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Sectoral Integration of Biodiversity in Sri Lanka

Contents

1. Introduction

Sri Lanka reported[1] that the Conference of Parties to the CBD (COP 2) calls for Parties to (a) develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and to (b) integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies. This concept is reiterated in the "Ecosystem Approach" which the CBD COP has decided should be the primary framework of action for Parties to be taken under the CBD. According to the definition by CBD COP, the 'Ecosystem Approach' is in essence a generic strategy for integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable manner with a stress on 'societal choice' and participation of all sectors of society in the conservation and management of biodiversity. Adopting this approach depends on effective integration of biodiversity concerns into sectoral strategies and cross-sectoral strategies, plans, policies and programmes at the national level.

This note deals with the status of sectoral and cross-sectoral integration of biodiversity concerns in Sri Lanka to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity As such this chapter is divided into the following sections:

Section 3.1: provides the introduction to this chapter.

Section 3.2: deals with the extent and nature of sectoral integration of biodiversity conservation concerns in terms of institutional arrangements, laws, mandates, plans, policies and programmes/projects.

Section 3.3: deals with the extent of cross-sectoral integration of biodiversity conservation concerns with other sectors also dependant on biodiversity, development related agencies and the business sector.

Section 3.4 gives an overview of mainstreaming biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies and plans Section 3.5 deals with integration of biodiversity concerns into implementation of other Conventions at the national level.

This note has drawn largely on wide stakeholder consultations via questionnaire surveys and roundtable meeting on cross-sectoral support for biodiversity conservation and adopting the ecosystem approach and discussions with high level administrators during institutional visits and discussions with communities, NGOs, the business community and other members of the public that were carried out during the 2005/2006 GEF funded National Capacity Needs Self Assessment Project for preparation of

[1] Sri Lanka (2009). Fourth Country Report from Sri Lanka to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, March 2009, 150 pp.

the thematic report on Biodiversity. The chapter has also drawn on interviews with officials of sectoral institutions and the Department of Agriculture for preparation of this report.

2 Sectoral integration of biodiversity

The Environmental Sector

The commitment by the State for environment conservation in Sri Lanka is enshrined in the 1978 (current) Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. Article 27(14) of the Constitution decrees that "The State shall protect, preserve and improve the environment for the benefit of the community." Article 28f states "The exercise and engagement of rights and freedom is inseparable from the performance of duties and obligations, and, accordingly, it is the duty of every person in Sri Lanka to protect nature and conserve its riches." While these provisions are not legally binding there are a large number of laws that promote biodiversity conservation in Sri Lanka. The constitution also vests "sovereignty" in the "people" that is inalienable; the executive, the legislature and the judicial system are merely the instruments through which "sovereignty" is expressed (MoENR, 2007) . Executive or legislative action that goes against the principle of safeguarding Sri Lanka's Natural Resources by its citizens (as this is a duty and not an option) can be declined by the Supreme Court as unconstitutional.

The 13th Amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka of 1987 introduced Provincial Councils as a new level of regional governance resulting in a major shift in government policy to decentralise and devolve many functions of the Central Government to the Provinces. Provincial Councils are empowered with legislative and executive powers over several subject areas including the environment, and may, thus, enact laws pertaining to the environment within the area under its control, but they cannot supersede or conflict with laws passed by Parliament (MoENR, 2002).

According to a study of Environmental Governance in Sri Lanka (PILF, 2005) the overall effectiveness of key environmental institutions at the national level for promoting environmental conservation ranked 2 on a scale of 0-4.

Institutional arrangements

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoENR) is mandated for: (a) facilitating sustainable development by the promotion of sound environmental management, (b) monitoring and reporting progress of the National Environmental Acton Plan and its periodic revisions, and (c) formulation of all national policies in relation to environmental protection and management. It is responsible for preparation and periodic revision of the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP). The national Biodiversity Secretariat (BDS) (see Chapter 2) functions under this ministry and is responsible for facilitating and formulating policies and plans for national biodiversity conservation, carrying out specific responsibilities assigned to it in the BCAP and Addendum, ensuring that national obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol are met with, and that the country participates in training and/or funding for COP determined activities for implementation of the CBD.

The main sectoral institutions comprise the Forest Department (FD), The Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWLC), the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) and the Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) that function under the MoENR. The policies related specifically to biodiversity conservation in forests and wetlands are prepared by the MoENR together with the relevant sectoral agency. The CEA is the main agency for implementing laws and policies pertaining to general environmental conservation, the FD, and DWLC, Coast Conservation Department (CCD) and Local Authorities deal with formulation and enforcement of laws in their respective spheres. The CCD functions under the Ministry dealing with fisheries.

TABLE 1: National level stakeholders for implementing the CBD and the national BCAP

Primary Stakeholders (Agencies/institutions with a mandate for some aspect of biodiversity conservation)	Secondary stakeholders:	
-	Group (i) (Institutions/organisations (state or other) with no definite mandate for biodiversity conservation in terms of implementing articles of the CBD and the recommendations of the BCAP, but who should/or have a major role to play in implementing them.)	Group (ii) (Institutions/organisations (state or other) with no mandate for biodiversity conservation in terms of implementing articles of the CBD and the recommendations of the BCAP, but who may adversely or positively have major impacts on implementing them)
Ministries: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources; Ministries dealing with indigenous medicine, Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Lands, Livestock & Irrigation and fisheries and aquatic resources.	Ministries: Plantation industries; Trade; Science & Technology; Power & energy; Education (and relevant institutions under it); Tourism; Finance and planning; Urban development water supply.	Ministries: Ministry dealing with health Ministry dealing with tourism
Main state institutions Forest Department (FD), Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWLC), National Zoological Gardens (NZG), The National Botanic Gardens (NBG), Central Environmental Authority (CEA), Department of Animal Production & Health (DAPH), Department of Agriculture (DOA) and associated research institutions (FCRDI, HORDI, SCPPD, RRDI, etc.) plus other divisions under it; Plant Genetic Resources Centre (PGRC) – also under the DOA, but with special role for ex-situ conservation; Department of Export Agriculture (DEA); Urban Development Authority (UDA); Coast Conservation Department (CCD);Dept of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources (DFAR); Marine Environmental Protection Authority (MEPA); Sri Lanka Customs; Department of National Museums (DNM). Research institutions National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA) Coconut Research Institute (CRI) Tea Research Institute (TRI) Rubber	State institutions Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka (MASL) Department of Ayurveda Attorney General's Department. Legal Draftsman's Department Department of National Planning The Police Department Meteorological Department. Sri Lanka Land Reclamation Development Authority (SLRDA) The National Science Foundation (NSF) Sri Lanka Standards Institute (SLSI) Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) Department of Censes & Statistics Registrar of Patents and Trademarks Registrar of Pesticides Research institutes Universities & other academic/research Institutes (for education and research) Council for Agricultural Research Policy (CARP) Bandaranaike Memorial Ayurvedic Research Institute (BMARI) Industrial Technology Institute (ITI) Civil society Environmental NGOs: both National and International that focus specifically on the environment. Media institutions -(press, T.V, radio) Journalists' fora. Members of the public interested in biodiversity conservation in various organisations.	***State institutions*** Department of Small Industries Geological Survey and Mines Bureau (GSMB) Aquaculture Development Agency (NAQDA) State Timber Cooperation (STC) State institutions in the transport sector State Institutions dealing with power and energy Private sector Institutions to be represented by the Chambers of Commerce Industries (some will be included above) Civil Society represented by various organisations that may impact on environmental issuessuch as Chambers of Commerce.

Research Institute (RRI) Sugarcane Research Institute (SRI). Veterinary Research Institute (VRI)		
Provincial Environmental ministries	Regional/local: Provincial Councils (PCs); District/Divisional Secretariats; Local Authorities (LAs); Community Based Organisations adjacent to forests (CBOs)	

The Forest Department

This department is engaged in conservation and management of considerable land under natural forest, including much of the biodiversity rich Wet Zone forests that are protected. Forest management practice has veered towards biodiversity conservation, although it is accepted that complete restriction of the use of forest resources by local people is counter-productive to achieving forest biodiversity conservation, except in biologically sensitive areas that require strict protection. Community participation for forest management in Dry and Intermediate Zone forests is practised, and staff capacity has been built to implement this concept.

The Department of Wildlife Conservation

This department manages six categories of lands that have been gazetted as Protected Areas under the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance No. 2 of 1937 (FFPO) and its subsequent amendments (see details in Appendix IV). Its mission is "to conserve wildlife and nature by sustainable utilization of men, materials and land through participatory management, research education and law enforcement and ensure the maintenance of biodiversity and forest cover as exists today." Consequently, the plans and programmes of the DWLC are directly related to Article 8 of the CBD. The DWLC requests an IEE or EIA for developmental activities in areas within one mile from the boundary of any National Reserve declared under the FFPO, and is a project approving agency under the NEA. It also has to prepare draft amendments to the FFPO periodically.

The Central Environmental Authority

The Central Environmental Authority (CEA) has legal provision under the NEA to control environmental pollution and to mitigate the adverse impacts of development activities through legally binding EPL (Environmental Protection License) and EIA procedures respectively. The CEA is also empowered with monitoring industrial discharge of effluents into waterways, air emissions and noise pollution, and is the regulatory authority to facilitate standard setting by preparation of guidelines for ambient water standards, ambient air quality standards, mobile source emission standards, industrial emission standards and interim stationery sound emission standards. The standards set according to these guidelines are gazetted by the MoENR. Under the NEA, the CEA also can declare environmentally sensitive areas (EPAs). Eight EPAs have been declared to date. While EPAs do not have total protection, the CEA allows only identified activities within these areas and all development activities are monitored. A special unit for wetland conservation has been established within the CEA as per a recommendation from the BCAP review during preparation of the 2007 Addendum.

The Coast Conservation Department (CCD)

This department is located under the Ministry dealing with fisheries, but it is the prime agency responsible for coastal issues pertaining to coastal area conservation in Sri Lanka. Its mandate provides it with a key role to play in conserving and managing coastal and marine biodiversity according to the periodically revised Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP). The CCD is responsible for preparation of the CZMP.

The Marine Environment Protection Authority

Formerly the Marine Pollution prevention Authority, it was renamed as the Marine Environment Protection Authority and strengthened by the amendment Marine Pollution Prevention Amendment Act No 35 of 2008. The MEPA is responsible for prevention and prompt remedial action in the event of marine pollution, including a major oil spill in Sri Lankan waters, or adjacent waters that may affect the country's marine environment (Article 14 of the CBD), and for conservation of marine biodiversity. The MEPA has identified and mapped environmentally sensitive marine areas using GIS (stored in a database) (Article 7d) and has to address the threat of invasive species from ships' ballast waters (Article 8h).

Decentralisation of biodiversity conservation

Provincial Ministries of Environment have a role to play in biodiversity conservation matters at the regional/local levels. Seven Provincial Biodiversity Conservation Profiles with Action Plans have been prepared through a consultative process and will be implemented through the Provincial Councils with their own budgets. This process explored integrating the BCAP into provincial plans, identification of major causes and reasons of provincial biodiversity loss, and preparation of provincial priority lists according to the Addendum (to the BCAP) recommendations.

Integrating biodiversity conservation into sectoral plans

Sri Lanka has experienced a resurgence of state commitment for environmental management, fostered by global concern for sustainable use of the earth's natural resources. There is increasing awareness nationally about the importance of a healthy environment for national economic development. This has lead to a consciousness in the environmental sector that environmental management is essential to secure socio-economic advancement.

Overall, there are about 80 laws to conserve Sri Lanka's environment, many of which are of direct relevance for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. The main enactments in this regard are given in Table 2. Of particular significance are periodic revisions of the Flora and Fauna Protection Ordinance and the Forest Ordinance to enhance protection of wild biodiversity. Sri Lanka has also enacted legislation on Intellectual Property Rights (i.e. The Intellectual Property Act No. 36 of 2003).

The introduction of alien invasive species and biosafety are not felt to be adequately covered by the existing laws, and this is due to be rectified by a new Act that will address invasive species. The export of crop and livestock biodiversity is under the purview of the Department of Agriculture (DOA) and the Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH), and exporters and importers of crops and

livestock (and importers of any biological material) have to comply with the Animal Disease Act No. 33 of 1992 and the Plant Protection Act No. 35 of 1999. While there are no special laws concerning access to genetic resources, the existing legal framework arsing from the Flora and Fauna Protection Ordinance and the Forest Ordinance covers the granting or denial of a legitimate application made to the Government of Sri Lanka for Transfer/Access of Genetic Resources by another Country Party to the CBD as well as natural and legal persons from these countries. This also covers similar requests from other "non-CBD Party" countries.

TABLE 2: The main legislation relating to environmental conservation and management in Sri Lanka

Legislation	Conservation measures
The Forest Ordinance No. 16 of 1907, and its subsequent amendments, including Act no 23 of 1995.(a new Forest Conservation Act is in the draft stage).	The Forest Department is responsible for the implementation of this law (FO) which has been subject to many revisions to make provision for the protection of state forests from unlawful felling, clearing, encroachment, removal of produce, etc; the declaration of forests as Reserve Forests: the control of felling and other forms of exploitation in forests; and the transportation of timber. The 1995 amendment has created Conservation Forests. While encroachment and illicit felling of timber from Wet Zone forests has been largely controlled, some illicit activities continue in State forests.
The Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance No. 2 of 1937, and subsequent amendments including Act of 2009.	The Department of Wildlife Conservation is primarily responsible for the implementation of this law (FFPO) which recognises six categories of wildlife reserves. This Act, besides protecting animal and plant life within the national reserves, has provision to protect certain categories of animals and plants wherever they are found and states the penalties for violation of the law. For post faunal groups there is negative listing so that most species un the vertebrate groups are protected. The Act also lists penalties for violation of the law. However, enforcement of this Act remains weak with respect to protection of all species listed under this Act. In contrast, the Act requires a permit for export of any wild plant or animal or their parts, and this is enforced by the Customs Department at ports of exit from the country.
Felling of Trees Control Act No. 9 of 1951.	The Forest Department is the implementing agency for this act, which makes provision for the prohibition, regulation or control of the felling of specified valuable tree species, including cultivated species such as jak found in home gardens. This Act is largely ineffective with respect to cultivated species, particularly in urban areas.
The National Heritage Wilderness Area Act No. 3 of 1988.	The Forest Department is the implementing agency for this act, which was enacted to enable the preservation of unique natural ecosystems under the jurisdiction of the Forest Department and the genetic resources in them. Only the Sinharaja forest has been declared under this Act.
Soil Conservation Act, No. 25 of 1951; amended in 1996.	This Act empowers the Director of Agriculture to undertake surveys and investigations for the purposes of ascertaining the nature and extent of land degradation due to various factors including floods, droughts, salinisation, desertification, siltation and soil erosion measures on a watershed basis. Implementation of this Act is weak.
Coast Conservation Act No. 57 of 1981, and the amendment Act No.64 of 1988.	This Act requires the Coast Conservation Department to survey the Coastal Zone and inventory the resources available therein, including coastal ecosystems and material regularly removed for commercial or industrial purposes from this area, and to draw up Coastal Zone Management Plans periodically. The Act vests the administration, custody and management of the coastal zone in the island, while the responsibility of administering and implementing the Act devolves on the Director of the Coast Conservation Department who has to issue permits for all development activities undertaken within the area designated by law as the coastal zone. This requires calling for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) before permitting any such activities.
Plant Protection Act No. 35 of 1999 (replacing Plant Protection Ordinance No.10 of 1924).	The Director of Agriculture is the administering authority under this Act which controls the introduction of noxious plants, pests and diseases of plants into Sri Lanka. This Act will be revised to better address alien invasive species, GMOs, and LMOs (note: a new Act to specifically cover IAS is being proposed).
Water hyacinth Ordinance No 9 of 1909	This controls the introduction and proliferation of water hyacinth and other weeds and invasive plants in the country.
The National Zoological Gardens Act	This Act set governs the management and administration of the National Zoological Gardens.

no.14 of 1982	
The Botanic Gardens Ordinance No. 31 of 1928.	This deals with ex-situ conservation of plants, and concerns the management and administration of the National Botanic Gardens.
Fisheries Ordinance No. 24 of 1940 and its amendments, the latest being The Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act No. 2 of 1996.	This Act which governs the fisheries sector promotes measures for the integrated management, regulation, conservation and development of fisheries and aquatic resources in Sri Lanka, and addresses the protection of fish and other aquatic resources. It makes provision for the State to set aside marine areas as fisheries reserves, as and where necessary, for replenishments of wild stocks. While this Act covers all aquatic fauna and flora, it does not override the FFPO and the FO+
Urban Development Authority Law No 37 of 1978, as amended by subsequent Acts, the recent ones being Act No. 44 of 1984 and Act No. 4 of 1992.	This law served to establish the Urban Development Authority (UDA) to promote the integrated planning and implementation of social, economic and physical development of areas declared as "Urban development areas". The Act also provides for the development of environmental standards and schemes for environmental improvement in areas identified as UDA areas.+
The National Environmental Act No. 47 of 1980 and the amendment No. 56 of 1988. (a new National Environmental Protection Act is being drafted)+.	This Act created the Central Environmental Authority, and the amendment Act of 1988 empowered all project approving agencies to obtain an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) from any developer for prescribed developmental projects and for control of environmental pollution through the issuing of Environmental Pollution Licences (EPLs). This Act also provides for identification of environmentally sensitive areas termed Environment Protection Areas (EPAs) out side PAs, including biodiversity rich areas Protected Areas. As such it complements the FFPO and the FO.
The Marine Pollution Prevention Act No.59 of 1981 and amended by the Marine Pollution Prevention Act No.35 of 2008 which became effective from 01.01.2009.+	This MPPA of 1981 enabled the establishment of the Marine Pollution Prevention Authority (MPPA) and provided for the prevention, reduction and control of pollution in Sri Lankan waters, and for giving effect to international conventions that Sri Lanka is a signatory to for the prevention of pollution of the sea. The 2009 revision of this Act has strengthened the MPPA and renamed it as the Marine Environment Protection Agency.

More than 30 state institutions are involved with some aspect of management and protection of the environment and natural resources in Sri Lanka. Those with greatest responsibility in this sphere are the sectoral agencies Forest Department (FD), Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWLC), Central Environmental Authority (CEA), the Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA), and the Coast Conservation Department (CCD) that is located in the fisheries sector.

TABLE 3: Integration of biodiversity concerns into policies/strategies of the environmental sector.

Area of purview	Policies / plans/ laws that have a major bearing on biodiversity conservation	Key programmes/ projects that address biodiversity conservation
Environment	The **National Conservation Strategy** of 1988. **Introduction of Environmental Impact Assessments t**o all development projects and an **Environmental Pollution Licensing** Scheme under the revised NEA of 1988. Creation of a **Cabinet Ministry** to handle Environmental affairs in 1990. Setting of **environmental standards** for ambient air quality (gazetted in 1994), mobile source emission, industrial emissions and interim stationery sound emissions. Preparation of the **National Environmental Action Plan** in 1991 and its systematic revision periodically, with the present Caring for the Environment (MoENR, 2003). The current NEAP recognises that biodiversity conservation needs crosssectoral action, and considers biodiversity as an integral part of the environment, and stresses that implementation of the BCAP is absolutely 'vital'. **The National Environmental Policy (2003)** addresses management of biodiversity as consistent with viability of ecological processes; concurs that traditional	The BDS Carried out the component to strengthen capacity for coordinated biodiversity planning under the ADB/GEF/GON funded Protected Area Management and Wildlife Conservation (PAM &WC) Project. (relevant for Article 6b) The Environmental Action 1 Project (commenced in 1997 for five years) enhanced institutional capacity for environmental conservation and regulatory aspects. Amongst many other activities, this provided training for CEA staff on biodiversity conservation and management. The Crop Wild Relatives Project carried out by the MoENR in collaboration with the DOA to identify the status of wild crop relatives conservation in Sri Lanka in respect of insitu and ex-situ activities. (relevant for Article 8 and 10) The National Biosafety Framework Development Project (May 2003-2005) (supports Article 19) to ensure that the risks due to modern biotechnology and its products will be minimized and biodiversity, human health and environment

	knowledge/practices will be respected during environmental management; and includes management needs to address invasive species and LMOs; respond to climate change; and promote the economic valuation of environmental services and commitment for restoration of damaged environments.	will be protected in a maximum way; the transboundary movements of GMOs would be regulated through formulation of relevant policies, regulations, technical guidelines and establishment of management bodies and supervisory mechanisms. This resulted in a comprehensive National Biosafety Framework of 2003, a database to be made available on the web, and a national policy on biosafety.
Forestry	The Forestry Sector Master Plan of 1995 covering 1995-2020, has a chapter dedicated to biodiversity conservation in the forestry and wildlife sectors and addresses in detail the needs, issues and options for development of forest areas to conserve indigenous terrestrial biological resources, with involvement of local people in the planning and management of Protected Areas. These concerns were integrated into the National Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan and its Addendum. The National Forest Policy of 1995 deals with biodiversity conservation and participatory management of forest with local people. This policy also emphasises the importance of retaining the present natural forest cover and increasing overall tree cover in areas, including non-forested areas.	The Forestry Sector Development Project (FSDP) which strengthened capacity to establish forest plantations to supply timber without exploiting the island's natural forests. Environmental Management in Forestry Development Project (EMFDP) which commenced in 1991, carried out the Accelerated Conservation Review of 31 lowland rain forests followed by the National Conservation Review (for biodiversity assessment) of natural forests in the country (relevant for Article 7(a) and Article 18); setting up of a database on forest biodiversity (the Environmental Information Management system-EIMS) (relevant for Article 7(d)); comprehensively surveying traditional uses of forests by local communities and their impact on forest biodiversity (relevant for Articles 8(j)).14 Community Participation Project (1982- 1990) and the Participatory Forestry Project initiated in 1993 that led to understanding of the role of local people in forest conservation. (relevant for Article 8) The GEF/UNDP funded Southwest Rainforest Conservation Project14 of the Forest Department (2000-2006) (relevant for Article 8) The Forest Resources Management Project (FRMP) (relevant for Articles 8, 10, 11, 12, 13). Sri Lanka Australia Natural Resources Management Project (SLANRMP) for poverty reduction through improved natural resource management (relevant for Articles 8, 10 and 11)
Wildlife	The National Wildlife Policy of 2000 has taken into account the needs of biodiversity conservation.	The Department of Wildlife Conservation carried out the Protected Areas Management Project as an investment programme implemented through the Global Environmental Facility Project (1992- 1998) to strengthen the capacity and capability of the DWLC for preparation of a resource inventory based viable management plans for protected areas (relevant for Article 8b); piloting an ecodevelopment plan for a wildlife area to test implement participatory management (relevant for Article 8(j)); supporting wildlife research with specific emphasis on management utility of results (relevant for Article 12(b)); developing capacity to minimise human elephant conflict and conservation of elephants (relevant for Aricles 8(c) and (d)); Carrying out multimedia based awareness campaigns, specially addressing park visitors, local communities and students (relevant for Article 13). The Protected Area Management and Wildlife Conservation (PAM&WC) Project was relevant for Articles 8, 10, 11, 12, 13.
Wetlands	The National Wetlands Policy of 2004 deals with conservation of wetlands. The National Watershed Management Policy of 2004 The NEA has provisions to control clearing of wetlands.	The Wetland Conservation Project (WCP) Phase I initiated by the CEA in 1991 heralded significant measures for the conservation of wetlands in the island, and was instrumental in prioritizing wetlands for conservation and management. This involved identification of 84 key wetland

		sites; carrying out site surveys and preparing site reports for 26 wetlands of which ten are also management plans (Article 8b). These plans envisage a sustained yield of multiple benefits with minimum resource use conflicts within a framework of preserving the ecological, cultural and social values of the wetlands. The project also created public awareness on wetlands and their values (Article 13), developed methodologies for conservation, setting up a digital database on wetlands (Article 7d), developed a wetland evaluation system, and formulated criteria for selection of wetlands for total conservation. The Integrated Resource Management Project (IRMP) focused on two selected wetlands (Muthurawela Marsh and the Negombo Lagoon) on pilot scale implementation of Management Plans. Some SAM sites under the CCD were also identified as wetland sites requiring conservation and management ((Article 8).
Coastal and Marine	The Coast Conservation Act No. 57 of 1981 (CCA) vested the administration, control and custody of the Coastal Zone in the Republic of Sri Lanka. Together with the 1988 amendment, the CCA provides the legal foundation for activities in the Coastal Zone. The National Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) is the main instrument that influences implementation of programmes and enforcement in the Coastal Zone. Initially prepared in 1991, this is updated periodically by the CCD. All relevant recommendations in Sri Lanka's BCAP pertaining to coastal and marine habitats and species have been incorporated into the current Coastal Zone Management Plan of 2004.	The Coastal Resources Management Project (CRMP)15 with funds from the ADB and the Government of the Netherlands (addresses Article 8 and 7) carried out mapping of coastal habitats and sites of archaeological, historical and scenic value; and addressed erosion management and controlling of coastal water pollution, habitat conservation, identification of coastal land use patterns, and identified coastal sites for future development.
	The National Action Plan for Protection of Marine and Coastal Environment from Land based activities of 1999, which covers impacts of inland sand mining, land degradation, coastal erosion and coastal pollution from industries on the marine environment.	The MEPA has commenced a programme of work to implement the Marine Pollution Prevention Act and for surveillance and regulation of activities within its area of authority,
	The National Oil Contingency Plan (NOSCOP) to deal with national arrangements for responding to oil spills in the marine environment.	

3. Cross-sectoral integration of biodiversity conservation concerns

Institutions responsible for biodiversity conservation

A large number of institutions are stakeholders in conserving and managing biodiversity in SrI Lanka, either through direct protection, management of bio-resources or through negative impact. They are listed in Table 1. Apart from the main sectoral institutions that are directly mandated with biodiversity conservation, many others such as the Ministry dealing with Fisheries, the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DFAR), the Department of Agriculture (DOA) and the institutions that function under it, the Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH) that deals with livestock, the Urban Development Authority (UDA) and the Sri Lanka Land Reclamation & Development Corporation (SLLRDC) also play a considerable role in biodiversity conservation through their respective mandates. The ministry dealing with policy planning and implementation is the key agency responsible for formulation

of national development policies. The National Planning Department is under this ministry, and deals with policy planning and implementation. It also plays a strong role in the development of the national medium-term macroeconomic framework and sectoral programmes that have an impact on biodiversity conservation.

Networking that worked in the 1990s The ministry of environment established and maintained a network of mid level Biodiversity Liaison Officers in all stakeholder ministries, departments and agencies to facilitate the preparation of the BCAP during the mid 1990s. Through this network, as well as regular consultations with network members, the ministry kept stakeholder agencies interested in the BCAP process. These officers were trained in skills required for biodiversity conservation through the Biodiversity Skills Enhancement Project (BSEP) that involved several field visits. In addition, the ministry conducted a series of awareness programmes for state officials at various levels, commencing with the Secretaries of Ministries. This ensured wide participation in the BCAP preparation process. However, due to the considerable time lag between preparations of the draft BCAP and its publication, the lack of an effective communication strategy to involve the stakeholders in its implementation, coupled with the lack of funds and required capacity in the MoENR has precluded its implementation in a holistic manner,

Table 3 deals with status of cross-sectoral integration of biodiversity conservation in institutions that are not directly concerned with environmental conservation, but nonetheless contribute towards biodiversity conservation. Overall, biodiversity considerations are well integrated into the plans, policies and strategies within these agencies, except in the livestock sector. Even so, there are some gaps in implementation due to institutional and individual capacity deficiencies, including inadequate funds and skilled staff.

TABLE 3. Key state agencies outside the environmental sector that deal with important aspects of biodiversity conservation

Sector	Institutions, mandates and nature of integration	Actions related to biodiversity conservation
Fishery sector (Institutions under the Ministry of Fisheries Aquatic Resources))	The Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (MFAR) and its line agencies also have a role to play in conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity. Among these are the Coast Conservation Department, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DFAR) and the National Aquatic Resources Research and the Development Agency (NARA) which is the prime national institution for research in the coastal and marine areas and inland aquatic areas. According to the Fisheries Act of 1996, nine Fisheries Management Areas have been identified, but no Fisheries Reserves have been declared as yet although it is possible under this Act.	The Coastal Resources Management Project (CRMP) from 2000-2006 with funds from the ADB and the Government of the Netherlands (GON) was a major initiative of the then Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources. Several components of this project promoted biodiversity conservation, by way of enhancing institutional capacity within key agencies of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (MFAR). The ministry dealing with fisheries has already initiated action to revise the existing Fisheries Laws and Regulations and to strengthen monitoring, controlling and surveillance (MCS) capabilities to facilitate effective fisheries management and prevent overuse of resources and destructive fishing (this is called for in the BCAP). It will also incorporate cleaner production concepts and practices into the fisheries production processes and services to ensure the preservation and the protection of the environment.
	The Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DFAR) is mandated to formulate/reform conservation	DFAR is mandated with conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity through the Fisheries Act No 2

	policy/laws/regulations in the fisheries sector, and to promote or implement relevant laws and policies. The DFAR has identified adverse fishing methods that are detrimental to marine organisms and remedial action has been taken; NARA has worked on identifying adverse practices, while the CCD has addressed this in the CZMP.	of 1996. Under this Act, the Minister responsible for fisheries can declare fisheries reserves when and where necessary. Many of the recommendations in the BCAP with regard to food fish and ornamental fishery are reiterated in the policies and plans of this sector. All relevant recommendations in Sri Lanka's BCAP pertaining to fishery resources are incorporated into the current CZMP of 2004.
	The National Aquatic Research and Development Agency (NARA) is mandated with monitoring and inventorying aquatic biodiversity and has carried out scientific biodiversity surveys and assessments of coral reefs and other important marine systems. NARA also maintains a gene bank of fish.	Coral reefs have been surveyed through the coral reef research programme which commenced in 1985. A survey of coral reef fish and invertebrates and the socio-economic status of user communities was done through the Sri Lanka Marine Ornamental Fishery Project (1995-1998) in collaboration with the Marine Conservation Society (UK).
Agricultural sector Institutions under the Ministry of Agriculture	The Department of Agriculture (DOA) is mandated to deal with rice and other field crops, horticultural crops root and tuber crops, ornamental plants and plants of medicinal values. It also deals with formulation/reform of policy/law/and regulations pertaining to the agricultural sector; setting up institutional coordination; research at ecosystem, species and genetic levels; survey and documentation of anthropological and cultural values of agrobiodiversity; sustainable use of agrobiodiversity; taxonomic studies for food crops; survey, inventory and monitoring and setting up ex-situ conservation centres (including seed banks); ex-situ management of species and artificial propagation of endangered species - including tissue culture); and information management and database development for food crops. The AgBiotech Centre (linked with the Agricultural Faculty of the University ofPeradeniya) has up-to-date facilities for preservation of both plant and animal germplasm and for biotechnology using genetic resources. This facility is, however, under utilised.16 The lack of specific institutional mechanisms for conservation of useful germplasm of micro-organisms has been highlighted in the BCAP, but this has received little attention. There are several divisions, centres and research institutes under the DOA that play a vital role in conserving and sustainably using ago-biodiversity. These are the: Horticultural Research and Development Institute (HORDI), Rice Research and Development Institute (RRDI), Field Crops Research and Development Institute (FCRDI), Seed Certification and Plant Protection Centre (SCPPC), Extension and Education Division and the Seed and Planting Materials Division. The Plant Genetic Resources Centre (PGRC) is the main repository of crop germplasm in the country, including wild and traditional varieties. Accordingly its functions include exploration, evaluation, seed conservation, biotechnology and data management (MoENR, 2007).The activities of the PGRC are important for conservation of plant genetic diversity. Over 12,000 accessions are held at the PGRC at present.	The agricultural sector policies and plans and research plans considerably address conservation of the country's agro-biodiversity. Among these are the comprehensive National Agricultural Research Plan (NARP) of 1999 for the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) and its revision. The present agricultural research policy is based on demand driven research on the food crop sector that is productive, eco-friendly, sustainable, economically viable and socially acceptable. The National Agricultural Research Plan follows this trend. A special project of the DOA promotes organic agriculture for the export market, but currently the marketing is done locally by NGOs. The Integrated Plant nutrition system (IPNS) has been initiated to reduce the use of artificial fertiliser. Integrated pest management is also promoted by the DOA, especially for vegetables and rice. Dissemination of this knowledge to farmers is constrained by the fact that the extension services are decentralised and under provincial DOAs while the research instates are under the Central government. HORDI maintains field germplasm of traditional varieties, and provides limited seed of traditional varieties to farmers. It also has field gene banks. Similarly the other research institutes, especially the RRDI maintain field gene banks and field trials of new improved varieties using genes of traditional varieties. The DOA also has set up field trials of organic agriculture for pilot testing with farmers. Overall the future research thrust of the DOA is consonant with concepts inculcated in the CBD through promotion of crop improvement by the use of global and domestic genetic resources; research on crop production through use of bio-technology, bio-fertilisers, protected agriculture, biodiversity conservation and management of ecosystems; and cost effective environmentally friendly technology for sustainable farming systems (including organic farming), nutrient and water management and pest and disease management.
	The Seed Certification and Plant Protection Centre (SCPPC) is	The Crop Wild Relatives project implemented by the

	responsible for the implementation of the Plant Protection Act No. 35 of 1999 (by the National Plant Quarantine Service) and the Control of Pesticides Act No. 33 of 1980 as amended by Act No. 6 of 1994 by the Registrar of Pesticides.	MoENR and the DOA has documented 672 species of wild relatives (of which 122 are endemic) of 238 food crops, under 54 families.
Livestock sector Institutions under the Ministry dealing with livestock	The Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH) is concerned with research and development in the livestock sub-sector and conservation of important indigenous livestock species and germplasm. The VRI functions under the DAPH and is mandated to carry out research on all aspects of animal breeding and genetic improvement. However, it is hampered by staff shortages and funding.	Although conservation of economically important indigenous animal species and the use of traditional varieties of domestic cattle and poultry for livestock breeding is the responsibility of both the DAPH and the VRI, the policies and strategies in the livestock sector have not given adequate emphasis for conservation of traditional varieties of livestock. However, these agencies are aware about their importance for livestock improvement through breeding.
Urban development	The Urban Development Authority (UDA) is mandated to promote the integrated planning and implementation of social, economic and physical development of areas declared as "Urban Development Areas" under the UDA Act with the overall vision of guidance, facilitation, and regulation of urban development through innovative and integrated physical planning. The UDA monitors urban areas, including 1 km inland from the coast along the entire coastline.	The Urban Development Authority (UDA) was set up under the Urban Development Authority Law No. 41 of 1978. The environmental division of the UDA deals with environmental considerations during urban planning. Accordingly, the UDA has prepared Wetland Regulations and Wetland Zoning in the Western Province for application in urban development programmes. The planning committee of the UDA looks into all environmental aspects of urban development within and outside the coastal areas. There are also monitoring and coordination committees for each major project undertaken by the UDA. However this does not always happen in practice.
Ex-situ conservation facilities for fauna and flora.	The National Botanic Gardens (NBG) has five botanic gardens under it at Peraeniya, Hakgala, Henerathgoda, Gampaha, Sitawake (Awissawella) and Mirijjawila (Hambantota District). One objective of the NBG is to play a special role in ex-situ conservation of national plant biodiversity. Among its other objectives are public education on plants, development of technologies related to exploitation of lesser known and underutilised plants, and development of ornamental and amenity horticulture. While most species in the older NBGs are exotics, the NBG has recently commenced propagation of endemic species–such as orchids, that is of direct use for conservation of threatened species. The new botanic gardens at Marijjawila and Awissawella will focus on conservation of indigenous plants.	
	The objectives of the National Zoological Gardens (NZG) are conservation, animal welfare, breeding and research, education and exhibition. The zoo now supports biodiversity conservation by breeding some rare and endangered species, with special emphasis on endemic fish species; special features to promote conservation of indigenous species include the walk-in aviary for indigenous birds, the small cats zone and the butterfly garden. A safari park, capacious aquarium are planned and a new zoological gardens (at Pinnawela).the later will contain a Sri Lanka section featuring indigenous species, where captive breeding will be tested.	The NZG is constrained due to the lack of a clear policy for ex-situ conservation of fauna in the country. There is also insufficient interaction between the insitu conservation agencies and the NZG.

Table 4. provides an assessment of mainstreaming biodiversity into the development sectors. This table is by no means exhaustive, but is provided as an indication of the nature of cross-sectoral integration of biodiversity concerns into other sectors as relevant to Article 6b. Biodiversity concerns are not

adequately integrated into the plans, policies and programmes of the agencies of the development sector. Most development sector agencies do not give adequate attention to threats to biodiversity when preparing and carrying out their plans and programmes (MoeNR, 2007).

TABLE 4.: Status of cross-sectoral integration of biodiversity concerns within the state sector agencies and the private sector

Type	Institutions and level of integration Plans	
Land reclamation (wetlands)	The Sri Lanka Land Reclamation & Development Corporation (SLLRDC) is mandated with some aspects of wetland conservation.	
Financial planning institutions	Biodiversity valuation has made little headway towards integration into the national economy since the BCAP (1999), but a special Taskforce dealt with biodiversity valuation and mainstreaming economics of conservation during preparation of the Addendum to the BCAP. Even so, there is inadequate understanding and conceptualisation of the importance of biodiversity in the national economy, so that scope for providing financial incentives such as tax rebates and eliminating perverse incentives (e.g. chemical fertiliser subsidies) at the national level to promote biodiversity conservation is low.	
National planning and development	Biodiversity is perceived mainly in terms of forest, parks and protected areas, (for tourism) and species that require conservation, but not as a vital component of fishery, agriculture, industry, etc. on which the national economy depends. While environmental considerations such as are solid waste management and EIAs are increasingly deemed as important, biodiversity conservation has not been adequately intergraded into the plans and programmes of this sector. The National Development Strategy: Mahinda Chintana: Vision for a new Sri Lanka – A 10 year horizon development framework for 2006-201 complements the approach taken for implementing the CBD.	National Physical Planning Policy (2001 and 2005) include Protected Areas, and takes into consideration watersheds when establishing infrastructure development, but fails to consider impacts on biodiversity in the policies for infra-structure development.
Tourist sector	Corporate social responsibility for biodiversity conservation is acknowledged in the tourism sector and there is overall understanding that: (a) tourism depends on biodiversity, and (b) responsible tourism can be a tool for conservation. However, there is poor perception of biodiversity conservation requirements at policy, institutional and operational levels in the tourism sector. This is particularly acute at the higher administrative levels. Biodiversity concerns are not well integrated into the activities of the ministry dealing with tourism, and the related agencies under it when they prepare and carry out their plans and programmes. There is also inadequate perception of what is required for eco-tourism.	
Transport sector	All transport related projects require EIAs, but biodiversity considerations are not adequately intergraded into these procedures, nor are they adequately integrated into this sector. This is partly because biodiversity concerns are not integrated into the graduate courses of civil engineers, although general environmental consideration (climate, soil stability, etc) are addressed.	
Mining sector	Biodiversity concerns are not integrated into the activities of this sector, and there are problems due to conflicts of interest between the environmental sector agencies and the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau (GSMB) that awards permits for inland mining operations and the Gems and Jewellery Authority.	
Industrial sector	It is legally mandated for industries to obtain annually renewable Environmental Pollution Licences for medium and high polluting industries that have to adhere to prescribed standards where certain specifications have to be met with. There is poor perception of the links between biodiversity conservation and potential for the industry. Biodiversity is generally considered the realm of 'scientists, government and conservationists, except for tourism, ornamental plants and animals. There is poor understanding of biosafety, the potential for genetic resources in the pharmaceutical industry; the vast potential for floriculture and vegetable production using biotechnology, or the potential to produce biofertilisers, bioweedicides, biogas, etc. using indigenous genetic resources. Industries that are listed as prescribed projects require EIAs. These include waste generating industries beyond a specified limit, and industrial estates and parks exceeding 10 ha.	
Energy sector	Biodiversity concerns are poorly integrated into the activities of this sector, although establishment of energy projects require EIAs.	
Health Sector	The Government of Sri Lanka provides free health care services through an extensive network of health care institutions – dispensing both western and traditional (i.e.	The World Bank/GEF funded project for the conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants in Sri Lanka directly targeted traditional knowledge associated with medicinal

	Ayurvedic, Unani, Sidda) medicines- The number of traditional medicine practitioners in the category of Ayurvedic physicians – who depend almost entirely on biological resources for their medicines - has risen over the years from over 14,000 in 1998f to 18,651 in 2007.	plant use, cultivation and marketing of medicinal plants. Whilst technical assistance has been provided through this project by expatriate and local senior level experts to the Bandaranaike Memorial Ayruvedic Research Institute for technology development, research, information collation and database development, the expected capacity building gains from training in the BMARI are seen as modest (MoENR, 2007).

Efforts have been taken to promote environmental concerns into development by the introduction of EIA procedures (Table 5.), which have a bearing on biodiversity conservation and implementation of Article 14. The National Environmental Act (NEA) No. 47 of 1980 formed the first comprehensive piece of legislation on environmental management in Sri Lanka, and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) to all development projects were introduced in 1984 through a Cabinet decision. Overall, mainstreaming biodiversity considerations into environmental sector plans and programmes has been satisfactory, except in the area of Environmental Impact Assessment.

TABLE 5: Inclusion of biodiversity consideration in EIAs

Law	Action
The National Environmental Act No. 47 of 1980 and the amendment No. 56 of 1988.	Under the National Environmental Act (NEA) the CCD is the Project Approving Agency (PAA) for any prescribed development project17 in the coastal zone; the UDA, DWLC and the FD are also among the PAAs under the NEA for inland areas as relevant for the area/ecosystem under assessment. However, there are deficiencies in the NEA for EIA procedures of development activities to cover biodiversity considerations adequately.
The Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance amendment Acts No. 49 of 1993 and its amendment of 2009.	The Department of Wildlife Conservation can request an IEE or EIA for developmental activities in areas within one mile from the boundary of any National Reserve declared under section 2 of the Flora and Fauna Protection Ordinance of 1937 and its amendments
The Forest Ordinance amendment Act no.23 of 1995	The Forest Department can request an IEE or EIA for specified developmental activities in areas within 100 m from the boundary of any Conservation Forest declared under the FO.
Coast Conservation Act No. 57 of 1981, and the amendment No.64 of 1988.	The Director Coast Conservation can call for an EIA for any development activity that falls entirely within the Coastal Zone, but generally EIAs are requested only for prescribed projects listed in the National Environmental Act of 1988.

While EIAs are mandatory for development projects under four laws that govern biodiversity conservation in Sri Lanka, these EIAs do not give adequate attention to requirements of all aspects of biodiversity conservation. Furthermore, the in-country capacity for carrying out Biodiversity Impact Assessments (BIAs) is limited. However, the national BCAP has identified as an indicator of BCAP implementation, the presence of well formulated effective legislation for incorporating of EIA procedures for recognising biodiversity concerns.

Overall deficiencies in the EIA process in Sri Lanka have been identified as:

• Absence of a biodiversity database in a central institution/s to refer during the EIA process to discern baseline scenario to infer possible loss of biodiversity in an area earmarked to undergo development

• Few institutions/NGOs/trained individuals in Sr Lanka are capable of a valid EIAs. Hence the CEA or PAAs have a very limited group of experts (less than 25) to carry out EIA or evaluate an EIAs.

• Biodiversity Impact Assessments (BIAs) are not mandatory in any of the current EIA procedures. There are very few trained people in the country to carry out BIAs even if they became mandatory.

4. Overview of mainstreaming biodiversity into cross-sectoral strategies and plans

Several positive steps have been taken since 1990 to further biodiversity conservation in Sri Lanka. They are the creation of the Ministry of Environment (MoENR) and the establishment of a Biodiversity Secretariat/Division in the Ministry. This division is responsible for formulation and coordination of all policy matters relating to biodiversity conservation, and preparation of the national Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan (BCAP) in 1999, and an Addendum to this in 2007. Both documents give specific recommendations that are adequate to conserve and sustainably manage Sri Lanka's biodiversity. The BCAP promotes integration of biodiversity concerns into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes. However, such integration has been less than anticipated. This is mainly due to the lack of a functioning mechanism for implementing the BCAP in a holistic manner that will enable coordination of activities related to conservation and management of biodiversity in the public and private sectors. Even so, strong attention is given to biodiversity concerns within the environmental sector covering the forestry and wildlife, wetlands, and coastal and marine systems. Other environment related sectors that depend on bio-resources such as agriculture and fisheries sectors (with the exception of the livestock development sector) have also included biodiversity conservation and use into their policies, plans and programmes, but this is due to the efforts of the agricultural sector and individual institutional efforts. In contrast, integration of biodiversity conservation into the development sector (including the service sector, such as road development, telecommunications) and the business (industrial) sector has been inadequate.

A detailed situation analysis carried out during the GEF funded National Capacity Needs Self Assessment (2005-2006) clearly showed that in-country capacity should be strengthened to: (a) integrate conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral (i.e. especially those of the development sector) plans, programmes and policies, and (b) prepare and implement biodiversity plans and policies with the required crosssectoral support. (MoFE, 2007).

Mechanisms for cross-sectoral integration of biodiversity concerns

In the past, poor co-ordination characterized environmental management in Sri Lanka, due to the fragmented nature of responsibilities for environmental policy planning, management and implementation resulting from the large number of institutions and agencies involved - at both the national and local level- and the plethora of laws that govern them. This applies to the coordination required to integrate biodiversity concerns into sectoral and inter-sectoral strategies, plans and programmes. There is a recognized need for formal and functional mechanisms and regular activities to maintain the interests of partner agencies for biodiversity concerns to be effectively integrated into sectoral and corporate planning.

The MoENR monitors and coordinates the implementation of the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP). However, the former Committees on Environment Policy and Management (CEPOMs) that were used for this purpose are non-existent now. This is expected to be replaced by a Committee headed by the President to coordinate sectoral and cross-sectoral environmental activities in keeping with the National Development Strategy: Mahinda Chintana: Vision for a new Sri Lanka. This mechanism will be beneficial for mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into the activities of development agencies, but this will not preclude the need for a mechanism to implement the BCAP.

The most effective coordination process to date has been the wide stakeholder discussions prior to preparation of policies, strategies, management plans or action plans within the environmental as well as other related sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, urban development and coast conservation, for which representatives of the MoENR, Forest Department, Department of Wildlife Conservation and the Central Environmental Authority and key environmental NGOs are invited. However, the present inter-institutional coordination by the BDS and other conservation oriented state agencies (FD, DWLC, CCD, CEA, etc.) is not sufficiently effective to obtain commitment from other agencies required for policy/plan/programme implementation. Steering Committees set up for major projects involve participation of conservation agencies resulting in biodiversity concerns being addressed in the policies, plans and programmes of these sectors at promote addressing biodiversity considerations. On the other hand such consultations are rare with the development agencies or the private sector in general.

5 Integration with other conventions

Sri Lanka's overall political commitment to biodiversity and environmental conservation in Sri Lanka are reflected in the ratification of 36 Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), many of which influence biodiversity conservation. The main conventions in this regard are given in Table 3.8 below. Among these are four other biodiversity-related conventions (i.e. CITES, Convention on Migratory Species, Ramsar and the World Heritage Convention), the two other Rio conventions (UNFCCC, UNCCD). A number of activities and programmes have been taken place to facilitate obligations under these conventions.

Within the MoENR, the Biodiversity Division deals specifically with all aspects of policy and plans related to national biodiversity conservation, and national responses to obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol. This division services the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its related protocols; The Pollution Management and Control Division services the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (1989), and deals with policies and strategies to eliminate POPs impacts in the country.

TABLE 6: Conventions that influence biodiversity conservation to which Sri Lanka is a signatory

Convention	Focal point	Links with CBD
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species Of Wild Fauna and Flora (1973)-	Department of Wildlife Conservation	Sri Lanka enforces CITES, which helps protect endangered species from over-exploitation (CBD Article 8k) by means of a system of import/export permits that are provided by the focal point.

CITES		
Convention on the conservation Of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (BONN Convention)	Department of Wildlife Conservation	There is in-county commitment for conservation of migratory bird species and their habitats as well as migratory marine mammals (supports CBD Article 8).
Convention on Wetlands Of International Importance Especially As Waterfowl Habitat (1971)/Ramsar Convention	Department of Wildlife Conservation	Being a signatory to this convention helps deal with stemming the progressive encroachment into and loss of wetlands now and in the future. The Bundala National Park, Anawilundawa Sanctuary and the Maduganga Sanctuary have been declared under the Ramsar Convention on wetlands of International Importance. This has helped conserve these important wetland habitats in the country. (supports CBD Article 8).
World Heritage Convention	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (Natural Resources Division)	Under this convention the Sinharaja forest has been declared a natural World Heritage Site underscoring the importance of this site which harbours a large number of endemic species. Sri Lankan has recently nominated the Central Highlands' World Heritage Site (comprising Knuckles Conservation Forest, Peak Wilderness Nature Reserve and the Horton Plains National Park) for recognition by UNESCO as a natural and cultural (mixed) World Heritage Site. (supports CBD Article 8).
United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	As a signatory to this Convention Sri Lanka is committed to regulate levels of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere so as to avoid the occurrence of Climate Change that would impede sustainable economic development, or comprise initiatives in food production. This also includes adverse impacts on species and ecosystem, both natural and human modified. While little research has been carried out as yet on the impact of climate change on wild biodiversity, analysis of climatic trends in Sri Lanka have already shown: (a) that minimum and maximum temperatures have clearly risen around the island, (b) a significant trend for increased rainfall variability in most parts of the island, and (c) prolonged droughts that could result in more pronounced water scarcities in the Dry Zone– all of which will affect the country's natural and cultivated biodiversity. Crosscutting issues that are common to both the UNFCCC and the CBD and should be addressed jointly were identified during the NCSA. (see more details in Appendix III)
United Nations Convention To Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought And / or Desertification (UNFCCD)	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Sri Lanka is a signatory to this convention which helps combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries affected with effective action at all levels. Although Sri Lanka has no deserts, specific regions in the island are vulnerable to desertification through salinization and reduced water for human needs. This Convention is supported by international corporation and partnership arrangements in the framework of an integrated approach which is consistent with Agenda 21, with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in those areas. Cross-cutting issues that are common to both the UNFCCD and the CBD and should be addressed jointly were identified during the NCSA.
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs convention)	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	No specific links have been established between the CBD and this Convention. Even so, meeting its requirements have a positive impact on biodiversity. Considerable work has been carried out at the national level to comply with the requirements of this Convention, such as the National Implementation Plan (NIPS) for the control of persistent organic pollutants. (see more details in Appendix III)
United Nations Convention on The Law Of the Sea (UNCLOS)	Marine Environment Protection Authority	The goal of this Convention was to set up a comprehensive new legal regime for the sea and oceans and, as far as environmental provisions are concerned, to establish material rules concerning environmental standards as well as enforcement provisions dealing with pollution of the marine environment has ramifications on conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity.