the Balance Sheet, is now referred to as the Financial Position. This is incorrect nomenclature.
- Note 10 refers to Income received in Advance of Rs. 449, 338.00. A break up of this figure is required.
- Current liabilities should be shown in brackets. Why is there an unfavourable balance of Rs. 383, 633.95?

### **Income / Expenditure Accountants**

- Once again what should be the Income & Expenditure Account is also referred to as the Financial Position!

- There is a deficit of Rs. 900, 046.03 and this should correctly be shown as expenditure over income.
- The Annual Subscription figure given does not correspond to the ordinary membership number for 2015. A break up of the Entry Fee for new members should also be given.
- What is the rate of interest for which the interest income of Rs. 230, 061.00 was received?
- The amount spent for Administration Expenses is also very high and a detailed breakdown should be given.

Mr. Sanjeeva Ratnapala raised several issues with regard to the Diyakothakanda Project, mainly with regard to the Green Tear Concert, and the extra amount of Rs. 72, 422.96 showed in the accounts, and how was it there? The Hon. Treasurer informed the membership that these amounts would have been invested but that as he had not received any prior notice of this, or on the previous matters raised, to bring a breakdown of these accounts, as was the custom if such a breakdown was needed, that he could not give immediate answer to the queries made.

Mr. Ratnapala also made inquiry as to why no representative from the Auditors was present at the meeting as they could have cleared up some of these matters.

Mr. Jayantha Jayewardene commented that this was not a satisfactory state of affairs and that the adoption of accounts should be deferred to a Special General Meeting, while the rest of the business of the day was attended to. There was unanimous agreement to this and the General Committee were entrusted with fixing such a meeting, as per the Constitution of the Society.

Mr. Deepal Gunaratne offered to submit a written list of his queries to the Hon. Treasurer; an offer that was gratefully accepted.

## **ITEM 6 - ACCOUNTS OF THE WNPS EDUCATION & PROPAGANDA TRUST**

Matters pertaining to this will be taken up at the Special General Meeting, along with the other matters pertaining to the Annual Accounts.

## **ITEM 7 - PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**

Professor Lakdas Fernando delivered his Presidential Address which is appended at the end of this report.

Mr. Ratnapala objected to a reference made in the speech to the use of schoolchildren as labour in facilitating this project, pointing out that they were only used to plant and maintain the Nursery. The President agreed to have it deleted from his speech.

There were nine (9) vacancies on the General Committee for which the list of nominations had been submitted to the members on May 11, 2016. 12 nominations were received for these posts.

Mr. Jayantha Jayewardene was appointed as the Pro-Temp Chair. A secret ballot was conducted under Mr. Jayewardene's supervision for the election of the nine (9) vacancies. Accordingly, the following were duly elected to the General Committee for 2016 / 2017 (as per the total number of votes received):

Mr. Ravindralal Anthonis (40 Votes)	Dr. Hemantha Perera (45 Votes)
Mr. Darrel Bartholomeusz (49 Votes)	Mr. Ranil Pieris (51 Votes)
Mr. Jehan Canage Ratna (49 Votes)	Mr. Ishan Rajasuriya (40 Votes)
Mr. Sriyan de Silva Wijeyeratna (51 Votes)	Mr. Rohan Wijesinha (50 Votes)
Mr. Rukshan Jayewardene (55 votes)	

The following candidates failed to be elected:

Mr. Prasad Gunaratne (37 Votes)	Mr. Charitha Gooneratne (30 Votes)
Ms. Caryll Tozer (37 Votes)	

## **ITEM 9 - ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

The list of nominations had been submitted to the members on May 11, 2015. Mr. RavindralalAnthonis had since withdrawn his nomination for the post of Vice-President. As there were no contestants to the remaining candidates, the following were elected, unopposed, as Office Bearers for 2016 / 17:

<b><i>President</i></b>	:	Mr. Rukshan Jayewardene
<b><i>Vice President</i></b>	:	Mr. Rahula Dassenaik Mr. Ranil Pieris
<b><i>Hon. General Secretary</i></b>	:	Mr. Spencer Manuelpillai
<b><i>Hon. Treasurer</i></b>	:	Mr. Ishan Rajasuriya

## **ITEM 10 - ELECTION OF AUDITORS**

Mr. Tudor V. Perera & Company, Chartered Accountants, were duly elected as Auditors of the Society for the year 2016, as proposed from the Chair.

## **ITEM 11 - RESOLUTIONS**

Mr. Douglas Ranasinghe informed the House that a resolution that he had proposed that the General Committee write to the Patron of the Society requesting an annual donation of Rs. One (1) Million to the Society had been rejected by the General Committee. The Hon. General Secretary explained that, as already conveyed by letter to Mr. Ranasinghe, the President's Fund does not make annual contributions and that though this was a good proposal for obtaining some monetary assistance from the Patron, that it was not feasible in the form proposed. Mr. Kingsley Ratnapala stated that nevertheless, due to the seniority of Mr. Ranasinghe in the Society and of the posts he held within it, that his proposal should be discussed. The House shared this view and Dr. Malik Fernando recommended that the Hon. Patron be written to requesting an annual donation for the Society, without stipulating any source of funding.

A further resolution had been proposed by Messrs. Deepal Gunaratne & Douglas Ranasinghe to reduce the Life Membership of the Society back down to Rs. 15,000.00. This proposed Resolution, too, had been rejected by the General Committee as per the Constitution (Rule 5.1), which states that such a proposal for a subscription change must be made by the General Committee, and the present General Committee was not in favour of this proposed reduction. If this proposal was to be decided on by the House, then the Constitution needed to be changed first. The House accepted this and the matter was not further debated.

## **ITEM 12 - ANY OTHER MATTERS**

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



**Rohan Wijesinha**  
**Hon. General Secretary**

## **PROF. LAKDAS FERNANDO - PRESIDENT, WILDLIFE & NATURE PROTECTION SOCIETY**

It has been a great honour and a privilege to serve the Society, as its President, over the last three (3) years. It has been a tenure of office that had its successes and failures, but I hope today that I have achieved my main objective of guiding the Society out of the doldrums of the past, that of resting on its laurels, to where I hope it is, better prepared to confront the conservation and environmental challenges of this new age.

### **NEW BLOOD / NEW THINKING**

Two progressive measures we were able to implement were the reduction of the waiting time from five (5) years to two (2) years for a new member to be eligible to get into the General Committee, and the recognition of gender equality of allocating three (3) places in the Committee to female members. The first measure was to encourage young members to get more involved in the work of the Society as the Society was fast turning into an ‘Old Men’s Club’! The survival and the relevance of WNPS will depend on our ability to attract young people. They will bring with them new ideas and increased vigour, vitality and a determination to do more than just write letters to the authorities, and warm the seats around a Committee Table. If we are to save these pristine places, then the Society needs to be more proactive and be seen, once again, at the Top Table of Conservation, not languishing as it has for some time as a toothless tiger cowering behind its rich tradition while afraid to make its voice heard where it matters. The Society needs to be brave again, and unafraid to stand up and be counted, even if that means confronting the political hierarchy of this country. To get back to that position, the Society first needed to honestly assess where it is now, and what it has to do.

### **THE PRESENT REALITY**

The Society does not enjoy a membership of a few thousands as claimed in some Annual Reports of the past decade. There may be several thousand names in the Register, but only the number given in the Annual Report for 2015 have paid their subscriptions not just for that year, but for the years before. The others are just names on a page, and yet have been included in the final count. Even the dead have been counted!

Previous reports have referred to the bungalows as being a “Gold Mine” and yet scrutiny of the accounts show that they have consistently been making losses over the last decade - a shortfall that has increased every year. The fact is that Members - neither

the living nor the dead - no longer patronize the Society's bungalows! Measures are being taken to reverse this. Despite inspired locations, the buildings on them have little relevance to the modern age where the request, even from members, is for air conditioning and wi-fi. It is time that the Society exploit these locations and make these sites into real income generators by either outsourcing their Management, or by enticing the corporate world to sponsor the building of new bungalows on these sites, through a mutually beneficial arrangement. It is important, however, when making such agreements that members continue to hold their privileges when hiring these bungalows - those of booking them, and of access to the National Parks.

A few months' after my taking over the responsibility of President, it was possible to resurrect the privilege of purchasing the entrance tickets to Yala, Uda Walawe and Wilpattu for up to three (3) days. Judging by the bungalow bookings, very few of you have availed yourself of this facility!

### **A FOOL'S PARADISE**

The Society is 122 years old - the oldest of its kind in South Asia. It has been responsible for the setting up of the first National Parks in Sri Lanka, and was then instrumental in the formation of the Department of Wildlife Conservation. Ours is an organization with rich heritage, of which we should be very proud.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let us raise the Society back to where it should be, at the forefront of Conservation. Let us make it a Society of which it is a privilege to be a member. Let us make it a Society of which we can be proud again.

### **A SOCIETY OF RELEVANCE**

For all of this to happen, the Society needs new members, Ordinary Members who will not only pay regular subscription to the Society, but actively engage in its projects. There has been a belief that to help the Society in its efforts for conservation one has to be on the General Committee. This must explain why many members, inclusive of past Committee members, are only seen at the AGM. The function of the General Committee is to administer the operations of the Society. It is the job of the Sub-committees to take on matters concerned with the environment and conservation and other related matters. The Constitution decrees that the Chair of these committees must be a member of the General Committee. That is for purposes of communication and accountability. The rest can be 'ordinary members' of the Society.

It is this opportunity for active participation that will encourage new members to join the Society and make it relevant to the younger generations again. As I have mentioned



earlier, the days of just writing letters are over. They have become a laughing stock for the authorities concerned, and are destined for the waste bins. The Society has to be able to organize publicity campaigns, educational programmes and, when absolutely necessary, take legal action to challenge the destruction of the wilderness. In addition, there are too many fronts on which this battle has to be fought, and the Society must lead partnerships with other like-minded organizations in addressing the multitude of issues that confront conservation today. For all of this, money is necessary. Present subscriptions do not even meet the day-to-day administrative costs of the Society. Fund raising, therefore, has become a vital function of the Society, and I am happy to see that there are some new candidates to the General Committee who are committed to working on this very important task.

### **SOME SUCCESSES**

For the first time in the 122 year old history of the Society, the WNPS hosted an International Symposium on Wild Cats of South Asia. This was the first of its kind in Sri Lanka, and attracted several international and local experts on wild cats who presented papers and have pledged to engage in further such endeavours of the future. It was a feather in our cap to have been able to get Prof. David Mac Donald of Oxford University to Sri Lanka as the Keynote Speaker and, already, several Sri Lankan Cat Researchers have benefited from this meeting. Under the auspices of WNPS, a Wild Cat Working Group is being formed who will concentrate on issues affecting the protection of the wild cat populations in Sri Lanka. This was made possible by the generosity of the Mohammed bin Fayed Fund who gave an amount of \$10, 000.00 for the symposium, as well as IUCN who donated a further Rs.200, 000.00 towards it. The Society also made a modest profit from the participation fees. Recently, we received a further US\$2, 500/- from an anonymous donor from the US, through Dr. Jim Sanderson, an internationally acclaimed Small Cat Conservationist, giving a further boost to the Cat Working Group.

As the Annual Report details, the Society continues to be engaged in important legal cases that can have major impacts on the future of conservation in this country. In addition, the Society was one of the major representatives, with EFL and FEO, in meeting with the Organization of Mini-Hydro Power Projects, to explain the environmental concerns associated with these projects, and their responsibility to ensure that these are taken into consideration when such projects are planned.

Thanks to sponsorship from the Rotary Club, who have donated Rs.1.2 Million, the first phase of the project for the reforestation of Diyakothakanda (ROAR) has begun with the appointment of a Project Coordinator and the engagement of five (5) local

schools of the area. No easy task as they still bore the scars of the Society's previous venture there.

It is due to the untiring efforts of the Hon Gen Secretary, Rohan Wijesinha, and Prof. Praveen Abhayaratna that made this sponsorship possible.

At a time when Sri Lanka's forest cover is fast depleting, our efforts at Diyakothakanda are only symbolic. Climate change, carbon footprint, carbon neutral, etc are buzz words today but before long, people will realize their true meaning and the impact these could have on our daily lives. It is hoped that the carbon gains from our Diyakothakanda Project will negate the carbon footprint of our Colombo Office and allow us to be, at least, carbon neutral.

This time the project is being overlooked by a Management Committee, chaired by myself, and inclusive of technical experts who will guide the preparation and planting of the site. ....(deleted as per Minutes above). This (the work) will be done by hired labour. Instead, the intention is to give them (schoolchildren) learning, not only on conservation and its relevance to them, but also to give them training in other skills - presentation skills, project management, data analysis, etc. - so that they gain other tangible skills from the project that will help them in their future careers.

Most importantly, the intent is to give each school a plot within the Diyakothakanda Site for them to progressively monitor the biodiversity changes - a living laboratory which successive generations of schoolchildren will keep record of and study. They will also be encouraged to invite other schools to join the project and affiliate with the Society's Schools Nature Clubs - giving them a project that is of real value and significance for schoolchildren of today.

More funds will have to be raised for this project, a task for the Fund Raising Committee. My sincere thanks to the Rotary Club for their faith in us, and their generosity in giving what they have. Textured Jersey Lanka PLC and Bureau Veritas have also pledged a sum of Rs. 500, 000.00 each towards this project.

The project launch will take place on Sunday 5th June, World Environment Day, at the Dikhena Junior School near Badureliya, close to the project site. Any members who wish to attend this event should contact our Administrative Secretary, Mr. George Thambapillai.

In addition to this, negotiations are still pending on the project for the enrichment of Udawattakelle in Kandy.

## **REACHING OUT**

The Lecture Series has gone from strength to strength, attracting international speakers and, quite often, having full houses. I must thank Mr. Namal Kamalgoda and the others of the sub-committee for their untiring efforts. I must make particular mention of Dilmah Teas who have unfailingly provided refreshment to all those who attend the lectures, for several years now. Their continued support of the Society is greatly appreciated.

## **JOURNALS**

The next issues of Loris and Warana should be out next month. I wish to thank the Development Lotteries Board, Textured Jersey Lanka PLC and the Tourism Development Board for sponsoring Loris in 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively.

As mentioned before, Textured Jersey PLC has pledged a further Rs. 500, 000.00 towards the ROAR or Diyakothakanda Project. It was only yesterday that Bureau Veritas came with their pledge of Rs. 500, 000.00 for the project.

Warana is also with the printers at the moment and should be out within the next 3 - 4 weeks. A new feature that has been introduced by the new Editor, Mr. Vidhya Abhayagunawardena is to have both Sinhala and Tamil articles with translated abstracts. It is hoped that Warana will now find its way to the Schools in the North and East.

The electrical wiring of the Head Office has perished, posing a threat to those working in that office. Further it is a fire hazard that threatens our Library and the building itself. I must thank the Managing Director of Illukkumbura Automation Systems who came forward yesterday to help us out.

## **IN CONCLUSION**

I am delighted to hand over the reins of the Society to Mr. Rukshan Jayewardene. He needs no introduction having already indelibly made his mark in the conservation movement in Sri Lanka. He probably is the first President of the Society, in many a decade, who is under 60 years old! A welcome development. I wish him and his new Committee every success for the future. As the immediate Past President, I will be there too to help and advise, when required, particularly with the ROAR Project. I can assure you, Rukshan, that I will be doing more than just warming a seat on the Committee.

Finally, I wish to thank the General Committee, Editors of Loris and Warana, our Accountants, Corporate Doctors and the Auditors, Tudor V. Perera, as well as our Head Office Staff - George, Akshika and Ivan - for their unfailing support. Your assistance has been greatly appreciated.

Thank you all for your trust and support over these last three (3) years. Let us all work together to take the Society forward - back to the front of the conservation movement in Sri Lanka.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lakdas D. Fernando', written over a horizontal line.

**Prof. Lakdas D. Fernando**  
**President**

# **WILDLIFE AND NATURE PROTECTION SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA**

## **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING - 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2016**

By notice dated 24th June 2016 a Special General Meeting (SGM) of the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society (WNPS) was summoned at 5.00 pm on Saturday July 23, 2016 for the specific purpose of approving the Financial Accounts for the year 2015. Regrettably, the meeting had to be postponed as there were less than 50 members present, and as per the terms of the Constitution, the meeting was not quorate.

As per Section 10 Clause 10.6 of the Constitution, a further SGM will be called giving a further one month's notice.

### **The following members were present:**

Mr. D B Ranasinghe, Mr. S. Edussuriya, Mr. A de Vos, Mr. V. Rajendran, Prof. L D Fernando, Mr. S de S Wijeyeratna, Ms. G Pieris, Mr. J Pieris, Mr. R Pieris, Ms. A. Pieris, Mr. N Mohideen, Ms. D. Peiris, Ms. T Flamer-Caldera, Mr. M M D S Gunaratne, Mr. R B Wijesinha, Mr. M J Ahmed, Ms. A Samarajeewa, Mr. S Ratnapala, Mr. J CanagaRetna, Ms. A. Pieris, Mr. R A Jayewardene, Mr. U A Gooneratne, Mr. R. Amarasinghe, Mr. L S Manuelpillai, Ms. A. Gopollawa, Dr. [Ms.] N de Silva, Mr. I Rajasuriya, Ms. I Samarasinghe, Dr. [Ms.] I Y Amarasinghe, Mr. R Pieris, Mr. T V I Nishantha

### **Excuses:**

Mr. R. Anthonis, Mr. L H R P Deraniyagala, Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, Dr. M Fernando, Mr. S K Attygalle, Ms. C Silva.



**Spencer Manuelpillai**  
***Hon. General Secretary***

**WILDLIFE AND NATURE PROTECTION SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA**  
**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING - 18<sup>TH</sup>**  
**AUGUST 2016.**

By notice dated July 24, 2016, a Special General Meeting (SGM) of the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society (WNPS) was summoned at 5.00 pm on Thursday August 18, 2016, at the Dutch Burgher Union, 114 Reid Avenue, Colombo 4, for the specific purpose of approving the Financial Accounts for the year 2015:

**The following members were present:**

Mr. R. Anthonis, Mr. G V Tissera, Mr. D B Ranasinghe, Mr. C R Dias, Dr. M. Fernando, Mr. L Ramanayake, Mr. M H Tissera, Mr. N. Ranasinghe, Mr. A Kirtisingha, Prof. L D Fernando, Mr. S Canagaratna, Mr. V. Rajendran, Ms. K. de Soysa, Mr. B Perera, Dr. [Ms.] A Fernando, Mr. L Seneviratne, Mr. M Karunaratne, Mr. G Abeyratne, Mr. A I Gunawardena, Ms. J Dias Bandaranayake, Mr. S. de S. Wijeyeratna, Dr. H Perera Ms. M Jayawardena, Mr. R Pethiyagoda, Ms. S Hassan, Mr. N Supramaniam, Mr. M D S Edward, Mr. P Kannangara, Dr. [Ms.] E Corea, Ms. G Pieris, Mr. J Pieris, Mr. R Pieris, Ms. A Pieris, Ms. M J Bultjens, Mr. M D Perera, Mr. D C Subasinghe, Ms. T A Flamer-Caldera, Mr. I E Seneviratna, Mr. M M D S Gunaratne, Ms. B. de Silva, Ms. M. C. V. Mendis, Mr. R B Wijesinha, Ms. M. Gunawardena, Mr. M H Deane, Mr. K S Athulugama, Ms. C Silva, Mr. M. J. I. Ahmed, Ms. A Samarajeewa, Mr. S. Ratnapala, Mr. J CanagaRatna, Mr. A S Pieris, Mr. D. Bartholomeusz, Mr. V Abhayagunawardena, Mr. S Bandaranayake, Mr. R A Jayewardene, Mr. N P Perera, Mr. L S Manuelpillai, Mr. R V W Dias, Mr. C. Pathirajah, Ms. A. Gopallawa, Mr. C Siemon, Dr. [Ms.] N de Silva, Dr. Y Weeraratne, Mr. G M R. de Silva, Mr. D J S Kumarajeewa, Mr. S. Ramanayake, Ms. A. Seneviratne, Mr. R. Dassenaieke, Mr. R Dissanayake, Mr. L A I Perera, Mr. I Rajasuriya, Mr. K. Raymand. Mr. G Maduwage, Ms. M Seneviratne, Ms. M A Thompson, Mr. L Jayasinghe, Mr. C M Chandrasekera, Dr. T Jayaratna, Mr. P Wisenthige, Dr. [Ms.] I Amarasinghe, Mr. N Hapuarachchi, Ms. S Jayasuriya, Ms. C. Tozer, Ms. D Wijesinha, Mr. R S Delgoda, Mr. S N K Delgoda, Dr. K U Sirinanda, Col. S Jayawickrama

**Excuses:**

Mr. L H R P Deraniyagala, Hon. K Jayasuriya, Mr. S Edurusuriya, Mr. E Edirisinghe, Capt. S Senthooorselvan, Mr. D Attygalle, Ms. A Weerasuriya,

The Meeting was Chaired by the Hon. President, Mr. Rukshan Jayewardene.

A total of 88 [eighty eight] members attended this meeting at which the Hon. Treasurer presented the accounts and clarified the matters raised at the AGM.

Mr. Deepal Gunaratne then wished to have each point discussed at length. The President ruled that this was unnecessary as detailed explanation had already been given on each matter, and the House could make up its mind on the merits of them by a matter of vote.

The President then called for a vote from the House to pass the accounts for the year 2015 by calling for those voting **IN FAVOUR** of accepting the accounts to indicate so by a show of hands. As the majority of hands went up, and to facilitate an easy and quick count, the President requested those **NOT IN FAVOUR** of accepting the accounts to raise their hands instead. Only 4 [four] members raised their hands. The President then called for any **ABSTENTIONS** to indicate the same by a show of hands. Only 1 [one] member abstained.

Hence, the count of the vote was as follows

Members present	-	88
Members in favour	-	83
Members against	-	04
Members abstaining	-	01

As such, the Accounts for the year 2015 were passed by overwhelming majority.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5.45pm.



**Spencer Manuelpillai**  
*Hon. General Secretary*

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Notice under Rule 10.1.3**

As already intimated to you, in a notice dated March 01st 2017, the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on May 27th 2017, commencing at 5.00 p.m. in 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 2016 and the Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting and subsequent Special General Meetings are now available 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. Ms. Tami Flamer-Caldera     | 2. Maj. Raajiv Wanigasekera |
| 3. Mr. Vidya Abhayagunawardena | 4. Mr. Rahula Dassenaieke   |
| 5. Mr. Tilak Jayaratne         | 6. Mr. Spencer Manuelpillai |

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 06th, 2017.

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, 2017







***If undelivered please return to :***

Wildlife and Nature Protection  
Society of Sri Lanka (Ceylon)  
No. 86, Rajamalwatta Road,  
Battaramulla.