

The activities were carried out by the Biodiversity Secretariat from 01st July to 30th September 2017 for publishing on website and Newsletter in Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment.

1) Awareness Workshop on Palaeobiodiversity Conservation & Protection for Government officers.

Palaeobiodiversity is introducing as a new subject and it was not yet popularize among the General public. Therefore Biodiversity Secretariat has organized above workshop dated on 03rd October 2017 at the auditorium in the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and environment “Sobadam piyasa” No: 416/C/1, Robert Gunawardena Mw, Battaramulla for aware the government officers in department of Archeology, Universities, Department of Wildlife, and Department of Forest, Gem & Jewelry Authority, Department of Coastal Conservation, Central Environment Authority & other institute.

Three Lectures were conducted as Palaeobiodiversity on Wet zone area delivered by Mr.Kalum Manamendraarachchi Postgraduate Institute of Archeology, University of Kelaniya Palaeobiodiversity on dry zone area conducted by the Prof. R.M.M. Chandrarathne , Department of Archeology in Faculty of Art ,University of Peradeniya. Palaeobiodiversity Conservation & Protection delivered by Prof. Gamini Adikari , Archeology Postgraduate Institute of university of Kelaniya .

2) Workshop on National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan 2016 – 2022 (NBSAP)

Biodiversity Secretariat prepared the National Biodiversity Strategic Action plan 2016 -2022 to achieve 12 NBSAP targets and It was based on 20 AIHCHI targets, 17 Sustainable development goals.

Biodiversity Secretariat conducted the above workshop for government officers on 12th September 2017 at the Center for Banking Study.

3) Awareness program on insect pollinators of Sri Lanka and their conservation

Above workshop goal is to enhance the knowledge on native pollinators and their significance on agriculture & biodiversity . Specific objectives of the workshops are to recall their knowledge about pollinators, to learn about types, habitat preference and their importance.



Many anthropogenic practices including the clearing of vegetation and application of insecticides to control insect pests and home garden pests destroy the invertebrate pollinators in many habitats of Sri Lanka. Therefore the above awareness program was organized on 27th September 2017 at the University of Kelaniya.

Prof. Shriyani Dias Faculty of Zoology & Environment management and Dr.Rathnayake, Faculty of Plant Science Education Division delivered the lectures to aware the university students.

4) National Biodiversity Expert Committee Meeting

Biodiversity Secretariat conducted biodiversity expert committee meeting on 22nd September 2017 at the conference Room in Ministry of Mahaweli Development. The Chairman Dr.Magdon Jayasuriya with members of the committee discussed the nationally important subjects. Some are as follows:

- 1) Release of *Wolbachia* – infected *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes into the environment as effort to control dengue has been given the approval to implement doing the trial with risk assessment.
- 2) Importation of construction materials such as stone and sand for development activities of the country.
- 3) Discussed threats to the Biodiversity and ground water due to Oil Palm cultivation.
- 4) Use of the prepared Material transfer agreement for any institute for exporting any biological material in order to regulate access & benefit sharing regime.



5) Mainstreaming Agro biodiversity conservation and use in Sri Lanka agro ecosystem for livelihoods and adaptation to climate change project.

Above project organized three days' workshop on 28th 29 & 30th September 2017 at the Nature Lovers in Horana. Aim and objectives were Implementation on Sustainable harvesting guideline and to be identified the pilot Site.

Farmers of the pilot project areas in Millaniya, Udukumbura and Gampola were participated and trained. In this workshop they planned to Implement Practical Training on “identify un sustainable harvesting methods, preparation of guideline on sustainable harvesting method to the site level farmers.

Plant Genetic Resource Center agreed to conserve the traditional valuable seeds and distributing seeds. And also Department of Ayurveda agreed to distribute medicinal plant species eg. Irviriya . Faculty of Veterinary in Peradeniya agreed to donate ten milking cows for selected farmers in pilot sites in this workshop.