

CMS Related Activities

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



Sri Lanka

- ▶ Sri Lanka is an island nation with a total area of 65,610 square km, surrounded by the Indian Ocean.
 - ▶ It has two monsoon seasonal rains that dictate the migrations of many species.
- ▶ The Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) is the focal point for CMS and works under the purview of the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife.
- ▶ The national Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance (FFPO) is the legal protection tool within the judiciary.



Migratory Species of Animals in SL

- ▶ Migratory birds
- ▶ Cetaceans
- ▶ Dugongs
- ▶ Marine turtles
- ▶ Sharks & rays

MoU signed

MoU signed

MoU to be signed

Migratory Birds

- ▶ Primary bird migration is from August through to February.
 - ▶ Main flyway is the “Central Asian flyway”.
 - ▶ All migratory birds enter the island along the main rivers.
- ▶ The roosting sites of birds have been identified, demarcated, and gazetted to ensure special protection.
- ▶ HPAI surveillance is carried out during the migratory season.



HPAI Surveillance - June 2011.

Laboratory reports confirmed the existence of *Newcastle Disease*.

Birds in flyways are mixing.

- ▶ Among the sick birds, 3 sooty terns were found bearing ring numbers: **MUSEUM PARIS, M 51516** and **INFORM BRITISH MUSEUM LONDON SW7/DK 90340 and DE 12827**.
- ▶ Romain Provost provided information for the tern bearing ring “M 51516”:
 - ▶ It was a ringed pulli (chick) on 25th February 2008 on Juan De Nova, an island in the Mozambique Channel, west of Madagascar.

One of the sick sooty terns that was found.

Prof. Chris Feare of the British Trust for Ornithology confirmed that the bird bearing ring "SW7/DK90340" was ringed on Aride Island, Seychelles, on 30th June 1995.

It was an adult when ringed, so must be at least 22 years old when recovered in Sri Lanka.



Dugong



- ▶ Six partners joined hands with DWC to conduct the conservation plan for dugongs (and their seagrass habitats).
 - ▶ Supported by the *Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund*, financing from the *GEF*, implementation support by *UNEP*, technical support from *CMS*.
- ▶ Population numbers are currently unknown.
- ▶ Deaths of dugongs are being recorded along the northern and north-western coastal zones of Sri Lanka.
- ▶ An app has been developed to monitor sightings of dugongs (as well as other marine species of importance).



Marine turtles

- ▶ Five species of marine turtles use our beaches for nesting.
 - ▶ Major issues include habitat loss and predation.
 - ▶ Entanglement in fishing gears and incidental bycatch are also threats.
- ▶ Work is being undertaken to encourage the protection of nesting sites by local people.
- ▶ Protection for these species is included in the provisions under the FFPO.



Cetaceans

- ▶ All species are fully protected under the FFPO.
- ▶ Challenges include:
 - ▶ managing eco-tourism (whale and dolphin watching excursions)
 - ▶ Ship strikes
- ▶ Updates to regulations on whale-watching guidelines are being introduced shortly.
- ▶ Work is underway to propose moving the international shipping lanes further south to decrease strikes.



Sharks

- ▶ At least 13 of the CMS listed sharks are found in Sri Lanka.
 - ▶ Major issues include target and bycatch fisheries.
- ▶ Thresher sharks and whale sharks (*both App. II*) are fully protected by the 2015 Shark Fisheries Management Regulations, under the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act of 1996.



Sharks

- ▶ The Shark Fisheries Management Regulation also manages other App. II species (including mako and hammerhead sharks) via:
 - ▶ “fins attached”
 - ▶ Requirement to release live sharks, especially juveniles and pregnant sharks.
- ▶ At present, legislation is lacking to protect mobulid rays (Appendix I).



Thank You

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