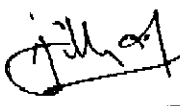


Thematic report on protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report.

| | |
|--|---|
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| Submission | |
| Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report: |  (ASITH SILVA) |
| Date of submission: | 31.05.2003. |

Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report.

ANNEX I

Protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity

System of protected areas

| | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|--------|
| 1. What is the relative priority afforded to development and implementation of a national system of protected areas in the context of other obligations arising from the Convention and COP Decisions? | | | | |
| a) High | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | b) Medium | <input type="checkbox"/> | c) Low |
| 2. Is there a systematic planning process for development and implementation of a national system of protected areas? | | | | |
| a) no | | | | |
| b) in early stages of development | | | | |
| c) in advanced stages of development | | | | |
| d) yes, please provide copies of relevant documents describing the process | | | | |
| 3. Is there an assessment of the extent to which the existing network of protected areas covers all areas that are identified as being important for the conservation of biological diversity? | | | | |
| a) no | | | | |
| b) an assessment is being planned for | | | | |
| c) an assessment is being undertaken | | | | |
| d) yes, please provide copies of the assessments made | | | | |

Regulatory framework

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 4. Is there a policy framework and/or enabling legislation in place for the establishment and management of protected areas? | |
| a) no | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) in early stages of development | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) in advanced stages of development | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) yes, please provide copies of relevant documents | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Have guidelines, criteria and targets been adopted to support selection, establishment and management of protected areas? | |
| a) no | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) in early stages of development | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) in advanced stages of development | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) yes, please provide copies of guidelines, criteria and targets | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 6. Does the management of protected areas involve the use of incentive measures, for instance, of entrance fees for park visitors, or of benefit-sharing arrangements with adjacent communities and other relevant stakeholders? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes, incentive measures implemented for some protected areas (please provide some examples) | ✓ ANNEX 2 |
| c) yes, incentive measures implemented for all protected areas (please provide some examples) | |

Management approach

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 7. Have the principal threats to protected areas and the biodiversity that they contain been assessed, so that programmes can be put in place to deal with the threats, their effects and to influence the key drivers? | |
| a) no | |
| b) an assessment is being planned for | |
| c) an assessment is in process | |
| d) yes, an assessment has been completed | ✓ ANNEX 3 |
| e) programmes and policies to deal with threats are in place (please provide basic information on threats and actions taken) | |
| 8. Are protected areas established and managed in the context of the wider region in which they are located, taking account of and contributing to other sectoral strategies? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes, in some areas | ✓ |
| c) yes, in all areas (please provide details) | |
| 9. Do protected areas vary in their nature, meeting a range of different management objectives and/or being operated through differing management regimes? | |
| a) no, most areas are established for similar objectives and are under similar management regimes | |
| b) many areas have similar objectives/management regimes, but there are also some exceptions | |
| c) yes, protected areas vary in nature (please provide details) | ✓ ANNEX 4 |
| 10. Is there wide stakeholder involvement in the establishment and management of protected areas? | |
| a) no | ✓ |
| b) with some, but not all protected areas | |
| c) yes, always (please provide details of experience) | |

| | |
|--|---|
| 11. Do protected areas established and managed by non-government bodies, citizen groups, private sector and individuals exist in your country, and are they recognized in any formal manner? | |
| a) no, they do not exist | ✓ |
| b) yes, they exist, however are not formally recognized | |
| c) yes, they exist and are formally recognized (please provide further information) | |

Available resources

| | |
|---|---|
| 12. Are the human, institutional and financial resources available adequate for full implementation of the protected areas network, including for management of individual protected areas? | |
| a) no, they are severely limiting (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls) | |
| b) no, they are limiting (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls) | ✓ |
| c) Available resources are adequate (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls) | |
| d) yes, good resources are available | |
| 13. Has your country requested/received financial assistance from the Global Environment Facility or other international sources for establishment/management of protected areas? | |
| a) no | |
| b) funding has been requested, but not received | |
| c) funding is currently being requested | |
| d) yes, funding has been received (please provide copies of appropriate documents) | ✓ |

Assessment

| | |
|--|---|
| 14. Have constraints to implementation and management of an adequate system of protected areas been assessed, so that actions can be initiated to deal with these constraints? | |
| a) no | ✓ |
| b) yes, constraints have been assessed (please provide further information) | |
| c) yes, actions to deal with constraints are in place (please provide further information) | |
| 15. Is a programme in place or in development to regularly assess the effectiveness of protected areas management and to act on this information? | |
| a) no | ✓ |
| b) yes, a programme is under development (please provide further information) | |
| c) yes, a programme is in place (please provide further information) | |

| | |
|--|---|
| 16. Has any assessment been made of the value of the material and non-material benefits and services that protected areas provide? | |
| a) no | ✓ |
| b) an assessment is planned | |
| c) an assessment is in process | |
| d) yes, an assessment has been made (please provide further information) | |

Regional and international cooperation

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 17. Is your country collaborating/communicating with neighbouring countries in the establishment and/or management of transboundary protected areas? | |
| a) no | ✓ |
| b) yes (please provide details) | |
| 18. Are key protected areas professionals in your country members of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, thereby helping to foster the sharing of information and experience? | |
| a) no | ✓ |
| b) yes | |
| c) information is not available | |
| 19. Has your country provided information on its protected areas to the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre in order to allow for a scientific assessment of the status of the world's protected areas? | |
| a) no | ✓ |
| b) yes | |
| 20. If your country has protected areas or other sites recognised or designated under an international convention or programme (including regional conventions and programmes), please provide copies of reports submitted to those programmes or summaries of them. ANNEX 5 | |
| 21. Do you think that there are some activities on protected areas that your country has significant experience that will be of direct value to other Contracting Parties? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes (please provide details) | ✓ ANNEX 6 |

Further comments

ANNEX 7

Annex 01

This report has been prepared through extensive consultations with officers in the Department of Wildlife Conservation, Department of Forest Conservation some stakeholder Non Governmental Organisations, University Academics and some of the other interested groups.

Information and other facts gathered mainly from the Department of Forest Conservation and Department of Wildlife Conservation, as they are the state representatives in Protected Area Management in Sri Lanka.

Annex 02

6. b) Employment opportunities have been created for the local communities around the National parks.

Annex 03

7. d) Management Plans Have been prepared for all most all leading National Parks. Threats to National Park System have been assessed and Management Plans/ strategies have been identified to minimise the harmful effects.

Annex 04

9. c) Some National Park have the objective in protecting the watersheds of the major water bodies in Sri Lanka and some protect a range of unique natural ecosystems such as Mountain Forests, Wetlands, Coral Reefs and Mangrove Forests of the country.

Annex 05

20. So far Two Sites have been recognised as Ramsar Sites in Sri Lanka where One Site is a National Park

Annex 06

21. b) Some connections to UNCCD

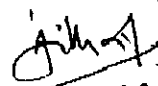
Annex 07

In Sri Lanka, there are some very important biodiversity sites come under private ownership. Majority of the owners prepared to develop these sites as wildlife and ecotourism destinations but discouraged by financial constraints.

If there are some measures and mechanisms in place to facilitate and support them to overcome these constraints by providing some means to access finances for them to envisage on above mentioned ventures, those would be some very good investments for conservation.

More details could be found on :

<http://www.dwlc.lk>


2003.05.31