



# Protecting our Biodiveristy and Forests

**The Climate & Conservation Consortium**



# CCC + PLANT

- This year, CCC signed a landmark MOU with PLANT to act as a strategic and expert partner to their initiative



## Preserving Land And Nature (PLANT)

PIONEERING A SCALABLE MODEL FOR  
CONSERVATION IN SRI LANKA



WILDLIFE AND NATURE PROTECTION SOCIETY

# Sri Lanka's largest Private Conservation land custodian



- In late 2020, through a visionary move, Sri Lanka's largest and most active conservation movement, the **Wildlife and Nature Protection Society (WNPS)** established a Not-for-Profit company called PLANT (**Preserving Land and Nature (Guarantee) Ltd**) to operate under the auspices of the WNPS.
- This initiative was set up to **acquire privately owned lands** (outright or on a long-term lease)
- To collect funds through the company, and the WNPS, to **purchase lands** for the purpose of conservation and **holding land in Trust** on behalf of future generations.



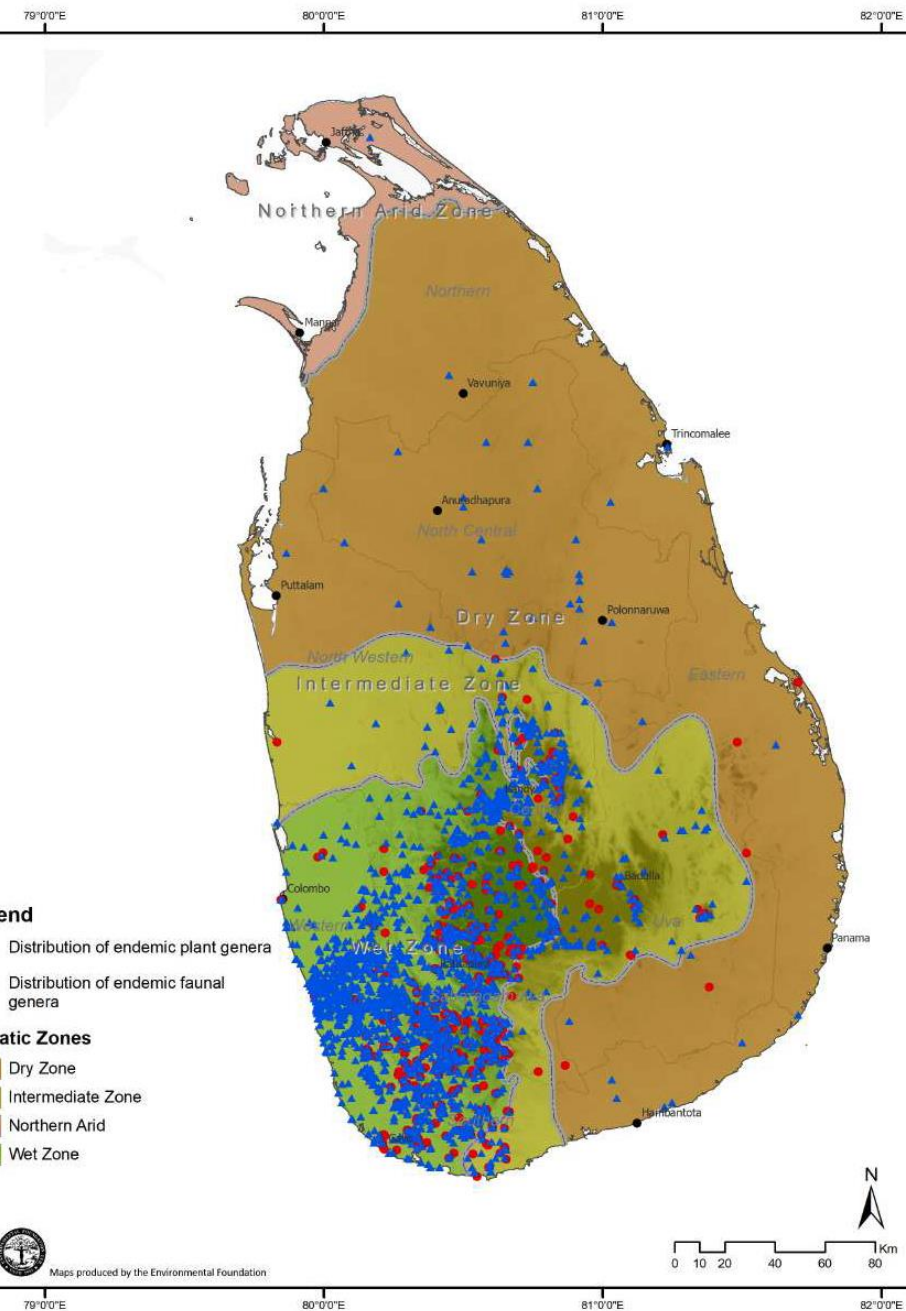
# Key Objectives

- To **acquire and/or hold private land** for the purpose of establishing and administering natural sanctuaries and reserves which serve as a haven for fauna and flora and provide an opportunity where desirable for research activities.
- To **prevent the destruction and harmful commercial exploitation** of species of wild animal and plants, and wherever desirable and possible, **to preserve wildlife intact in natural conditions** in areas where the Company can exercise administrative control.
- To assist in **protecting nature in all its forms**, such as landscape, soil, water, flora, fauna, marine habitats, and to **conserve it for future generations**.



# Key Objectives

- To **co-operate actively** with other persons and organizations in Sri Lanka and in other countries in the interests of nature conservation and to give **support for study and research concerning wildlife.**
- To **publicize the importance of wildlife and nature** conservation in this country.



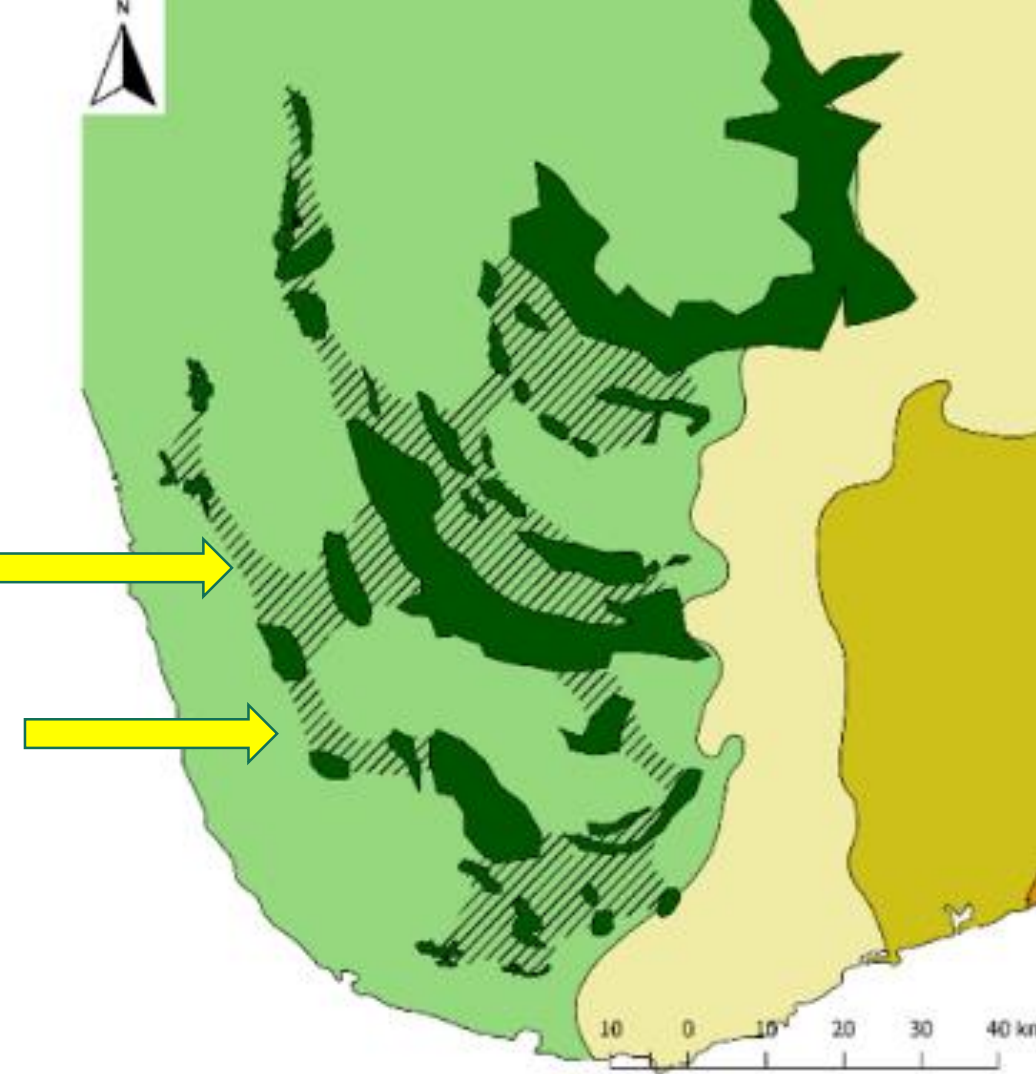
# Sri Lanka



- Sri Lanka is known as a **global biodiversity hotspot** for its high number of species in a relatively limited area. Sri Lanka's biodiversity also has a **high rate of endemism** - about 27% of the country's plants are endemic, and 22% of its amphibians, birds, mammals, and reptiles.
- Sadly, Sri Lanka has one of the world's highest recorded rates of primary forest destruction (Global Forest Watch). **Primary forest cover has fallen from 84% in 1881 to less than 17% today** (Mongabay). Habitat loss is the greatest threat to Sri Lanka's native ecosystems and species.
- The species diversity in Sri Lanka is exceptionally concentrated in the South-Western part of the Island, where 6% of the landmass is home to around 90% of our species diversity.

# The Emerald Trails

- The Emerald Trails Initiative is an ambitious plan of creating an almost uninterrupted corridor of protected Natural spaces and Forest eco systems to ensure continued movement and linkage for Animals with different larger geographies of Conserved Land blocks in Sri Lanka.
- Each Corridor is envisioned to be within a broad 2-3 Km width on a map. Thus, the Emerald Trail will be around 100 kilometres of Green Carpet, linking some of the most important ecological regions of Sri Lanka.



©Emerald Trails Map developed by

WNPS and PLANT

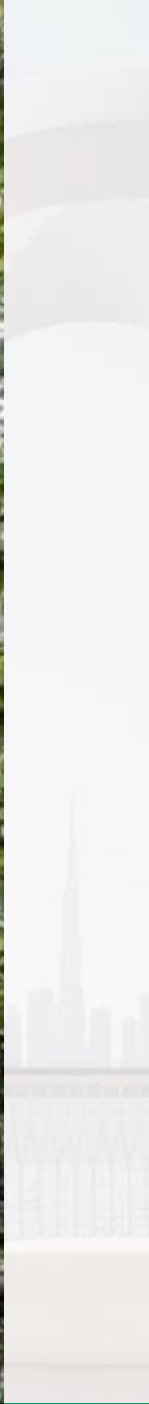


It took just 3 months to see this happening in the property directly separating 2 blocks that WNPS

The delay in funding resulted in the destruction







# Some of the Species

- **Fishing cat** which is the second-largest endangered wild cat inhabiting hill country wet zone and dry zone forests
- The highly trafficked **Indian Pangolin** (high EDGE and ED species),
- **The Serendib Scops-owl**, one of the highest EDGE species among birds and a highly range-restricted endemic,
- Erdelein's **Horned Lizard**, which is an example member of a group of four endemic CR and EN horned lizards found exclusively in these forests,



# Progress

- Current coverage had already reached almost **300 Acres** through direct ownership and indirect MOUs, which are aimed at preserving and nurturing natural spaces that are conducive to nature and wildlife.
- Some individuals have **already donated land blocks** to PLANT, provided funding for purchasing land, or entered into **MOUs to manage forested land** while retaining ownership.
- **90% or more** of funds acquired go directly towards the acquiring of land, 10% maybe reserved for the maintenance of the land / property, unless grants are for reforestation work.



# Progress

- PLANT has begun to undertake biodiversity studies and other work on these locations and is currently evolving its structures for scale while leveraging the strong WNPS network of resources.



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Fund for Nature

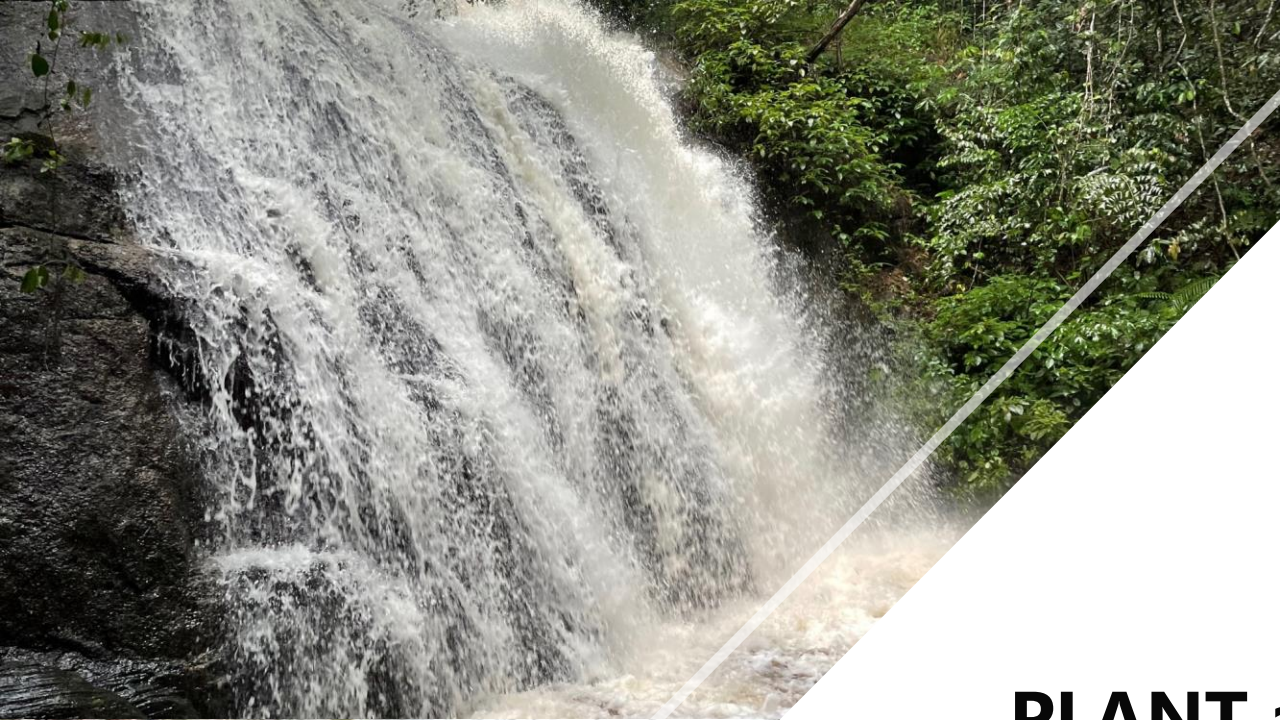
# Global Support

- In May 2022, PLANT also acquired three adjoining lands in the ecologically sensitive Peak Wilderness area off Erathna.
- The properties ensure around **Forty-four Acres** of refuge to a very diverse range of species. PLANT is very proud to have obtained funding for the purchase through two globally strong conservation partners from the USA.
- This location has benefitted from previous studies that show that the property is home to an astonishing **145 endemic species** within its small confines.









# PLANT at Work





**PLANT hopes to bring over 500  
Acres more within 2022, and  
have 1000 Acres under its  
coverage within early 2023**



Thank you

ClimateConserve.com