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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
Aus AID	Australian Agency for International Development
CARP	Council for Agricultural Research Policy
CB	Central Bank
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCA	Coast Conservation Act
CCD	Coast Conservation Department
CEA	Central Environmental Authority
CWR	Crop Wild Relatives
CZMP	Coastal Zone Management Plan
DAPH	Department of Animal Production & Health
DAU	Department of Ayurveda
DEA	Department of Export Agriculture
NARESA	Natural Resources, Energy and Science Authority of Sri Lanka
DNBG	Department of National Botanic Gardens
DNZG	Department of National Zoological Gardens
DoA	Department of Agriculture
DoEA	Department of Export Agriculture
DWLC	Department of Wildlife Conservation
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIMS	Environmental Information Management System
EN	Endangered species
EPA	Environmental Protection Area
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations
FCRDI	Field Crop Research and Development Institute
FD	Forest Department
FFPO	Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance
FNR	Fifth National Report
FO	Forest Ordinance
FR	Forest Reserves
FSMP	Forestry Sector Master Plan
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIS	Geographical Information System
GOSL	Government of Sri Lanka
HORDI	Horticultural Research and Development Institute
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
KDN	Kanneliya-Dediyagala-Nakiyadeniya Forest Complex
MAB	UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme

MEPA	Marine Environment Protection Authority
MoERE	Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy
NAQDA	National Aquaculture Development Authority
NARA	National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency
NCR	National Conservation Review
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NHWAA	National Heritage and Wilderness Areas Act
NSC	National Steering Committee
NSF	The National Science Foundation
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Products
NWP	National Wetland Policy
OSF	Other State Forest
PA	Protected Area
PGRC	Plant Genetic Resource Centre
RRDI	Rice Research and Development Institute
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Désertification
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
VRI	Veterinary Research Institute
WCMC	World Conservation and Monitoring Center
WCP	Wetland Conservation Project

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## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1:	Specific objectives and recommended actions listed under BCAP thematic area
Table 2:	The Progress of Achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets
Table 1.1:	Ecosystem diversity in Sri Lanka: status and trends
Table 1.2:	Species diversity among selected groups of Sri Lanka's fauna and flora in terrestrial and freshwater wetlands
Table 1.3:	Species diversity among selected groups of fauna in coastal and marine systems
Table 1.4:	Summary of floriculture exports for Sri Lanka by product category from 2009-2013
Table 1.5:	Number and extent of protected areas administered by FD and the DWLC
Table 1.6:	Changes in area under International Protected Areas and Ramsar sites
Table 1.7:	Comparison of forest cover in Sri Lanka in 1992, 1999 and 2010
Table 1.8:	Threats identified for major forest types during the 2012 Red listing exercise
Table 1.9:	Trends in germplasm collection status by crop group at the PGRC
Table 1.10:	Summary of main threats to biodiversity in Sri Lanka
Table 1.11:	Changing threat status of indigenous fauna, flowering plants and pteridophytes in Sri Lanka
Table 1.12:	Projected forest cover in different categories of forests by 2020
Table 2.1:	Classification of specific objectives and recommended actions in the BCAP thematic areas
Table 2.2:	Key actions taken, major outcomes achieved, and obstacles faced for BCAP thematic area: "Forest":
Table 2.3:	Key actions taken, major outcomes achieved, and obstacles faced for BCAP thematic area: "Wetlands"
Table 2.4:	Key actions taken, major outcomes achieved, and obstacles faced for BCAP thematic area: "Coastal and Marine Systems"
Table 2.5:	Key actions taken, major outcomes achieved, and obstacles faced for BCAP thematic area: "Agricultural Systems"
Table 2.6:	Key actions taken, major outcomes achieved, and obstacles faced for priority recommendations in Addendum to the BCAP
Table 2.7:	Key Policies/Plans & Strategies and Legislation relating to Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Sri Lanka
Table 2.8:	Project Related to Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Sri Lanka
Table 3.1:	Progress of implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Targets
Table 3.2:	The progress of achieving the relevant 2015 Targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Sri Lanka
Table 4.1:	The Composition of the National Steering Committee (NSC)
Table 4.2:	The Composition of the Technical Working Group (TWG)

## LIST OF BOXES

- BOX 1.1: Summary of Ecosystem Services offered by Sri Lanka's forests, wetlands, coastal and marine systems, and agricultural systems
- BOX 1.2: Case study: Central Highlands World Heritage Site
- BOX 1.3: Case study of the four UNESCO MAB Reserves in Sri Lanka
- BOX 1.4: Importance of traditional and wild varieties for rice breeding
- BOX 1.5: Economic use of genetic diversity among Cinnamon and Piper species
- BOX 1.6: Practice of Ayurveda in Sri Lanka
- BOX 1.7: Trends in extractive Use of forest resources in the Sinharaja Biosphere Reserve
- BOX 1.8: Analysis of threats to wetlands

## LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure i : Forest Ecosystems in 1999 & 2010
- Figure ii : Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in Sri Lanka
- Figure iii : Forest Cover depletion from 1992 – 2010
- Figure iv : Progress of Achieving of Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- Figure 1.1: Revenue from foreign visitors to forest and wildlife reserves, National Botanic and Zoological Gardens
- Figure 1.2: Sri Lanka's fish production in 2012
- Figure 1.3: Sri Lanka's marine sector fish catch by major commercial groups 2008-2012
- Figure 1.4: Percentage contribution of major hydropower to power generation and installed capacity
- Figure 1.5: Forest cover in Sri Lanka in 2010
- Figure 1.6: The potential vulnerability of Sri Lanka's biodiversity rich areas and sites of high endemism to climate change, by DSD
- Figure 2.1: Level of implementation of recommended actions in BCAP thematic area of "Forest"
- Figure 2.2: Level of implementation of recommended actions in BCAP thematic area of "Wetlands"
- Figure 2.3: Level of implementation of recommended actions in BCAP thematic area of "Coastal and Marine Systems"
- Figure 2.4: Level of implementation of recommended actions in BCAP thematic area of "Agricultural Systems"
- Figure 2.5: Breakdown of the level of achievements of recommended actions in BCAP thematic areas (No. and Percentage)
- Figure 2.6: Breakdown of the level of achievements of priority recommendations in the Addendum (Percentage)
- Figure 2.7: Level of implementation of priority recommendations in the Addendum



**R.H.M.P. Abeykoon**

Director, Biodiversity Secretariat  
Ministry of Environment & Renewable Energy

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The Article 26 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) states that the objective of national reporting is to provide information on measures taken for the implementation of the Convention and the effectiveness of these measures. This Fifth National Report to Convention on Biological Diversity is an outcome of the consultative process involving a range of stakeholders including representatives of relevant institutions and experts. Preparation of this report would never have been possible without active participation of renowned individuals in relevant institutions and experts dealing with biodiversity conservation.

On behalf of the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy, I would like to extend my special thanks to the distinguished individuals and experts in the National Steering Committee (NSC), and Technical Working Group (TWG), the relevant Ministries, institutions, agencies, as well as the representatives of the NGOs, CBOs and the private sector who took time out of their busy schedules to participate in workshops and meet with our consultants to provide data and information for developing this report.

I am grateful to Mr. B.M.U.D Basnayake, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy who took a personal interest and provided guidance throughout the process and ensured that planners and policy makers at the highest level participated in the consultative process. In addition, he also provided a valuable contribution to the process as the chairman of the National Steering Committee for Biodiversity Conservation. The guidance for the entire report preparation process provided by Mr. N.K.G.K. Nammawatta, Additional Secretary (Natural Resources) is greatly appreciated.

My sincere appreciation is extended to Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for providing funding for preparation of the Fifth National Report. I am also thankful to all the consultants, Mr. H.M.Bandarattillake, Lead Consultant and other consultants namely Dr. Jinie Dela (Part I), Prof. Udith Jayasinghe (Part II), and Mr. W.T.B. Dissanayake (Part III). My special thanks are extended to the staff of the Biodiversity Secretariat of the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy, particularly to Mr. Sujith Rathnayake, Ms. Champika Kariyawasam, Environment Management Officers and Ms. Saranga Jayasundara, Programme Assistant.

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**R.H.M.P. Abeykoon**



**Susil Premajayantha MP**  
Minister of Environment and Renewable Energy

## MESSAGE

Sri Lanka is endowed with a wide variety of ecosystems and habitats and many species of flora and fauna. It is one of the most biologically diverse countries in Asia. Despite its small size of 6.57 million hectares, Sri Lanka has a varied climate and topography, which has resulted in rich biodiversity, distributed within a wide range of ecosystems. In fact conservation of these resources has been an integral part of Sri Lanka's ancient civilization as stated in ancient chronicles such as the Mahawamsa (*The great historical chronicle of Ceylon (Sri Lanka) composed in the late 5th or early 6th century*). King Devanampiyatissa established one of the world's earliest wildlife sanctuaries during 247 to 207 BC in the period of advent of Buddhism to the country, a philosophy that respects all forms of life.

The Fifth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) provided a unique opportunity to assess the progress made on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and related conventions. While the country has made a significant progress towards implementation of our biodiversity conservation programs, the problems such as the institutional and capacity issues, the lack of human and financial resources etc, were also identified from the process of Fifth National Report. The report not only provides an opportunity to share experiences with in Sri Lanka, it also provides us a great opportunity to share our experiences with the rest of the world.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other related conventions have greatly influenced the policies, action plans and programmes in Sri Lanka. Therefore, the need for conserving the country's biodiversity and sensitive ecosystems is recognized in national planning, and is reflected in the key national policies such as *Mahinda Chintana* (the framework for national policy), National Environmental Policy and Strategies, the Action Plan for the Haritha (Green) Lanka Programme etc. The required institutional and policy framework, large number of supporting legislation have been developed as a mechanism for maintaining of biodiversity conservation in to sectoral and cross sectoral strategies, plans and programs in Sri Lanka.

I am happy to note that Fifth National Report has been prepared following a consultative process involving a very wide range of stakeholders, and wish to thank all those who were involved in this task. The financial support provided by the Global Environment Facility through UNDP, Sri Lanka is also gratefully acknowledged. The Government of Sri Lanka remains committed to promoting the conservation and sustainable use of county's biodiversity for the benefit of present and future generations.

**Susil Premajayantha MP**



**B.M.U.D Basnayake**

Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Renewable Energy

## FOREWORD

Sri Lanka has signed the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in June 1992, and ratified in March 1994. Sri Lanka prepared a comprehensive Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan (BCAP) in order to fulfill the obligations under Article 6 of the CBD and Cabinet approval for the Action Plan was granted to it in 1998. The National Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan comprises the concrete actions to be taken to achieve the objectives of the Convention. This document was updated later, with the publication of an Addendum in 2007.

The Article 26 of the Convention on Biological Diversity requires parties to the Convention, at intervals determined by the Conference of the Parties (COP), prepare and present to the COP, reports on measures which the country has taken for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention, and their effectiveness in meeting the objectives of the Convention. In order to fulfill this obligation, Sri Lanka has submitted its national reports periodically to the Conference of Parties (COP).

Accordingly, Sri Lanka's Fifth National Report was prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy, and I am glad to present the report to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The report preparation process involved wide stakeholder consultations comprising of Government ministries, departments, agencies, NGOs, private sector and other relevant stakeholders. The preparation of Fifth National Report to the CBD not only provided an opportunity to review the national implementation of the Convention, it provided an opening to assess the progress towards the implementation of the Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan (BCAP) and its addendum. Furthermore, it was an opportunity to assess the progress towards meeting the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

However, the process of preparation of the Fifth National Report provided a great opportunity review the enormous achievements we have made towards the conservation of biodiversity in Sri Lanka, and at the same time it provided an opportunity to identify the institutional and policy weakness in our system which acts as barriers for more effective conservation of biodiversity in the country. The report highlights the progress achieved towards implementation of the BCAP, its addendum and progress towards meeting the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The report also discusses ecosystem services, threats and issues faced by the biodiversity sector in Sri Lanka.

Preparation of the report to a great extent assisted by the Technical Working Group (TWG), National Steering Committee (NSC) and several individual experts who provided very valuable information. I am thankful to all of them for their valuable inputs. My special appreciation is extended to Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) country office in Colombo, for providing funds which made it possible for the Ministry to prepare the Fifth National Report to the Convention on Biological diversity.

**B.M.U.D Basnayake**