

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our country has just been through terrible turmoil and unspeakable loss. The WNPS too was impacted in that our entire plan for the 125th Anniversary had to be reset into different future timeframes. However, our work on conservation must push onwards as time is running out for our wilderness. Periods of turbulence are often abused by opportunists who slip through the cracks to plunder more forests, annex land and kill or illegally capture wild animals. Vigilance is key and we should create awareness and expose culprits wherever possible. We are encouraged with the increased role that youth are playing within WNPS and we hope to see more join our ranks. Please continue to stay connected with us and enjoy reading these snippets.

Sriyan de Silva Wijeyeratne



SINCERE THANKS TO OUR OUTGOING COMMITTEE OF 2018/19 FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK



MEET YOUR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICE BEARERS OF THE 125TH GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY. LEFT TO RIGHT: MR. DILSHAN HETTIARATCHI (HON. TREASURER), MS. TAMI FLAMER CALDERA (VICE PRESIDENT), MR. SRIYAN DE SILVA WIJEYERATNE (PRESIDENT), MR. JEHAN CANAGARETNA (HON. GENERAL SECRETARY) AND MR. SPENCER MANUELPIILLAI (VICE PRESIDENT)

WHERE IS WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN SRI LANKA TODAY?

Panel Discussion & Questions from the Audience. Moderated by Dr. Sumith Pilapitiya with panellist Rukshan Jayewardene, Dr. Prithviraj Fernando, Nishan Perera, Dr. Sampath Seneviratne

WNPS Monthly Lecture Wed 29th May
6pm to 8pm, Jasmine Hall BMICH

125th ANNIVERSARY

Nations TrustBank



A MOTHER LEOPARD TAKES A FRESH KILL TO FEED HER CUBS

CLICK THE PICTURE, TO READ A REPORT BY THE YOUTH AMBASSADORS ABOUT THEIR TRIP TO JAWAI, INDIA

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON

- **Wild Cat Subcommittee-** The Youth Ambassador programme initiated by the subcommittee started its activities with a visit to Jawai, India. The ambassadors learnt much about the co-existence of the Rabari tribes people with the leopards of the area. Upcoming plans for the committee includes educating the media on the portrayal of wild cats and other animals following incidents and encounters with humans and developing a leaflet to educate and raise awareness on human-wild-cat coexistence in Sri Lanka.
- **Conservation Subcommittee:** Recently concluded the Conservation Photography Competition, sponsored by Wijeya Graphics Pvt. Ltd. The purpose of having such a competition was to spread awareness on the vital role of conservation in protecting and preserving our flora and fauna, by showcasing the effects and damage caused by human activity. The winners of the competition will be announced at the 125th Anniversary Gala dinner rescheduled for later this year.

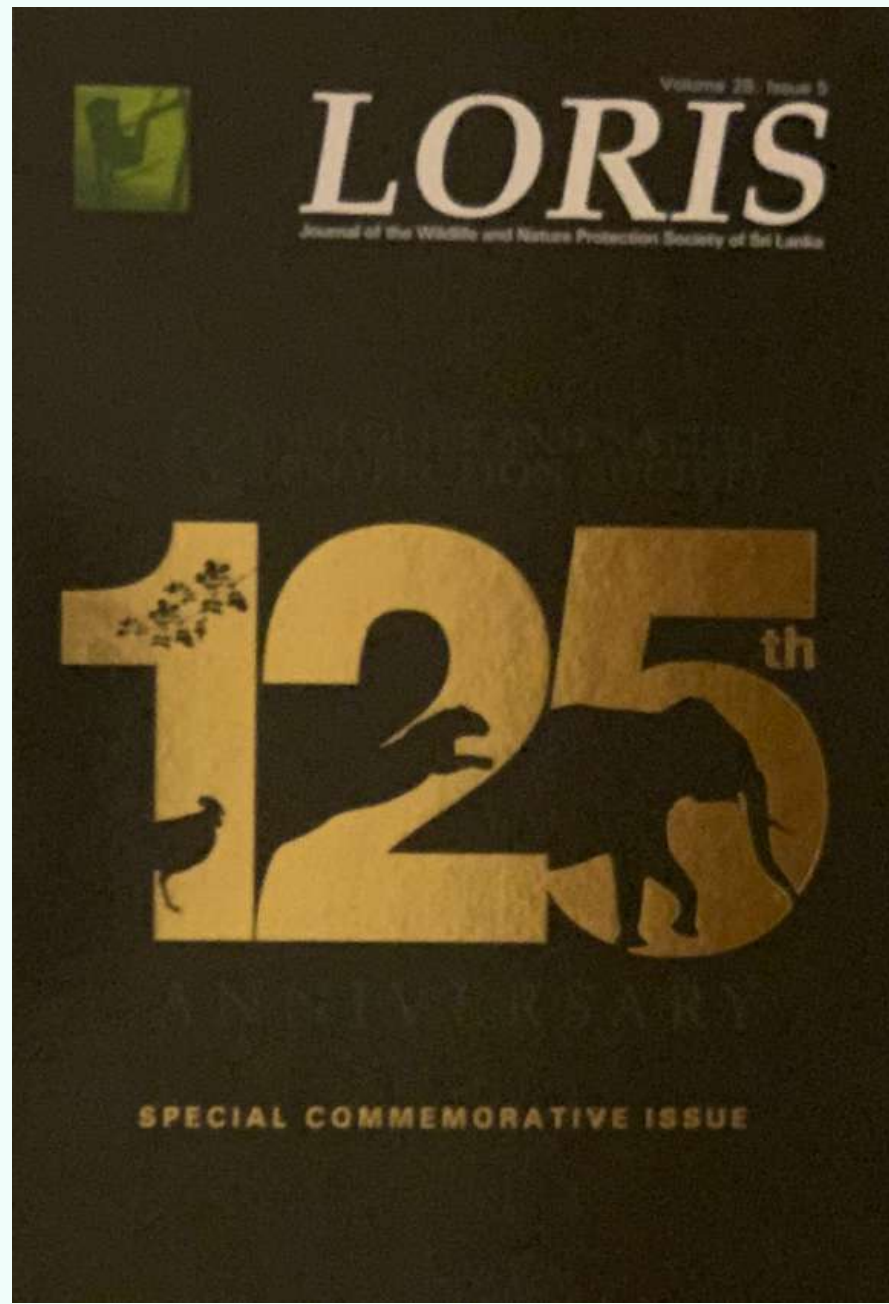
- **Human Elephant Conflict Subcommittee:** is to launch a new project, which will use a lighting system to deter elephants entering villages or cultivations. The LED Light Repelling System (LRS) temporarily affects the elephants' vision, disorienting them and thereby preventing them from continuing their journey into the field/village. WNPS has identified 12 locations around the country to install the LRS and test the long-term viability of such a system to mitigate the HEC. The 12 locations would be in the districts of Vavuniya, Anuradhapura, Hambantota, Ratnapura, and Batticaloa. WNPS will conduct monthly field visits to all the locations whilst having a point person at each location to provide weekly reports.
- **Youth Wing Subcommittee:** visited the Northern province earlier this year to establish the ground work for the expansion of its 'education for conservation initiative'. The Youth Wing will be launching the program in Jaffna at the end of this month, with programs planned for Mannar, Killinochchi, Vavuniya, Hatton and Gampola for later this year.



WNPS YOUTH AMBASSADORS AMILA PERERA AND ASHAN WIJETILLEKE IN JAWAI. THE TRIP WAS MADE POSSIBLE DUE TO THE SPONSORSHIP OF CINNAMON NATURE TRAILS



• **Marine Subcommittee:** organised the first WNPS field trip to a marine sanctuary, visiting Hikkaduwa for a snorkelling excursion in February 2019. Many species of fish and coral were observed and Dr. Malik Fernando guided the trip, sharing his expert knowledge on marine environments. While some people are taking steps to protect and rebuild the reef, the long-term health of the resident coral remains a concern for those that derive economic benefits from the reef.



A SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE OF THE LORIS MAGAZINE HAS JUST BEEN LAUNCHED. ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY WILL RECEIVE A COPY. ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THIS SPECIAL EDITION LORIS MAGAZINE CAN BE PURCHASED FOR RS. 1000 FROM THE HEAD OFFICE.



CLICK THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE TO READ ABOUT THE SOCIETY'S FIGHT TO SAVE KORAKULAM WHICH IS AN IMPORTANT HABITAT FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS.



DID YOU KNOW?
RECENTLY IN SRI LANKA A NEW SPECIES OF ORCHID WAS DESCRIBED AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF PLANT NOMENCLATURE, A NEW SPECIES IS NAMED AFTER AN ELEPHANT, 'GALGAMUWA DALA PUTTUWA', WHICH WAS KILLED FOR ITS MAJESTIC IVORY. (PRIYADARSHANA ET AL 2019)