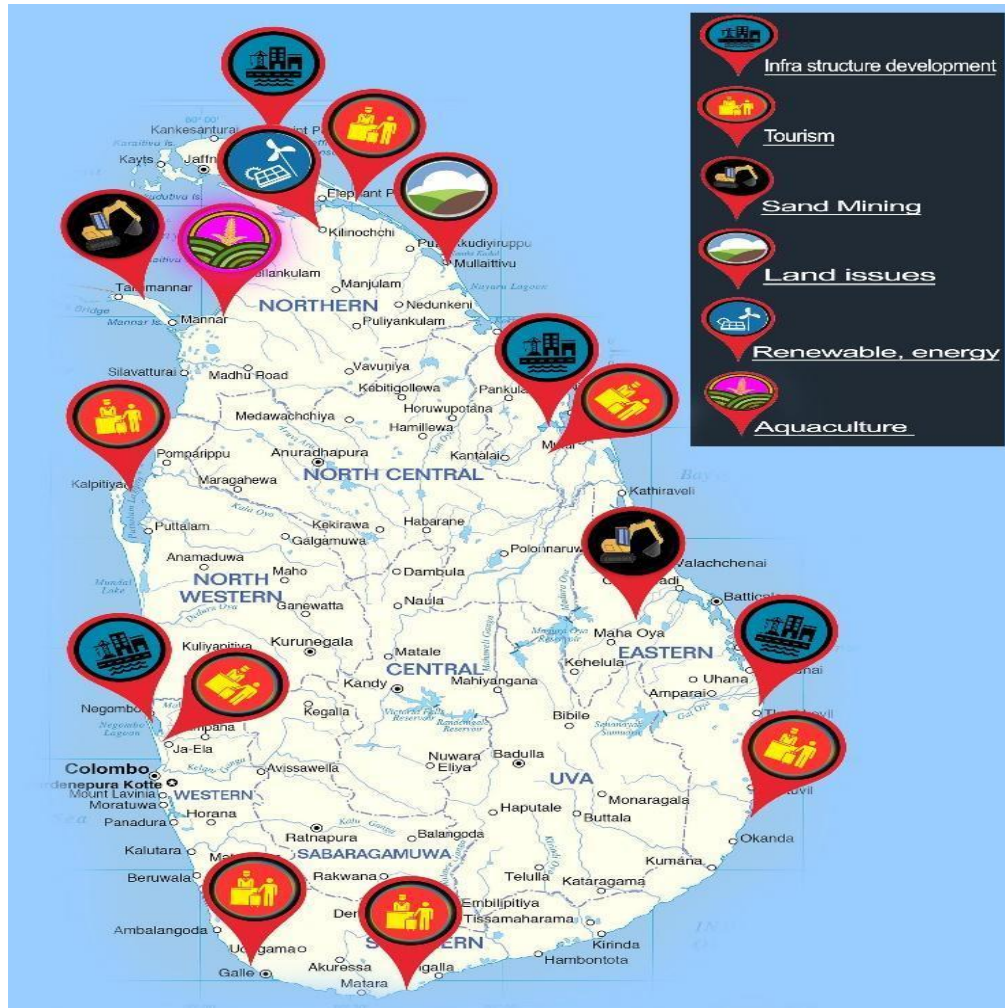


National Physical Development Plan: the impacts on the Communities and the Environment: The Community Led Research in Sri Lanka



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1. Executive Summary

The National Physical Development Plan of GOSL for 2013-2025 period and the extended plans prepared by consecutive governments aimed to utilize all possible, available natural resources to facilitate the needs of the growth of the country's economic development, irrespective of social, cultural, economic, environmental consequences to the communities those depending on them. The farmers, fishers, milk producers, adivasis and even landless communities depend on the same resources while providing food, employment, livelihood which provide sustainable living for them and caring for the mother earth. Those people care about nature, provide nutritious food to the nation, protect the cultures, continue the social relationships and practices of core values of the society. However, the current dominant model adopted by Neo Liberal Economic policies do not care about the peaceful coexistence of people and nature and the only aim is to increase the profit for the corporates and the powerful people in the society. The government policies cater to the needs of this model of development and do not care for the thousands if not millions of the dependents of those resources for their survival. In fact, those people are the food providers to the nation though they go hungry every day. Their children are malnourished and tend to drop out from the school education system. Education is the only way out for them to overcome this situation and they lose this also eventually.

The Blue Economy model of development for the fisheries sector was adopted by FAO in 2009 and continued to expand all over the world. Sri Lanka is also one of the countries which adopted the Blue-Green Economy through the national development plans and opened the aquatic resources to corporate capture. Various so-called development projects were introduced in coastal areas, islands, in water bodies and forest lands, agricultural lands and all possible spaces in various names. This would be either tourism, infrastructure development, mining, aquaculture, regenerative energy or land grabbing and sea grabbing and more. However, the communities who depend on them were neglected, their basic rights were violated, the women and children in those families also became

further vulnerable and neglected. People agitated on their own and the struggles were isolated and crushed down easily using military, police powers, deregulating the land laws¹, powers of the local politicians, and to the extent of using guns and goons.

NAFSO has been working with the coastal communities, landless people and politically oppressed, war affected people and women headed households for more than 3 decades² now. If human rights violations continue like this, it is inevitable there will be another people uprising against these injustices violently. So, we hope to bring the affected, vulnerable communities together to have collective actions forming with a strong social movement from grassroot level up to national, regional and international levels.

The ESCR-Net gave us a good opportunity to strengthen our efforts through community lead research to educate, mobilize and take collective actions to build resistance, act for redistributive justice and to regain the sustenance of our lives and the resources, and sustainable future for the communities. For this matter, we need all possible actors to unite and the communities in the center of the struggles. This led to conduct Community Lead Research uniting with 7 global actors in the ESCR-Net to have collective actions based on Collective Charter prepared by the Social Movements of ESCR-Net.

NAFSO has prepared this report and expects to mobilize the communities based on their issues, which were identified and analyzed with their participation. And, to break the isolation of the community groups fighting in 16 sites based on 5 main subject areas of so-called development around the country, we expect to unite them as a national land campaign facilitated

¹ Land Use Change Implication for the Use of Other State Forests (OSF) is a simple guiding document prepared based on the comprehensive study carried out by a team covering Mannar and Ampara Districts and identifying the existing situation of the land-use changes in relation to the proposed interventions that are expected with the release of OSF on the government decision of releasing such lands for commercial agriculture and entrepreneurship development by canceling the Circular No; 5/2001 enabling the transferring the ownership of these lands to the Divisional Secretary of respective DSDs from the Forest Department.

Also, in late February 2023, the Cabinet has decided to release sensitive forest reserves situated in 11 districts in Sri Lanka under the forest and wildlife departments, which will further worsen the food crisis, water scarcity and droughts, agricultural crisis as well as increasing human- elephant coexistence issues in the country.

² NAFSO became an independent organization in 1997 though the origin of the organization has been rooted at SEDEC, Caritas SL since 1992 under CIDSE-APHD-SEDEC Program.

by NAFSO and Praja Abilasha land rights network. NAFSO has planned to launch the campaign, “Land, Food and Climate Justice” in collaboration with Asian Peasant Coalition and with the support of “NO LAND NO LIFE” Campaign facilitated by PANAP.

The CLR report will be used as the advocacy document and we expect to launch this in early March. We expect to collaborate with one million signature campaigns globally, one thousand people’s voices from the CLR research communities, and to collaborate with the global People’s caravan on Land, Food and Climate Justice campaign as the chapter in Sri Lanka highlighting the important points in the CLR report.

So the important matter is that the communities should take the lead to advocate the rights of the people. For this matter, we expect to organize Legal Advocacy training and education programs to empower community members and leaders. So, the findings will be used to build community leadership and to build social movements which resist the current speed of devastation of the environment and the violation of human rights.

2. Background and Introduction of the research:

NAFSO is working with small-scale fisher communities primarily and also with small holder farmers, agricultural workers, plantation communities and women in all the sectors to ensure food sovereignty through land justice, gender justice, climate justice and overall human rights and social justice approaches. Over the decades of adopting Neo-Liberal Economic policies, since 1978, more than 45 years the small scale food producers, women and youth have experienced serious social, economic, environmental and political destruction and degradation of human rights violations. Once people came forward to prevent, resist and assert their rights, the ruler's response was brutal and inhuman and to an unbearable level. Some of the main demands were to be free from domination, exploitation and also discrimination against humanity. However, these people's uprising was brutally crushed through militarily and using war. Over this period our country experienced two major blood sheds, one in the south in 1987-1989 period killing or disappearing 60,000 people, youth in particular and there after 2005-2009 in the north too while killing or disappearing more than 100,000 people in the country.

Immediately after the war ended, the Sri Lankan rulers came forward with a plan claiming we need to have a vision aiming at 2030 then this was extended until 2050. So, there was a specific department established which is called National Physical Planning Department and this was the main institution to plan and design the future of the country. The department came out with a new plan labeling it as the National Physical Development Plan which is known as NPP 2013-2030. Once we see the NPP it has not considered the country's rural economies, the small holder farmers, fisher folk, the plantation communities, milk farmers, agricultural workers and women in all these sectors who are depending on the land, water, forests, coasts, lagoons, seas, and in general the people who depend on the natural resources. The majority are farmers, fishers and plantation communities affected by the NPP. People agitate in isolation and attempt to emancipate their situation alone. But, the issue is huge and needs collective efforts to overcome as a concerned group of people who are working on people's human rights, right to food, right to land, water, education, health, housing and many more. In such a situation we were able to collaborate with the ESCR-Net global research work which is Community Lead Research and to bring this to national and global platforms to address them collectively.

The ESCR-Net facilitated Community Lead Research Program

What is the ESCR Net? *The International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ([ESCR-Net](#)) brings together over 270 non-governmental organizations, social movements, and advocates across 76 countries working to build a movement for human rights and social justice. The [Monitoring Working Group](#) brings together 40 members of the Network who use data to advance human rights and address inequalities.*

2.1 Why Community Lead Research is Important?

In January 2019, 19 members,³ from the ESCR-Net Monitoring Working Group met in Mexico to discuss the role of data in advancing economic, social, and cultural rights as well as gaps in existing data practices. As community based groups, our common experience was that of a lack of availability of official data on economic, social, and cultural rights and where data did exist it was often not of the requisite quality. As a working group comprised mainly of over 40 civil society organizations, particularly grassroots and community-based organizations that collect data, also discussed how the community data, and data produced by communities more generally, is quite often dismissed as inferior to official data, particularly quantitative data, but actually has a major role to play in advancing economic, social, and cultural rights because it reflects communities' concerns and lived experiences. As a result, the team who gathered and discussed have agreed on the need to challenge dominant narratives around what kinds of data counts as legitimate and to propose a powerful vision for a human rights-based approach to data.

2.2 The Global process of Community Lead Research program

While the communities are struggling to survive ensuring with basic food, land, water, shelter, education, health for their survival, the Corporates facilitated by the States through either the practical means or through existing laws or deregulating the laws and policies in favor of the profit motives of corporates to plunder the resources. However, the unfortunate situation is the States are projecting them as “the Development” of the country, better future for the communities while the local communities are attempting to survive against the displacement from the people's own lands, customary ownership, dispossession and destruction of natural resources. Eventually, the plunders exploit the resources without caring for the sustenance of the people and the environment. This is the experience of almost all the places where people came forward to resist those so called development programs. As a global human rights movement, ECSR-Net identified 5 countries of Bolivia, Gauthamala, Liberia, Spain and Sri Lanka to study, analyze and to launch an advocacy campaign based on the Common charter developed by the Social Movements WG of ESCR-Net which was adopted by the general body of the network.

The ESCR-Net Facilitated CLR project has involved five social movement members: Consejo de Pueblos Wuxhtaj (Guatemala), Natural Resource Women Platform (Liberia), Plataforma de Afectados por la Hipoteca (Spain), and Red Chimpu Warmi (Bolivia) and National Fisheries Solidarity Movement (Sri

³ Asociación Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia (ACIJ, Arg), Al Haq (OPT), Areli Sandoval Terán (individual member, México), Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental (CEMDA, México), Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR, US), Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL, US), Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR, Egypt), Fundar - Centro de Análisis e Investigación (México), Fundación Para el Desarrollo de Políticas Sostenibles (FUNDEPS, Arg), Economic and Social Rights Centre (Hakijamii, Kenya), Habitat International Coalition (HIC, México), International Accountability Project (IAP, global), Initiative for Social and Economic rights (ISER, Uganda), International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRRAW, Thailand), Natural Resource Women Platform (NRWP, Liberia), Nazdeek (India), Project on Organising, Development, Education and Research (PODER, México), Right to Education Initiative (UK), Video Volunteers (India).

Lanka) to conduct to identify the realities of development related injustices which violate human rights of the people, basically depriving right to life, right to livelihoods, right to safe environment, right to customary management and ownership of natural resources they depend on, other than the basic human rights of the people.

So, the ESCR-Net lead program in Sri Lanka is not an isolated research study but coordinated work among the selected 5 members with the aim of launching an advocacy campaign with commonalities of the

2.3 Importance of community engagement on Development

In Neo Liberal development, the center of the development is “the Profit” first and not the people. The main aim of the rulers in most of the countries is to balance the deficit of the national budget earning foreign exchange through either selling, leasing or mortgaging the available natural resources to corporates with the profit motives and nothing else. The communities who are depending on those resources are not at all a concern of them and neglected their wellbeing and basic rights for their survival. It is the common practice, the law makers, law enforcing agencies, and generally the wider civil society either justify or facilitate these injustices led by the exploitation. The rulers are attempting to highlight these projects as essential for the country’s progress and overall development. However, even the media does not take the side of the deprived people and does not provide any support to highlight the issues faced by the people and to attempt to seek support.

In this context, people who are affected with these so-called development projects need to come forward and voice out in a collective manner. However, once people raise their voices, the bureaucrats and even the law enforcement authorities do not care about their voices unless there is a systematic way of presenting their cases with powerful qualitative evidence. We believe the communities are the center of their development and without them there should not be any development. Even the States themselves have agreed and adopted global guidelines to develop any development projects with the Free Prior Informed Consent [FPIC] of the people. So, we hope the Top Down development approach has been rejected the world decades ago and should not happen again. In such, to ensure Bottom Up development, the people should come forward and articulate their aspirations and desire to come forward to become the center of the development. So, through the CLR program we aimed to bring people to the center of the development against the Top Down development model which was adopted under the guise of Neo Liberal Economic Policies. So, we expected to bring the communities to better understand the so called development program of National Physical Planning 2013-2050 and to resist, reclaim and regenerate the future of the communities bringing people into the center and taking the leadership to carve their future for their sustenance and to ensure their wellbeing.

2.4 The objectives of the Community Lead research in Sri Lanka

- a. To study, analyze and identify common elements of the development projects launched under the NPP of Sri Lanka by the community themselves,
- b. To network with the individuals, isolated various campaigns which are come under NPP development projects and unite them for collective campaign
- c. Identify necessary advocacy agencies, corporates, and structures possible to launch advocacy and lobby campaigns using the final report as well as site specific reports prepared,
- d. Building community leadership for resist, regenerate and reclaim their customary rights based on each of the studying site,

- e. Identify necessary subject areas to launch media advocacy campaigns, produce video documentaries and to launch social media campaigns,

2.5 Description of the Community Lead Research Project

A. TYPES OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS & SURVEY LOCATIONS

NAFSO planned to study the impacts of National Physical Development Plan [NPP], 2013-2050, well known as NPP to the fisher, farmer, agricultural workers and women in selected sites of the country and to the environment and to ecosystems they are living in. The main target of the NPP is to provide facilities for country development under the neo liberal economic agenda. So, we planned to study the social, economic, political and environmental impacts of the projects and carried out 15 sites in the 11 districts in relation to NPP.

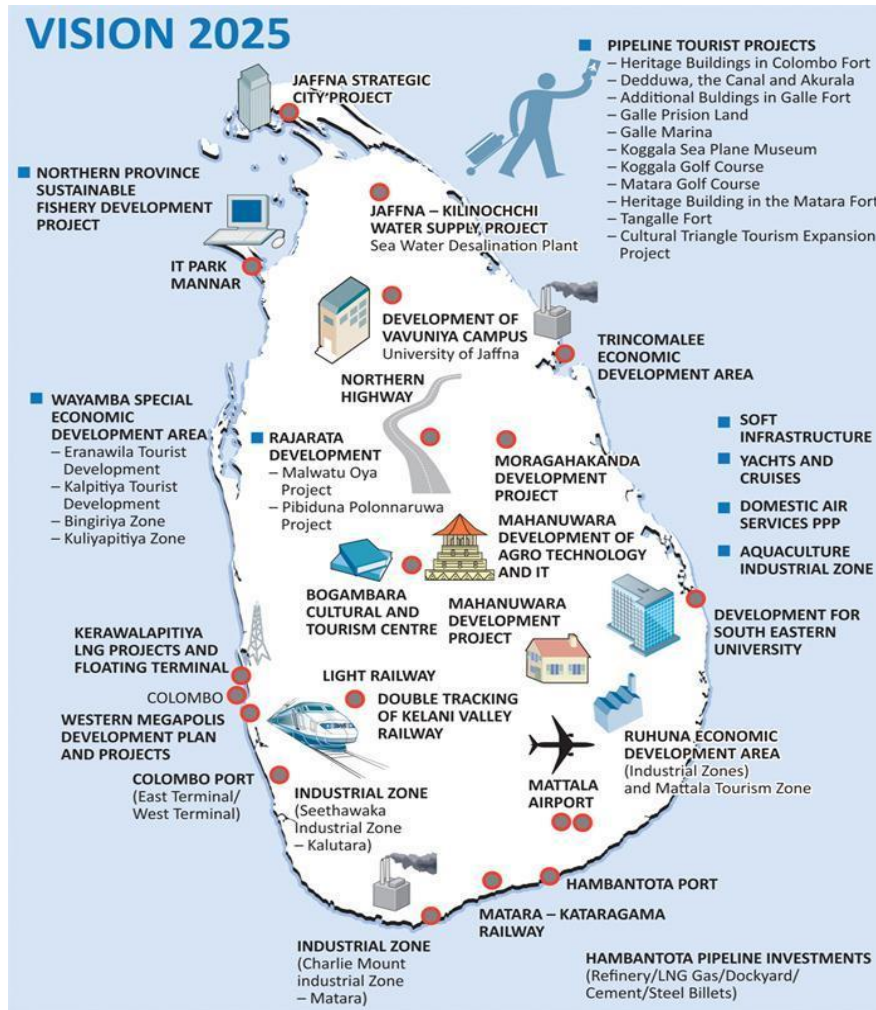


Figure1: NPP [2013-2025]

At the initial stage, we planned to carry out the survey among 1200 persons though we interviewed only 924 participants due to multiple crises we face as Sri Lankans. NPP has multiple development agendas and they are totally based on use of natural resources. Our survey focused attention on 5 major areas of interventions of either government or private sector lead resource use.

We focused our attention on 5 main development projects such as:

Type of Development project	No. of sites	Places of the Study sites
Tourism Promotion	8	Dickwella, Hikkaduwa, Muthurajawela, Kalpitiya, Kallarawa, Arugam Bay, Paanama, Chundikulam
Infrastructure Development	3	Colombo Port City, Point Pedro Harbour, Trincomalee Urban Development project,
Sand mining	2	Mannar and Kithul, Batticaloa
Renewable Energy (Wind power)	1	Kauwdarimunai, Kilinochchiya
Land Grabbing	1	Mullaitivu
Total	15	

Chart 1: Classification of CLR study sites

In all these sites, our main focus was the effects of people’s lives and livelihoods, the disturbances to their social structures, some threats or any harassment to their lives who depend on natural resources and the adverse effects on the environment. And in all these efforts our approach was a rights based approach and human rights and their violations as a whole.

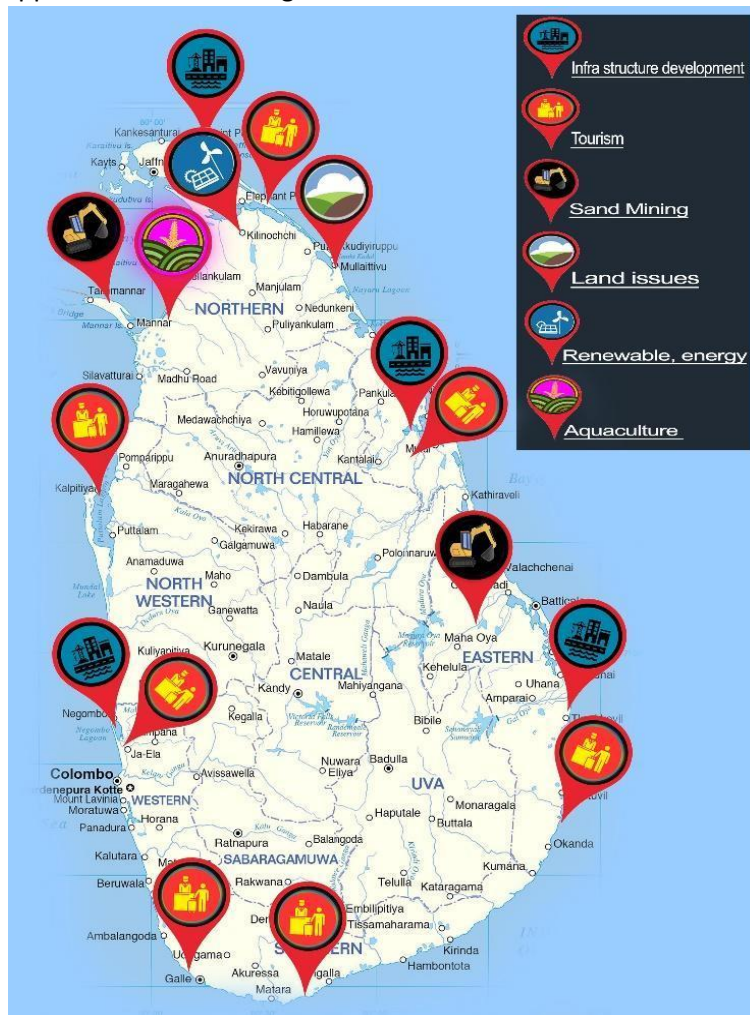


Figure 2: Survey sites and the development focus

- National Physical Plan, Regulations but delaying drafting land policy, national fisheries policy,

- Urban regeneration program
- GOSL attract investors,
- Cabinet accelerates projects, Hambanthota harbour, Mega polis, Port City, via infrastructure development,
- Wildlife department declares people’s lands as sanctuaries, national parks, for tourism purposes.
- Militarization,

3. METHODOLOGY FOLLOWED IN CLR IN SRI LANKA

3.1 PROCESS OF SURVEY AND PEOPLE INVOLVED

At the initial plan we expected to conduct the survey among 80 participants in each site and reach 1200 in number in all the sites. However, we ended up with 924 survey participants. This was due to the economic crisis leading to high inflation, political instability in the country, the travel difficulties, high travel costs, COVID threats and health restrictions including travel bans, political and threats from the security personnel to our field activists and community members involved in the survey. However, it is a great achievement as far as Sri Lankan context is concerned and the enthusiasm raised among the people involved in the community lead research for follow up actions and engagement as communities to overcome their situation.

The Planning Process:

NAFSO announced the CLR engagement with ESCR-Net to conduct the CLR at the steering committee which was the initial planning stage and selection of the sites we engaged. The district coordinators were given the orientation and based on our experiences at our Praja Abilasha land rights campaign, we selected the sites to launch the program. Our targeted communities were the farmers, agricultural workers, fish workers, fishers, fisher women, coastal communities who depend on the natural resources and the coastal dwellers were approached too. The different types of occupations, professions and their numbers were as follows;

Types of Livelihoods/ Profession	Number	Percentage%
Fishing	550	59.5
Farming	171	18.5
Labourers	85	9.2
Public/ Govt. Servants	32	3.5
Others	86	9.3
Total	924	100%

Chart 2: Classification of livelihoods/ professions of the CLR survey participants

So, we selected sites based on how those exposed to capital and exploited by the companies or government agencies or the plans prepared to exploit the natural resources which people are depending on for their livelihoods and belong to people and have customary rights. As our main focus is on small-scale fishing communities, we paid high attention to the Blue Economy, Blue Growth as the policy interventions of the GOSL. So, we studied 550 [59.5%] the situation of fishing

community representatives and 171 [18.5%] farming and agriculture community representatives. However, we met labourers in the agriculture communities as well as government servants in the villages to collect information.

There were 16 sites selected based on the adversely affected communities due to implementation or possible implications due to development sites of the NPP/ BE framework. The district organizations, together with affected community leaders were engaged in the selection process and this provided us more opportunity to trace the potential leaders to engage the survey process. As reported at the beginning, the initial targeted number of survey participants were 1200. However, due to reported reasons we ended up the survey with 924 participants (79.5%) and not the intended original number we planned.

The detailed analysis of the community members participated the CLR is as follows;

Gender Analysis:

Gender	Number of participants	Percentage%
Male	537	58.1
Female	387	41.9
Trans Gender	Not reported	-

Chart 3: Gender Analysis of the CLR survey participants

As we focused on the direct impacts of fisheries related livelihood aspects we approached the small scale fishers, fish workers and fisher women as the main target group in the coastal villages and also the farmers in the agricultural villages, the majority of male participants 537 [58.1%] were mobilized in the CLR process.

However, we attempted to get the participation of female participants 387 [41.9%] as custodians of the sea, coasts, agricultural lands, forests, and also as important resource owners/ users of the community though it is not the equal number with the male population we approached to CLR study. However, in our CLR learning and study process, in the community research team there were a closely equal number of female participants joined in our enumerator teams.

Age Analysis:

Age [Years]	Number of Participants	Percentage%
Below 25	74	7.9
26-35	113	12.2
36-55	465	50.3
56-65	187	20.2
66-75	85	9.1
Total	924	100%

Chart 4: Analysis of age groups participated the CLR survey

According to our CLR data gathered, the majority of the participants of the survey and the FGDs were below 55 in age though it is not purposely done. They are the energetic persons in the community who have already begun their lives or providing space for the younger generation to emerge as responsible citizens. However, we didn't forget the wisdom and rich experiences of older generations who carry the knowledge of environmental changes, the customs and practices of the

community to sustain the lives and the livelihoods. We considered their participation as an important and integral part of our study.

The Community Members collaborated during the Community Lead Research program

Study Site	Subject area	Community Leaders attended the research work
Dickwella	Tourism	G. Gamage and Ms. Surangi Wasana and Sudila Rasmitha
Hikkaduwa	Do	Mr. Channa De Silva and Ms.Priyani Wijesiri (0771750520) Ms. Anusha (0711290723) Ms.Chandima (0740442128) Mr.K.Upananda (077986566)
Muthurajawela	Do	Subashinie Deepa and Anne Ranaweera, Irushika Fdo, Rimalika Fernando
Kalpitiya	Do	J. Pathmanathan & M. Munas Ms.Safna Banu [0768711299] Ms.M.A.Mafahish [0766699528]
Kallarawa	Do	Nishaka Ranganie and Chandrika Fdo, C.D.Krishan Predeep
Arugambay	Do	K. Issadeen and M. Mubarak, K.A. Jamaldeen
Paanama	Do	K. Issadeen and P.Somasiri,
Chundikulam	Do	I. Inbanayagam and K. Muralitharan
Port City	Infrastructure	Subashinie Deepa and Irushika Fdo., Rimalika Fdo.
Nagara and Kadawath DS division at Trincomalee	Urban Development	Nishaka Ranganie and K.R.Omasha Chanchala Mandakini
Point Pedro Harbour construction	Do	Inbanayagam, Ms. Jeyachitra, Sam, Ms. Thadsa Thavechchelvam,Ms. Deepa Subashinie, Kittinat Puvinathan, Irushika Thakshila
Pesalai, Mannar	Sand Mining	Benedict Croos and Ms. Anthony Anomika Dias,
Kithul, Batticaloa	Do	Nirosha and K.Pathmawathi
Mahaweli H Zone, Mullaitivu,	Land Grabbing	Pirthas Singarasa & Sujatha
Kawudarimunai, Kilinochchi,	Renewable Energy	A.Satheeshwaran

Chart 5: The CLR study sites, Subject areas and the community leadership collaborated the research work.

3.2 The major subject areas of the CLR study of NAFSO

- 3.2.1 Tourism
- 3.2.2 Infrastructure Development
- 3.2.3 Sand Mining
- 3.2.4 Renewable Energy (Wind power)
- 3.2.5 Land Grabbing

The NAFSO CLR team attempted to study the impact of 4 major development projects and land grabbing as our CLR study. Through the study we attempted to surface some adverse effects to the communities, the devastation of livelihoods, environmental destruction, dispossession of their resources, displacement occurred due to resource grabbing. We conducted a literature survey to learn and to educate the communities from the past experiences appropriately.

3.2.1 TOURISM Development Projects

The post tsunami, post war development projects mainly aimed at tourism as the strategic development program of the country. [See Figure 3] In the post tsunami development plan, the Northern and Eastern areas were covered with selected tourism projects though the whole southern region was targeted. However, in the post war development plan the whole coastal area was covered with tourism development plans as the main strategy which was planned for the period of 2013-2025 at the beginning which was further extended till 2050. Consecutive governments came into power continued the same plan and without caring for the customary rights of the fishing and agricultural communities and violated the human rights of them.

GOSL planned three more specific tourism development areas under post war tourism development projects. The Jaffna tourism development area, Mannar tourism development area and Kuchchaveli tourism development area are those three areas added to the new plan. In our CLR, we studied the Kuchchaveli site in Trincomalee, and the effects of tourism on the coastal SSF community.

Initiation and Perpetuation by the Government of Sri Lanka on Tourism Development in the coastal areas. In our study, we focus our attention to highlight how the Post tsunami and Post war land grabs and human rights violations impacted on women, youth, IDPs, farmers and fishers.

The tourism sites NAFSO studied during the CLR process.

- a. Dickwella- Matara
- b. Hikkaduwa-Galle

- c. Muthurajawela- Negombo
- d. Kalpitiya-Puttlam
- e. Paanama-Ampara
- f. Arugam Bay-Pothuwil
- g. Kallarawa-Trincomalee,
- h. Chundikulam- Jaffna

Post War Tourism Development and Proposed tourism sites

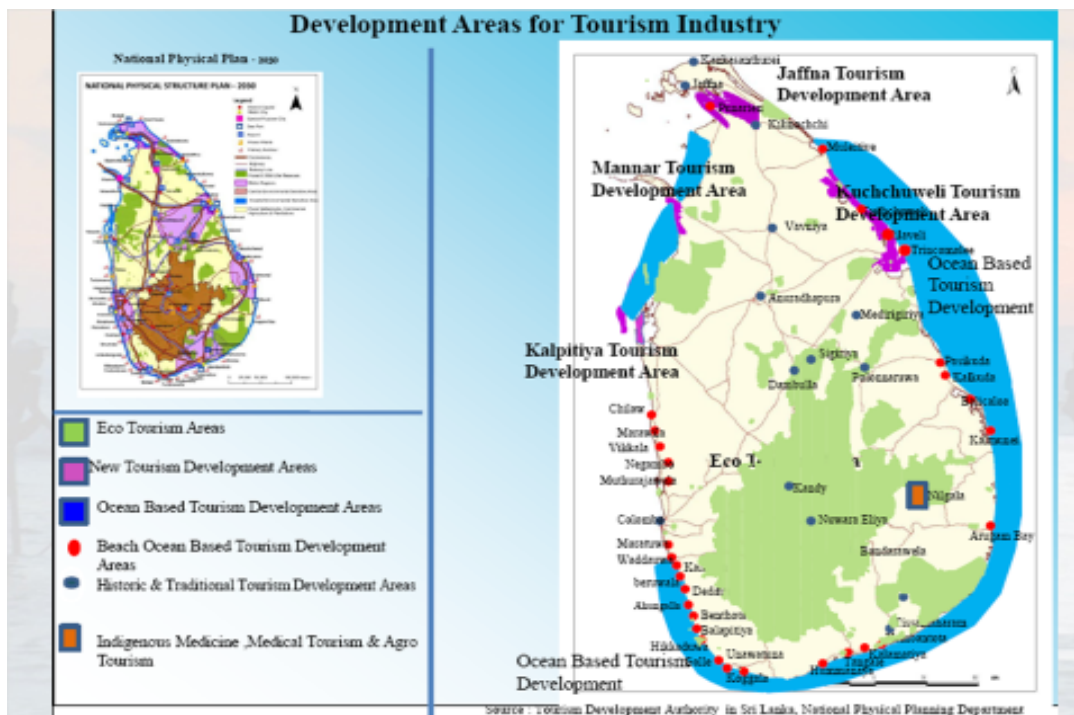


Figure 3: Post war tourism development sites proposed under the NPP

Almost all these sites come under the National Physical Development Plan and overlapped the post tsunami development covering both Southern districts and North/ Eastern districts of the country. Our selection of the sites was to cover all possible districts and mobilization of communities through the NAFSO network and extend the network with possible other actors with whom our communities are able to approach. The selected sites and the people identified adversaries were as follows.

- a. **DICKWELLA-Matara - The tourism project affected the fishing community at Hanwella, Dickwella** The Hanwella fishing village is situated at Dodampahala grama niladhari division at Dickwella divisional secretariat division in Matara district. The life and livelihoods have been disturbed with the tourism program planned by an investor. The majority people in the village engage in fishing as the main occupation of the community. The CLR team conducted the survey among 83 participants including 36 males and 47 females in the sample. There are around 85 children’s presence also reported in the community. The details of the total number of CLR participants were as follows;

Occupation/ Livelihood	Number of HH approached
Fishers	52
Farmers	0
Labourers	6
Public Servants	2
Others [Self Employed, Home Gardening]	23
Total	83

Chart 6: the occupation/ livelihood of Hanwella Fishing Community at Dickwella,

The Impacts of the Project:

a. Environment (Land, Water, Air, trees)

- Due to the erection of parapet wall to protect the Hotel building along the coast the mangrove belt has been adversely affected due to the lack of water belt
- Livelihoods of people involved in coir processing along this belt on the stagnant water patches
- Hotel has laid a stone barrier along the beach, crossing beyond the allowed border by the Coastal Conservation Department. (A purposeful illegal act)

b. Economic Factors (Livelihoods, farming, fishing)

- Loss of Income of the Majority of Women involved in coir industry
- Fishers have to invest more for transportations to access the fishing anchoring, landing sites, as they have to move long deviated distance with the current situation,
- Another social issue which has surfaced is the rapid increase of drug consumption due to the growth of the Tourism.
- This fact has been aggravated due to the negligence of the government authorities

People's Action to assert their rights:

People's main objective is to gain back their access to the fishing ground, anchorage points and beach seine operating sites. People held discussions with various stakeholders during this period.

- Held discussions with the Divisional Secretariat & the chairperson of the Local Government unit.
- Discussed with the hotel management and the owner of the hotel development project for find solution to the issues of the fishers,
- Conducted Protest and hotel management had agreed to build alternative access road for fishers,
- In January 2021, hotel had payed money to obtain required clearance from the Local Government,
- Still the Local government unit had not responded to the people's requests,

Demands of the people:

- Get the short access road restore quickly,
- Restore back the acquired beach belt acquired

b. HIKKADUWA-Galle- The Garbage Management Plant situated at Kukukanda at Rathgama disturb the life and livelihoods of the community

The Kukukanda/ Rathgama village is situated at Panwila, Pahalagoda [49/B] grama niladhari division at Rathgama divisional secretariat in Galle district. The people in Kukukanda village are suffering from the irregular, inefficient Garbage and Waste management.

There are 66 males and 17 females representing the community and the following chart depicts the community composition based on their livelihoods.

Occupation/ Livelihood	Number of HH
Fishers	11
Farmers	01
Labourers	42
Public Servants	05
Others [Self Employed, Home Gardening]	24
Total	83

Chart 7: the occupation/ livelihood of Kukukanda Community at Rathgama

The community identified diverse stakeholders as main responsible agencies. The project implementer being the local government agency of Hikkaduwa and project holder is the GOSL under the city development project. As this is a project handled by the local government unit with the support of Provincial Council, the Governor of Southern province is also accountable to the environmental destruction and the difficulties faced by the people. So, from the project manager, Chairperson of Hikkaduwa urban council, the Governor of the Province needs to hold accountable the improper implementation of the project.

Issues and Problems identified by the Community

- Although the daily garbage collection is 50 MT, the capacity of the plant is 40 MT. So, it is clear this amount exceeds the capacity of the plant. So the inefficient Recycling Capacity of the Plant caused the environmental damage and destructive effects to communities surrounding the garbage recycling plant.
- Excess waste dumped into a drainage system, the canal surrounded by the plant stagnated generating Mosquitoes, Flies which caused serious health hazards. People, children in particular, get Dengue fever which is lethal and gives serious effects to the community. Community members always live with tensions as they cannot even eat their meals because of the flies.

- There is serious water pollution through the dumping of excess garbage and waste, especially polythene and plastics get washed away into the Gin Ganga, one of the water sources for the people in Galle city.

Impact of the Project on environment, economy and to increase gender issues

Environment (Land, Water, Air, Trees)

- A large number of paddy fields has become barren lands due to intrusion of polluted water into the fields,
- Drinking water resources has become polluted (Wells, Tube wells) as there is no proper mechanism to treat the polluted water and release to the environment without harming the water bodies,

Economic Factors (Livelihoods, Farming, Fishing)

- Loss of income due to inability to cultivate Paddy in the barren fields
- Loss and disruption of self-employment,
- Many of the community members leave the village due to unbearable smell emitting from the accumulated garbage & waste.

Social Issues

- Spread Dengue widely and people feel fever regular basis and this is high among the young age children
- It is unpleasant to eat the hardly earned food as the unpleasant / bad smells due to improper waste management and leaking the water in to the waterways and canals,

Effects on Gender (Women & Children)

- Many women and children experience difficulty in breathing due to staunch smell
- Children are more prone to various sickness (increase in the frequency of falling into sickness)
- Insufficient Drinking water facilities due to polluted ground wells and tube wells in their own push the women to spend more time for searching drinking water and fetch them from far,

Advocacy Programs Launched by the community

- Sent written petitions to relevant authorities such as district secretariat, divisional secretariat, PHI office Hikkaduwa Local Government, Parliamentarian Galle district.
- Held discussions with Agrarian Services Centre Officials at Pannila village.

- Mobilized the fellow community members and Organized and carried out Public Protests at Mawadavila, Rathgama Junction, in front of the district secretariat office in Galle.
- Held Media Discussions and Press briefings which were facilitated by Southern Fisheries Organization, Galle.
- Along with the Police of Rathgama, a court case has been filed against the stakeholders of the project.

The following Points were emerged as People's Suggestions and Demands at the Focus Group Discussion held with the community members:

- ✓ Increase recycling capacity of the plant & avoid accumulation of waste over days and spread bad smells and leaking polluted water to the surrounding canals in the village,
- ✓ Avoid waste being dumped to the canals and to the Gin Ganga the surrounded river in the village,
- ✓ Use proper treatments to reduce the emission of bad smell which cause serious difficulties to the community and the children in particular,
- ✓ Provide the villagers with respiratory protection masks to prevent continuous bad smells which make them unhealthy and unpleasant to live in the village,

c. MUTHRAJAWELA-Gampaha

Muthurajawela marshy land is a part of the Negombo lagoon and is considered as an integrated lagoon, marsh and land ecosystem. Due to the high biodiversity of the site, this land has been declared as a Ramsar wetland. Muthurajawela marshy land is situated in the southern region of the [Negombo](#) lagoon, 30 km (19 miles) north of [Colombo](#). The Muthurajawela Marshes are 3,068 ha (7,580 acres) in area and the country's largest saline coastal peat bog.⁴The marsh is notable for its unique and highly diverse ecosystem and is listed as one of 12 priority wetlands in Sri Lanka. "Muthurajawela" translates to "Swamp of Royal Treasure".

The marsh is believed to have originated about 7,000 years ago. In 1996 1,777 ha (4,390 acres) of the northern part of the Muthurajawela marsh was declared a wetland sanctuary by the government, under the Flora and Fauna Protection Act, in recognition of its vast biodiversity.^[2] The region supports 192 distinct species of flora and 209 distinct species of fauna, including [Slender Loris](#), as well as another 102 species of birds. Some of the identified species have been shown to be indigenous to the marsh.

The marsh is a major local and tourist attraction, primarily for sightseeing and boating tours, and the area also supports local agriculture and forestry. Visitors to the region are guided through the sanctuary areas by the staff of the Muthurajawela Marsh Centre to avoid serious harm to the marsh ecosystem. Negombo lagoon and Muthurajawela marshy land should be considered as an integrated eco system hence need attention to protect both for fishing and recreational activities too.

Negombo Lagoon is the largest semi-enclosed coastal water body near Colombo, with plenty of natural resources, but subject to potential heavy human impacts from the surroundings, and hence deserves our attention. Out of the 85 lagoons and estuaries in the country, the Directory of Asian Wetlands (IUCN 1989) listed Negombo Lagoon as one of the major 41 wetlands of Sri Lanka.

⁴ [Cruising down the ecology of the Negombo lagoon | The Sunday Times Sri Lanka](#)

Negombo Development Plan 2019-2030 and Challenges to Muthurajawela Ramsar Site:

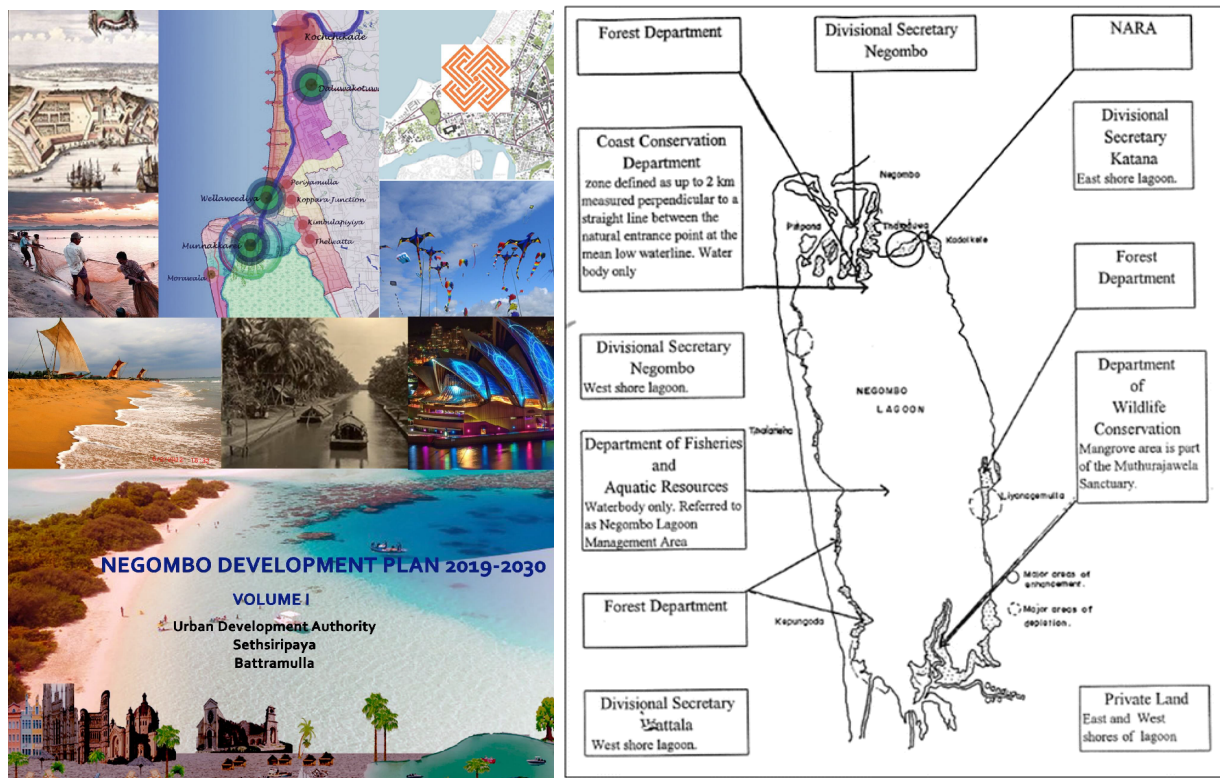


Fig. 4 & 5: The Proposed Negombo Development Plan 2019-2030 and the Relevant Responsible Agencies to manage the lagoon and Muthurajawela sanctuary

In 1995 the total area of Negombo lagoon was 3200 Hectares. However, by 2017, this area was reduced to 2100 hectares which is a reduction of 1100 hectares during the past 22 years. Fisher leaders claimed this is because of illegal encroachment of the lagoon and also the new establishment of Nilsiri village.

LNG Power Plant Project and Muthurajawela.

The Muthurajawela marshy land, the Ramsar site, and the Muthurajawela sanctuary will be further deteriorated with the implementation of proposed Liquefied Natural Gas power plant project. However, environmental groups opposed plans to build a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Power Plant within the perimeter of the sanctuary. A Cabinet Paper approved on September 18, 2018 has paved the way for this turmoil, the groups allege. However, the Government claims the power plant will be constructed on land already filled and set aside for development, on the 45 acres previously set aside for a proposed housing project.

According to the Cabinet decision, the Government has granted approval to the proposal submitted by Ranjith Siyambalapitiya as the then Minister of Power and Renewable Energy to enter into a Joint Projects and Shareholders Agreement between Lanka Electricity Board and NTPC Company with respect to 500 MW LNG Power Plant proposed to be established in Kerawalapitiya.

Some of the environmental groups began to oppose such developments considering the sensitivity of the ecosystem. At a press conference convened by Rain Forest Protectors Jayantha Wijesinghe, the convener, criticized the project and explained the possible environmental impacts. According to him, the proposed LNG plant will be constructed within an environmentally sensitive area of 400 acres belonging to the CEA.

“CEA has only around 400 acres which is declared as a sensitive environmental system. However, Muthurajawela has legal protection as a sanctuary for 1,777 ha. Including the buffer zones, Muthurajawela consisted of around 3,220 ha (the entire marsh land). The Wildlife Department has 1,777 ha to look after. But they don’t have a single boat to conduct its missions” said Jayantha⁵.

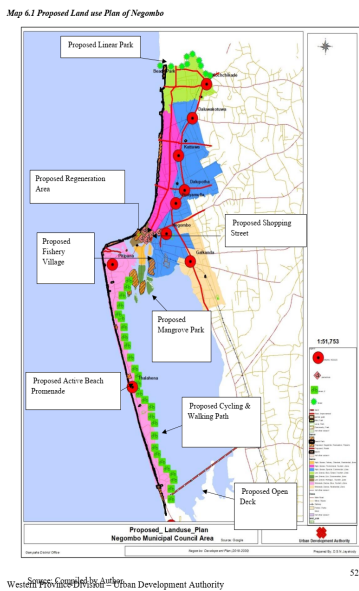


Figure 3.13 Illustration of Encroachment of Lagoon

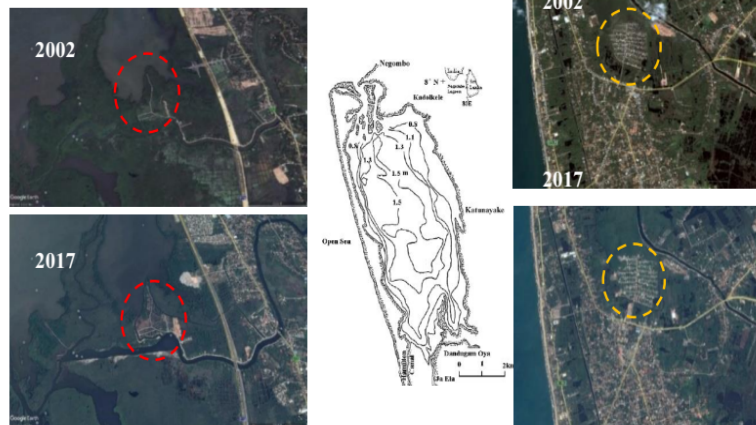


Fig.6 & 7 the Negombo lagoon development plan and the satellite images of the encroachments in the lagoon.

The same type of project came into operation when the board of directors of the land development corporation has approved the transfer of 10 acres of land adjacent to the Yugadanavi Power Station at

⁵ [Proposed LNG plant in Muthurajawela: Environmentalists, state officials trade claims | Sunday Observer](#)

Muthurajawela to the Ceylon Electricity Board [CEB] for the construction of a 300 –watt LNG Power Plant.⁶ The Board of Directors of the Electricity Board has also approved the purchase of the land. Accordingly, the cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Urban Development and Housing to recover the value of land assessed by the Government assessor and dispose of the same to CEB.



Fig.8: Muthurajawela LNG Terminal



Fig.9: Sri Lanka gets ADB help to tender to own LNG terminal

Negombo development plan & Tourism Development at Muthurajawela:

There will be 10 New tourism sites at Kapungoda, Thalehena, Sarakkuwa Kanda, Morawala, Dungalpitiya, Duwa, Sea Street, Eththukala, Lewis Place, Poruthotha villages as planned. And also, 5 sites will be further developed as tourism attraction places. So, there will be more tourism zones and no fisheries zones. Then what will happen to the fisher people's future is our main issue here.

The aims of the tourism development are;

- to enhance the image of Negombo with a unique features of the city
- and also to build a self-sufficient economy through integrated and interactive connections among the various water bodies in the area.

The plan says, there will be 50% of the water corridor opened for development and recreational purposes by 2030. Our questions are clear. What are those development and recreational activities? What is the water body allocated for such activities? Is there any space allocated for fishing activities and fisher people's development? Have they demarcated or how do they define those areas without disturbing the fishing activities, fisher people's lives and livelihoods?

However, there is a plan to allocate a land mass to construct a 5 hectares of fishing village with 5 in Negombo Lellama [Fish Market] area though it is not clear what is the exact location of the fish market. The concerned fisher leaders and CSO activists' questions: which is the fish market the developers meant

⁶ [10-acre land from Muthurajawela for LNG plant \(newsfirst.lk\)](http://newsfirst.lk)

to allocate for the fishing village? It is not clear whether this is the Kuttiduwa fish market or the Pitipana fish market⁷.

Community membership analysis of the site as we studied are as follows;

Occupation/ Livelihood	Number
Fishers	63
Farmers	00
Laborers	07
Public Servants	Not identified
Others [Self Employed, Home Gardening]	40
Total	110

Chart 8: the occupation/ livelihood of 8 villages in Negombo DS divisions⁸ in Gampaha district

Impact of the Project on environment, economy and to increase gender issues

Environment (Land, Water, Air, Trees)

- A large number of mangrove forest cover has been cut down and converted to prawn farms,
- Reclamation of lagoon banks caused to reduce the lagoon coverage which will affect the lagoon fisheries in the future. However, the lagoon fishers whom we met claimed the reduction of fish catch, extended of duration to stay in the lagoon to catch for sufficient income for daily consumption, and reduction of some fish species,

Economic Factor (Livelihoods, Farming, Fishing)

- Loss of income due to destruction and pollution of the lagoon with the land reclamation and also with the dumping garbage, human sewage, and burnt oil in to the lagoon,

⁷ PowerPoint Presentation and follow up dialogue conducted by Hadley Perera, Secretary, Negombo Lagoon Protection Organization on the 19th November at NAFSO,

⁸ Munnakaraya GN 156, Sea Street 158 A, Kudapaduwa 157, Duwa 162 A, Negombo Main street 160 B, Siriwardanapedesa 156 C, Thalahena 163, Thaladuwa 160A, Kuttiduwa 156 A

- Loss of income of fishers and disruption of fishing due to increase so called development activities in Muthurajawela area,
- Many of the fishers leave the fishing industry and their family members join the free trade zone employment

Social Issues

- Muthurajawela being surrounded with the beauty of nature, many tourists attract the environment. The overcrowding of tourists is a threat to the environment which needs some regulations.
- The spread of drugs is a threat to the future of the communities. It is not only for adults, but also for school going children as well. Women we met claimed the drug hazard is one of the biggest threats to their school going children and need special attention from the society, in particular narcotic department and special police force.

Effects on Gender (Women & Children)

- Many women face difficulties as there is no adequate income to run the family and tend to approach FTZ or any other possible ways to earn to run the family. Some of the women affected by the detention of their husbands as they got caught when they attempted to migrate illegally.

People's Actions:

- Mobilized the people, the fisheries organizations, church based groups, women's groups, environmental groups based on the Extra Ordinary Gazette notification issued to grab the land and hand it over to MNCs.⁹
- File writ petition at Appeal court and terminated land grabbing activities with the involvement of concerned environmental groups, CSOs and fisheries organizations,
- Mobilized people in 35 villages around Negombo lagoon and agitations carried out with the mediation of fisheries groups,
- Conducted a mapping exercise of lagoon destruction and added to the Google map of land grabbing, mangrove forest destruction and prawn farming and other invasions including reclamation of lagoon banks,

⁹ ['Scientific' gazette notification for land grabbing! - LankaTruth](#)

- Formed Negombo Lagoon Protection Alliance, and conducted several mapping exercises, media briefings, local level protests,

People’s Demands:

- Repeal extra ordinary Gazette notification and retain the land belong to people in their hands,
- Stop harassment to the human rights defenders who stand for people’s rights and to ensure right to life and livelihoods,

d. KALPITIYA- The projects at integrated tourism development zone, Kalpitiya disturb small scale fisheries' livelihood, destroy environment and devastate social structure

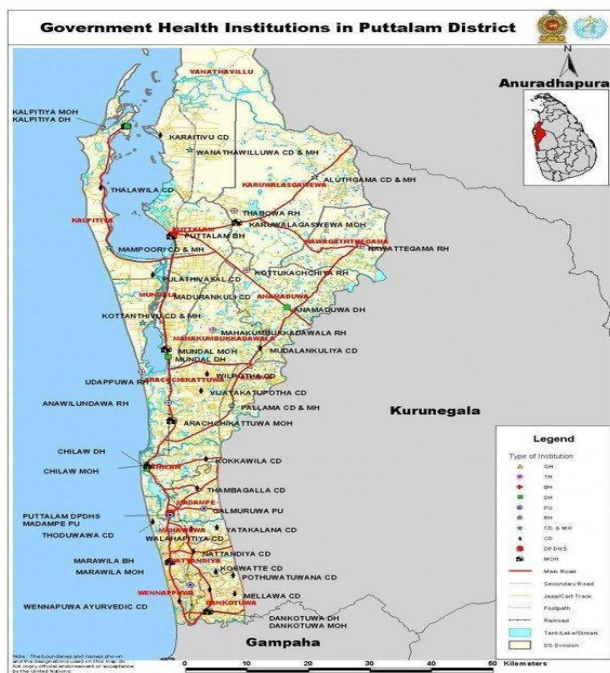


Fig.10: Map of Kalpitiya peninsula in Puttalam district

The third site studied the tourism impacts on people’s life and livelihood is Thilladi and Thethavadi in 630 Grama Niladari division in the Kalpitiya DS division in Puttalam district. We studied the direct impacts on fishers obstructing access to anchoring points, landing sites and lack of space for traditional Salterns in the area under Kalpitiya Integrated tourism development Project. Kalpitiya is a coastal town located in western region of Puttalam District. The Kalpitiya peninsula consists of a total fourteen islands. It is developing as a tourist destination.

The Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority [SLTDA] drew up the masterplan — “the Kalpitiya Integrated Tourism Resort Project (KITRP)”¹⁰ — to develop 14 islands in the peninsula as tourist destinations. Whale and dolphin watching and the bar reef sanctuary are among major attractions, while the area is also popular among foreign tourists for its fishing wind, kite surfing and kayaking.

¹⁰ [SLTDA | Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority](http://www.slt.lk/)

Community membership analysis of the site as we studied are as follows;

Occupation/ Livelihood	Number
Fishers	70
Farmers	04
Labourers	03
Public Servants	00
Others [Self Employed, Home Gardening]	02
Total	79

Chart 9: the occupation/ livelihood of Thillady and Thethavadi villages in Kalpitiya Divisional Secretariat division in Puttlam district

We collected information from 45 Male and 34 Female participants.

As shared by the participants, we identified through the study, the main responsible stakeholders are the officers of the tourism board and the other government officials.

Issues and Problems identified by the Community;

- Gradual decrease of their economy / loss of income,
- No proper development of and for communities,
- Destruction of Natural environment and resources,
- Rapid increase of drug circulation and consumption,

Impact of the Project on Environment, Social, Economic and Gender

Environment (Land, Water, Air, trees)

- Access to Lagoon, beach obstructed in many places in tourism zone in Kalpitiya area,
- Loss of Land used by the fisher communities
- Destruction of mangrove ecosystems,

Economic Factors (Livelihoods, farming, fishing)

- Due to surrounded two hotels in Thethhawadiya, reduced the space for parking fishing boats, unloading fish catch, reduced spaces for sales centers,
- Reduced the fish catch for small scale fishers fishing in the lagoon due to Kite Surfing activities which is one of the most popular sports in Kalpitiya lagoon,
- The distance to sail is increased and fishing efforts were increased,
- Loss of land used for making salt(Salterns) traditionally, and the taxes were increased for saltern,

- Decreased the capacity to generate income and employment due to lack of development of Saltern systems,
- The decreased in fishing capacities, the fish catch,
- The hotel owners tend to provide employment in their hotels to the outsiders from Kalpitiya area

Social Issues (Officials responses, Legal matters, development plans)

- In the UDA Plan (2021-2030) there was nothing that recognized the people's development matters that emerged from the local community. In this Urban Development Plan, it was discussed only the tourism sector and related development matters.
- Delayed response to provide land permits to the community members of the LRC land case,
- The biased decisions of the Government officials on fisher people's issues. The officials do not provide assistance to the legal cases.
- There was an attempt to convert Salterns into swimming pools. There was an attempt to grab people's Saltern displaying the Name Boards with the facilitation of officials.
- The road construction and repair have been conducted only once in 5 years.
- People complained that the increased use of drugs in the Kalpitiya area as a threat to the future of the youth and school going children,

Gender (Women & Children)

- Loss of livelihood opportunities for women involved in dry fish industry,
- Signed petitions and complained to Divisional Secretary for solution to continue the Saltern by the community,
- Court Case against the loss of land of the saltern,
- No any other very specific acts reported,

Suggestions/ Demands from the Community members

- Open the closed access path to beach and lagoon in order to facilitate the smooth fishing operations to the small scale fishers,
- Stop acquiring of lands any further for expansion of buildings and hotels,
- Allow villagers to continue their livelihoods such as Saltern and fishing activities without hindering through tourism project,

Thethavadi waththa is situated in Theththavadi village in Puthukudirippu GN division in Kalpitiya DS division in Puttlam district of N/W province. Villagers claimed the name Thethavadi village as this area labelled as Mudalalilage estate. Later, the government acquired this area and came under Land Reform Commission [LRC] and LRC distributed the land among 60 families. The care taker of the land, M. Weera Sahib, of the land belong to Mr. U.Mu, the Mudalali, was also settled in the same land in 1972 after the land acquisition the same land is a settlement area. His successors are also settled in the same land and it has been 50 years now. There was some sort of development due to NPP as the roads were constructed, widened and developed. The main occupation of Thethavadi people is fishing. Due to one of a main plan of the NPP projects, the occupation has disturbed and income has collapsed. So, they face severe economic difficulties. Their level income is very low. They engage their fishing activities using FRP boats or Small rafts and have very low income. Due to the wide spread tourism, the people's occupation was disturbed and felt the necessity of an anchorage point. So, they got an anchorage point though they faced several other threats to their livelihoods due to thefts of nets and fish. So, the people approached the tourist hotels in the area for support and they provided the support with a flash light and also a camera.

However, at present there is no space to parking the boats and no access path to take the fish to

People's Actions/ Advocacy activities

- !. People signed petitions and submitted to DS Kalpitiya,
- !!. Conducted agitations in front of tourism sites,
- !!!. Approached politicians and Pradesheeya Sabha for seeking support,

e. PAANAMA-Ampara

Paanama communities affected by the tourism project:

Paanama fishing village is situated at PP/6 Grama Niladhari area at Lahugala divisional secretariat division at Ampara district. The fishing and farming communities have been disturbed with the proposed tourism projects and a unique tourism area in the country. The village come under the Arugambay Tourism Development project which was came in to the scene with the post tsunami development program of the GoSL. The Arugambay area is world famous and popular among the Sea Surfers as a safe surfing area. So, lot of tourism attraction is always there in Paanama which covered with wildlife sites,

Paanama Lagoon, the bird paradise of Kumana area, historical ancient sites of Paanama are some of the attractions of the tourists to Paanama area. In 2010, the Paanama people from Ragamwela, Shastrawela and Paanama villages were forcefully evicted and grabbed their land, a group of armed gang and people were displaced for more than 12 years now.

The cabinet of ministers of the government which came into power in 2015, decided to give the Paanama people's land back as a fulfillment of election promises. However, there is no return of land up to now, even after the cabinet decided to return the land back to the people. There are several hurdles still facing the communities and continue their land struggle to get their own land back to the community.

The stakeholders of CLR team approached for study:

Occupation/ Livelihood	Number
Fishers	72
Farmers	26
Labourers	02
Public Servants	01
Others [self-employment, Home gardening]	0
Total	101

Chart No.10: Occupations/ Livelihoods of CLR survey participants at Paanama Community

Impact of the tourism Project on environmental, economic and social situation of communities in Paanama area

Environment (Land, Water, Air, trees)

! Mangrove destruction to develop tourism sites has been experienced which affect the environment and the fisher people too,

Economic Factors (Livelihoods, farming, fishing)

- Lagoon development affects the fishing resources, breeding locations.
- Basic facilities and access to fishing are reduced
- Loss of land belong to the fishers due to accessing of land for tourism

People's action on advocacy activities

- Paanama people occupied their original land forcefully grabbed by the armed people and continue to retain them in the hands of the government authorities,
- Continued the campaign demanding legal ownership of the people who are living in the village with much difficulties,
- Compile court cases at magistrate court at Pothuwil, and Appeal court at Colombo,
- Launched political and intellectual debate with relevant authorities including tourism board, local government body, wildlife department, Coast Conservation Department, Divisional Secretary at Lahugala and District secretary at Ampara,
- File complaint at Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka,
- Launch media campaign both in mainstream media and social media,

The Suggestions/ Demands of the Community Members

- Stop of Military forces to acquire lands from the villagers to expand tourism
- Safeguard the free access to traditional anchoring points, beach seine points without hindrance,
- Follow international standards which were agreed by the GoSL at international forums, for example, the GoSL agreed to follow the VGGT on land issues hence need to follow Free, Prior, Informed Consent before any implementation of tourism projects or any development program and let people be consulted

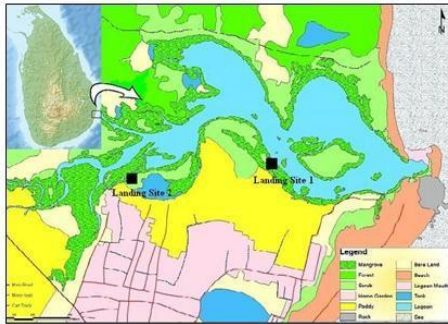


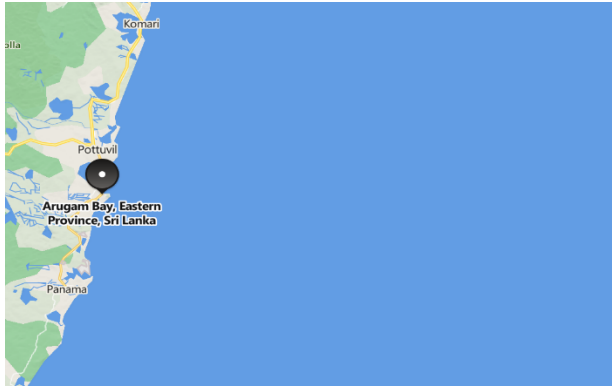
Fig.10: Paanama Village



Fig.11: People continue their agitations at Ragamwela

f. ARUGAMBAY –Ampara- Arugam Bay fishing village affected from Arugam Bay tourism development program

The Arugambay fishing village situated at P-19, P-5, P-21, P-27, P-2, P-23 and P-15 grama niladari sites in Pothuwil Divisional secretariat division at Ampara district. During the post tsunami development period, the Arugambay integrated tourism development program drafted with the least mediation of the small scale fisher communities in the area. Arugambay has been a popular tourist sites which is popular not only nationally, but also in the world wide among tourists.



Figs. 12 & 13: Arugam bay, in Pothuwil, Ampara, Sri Lanka is a world famous Surfing destinations in the world

Arugam Bay is a world-famous tourism destination especially for surfing, and is widely known as a ‘Surfers’ Paradise’. Arugam Bay offers several surfing points with waves of different rhythms to suit the preferences of a variety of surfers. Arugam Bay has always been ranked among the best surfing destinations in the world. Arugam Bay is located in the dry zone of Sri Lanka’s South East coast falling within the boundary limits of Ampara District of Eastern Province of Sri Lanka. In terms of administrative boundaries, the Arugam Bay Tourism Planning Area comprises two Divisional Secretariat Divisions (DSD) namely Pottuvil and Lahugala. However, Arugam Bay falls within the boundary limits of Pottuvil DSD. The planning area is governed by two local authorities namely Pottuvil Pradeshiya Sabha (PS) and Lahugala Pradeshiya Sabha which also have the same boundary limits as of Pottuvil DSD and Lahugala DSD respectively. Pottuvil DSD or in other terms Pottuvil PS consist of 27 Grama Niladhari Divisions (GND) whereas Lahugala DSD/ Lahugala PS consist of 12 GNDs. The Arugam Bay Tourism Development Master Plan envisages Arugam Bay to be a clandestine surfing destination amidst wilderness of the east horizon of Sri Lanka, having to offer diverse tourism experiences throughout the year with secluded lagoons, sparkling beaches, green forests, wavy sand dunes and inherent culture.” To achieve this vision there are 03 number of goals aligned as follows,

1. “The Premier Surfing Destination in the World which offers the most varied surfing sites and experiences”
2. “Most diversified year around tourism destination in Asia complemented with virgin ecosystems and mystical aroma of last village of eastern Sri Lanka”
3. “A Sustainable Tourism Economy within a smooth, Sensed and Responsible Tourism Space in east coast of Sri Lanka”

Several approaches have been introduced to realize the anticipated visions and goals in the real ground. One of the main approaches is “Planning & Building Regulations”. This volume elaborates on the proposed zoning plan and special planning and building regulations applicable for each zone¹¹

Effects on Communities:

¹¹ [Arugambay Volume 2 PART A compressed1005759725.pdf \(sltda.gov.lk\)](#) Arugam Bay Development Plan, Research & Development Division, Urban Development Authority.

Environment (Land, Water, Air, Trees)

- Increase of polluted waste being added to both sea and Pothuwil lagoon due to excess tourists and visitors.

Economic impacts

□ Hindrance to the fishers anchoring points

As SSF park their boats in the beaches, in front of the hotels, the hoteliers consider this as a hindrance to the tourism industry. They complain the anchorage points disturb the views of the beaches and disturb the tourism. So, the hoteliers attempt to remove the fishing huts and boats from the beach using legal and illegal measures. In 2004, just before the tsunami, 8 fishing huts were burnt by unknown people. SSF lost their nets and engines that were kept in those huts.

- The increasing local population do not have space for setting up their shelter as no land is available in the village. Also, they are not affordable due to increasing prices day by day. Most of the extended families are living in their parents' homes as they cannot afford any land and no government scheme to provide land for poor people. However, under the Arugam Bay Tourism development plan, there is allocation of funds for tourism development activities.
- Increased the conflict between fishing and tourism in the post tsunami/ post war development process,

During the period of fighting between the central government and Tamil separatists' tourism was fairly low key and the hotels often bought the catch of the fishermen. As a result of the peace, tourism expanded and many fishing people who had moved to areas less touched by the conflict returned. Hotel owners began to complain about the smell of drying fish and how the fishing huts blocked their view. In the aftermath of the Tsunami, fishing people were forbidden to return, officially on the grounds of safety but allegedly as a result of pressure from the hotel owners.¹²

The coastal buffer zone regulations enforced during the post tsunami development program pushed the fishing communities 200 Meters out of the coast and cleared the beaches from fishers and opened them for flourishing tourism purposes. SSF who use the beaches for parking boats, Vallams, canoes were not allowed to return to the coast as earlier. This is in the name of security of the people and to prevent such natural disasters like tsunami. Apart from that the 80 million USD allocated for Arugambay tourism development plan, recently amidst the financial and COVID crisis of the country, the ministry of Tourism has announced that they will set apart another 180 million rupees for Arugam Bay development.¹³

People's Actions

- Mobilized the people, the fisheries organizations, environmental groups around the Pothuvil to Pannama
- District Fisher Union supports mobilizing the people.

¹² [Arugam Bay - Wikipedia](#)

¹³ [Tourism Ministry sets apart Rs.185 mn to develop Arugam Bay | Daily News](#)] 21st September, 2021.

- Discussed with the Chairperson of Pothuvil Local government.
- Handed over the Letters to the District and Divisional secretariat, Coastal conservation department, Ministry of fisheries and Tourism board.
- Conducted the protest in Arugambe and did the Media brief.
- Conducted the social media campaign with the mediation of Youth group,

Demands

- Safeguard the free access to traditional anchoring points at Arugam Bay in the Pothuwil sea beach area,
- As people were not consulted adequately, need effective and realistic consultation before any implementation of tourism projects,

g.KALLARAWA fishing village disturbed by a Tourism Project due to divert the river mouth to use land for develop tourism industry:

Kallarawa village and adjacent land and water bodies are rich fishing grounds. The village is situated at the tip of the river mouth of Yan Oya at Number 237 Grama Niladhari division at Kuchchaweli divisional secretariat at Trincomalee district. Kallarawa is well known as a rich fishing area due to Yan Oya estuary and surrounded with dense mangrove forest and ecosystem in the Yan Oya river mouth.

We carried out the study with 82 participants, and learned there are 41 women and 71 children living in the fishing village. The main stakeholders we approached are as follows;

Occupation/ Livelihood	Number
Fishers	77
Farmers	2
Labourers	1
Others	2
Total	82

Chart No.11: Livelihood categories of the participants of CLR at Kallarawa Village

People have raised their concerns of the Impact of the Project on environmental, economic and social issues they faced due to the planning of the implementation of the tourism project.

The Environment issues related to Land, Water, Air, trees were raised in the community and people had strong opposition to the proposed tourism development. The main issues they raised were;

- Access to Lagoon and Estuary blocked by sand bags
- Loss of Land used by the fisher communities
- Destruction of mangrove forests which contribute to fish breeding and feeding grounds hence the fishing nursery in the area,

And also there are number of economic Factors related to the livelihoods including farming and fishing

- Decrease in fishing of small scale fishers and beach seine user,
- Loss of livelihoods opportunities for women involved in dry fish industry,
- Kallarawa people loss their beach seine operational points where the highest number of demarcated beach seine sites were reported in the past and now people loss them due to diverted river mouth and loss of estuary,

Social issues faced by the Kallarawa community

- Loss of ownership of land the community possessed,
- Disturbances to fishing activities due to tourism site,
- Destruction of mangrove forest due to diversion of river mouth, hence destruction of nature, the mother earth
- Being blocked the Yan Oya mouth due to the acquiring of lands in view of construction for envisage Hotels

People's demands against the social, economic and environmental disturbances:

- To gain back their Estuary cleared and allow the fingerling flow between Yan Oya river and Ocean through the river mouth,
- Immediately Stop the destruction of mangrove forests which contribute to the increase of fish production in the estuary and also coastal fishery,

Some actions taken by the community

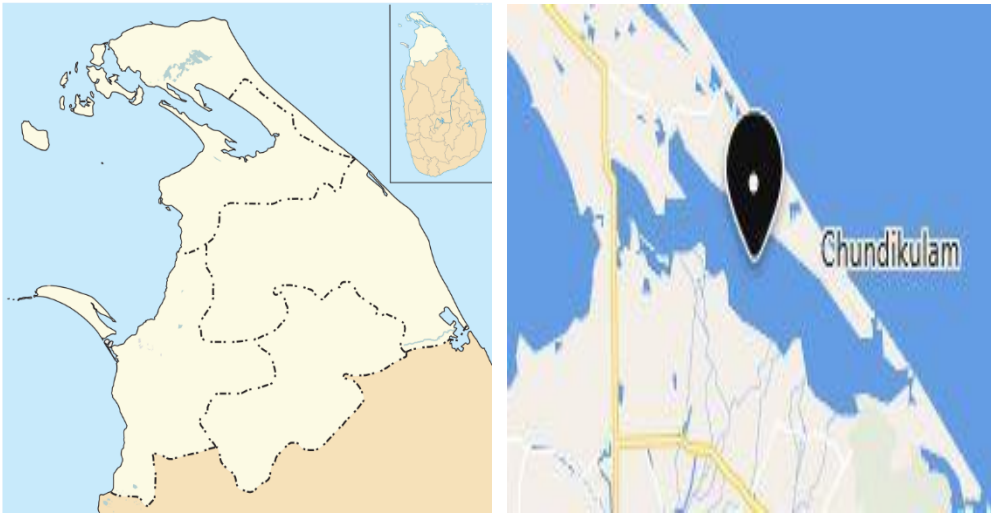
- Letter writing, submit petitions to relevant authorities,
- Visits and personal communication with the Governor of Eastern Province,
- Carried out protests organized by the community members,
- Media briefing and social media campaign to highlight and draw attention of the wider society,

The demands of the Community Members/ People:

- Open the Estuary as soon as possible
- Assist in restoring the mangrove growth around the estuary
- Re-open the access to the anchoring points
- Stop immediately the infrastructure development Project (for Recreational & entertainment) planned to be erected
- Initiate a program of action to protect and preserve (deer & trees) environment

h. CHUNDIKULAM in Jaffna district which is declared as wildlife national park which disturbed the SSF restricting of access to traditional anchoring fishing points and their survival in the land by the Government Authorities

Chundikulam is a national park in northern Sri Lanka, Approximately 12 Km north east of Kilinochchi in Sri Lanka.



Figs. 14 & 15: The location of Chundikulam National Park at Kilinochchi and Jaffna districts in Northern Province of Sri Lanka.

Community membership analysis

Occupation/ Livelihood	Number
Fishers	49
Farmers	03
Labourers	01
Public Servants	01
Others	03
Total	57

Chart 12: Livelihood categories of the participants of Chundikulam Village in Kilinochchi district

The primary stakeholders of the issue are the officials of the department of wildlife conservation and the District secretary of Kilinochchi. And other government officials, including police and grama niladaris in the area.

Issues and Problems identified by the Community

- Loss of traditional and customary fishing rights within the Chundikulam national park.
- Increased number of Multi Day deep sea fishing boats operating in Jaffna district through Mylitty fishery harbor,

- Invasion of Indian Trawlers and Internal migrant fishers and lack of law enforcements by the government authorities,

Impact of the Project on environment & Economy

Environment (Land, Water, Air, Trees)

- Access to Lagoon, beach obstructed
- Loss of Land used by the fisher communities
- Destruction of mangrove

Economic Factors (Livelihoods, Farming, Fishing)

- Decrease in fishing capacities and reduced number of fishers engage in fishing in the National Park,
- Loss of livelihoods opportunities for women involved in dry fish industry and loss of supplementary income to the family to survive in the difficult economic crisis
- Loss of land still being occupied by Govt. Forces

Advocacy activities

- The Minister of Fisheries has been notified by handing over a letter,
- Symbolic protests and join hands with other CSOs and NGOs,

Suggestions/ Demands of the Community members

- Meet again as one united front (fishers, farmers, others)
- Kindly release our land occupied by Armed Forces,

The effects of the Tourism Projects in general in all the 8 sites studied under CLR survey process.

Summary of effects of studied Tourism projects under National Physical Plan 2010-2030

- All the districts shall be the site of projects such as the construction of Mega Cities, Industrial zones, Super Highways, Airports and Harbors and more infrastructure development activities in particular- INDUSTRIALIZATION & TOURISM as we studied the plans of the NPP.
- Communities and the research teams learned that the projects directly harmful to coastal and marine resources, destroyed ecosystem such as the destruction of Mangrove forest areas in Kalpitiya tourism site under Kalpitiya integrated tourism development project [N/W Coast], promotion of eco-tourism under Muthurajawela development project. Muthurajawela is a Ramzar site, which is adjacent to Negombo lagoon in which more than 3000 SSF are operating in the lagoon [West Coast] and around 15,000 households are depending on the resource base.
- In fisher communities in the Paanama Lagoon and the coast, the beaches in the Paanama, Arugambay [East Coast] experienced the dispossession of their resources and displacement from their lands. People expressed their concern of losing their customary rights and environmental destruction in the sensitive coastal areas they have been living in generations.

- The so-called hotel developers have diverted the river mouth to another place and totally disturbed the livelihoods of the SSF community members and households in Kallarawa beach in Trincomalee [East Coast]. The SSF lost their traditional fishing ground, destroyed the estuary with highly rich fish resources and fish breeding ground.
- The Beach Seine fishers and fish workers in Chundikulam area lost their operational sites which affected their employment for more than 35 community members who engaged in beach seine operations.

3.2.2 Infrastructure Development

Our study focused attention to learn the impacts of various infrastructure projects which were covered under the NPP and how these would affect the lives, livelihoods and environment and social life of the coastal communities in North, South, West and eastern coasts in Sri Lanka.

The sites we studied are;

- a. Colombo Port City Project
- b. Point Pedro Harbour construction Project, [Northern Province Sustainable Fisheries Development Project]
- c. Trincomalee Urban Development and City Beautification Project

Figure 5.1.8 : Proposed Urban Agglomeration Pattern - 2050

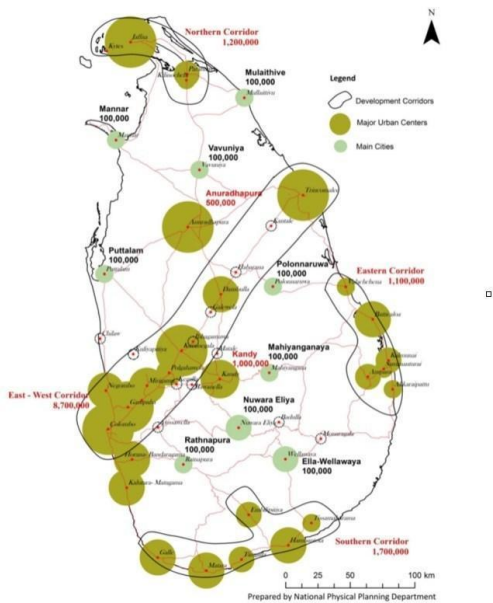


Figure 16: The spatial Planning of Mega Development Projects

The 3 sites we studied covered the 3 major development sites in the East, West, and Northern areas under the urban agglomeration plan-2050 as figure 16 illustrates.

Megapolis Development Program under NPP-2013-2050

Jaffna, Trincomalee, Kandy, Galle and Hambantota are being promoted as Metropolitan cities by conversion of coastal and forest lands. There are 5 major metro regions proposed in the original 2013-2050 plan which includes Northern Metro Region, North-Central Metro Region, Eastern Metro Region, Western Metro Region and the Southern Metro Region. The following figure shows the proposed metro regions in the NPP 2030 which extend further up to 2050. As the plan indicated the developers expect there will be flow of people from the rural areas to urban megapolis centers, covering 70% in the urban areas and remaining 30% in the rural or the places of origin. The intended plan is to release the available land for the development for investors and reduce the tensions between the villagers and the capitalists. Construction of Mega Cities, Industrial Zones, Super High Ways, Air Ports, Harbors in coastal areas by converting mangrove forest, beaches and lagoons for Industrial Development and Tourism as a Smart Nation.

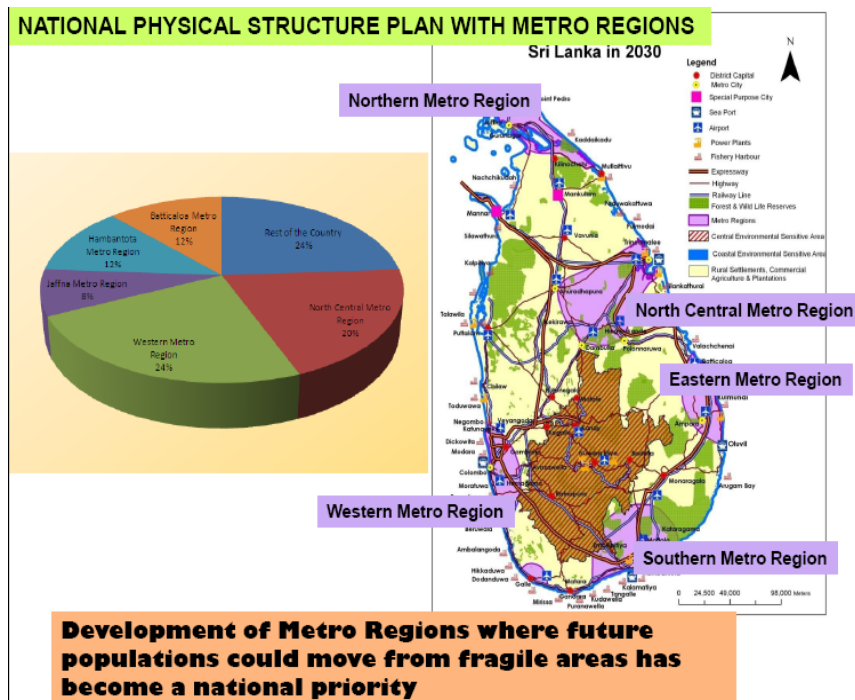
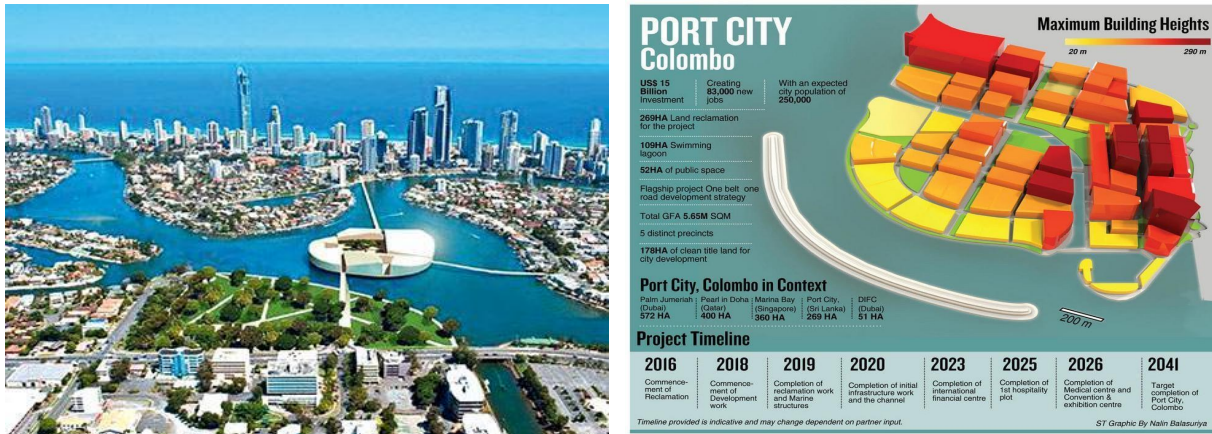


Figure 17: Development of Metro Regions

a. Colombo Port City Project



Figs. 18 & 19: Projected Colombo International Financial City [Port City] by 2041

Coastal destruction under mega city development project and construction of artificial island for tourism promotion, over 1410 has, in the sea area of Colombo Port, [Colombo International Financial City well known as Port City] with the financial support of Chinese Communication Construction Company lead to destruction of the western, north/ western, and south/ western coasts. That intensified the sea erosion in the western coastal belt which destroyed the coastal ecosystem, rich fish breeding and feeding ground which is harmful to sustenance of the coastal SSF in the long run. So, the experience is the coastal destruction and displacement of SSF and also inhabitants in the coastal districts of Galle, Kalutara, Gampaha and Puttlam.



Figure 20: Illustration of projected Port City Project and People's actions

The Colombo International Financial City¹⁴ (CIFC) - formerly known as the Port City Project - is a flagship city development project of cooperation between Sri Lanka and China under the “Belt and Road Initiative”.¹⁵ As the largest single foreign direct investment in Sri Lankan history¹⁶, which is 1.4 billion USD, the CIFC is expected to become not only a major maritime hub in South Asia but also a financial center with shopping and office complexes, hotels, etc. According to the official website of the Chinese Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) Port City Colombo (PVT) LTD., the mission of this project is "to develop the most livable city in South Asia. Built on sustainable values, a healthy environment with a future ready infrastructure to enhance living convenience. An exemplary city providing the highest quality commercial, entertainment, medical, education and lifestyle opportunities."¹⁷ CHEC Port City Colombo (PVT) LTD. is developing the site and is a company specifically set up for the purpose of making a foreign direct investment in the CIFC. It is also a subsidiary of Chinese Government-owned China Communication Construction Company (CCCC).¹⁸

The study was carried out among 80 people, men and women in Sea Street, Pitipana, Munnakkaraya, Thaladena, Seththapaduwa, Sarakkuwa and Kadolkele villages, those who are directly affected with the project. However, the people claimed that the adverse effects to the coast, small scale fishing, through various aspects including sea erosion, coral reef destruction, disturbing fishing grounds and nursery grounds which gives immediate effects as well as long term sustainability issues to the coastal communities.

Ecological Implications of the Colombo Port city Project

- Loss of habitats and coastal lands of fishing communities from Negombo-Pitipana coastal belt in Morawala, Udappuwa in Puttalam, Calido Beach in Kalutara and the coastal belt in Mount Lavinia, Dehiwala and Ratmalana due to sea erosion and the increasing vulnerability to stormy cycles and Floods.
- In addition to Biodiversity loss (wildlife, agro-diversity), Food insecurity (crop damage), Soil contamination, Large scale disturbance of hydro and geological systems, Noise pollution, Soil erosion, Deforestation and loss of vegetation cover in the terrestrial ecosystem.
- Destruction of both terrestrial and coastal ecosystem has resulted in Displacement, Loss of livelihood, Social impacts on women, Land dispossession, Loss of landscape/sense of place- Over 15,000 direct affected due to coastal sand mining,
- Destruction of coral reefs and spawning grounds and habitats of fish, sea bed weeds, mangroves and seagrass habitats due to sand mining on the sea bed
- People may consume heavy metals via the food chain from detritus feeders' fauna by fishes.

¹⁴ <https://www.news.lk/news/sri-lanka/item/23754-colombo-port-city-to-us-15-bn-investment>

¹⁵ China's foreign policy has evolved considerably under President Xi Jinping whose main emphasis is on making China 'strong and powerful again' (Ferdinand 2016). The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is one ambitious long-term project launched by the President that is in line with this main objective. This road is presented as a marine corridor that will lead to a more integrated ASEAN economic community. China wishes to "Strengthening the coordination of infrastructure plans to better connect hard infrastructure networks like transportation systems and power grids (China Power Project 2018), and Sri Lanka appears to be a major actor of this scenario.

¹⁶ Sumanasiri Liyanage, retired professor of economics, University of Peradeniya at the IFFM on 27th November 2018

¹⁷ CHEC Port City Colombo (Pvt.) Ltd. 2018. "Building a World Class City for South Asia." (Port City official webpage) <http://www.portcitycolombo.lk/about/>

¹⁸ See <http://www.portcitycolombo.lk/faq/>

Deregulation, Regulations imposed to continue the Megapolis projects such as Port City

- Proposed “Special Economic Zone of the Colombo Port City”-act CIFIC bill not been made part of the Admin District of Colombo, hence land area not being part of the territory of Republic of Sri Lanka,
- Appointment of Non-Citizens as members of the Commission, Commission to be established with wide powers including executive & legislative powers; Public Finance, Granting Exemptions, Licensing, authorizations and the making subordinating legislations,
- CIFIC is not subject to laws and regulations of Colombo municipal council and urban development authority.

The major findings of the study are summarized below, anchored in Sri Lanka and China’s state obligations (extraterritorial state obligation for China) vis-à-vis human rights of communities – primarily small-scale fishers – who are affected by the reclamation of the CIFIC:

1. Sand mining, the main environmental problem identified, is negatively affecting the fishing environment and livelihood of the residents of the villages in the coastal areas. Sea erosion has already washed away some houses. Rock mining has also caused environmental damage. Yet the government’s Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and its addendum (known as the Supplementary Environmental Impact Assessment - SEIA) conducted for the project do not address these crucial issues and their impacts (both short and long term) on local communities. In addition, the EIA is invalid as it did not follow the National Environmental Act (NEA) 1988 of Sri Lanka. The information collected during the IFFM demonstrates that the decisions of the Governments of Sri Lanka and China have impeded the fisher communities’ ability to sustain their livelihood and to enjoy their human rights, including the human right to food and nutrition, housing, education, work, and health.

2. The construction of the CIFIC does not comply with several Sri Lankan and Chinese laws, policies, and rules and regulations.

3. In response to an application made under the Right to Information Act (RIA), No. 12, 2016, the government of Sri Lanka failed to make the Tripartite Agreement between the Ministry of Mega polis and Western Development, the Urban Development Authority (UDA), and Chinese Harbor Engineering Company, Ltd. (CHEC) Port City Colombo public, claiming the information was confidential. In addition, the government failed to conduct consultations prior to the reclamation of the CIFIC and ignored complaints by fishers about the effects of sand mining and erosion. As such, the Government of Sri Lanka failed to respect the right to information (which is part of the right to freedom of speech) and to provide access to remedies to concerned fishing communities.

4. Small-scale fishers lost their traditional livelihood and have been forced to take up other occupations. To survive, many families are compelled to pawn their jewelry for quick cash to buy food. Small-scale fisher families who reside in and around the CIFIC construction areas and North of Colombo are particularly affected. Many fishing community members are anxious about future generations losing their means of sustenance, their fishing traditions, and local culture. After several continuous campaigns and the hunger strike held in 2016 October, in Negombo against the CIFIC, there were some agreements between the fisher communities and the CHEC to minimize the destruction to the coastal communities. Those agreements were not respected by the CHEC and people are frustrated with this situation.

5. Some families are getting inadequate nutrition due to the decreased availability of fish, which has led to a decrease in consumption of fish, which is their main source of protein. Several families have noticed children’s slow growth and cognitive impairment.
 6. Fisher Communities have been trapped in loans/ grants given by CHEC as “compensation”, which further divide and threaten the social fabric of the communities and their local culture.
 7. The extent of Chinese investment impinges on the state sovereignty of Sri Lanka. Despite the claims of the Sri Lankan government, the CIFC will not benefit most Sri Lankan citizens. As part of the Belt and Road Initiative, the CIFC is a top-down development project that only serves the political aim of China.
 8. Urban planning concerns are inadequately attended to and reported in the media. For example, the media repeats the promise that the port will bring jobs without examining whether Sri Lankans will be eligible for these jobs. In addition, the media fails to cover any of the negative impacts of the port, such as the effects of dislocation. of job generation for the CIFC is not supported by the clarity of projections and implications on skill-building requirements nor is the effect of dislocation accounted for.
- Based on the findings above, the study concludes with a set of human rights-based recommendations for the governments of Sri Lanka and China, the international community, CSOs, fishers and their associations, and the Church.

Community survey carried out on Colombo Port City

An artificial “China sponsored City” built at Galle face by reclaiming 665 acres of sea area. The total saleable area of this city is 420 acres of which the Sri Lankan Government owns only 153 acres while the rest of 267 acres are under China administration.

Community membership analysis of the site as we studied is as follows;

Occupation/ Livelihood	Number
Fishers	63
Farmers	00
Laborers	07
Public Servants	Not identified
Others [Self Employed, Home Gardening]	40
Total	110

Chart 13 [8]: the occupation/ livelihood of 8 villages in Negombo DS divisions¹⁹ in Gampaha district

Gender analysis: Male: 65 Female: 45 Children: 0

The main stakeholders responsible for the Project /Destruction are;

- Sri Lanka Ports Authority,

¹⁹ Munnakaraya GN 156, Sea Street 158 A, Kudapaduwa 157, Duwa 162 A, Negombo Main street 160 B, Siriwardanapedesa 156 C, Thalahena 163, Thaladuwa 160A, Kuttiduwa 156 A

- China Harbor Communication and Construction Company [CHCCC], and also China Harbor Engineering Company. [CHEC]

- Governments of Sri Lanka and China,

Issues and Problems identified by the Community

- Increased sea erosion and loosing of their fishing areas,
 - Massive scale removal of sea sand through dredgers accelerated the sea erosion in the Western, North/Western and South/Western Coasts of the island.
- Fish breeding areas are completely destroyed
- Fishing in shallow sea of small fishers are disrupted
- Destruction of Natural environment and resources due to mega scale removal of rocks

Advocacy activities conducted by the People in Negombo area:

- The 1st massive Protest of People (Fishers, Farmers, laborers) was in 2016
- The emergence of Anti Port City Peoples Movement as People's Movement Against Port City [PMAPC]
- Continued awareness raising and advocacy through leaflet distributions, printing books, media briefings, street protests, marches,
 - Media Discussions through radio and TV programs, Street Drama, Public Discussion forums with Professionals,
 - Conducted a Fact Finding Mission with an International Team, Human Chain protest covering 10 villages, Sending Petitions, Conducted Round Table Dialogues with authorities,
- Politicians promised to stop the Port City project once they come into power but did the opposite when they get the power,

The Suggestions/ Demands from the Community members

- Stop the sand removal in the nearby sea belt
- Allow villagers/ fishers to continue their livelihoods without hindrance,
- Prevent Sea erosion with breakwater barriers and laying stone

People's Actions against the Port City Project:

People launched agitations against the port city project with the leadership of People’s Movement Against Port City. [PMAPC]. The campaign was launched during the 2014-2021 period and the campaign was defeated for several reasons. However, the country is experiencing the major threats the PMAPC raised during the campaign and reorganizing against the adversaries highlighted at the campaign.

People Engaged on **Anti Port City Campaign -2014-2021** through **People’s Movement Against Port City -[PMAPC]**



Fig. 21: People’s actions against Port City Lead by Peoples Movement Against Port City [PMAPC]

b. Point Pedro Fishery Harbor in Jaffna district

Sri Lanka experienced 3 decades of war, with the conflict finally coming to an end in May of 2009. Against the background of wartime destruction and displacements, reconstruction and development have had a prominent place in the recent peace process between the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). With the creation of the National Physical Plan 2050 Sri Lanka hopes to attract foreign direct investment on projects pertaining to the plan to focus on economic and social developments.

Jaffna has not seen major infrastructure projects. The government of Sri Lanka in post-war is peacebuilding through development. Thus, has started 3 major projects in Jaffna; Tourism, the Jaffna and Kilinochchi Water Supply and Sanitation Project and the Northern Province Sustainable Fisheries Development Point Pedro Project. The latter two are funded almost wholly by the Asian Development Bank and the Government of Sri Lanka.

With the end of the civil conflict, tourism was hoped to make a high volume return on the coast specifically in the central and northern districts. Tourism is at the top of the list for government projects, hoping that Sri Lanka can be united with its beauty. Large hotels are being built on the coast of the Northern districts, but this causes problems. The first one being the locals were not consulted, thus the Sinhalese majority government does not know the way of life for the Tamil

from Jaffna. The hotels are blocking large sections of the areas the fishers will go to. Tourism also aids, as gone into detail above, in pollution around coastal areas due to bad tourism practices.

The project being discussed throughout this paper is the Point Pedro Project. It has caused a lot of debate, mainly from fishers in Jaffna, questioning the reliability of the components and the impacts of the environment it will pose. In the next section it will be analyzed further.

Northern Province Sustainable Fisheries Development Project Point Pedro Harbor

Sri Lanka in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank to “upgrade and improve the infrastructure and services required for the development of fisheries infrastructure facilities in the Northern Province under the Northern Province Sustainable Fisheries Development Project (NPSFDP)”²⁰. The main objective of NPSFDP is to create an all-weather harbor for fishing activities and an infrastructure to support fishermen's market. NPSFDP claims to increase the efficiency of fisheries operation and business, health and safety of fishers’ market and assist in the sustainable development of the economy and improve the lives of those directly or indirectly affected by fishers.

Potential threats and effects foreseen by the Communities

- The Point Pedro Mega Scale fishery harbor which is aiming Northern Province Sustainable Fishery Development Project [NPSFDP] in Jaffna district in the Northern coast devastate traditional Small scale fishing villages of Kottadi, Munai, and Suppra Madam with 3000 SSF in the villages.
- Point Pedro coastal infrastructure development project of mega scale fishery harbor will displace communities in 3 villages, dispossess the coastal resources to those communities, destroy coastal ecosystem of near shore and disturb rich fishing ground and devastate fish breeding grounds,
- There are only small scale FRP boats, canoes and Vallam operating in the area and people are wondering why this mega scale fishery harbor which they did not expect was going to be constructed against people’s wish?
- There are three schools including one national school from Kottadi in Point Pedro that has been threatened to be removed from the village which will affect the education of children in those three villages.
- **Potential threat of Sea Erosion:** Sri Lanka is predominately bordered by beautiful sandy beaches along the coastal areas leading to the Indian Ocean. Therefore, coastal erosion is a serious issue along the whole coastline of Sri Lanka. There is an increasing pressure on life below water; abiotic and biotic, because of human activity and climate change. Human activity such as sand mining, construction along coastal areas, tourism and large vessels all result in the loss of sensitive areas and impacts a large amount of coastal

²⁰ https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/49325/49325-002-iee-en_0.pdf

biodiversity. It causes “alteration in sand movement patterns of the area. Such alterations could lead to adverse impacts in the form of coastal erosion”²¹

- Not only does the rise in sea level have an impact on coastal erosion but human activities such as sand mining, construction, tourism, and large sea vessels all affect the biodiversity making it more vulnerable if not properly managed. Without the proper management and sustainability practices or policies in place, human activities will increasingly cause harm to the Jaffna peninsula.
- Large sea vessels also have a high impact on the erosion rates of the coastal city in Jaffna. The Point Pedro Project aim is to build a large port for all of Sri Lanka to enjoy. The project's intent is to encourage deep sea fish production, which can only be done by multi day, large sea vessels. It is meant for large sea vessels to dock, and infrastructure for them to sell their fish in the market in Jaffna. This not only creates tensions among different districts, but this also means that an influx of polluting ships will enter the Jaffna peninsula. “Harbors are also substantial sources of pollutants as commercial fishing vessels can result in the release of various chemical contaminants, including heavy metals or accidental oil spills.”²²
- As for the city of Jaffna itself, “out of a total of 6,826, Jaffna has only 90 multi day boats (IMUL) that are suitable for offshore fishing”²³ Thus the development project is not improving the lives of communities in Jaffna, but for other districts who are able to afford the IMUL boats. It is creating a port that brings more pollution to the peninsula via motorized and large boats that are uncommon in Jaffna.
- A major hindrance to a proper analysis of Jaffna is the lack of scientific research in the area. There is a clear and urgent need to conduct research studies on the coastal environment, and what is causing the issues, notes. It is known that there is soil erosion, loss of biodiversity and pollution in coastal areas; but the issue is that the government has not done research to see what sector is providing what.
- Another major cause of reef degradation is explosives. The Point Pedro project is using explosive and chemical blasting to remove the bottom layer with hard limestone of the reef. According to the EIA, all the debris will be collected and there will be no other environmental concerns concerning it. This is not true, vibrations, sediment movement and lost debris will all have a negative impact on the coral reefs, “the greatest threat to Sri Lankan reefs overall is from sedimentation.”²⁴

²¹ <file:///C:/Users/leora/Downloads/6850-24140-1-SM.pdf>

²² https://efl.lk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/EFL-Point-Pedro-Harbour-EIA-comments_FINAL.pdf

²³ https://efl.lk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/EFL-Point-Pedro-Harbour-EIA-comments_FINAL.pdf

²⁴ <http://www.fao.org/3/x5627e/x5627e09.htm>



Figs. 22, 23 & 24: Community meetings and research team meeting at Point Pedro Villages



Fig. 25, 26 & 27: Community meetings at Munai, Kottadi and SupraMadam villages

People’s Action against Point Pedro Fishery Harbor Project:

The communities in 3 villages in Kottadi, Munai and Supparamadam have come forward to fight against the adverse effects they foreseen. They engaged the study and collected information to launch a fact based campaign while they wrote petitions against the project to relevant authorities including the funding agency, the Asian Development Bank. Asian Development Bank agreed that without having people’s consent, not to continue the financial support, though we do not know how far this will be a reality as GOSL is pushing the project strongly.

People attended the CLR survey process and shared their views with hesitation due to the personal threats they face. Some politicians with non-fishery groups are attempting to continue the project while SSF are questioning the current development of Point Pedro Fishery harbor.

“We are only having small boats, Vallams and Canoes. We don’t have any multi day boats here in our villages. But, the Indian trawlers are operating daily in our coastal territorial waters without any problem. We are facing severe threats from those trawlers already. There is no legal action taken by the Government authorities. We loss two lives of our fishermen here and we don’t know how many more to sacrifice our lives due to clashes in the sea. We are in a fear that this is an effort to bring Indian trawlers and legalize this situation? Who wanted to construct this harbor then? So, we don’t want this harbor at all.”

Fisher communities narrated at the follow up field survey conducted by NAFSO CLR team during 3-5 November, 2022 at Point Pedro fishing villages of Kottadi, Munai and Supra Madam

GRASS ROOT PEOPLE’S VOICE

c. Trincomalee Urban Development and Beautification Program

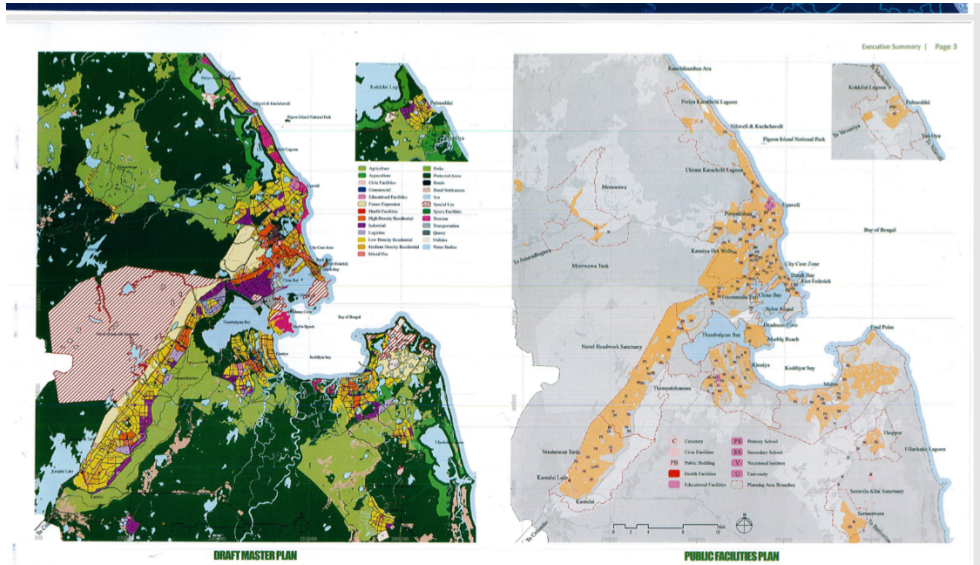


Figure 28: Trincomalee Urban Development Plan

As demonstrated in the “Proposed Spatial structure of 2050” the Trincomalee area is associated with two main projects of development; an international seaport and a domestic airport. In addition to these two mega projects, to improve the development of the East-West corridor, there will be improvement in the rail and road routes, new projects to support the water and energy supply, projects to develop fisheries, agriculture and to improve Urban developments. The specific measure to improve these sectors will be identified below.

Firstly, the ultimate project under NPP for Trincomalee is to improve and optimize the usage of the international sea port. This will be achieved by focusing the creation of new heavy industries closer to the port. Therefore, this will facilitate the assembling plants and concentrate the high tech plants as well, simplifying the logistic process since many first materials come from international imports.

Furthermore, a major project in the area will also be the creation of a domestic airport. Indeed, one of the government plans is to transform Sri Lanka into a transportation hub in the South Asian region and to increase the island's connections to the world by creating more air traffic in the country. The government consequently plans in the NPP to increase the airline transport since it is thought to improve economic standards of a given country and increase tourism. Therefore, Trincomalee was identified, due to its importance in the east-west corridor development, to build an domestic airport to answer to the increase of travel demand existing within the country and to ensure support in business development in the region.

As mentioned earlier, the rail road's development is also a specific project associated with Trincomalee. This transportation method is considered to be the most economical and a great way to ensure mass transportation of the population. The area already contains many railway connections to the rest of the country, however, the NPP program identifies that improvements are necessary to insure optimization of this transportation method. Indeed, there is already a rail link between Habarana to Trincomalee, however, the plan is to improve this link by 2030 with high speed trains services to enhance connectivity in the east-west corridor and modernize the passenger's services through the development of online reservation processes and e-tickets. Moreover, there is also the road infrastructures that will be improved in Trincomalee according to the NPP, the goals being the improvement of accessibility between cities and decreasing traffic. The Dambulla-Trincomalee (A6) and Trincomalee-Puttalam (A12) are two highways that will be developed ensuring a decrease of congestion and slowdown in the urban areas.

To increase water supply in the East-West development corridor between Trincomalee and Colombo, the Mahaweli river, the Kalu Ganga River and the Kelani River will be the sources relied on. The government plans to develop new sewers in certain agglomerations including Trincomalee, which would support the proposed settlement patterns proposed in the NPP. Furthermore, to ensure regular and non-interrupted access of electricity a plan similar to the one of water supply is to be expected. The government plans to build a new power generation plant in Trincomalee. Indeed, a coal power plant is planned to generate 2×250 MW coal power with associated facilities such as coal unloading jetty.

Another specific project in Trincomalee is the Yan Oya irrigation project that will affect the irrigation facilities for agriculture to harvest more fish. The government also plans with the NPP to establish a Freshwater Prawn Hatchery & Sea Cucumber Hatchery. These developments will impact the traditional fishing process in the Trincomalee district, dispossess the resources and eventually loss the customary rights of the SSF communities in the district.

The CLR study was carried out at Samudragama village, at GN 244 of Manayaweli GN division at Town and Gravets divisional secretariat area at Trincomalee district among 58 families as a whole. However, 137 small scale fisher families are inhabited in the village. However, the composition of the studied population at Samudragama village was as follows;

Occupation/ Livelihood	Number of Families
Fishers	43
Farmers	0
Labourers	1
Others	14
Total	58

Chart No.14: Categories of livelihoods of CLR survey participants at Samudragama in Nagara and Kadawath DS division at Trincomalee district

Among those participants, there were 32 women and 41 children reported.

The effects of the project on coastal fisher communities:

Main findings of the Effects to the Communities

Economic Effects:



Fig.29: Barb wire fences Disturbing beach seine fishing



Fig.30: Beach seine operations in Manayaweli beach

Economic Effects

- The main aim of the Development Plan 2050 is to concentrate and settle half a million human population along the East- West corridor. Through this project it is aimed to provide infrastructure facilities and to provide luxurious urban facilities to Trincomalee city.
- Under the NPP, the Trincomalee district became the most important one in Sri Lanka.
- So, there is a specific development program planned for Trincomalee district in collaboration with a Singapore Company. There will be 3000 families who will be displaced in Nagara ha Kadawath Divisional Secretariat Division alone once this plan is implemented.
- People will lose their anchorage point in Samudragama village,
- People cannot sustain their livelihoods as they will lose their fishing ground where they conduct fishing operations,
- If they evict from the village, their traditional fishing industry will be lost,
- The extended families those who are already no place to live will face severe situation, if their parents evict from their parents' houses,
- Women conduct their postharvest practices in this area. However, with the project, those women will lose their income through these activities.

Social Effects

- The anchorage points of fishers are located in this area. They park their boats, vallam and canoes in this place.
- The village was severely affected by the tsunami. They were resettled in Mamamayapura, Mihindupura, Sumedhagama and 5th mile post villages. However, fisher people came back to Sumedhagama as they cannot engage in fishing. However, the urban council does not charge any taxes from the 147 families living in the village which are related to other people.

Environmental Effects

- Trincomalee supposed to be the only city in Sri Lanka where human beings and considerable number of deer population co-existence in harmony,
- If this area converts to infrastructure installments, the deer population will be totally evicted too from the area.
- The deer will lose their environment and people in fear as this will bring negative consequences to the area.

People's Action:

- In 2019, people agitated against the construction of a luxurious restaurant which was abandoned temporarily.
- Villagers have complained against the construction activities,
- CCD informed people to move away from their houses claiming this land belongs to them. However, people have complained to the Governor and conducted several meetings with him. And also have demanded to provide the ownership of the land to them.

Demands from the Community members:

- Re-open the access to the anchoring points
- Stop immediately the infrastructure development Project (for Recreational & entertainment) planned to be erected which obstruct the livelihoods, access paths, and social fabric of the communities.
- Initiate a program of action to protect and preserve (deer & trees) environment
- Stop the government plan to develop infrastructure development which hinder their livelihoods,
- Prepare a program to develop fishing grounds which will help to enhance the welfare of the fisher communities living in the area,
- If the Govt. expect to launch a development program, it should be implemented in consultation with the people living in the area and also an integrated plan with the communities,
- In consultation with the fisher communities, the CCD should prepare a development program which will ensure the rights of the fisher people,
- Prepare an integrated plan to conserve the deer population in consultation between people living in the area and the Department of Wildlife Conservation,

3.2.3 Sand Mining in Mannar and Batticaloa districts

a. Sand mining at Mannar district

Mannar island is situated in the North/ Western coastal region in the Northern province of Sri Lanka. Mannar island is very important due to the rich biodiversity. Mannar bay has one of the richest coral reefs out of 4 rich coral reefs in the Indian Ocean. The Mannar island covered 143 sq.km with 26 km length and 6 km width. The total land area of 2002 sq.km. It is estimated 53 million tons of rich soil is available on the island. In addition to that, some minerals such as Ilmenite, Leucosene, Zirconium, Rutile, Titanium Oxide, Granite, Sillimanite and Orthoclase are also confirmed in the soil. The GSMB has confirmed the available scale of minerals in the soil. This is the context that the investors targeted the Mannar island for mining purposes, specifically Ilmenite and Titanium sands.

The use of any resources to export and earn profit is shown as the main development strategy without caring about the destruction of the environment, devastation and displacement, dispossession of the resource users, the food producers in particular and which destroy their customary, traditional rights as a whole. The use of natural resources without caring the life, livelihoods and environment and only aiming at profit is experience in most of the cases in Sri Lanka, in Pulpodai,[Trincomalee] Thirukkovil,[Ampara], Pesalai, [Mannar] and Kithul [Batticaloa] areas.

The main targeted minerals in the mines are Ilmenite and Silica in the sites we studied. The main purpose of extraction is for export and not any engagement for local production.

Ilmenite Sand Mining on Mannar Island

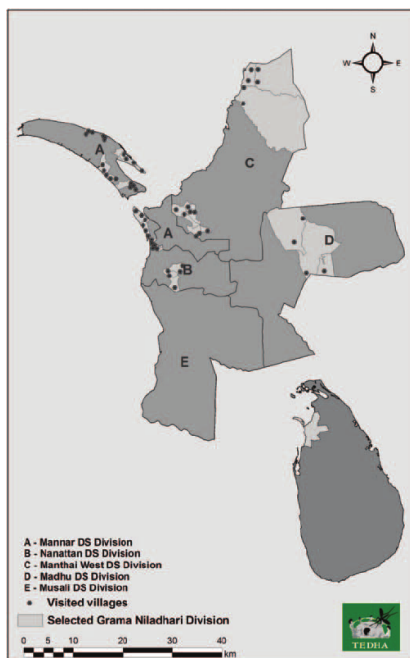


Fig. 31.: Map of Mannar district

This is an attempt by an Australian mining company, with the assistance of Sri Lankan entities, to rob Mannar's natural resources at minimal cost, without considering the impact on local people, their livelihoods or the environment. No environmental assessment, no public awareness, no discussions with local and national authorities have occurred. The start date of these operations was 2015, yet almost no one in Mannar knows about this project or its damaging impact!



Fig.32: Beauty of Pesalai Beach



Fig.33: Sand Mining at Pesalai

In June 2021, Titanium Sands Ltd (TSL) stated that their scoping study confirmed the commercial viability of an economically robust, long-life, major dredging project on Mannar Island.

The TSL claims:

- The area for sand mining on Mannar Island is extensive as deposits extend over a large part of the island
- Started operations in 2015 and proceeded in 2020. TSL entered into an agreement with Srinel Holdings Ltd, a shell company registered in Mauritius, to acquire this high grade ilmenite project on Mannar Island
- Identified 19 million tons of mineral sands on Mannar Island in Thalaimannar, Pesalai, Karisal, Nadukkuda and Thalvupadu
- Another 38 sq. km (approximately 10,000 acres) is yet to be explored, increasing sand amount by 23%
- China shows interest to buy 19.5 million tons of Mannar's ilmenite sands.

According to TSL, the value of Mannar's sand is Rs. 972 billion (Rs. 971,649,187,635) or US\$ 5.25 billion. Mannar is said to have the fourth largest ilmenite sand deposit in the world. Ilmenite sands is a very valuable resource on global markets used in a wide range of paints, plastics and paper products and in aerospace industries, motor vehicles and medical implants.

TSL Activities to Date

- Titanium Sands Ltd (TSL) started ilmenite sands exploration in 2015
- TSL entered into an agreement with Srinel Holdings Ltd (shelf company in Mauritius) to acquire a high grade ilmenite project on Mannar Island
- Initial acquisition had been done in December 2018, and a further acquisition had been done in March 2020
- Drilled secretly 3,500 auger holes
- Drilled 473 air core holes 9 to 11 meters below water table since September 2019. Sri Lanka's Mines & Mineral Act does not permit drilling below the water table without formal approval
- Excavated sands from Thalaimannar to Pesalai, Karisal to Nadukkuda and Thalvupadu
- Exported 20 containers of mineral sands to South Africa for testing
- Positive scoping study results - potential for an economically robust long-life major dredging project based on a single dredge, a primary concentrator and a mineral separation plant. Project can be brought rapidly into production with modest capital investments (project update on June 16, 2020).

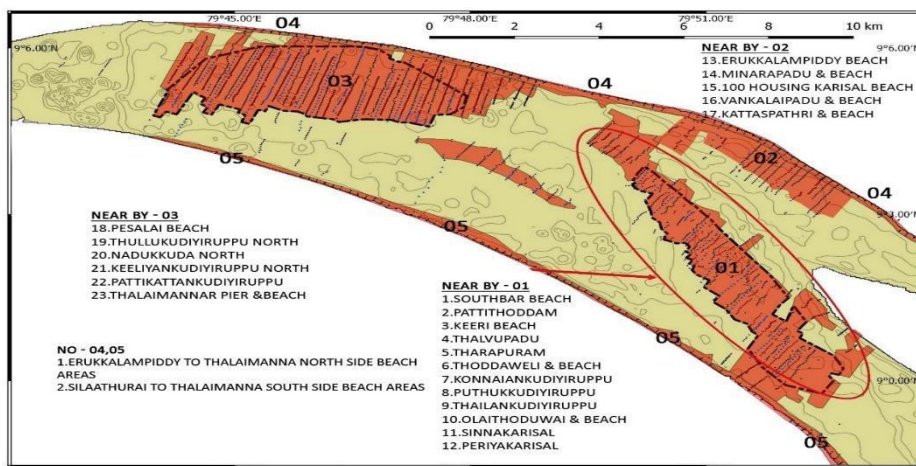


Figure 34: Affected villages in Mannar island due to Sand Mining

Impact on the people and fragile ecosystems of Mannar Island?

To date no assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts on Mannar Island's village communities has been carried out. Remember – 63% of Mannar Island is below sea level!

Similar projects have had drastic health, social, environmental and economic impacts such as skin and respiratory diseases from dust from drilling and sand dredging, contaminated water supplies, unfair land acquisition and poor compensation, environmental degradation, loss of marine and bird life as well as dangers to the safety of mining employees.

Mannar's sensitive ecosystems and wildlife will be destroyed including the habitats of migratory birds and the corals, sand mounds and rocks where fish breed.²⁵ The effects on Mannar's tourism and local fishermen's livelihoods will also be severely disrupted.

²⁵ Environmental Sensitive Areas in Mannar district Source: <https://www.nsd.gov.lk/thematic-maps>

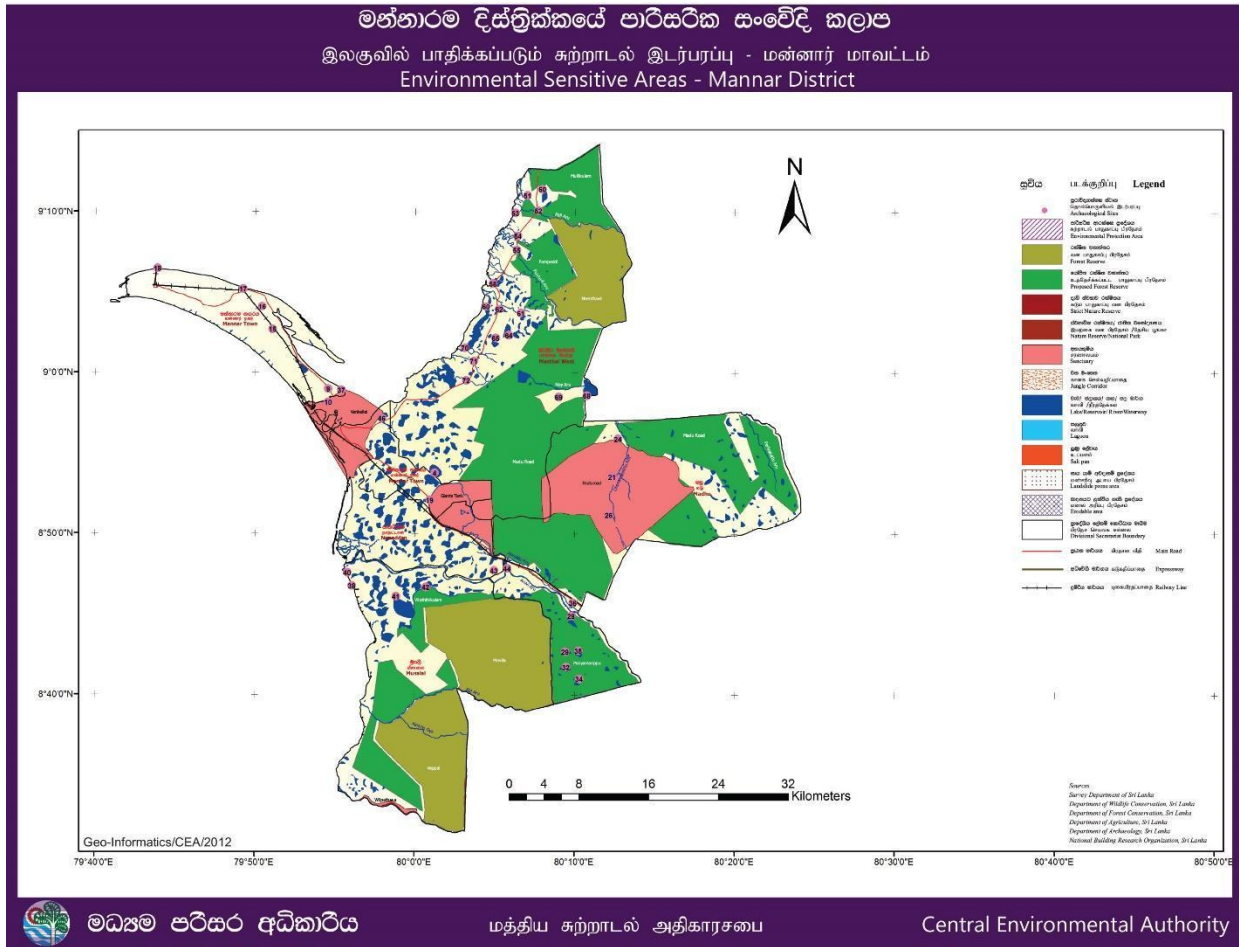


Fig.35: Environmental Sensitive Areas in Mannar district
 Source: <https://www.nsd.gov.lk/thematic-maps>

According to the analysis of environmental impacts, during the droughts and flood seasons, the sea water intrusion into the land cannot be avoided. This will lead to the disruption of people and their livelihoods through the disturbances to fishing, coconut and Palmyra cultivations. And also there will be a possibility and threat of danger to evacuate the people from the land due to changes of soil.²⁶ Also, the excavation and mining sand up to 12 meters depth, the water table will be broken which will lead to increase the water scarcity of the Mannar island which is already an arid zone.

Ravendranath Dabare, senior legal advisor of Centre for Environmental justice, claimed that the people in Kenya lost their traditional land, and it was difficult to live there due to environmental degradation caused due to sand mining. As the mineral sand spreads over the Mannar island, there will be severe damage to the whole of the land cover, if the sand mining takes place as planned.

Some activists raised the concern of the issues related to women, the women headed households in particular. Shreen Saroor, the founder of human development organization, and human rights defender, said, "There are 70,000 households living in Mannar island. They are depending on land and sea for their

²⁶ At a personal communication with retired Prof. A. Soosaianandan, department of Geography, University of Jaffna

survival. Sand mining will be adversely affected on those livelihoods and in particular on women headed households. The future of those women is questionable.

The fisher people also face serious threats to their lives and livelihoods. Yogam Croos, the chairperson of Pesalai Fisheries Cooperative Society explained their plight due to sand mining. "We have 2700 fisher families in Pesalai. Those people's lives are on the verge of danger due to sand mining. In the 1980s the sea was 7-8 Km away from the current position. By now the coast has eroded and has invaded up to 3-4 Km. In this context, the sand mining will increase the destruction and no one will ensure the sustenance of the coastal communities.

The main issue is what are the precautionary measures and remedial actions to face such situations when the sand mining is continuing like this. Do we have plans in detail to face such situations while allowing the destruction to continue.

People's Actions:

- People have approached the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau to learn the legality of mining sites and their legal background. The engineer of GSMB at Mannar office expressed that there is no any information to Mannar regional office. Only the head office in Colombo handles the case.
- People approached the regional office of Central Environmental Authority [CEA] and the Coast Conservation Department, [CCD] and the response was there is no information available with them only.
- People have approached Ms. Nandini Stanley, the chairperson of the district administrative unit and handed over a petition registering their protest against the sand mining. When we inquired about the response, she said, "I have submitted the people's petitions to relevant authorities without any response from them. However, I have concerns about the current developments in this regard."

It is clear that the regional administration does not have any power to control the destruction and to respond to the people's grievances though they realized there is an injustice to people.

- The head of the GSMB Ms. Hema Liyanarachchi disclosed that "There is a plan to survey the sites. There is no permission to transfer our permit to any individual or to a company. There we have given permits to 5 Sri Lankan companies only. We haven't given permission to any Australian company."
- People conducted agitations against sand mining at Mannar town during the year 2022.
- Team of CSOs led by priests and fishermen together with women and men from Pesalai and other places in Mannar district met various CSOs in Colombo and held a media briefing.

The Mannar People's Comments on Social and Economic Issues:

Economic Issues:

- People lose their livelihoods of the communities, the fisher people in particular.
- The destruction of aquatic organisms due to over exploitation of natural resources in the area which lead to depletion of fish resources and

Social Issues:

- Increased threat of floods which was not experienced before the sand mining begin,

- People in a fear that if this level of destruction continue, the whole of Mannar district will be faced a natural destruction
- People do not know anything about the project. So, there is no Free, Prior, Informed Consent taken from the communities, when there will be a project launched which affect the people's lives and livelihoods,

People's Actions:

- Catholic Church, including Concerned CSO groups mobilized the communities affected,
- Launched people's agitations as collective actions of Mannar Citizen Committee,
- Continue the agitations until the community receive a favorable response from the authorities as the government officials are accountable to allow the destruction,

People's Actions Captured by Video team:

<https://youtu.be/fVJ7yNzLio4>
<https://youtu.be/qStl5-aK6xY>
<https://youtu.be/fVJ7yNzLio4>
https://youtu.be/_Ik-xnIRigM

b. Sand Mining in Kithul area in Batticaloa district

The sand mining is taking place in Kithul village at 185/B Grama Niladari division at Chenkalady divisional secretariat at Batticaloa district.

The main stakeholders identified through the CLR study in the Kithul village in Chenkalady DS division is as follows;

Occupation/ Livelihood	Number of families
<i>Fishers</i>	<i>09</i>
<i>Farmers</i>	<i>53</i>
<i>Laborers</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Public Servants</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Others (Self -employed, Home gardening)</i>	<i>06</i>
Total	88

Chart 15: The occupation/ Livelihoods of stakeholder families in Kithul village in Batticaloa

The issue of sand mining in Kithul site is that the investors overexploit the resources without caring about the lives of people, their wellbeing and environmental pollution and destruction of forest cover. The people in adjacent villages are in a fear that the depth of the extraction would lead to water scarcity as this area is situated in a dry zone and drinking water is already an issue to the community. The exploitation would lead to downsizing the water table and villages would lead to water scarcity in the coming period. The plunders will leave the area with huge holes which would be breeding grounds for mosquitoes and the loser or the sufferers will be the nearby communities.

On top, recent incidents of deaths of villagers, particularly a child, lead to anger against the truck drivers and caused social conflict between them and the villagers. However, authorities do not care about the people's voices though they raised their concerns and launched agitations against the overexploitation of the resources.

Impact of the Project on Environment, Economic situation and Social life of People:

a. Environment (Land, Water, Air, trees.)

- Due to the sand mining and deep mining water fountains were blocked and people were affected with lack of drinking water.
- Women and children safety affected walking along the road due to the large number of vehicle movements.
- Difficulty in breathing due to the thick dust and air pollution. The air pollution is disturbing the peaceful and healthy life of the people in the villages around the sand mining site, specifically when the vehicles carry sand at high speed.
- Livelihoods of people involved in coir processing along this belt on the stagnant water patches
- Sri Lanka's river sand mining industry has resulted in severe coastal erosion. People have been illegally removing the sand in major rivers: damaging the ecosystem, leading to coastal erosion and loss of biodiversity. Sand mining "reduces the amount of sand being carried to the seashore. Consequently, the sea sand washed away due to wave action is not replenished by the inflow of sand from rivers, and results in severe coastal erosion."²⁷ The removal of sand leads to deepening of river mouths, allowing saltwater to pour over into other bodies of water, affecting the biodiversity there.



Photo.1: Destruction of land due to Sand mining in Kithul village



Photo.2: Destruction of roads due to carry overloaded vehicles at village

b. Economic Factors (Livelihoods, farming, fishing)

- Due to the deep level sand mining the water level of the area had been drastically dropped and the farmers and cultivators were affected

- Inland fisheries were also affected due to the deepening of the Tank loss of fish
- c. The social issues**
- The unbearable number of heavy vehicles carry sand which disturb the lives of people and their livelihoods,
 - School children are not safe as the high speed vehicles run through the roads putting the lives of those children in danger,
 - Death of a child over run by the Heavy truck

People's Actions:

The main objective of the people is to gain back their access to fishing grounds and anchorage points. So, people conducted several actions to raise their voices and highlight the issues they face.

- Held a Protest against the destruction and damages to the roads done due to the excess number of heavy vehicles movement to the site.
- Held a roundtable discussion with Political Leaders and Government authorities and presented the case

Suggestions/ Demands from the Community members

- Reduce as much as possible the volume of sand extracts /mining
- Control and monitor the number of vehicles, and the frequency of movement

1. 3.2.4 Renewable Energy- Poonerine /Kaudarimunai Wind Mill Project

With a total energy demand that exceeds 11 billion kW/h, the country is being catered by several energy sources including indigenous biomass and imported fossil fuel which amounts to a staggering 78% of the total energy production while the rest is served by large and small hydropower, solar, and wind energy generation plants.

With the view to reduce its dependency on costly imported fossil fuels and to reduce the emission of GreenHouse Gases (GHG), the Sri Lankan energy sector has been navigating towards the use of renewable energy resources available within the country.

However, although the aim is acceptable to transform the energy source from fossil fuel to renewable energy, the practical ways of interventions seems not acceptable to the local communities. The communities feel they are devastating their livelihoods and foreseen some threats of their displacements and dispossession of the land, water and coastal areas where they are living in generations.

The wind power generation sites proposed in Mannar and Kilinochchi districts are some examples of such resistance emerging. Our CLR program, we conducted a study among one community that opposed the windmill power project at Kaudarimunai at Kilinochchiya. A windmill project is being implemented without consulting the people in the villages. 41 towers to be erected

The findings of CLR study in Kaudarimunai Area

The main stakeholders identified through the CLR study in the Kaudarimunai village in No. 68 /KN Grama Niladari division in Pooneryn DS division at Kilinochchiya district is as follows;

Occupation/ Livelihood	Number of families
<i>Fishers</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Farmers</i>	<i>00</i>
<i>Labourers</i>	<i>00</i>
<i>Public Servants</i>	<i>00</i>
<i>Others (Self -employed, Home gardening)</i>	<i>00</i>
Total	21

Chart 16: The occupation/ Livelihoods of stakeholder families in Kaudarimunai in Kilinochchi district,

Community membership analysis

Fishers -21 Farmers -00 Labourer-00 Public Servant -00 Others -00

As per the CLR study identified, the main stakeholders responsible for the Project /Destruction are not identified as the implementation plan has not yet started.

However, the issues and problems foreseen by the Community are the destruction and displacement of fisher villages, Loss of livelihoods fishing and disruption of animal farming.

People began some advocacy activities such as

- Gathering of people and discussions are held
- Sent a petition to Divisional Secretary
- Held Media discussions highlighting the issue and draw the attention from wider society

Impact of the Project on Environment (Land, Water, Air, Trees), Economic Factors (Livelihoods, farming, fishing) and environmental factors are yet to experience and not yet seen. However, what we gathered through secondary data collection through government officials, there is no proper plan to improve the infrastructure of the Village communities (water, transport)

People's Action on Kaudarimunai, renewable energy project at Kilinochchi

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0hC1CCPyidCg6a4xAa73ZBaa1WVYpg7m8x5YrkngCV5UeHXZjfBzRc5CznNS5K4ezl&id=100040438368800

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02W6kkaE3uG1fAoDTsbzRBLk7S9GJxJqRvNo1V9E42d79DER1Pmys7At9yxpXbCHL1l&id=100040438368800

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=282005750567368&id=100040438368800

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0Eegp8ZMFR3Lf2H3D3zjfjKUrWm3rz2juTNNqYyUPeuxVGzzph36kLrV3mSMhn7wl&id=100040438368800

3.2.5 Land Grabbing

The post tsunami, post war development processes demanded land, water and forest to cater to the needs of such development projects. The GoSL engaged to change land regulations, land policies and practices in order to cater to the needs of the capitalists and investors. There are several types of land grabbing taking place in Sri Lanka. Some of them are highlighting the development, some are for infrastructure development, some use for military purposes highlighting national security measures, some lands use for power generation, mining purposes such as sand mining and dumping garbage in the sensitive land masses.

Previous studies conducted by NAFSO and the People's land commission launched by People's Alliance for Right to Land, [PARL] have revealed the injustices faced by the local people in various districts in the name of urban development²⁸, allocate agricultural lands for private business enterprises, forceful invasion and dislocate fisher people from tourism projects in southern districts²⁹, and also in the northern coastal areas are occupied by military and run tourism sites.³⁰ The forceful eviction of people has been reported in Paanama area, the Lahugala divisional secretariat in Ampara district is one of the examples of land grabbing militarily.³¹ The importance is that the people who depend on those lands are dispossessed of the lands they are depending on their livelihoods, dislocate from their original lands, destroy their environment, eco systems, or displaced people and push them to stay in temporary places.

Land Acquisition under Mahaweli Development Scheme in Semmalai, Kolluthoduwai in Mullaitivu district

The CLR study site in Mullaitivu and the identified effects:

The CLR study conducted in Mullaitivu district in 6 GN divisions of Kokilai west [MU /77], Kolilai East [MU 78 & MU /79], Kolilai South [MU 80], Kokilai North [MU 81] , Semmalai East [MU 82], and Sammamalai West [MU83] in Kolluthoduwai division where the people affected due to acquiring of lands under Mahaveli development scheme.

Analysis of the community composition

²⁸ Some of the villages in Town and Gravets divisional secretariat area in Trincomalee have been allocated for urban development projects and demarcated the houses to remove or not to do any development work.

²⁹ Well known case was RIU hotel in Balapitiya which dislocated the small scale fishers from their coastal area for clean the beach for tourism activities,

³⁰ Thalsevana tourism resort such as the military run hotel in northern coast of Kankasanthurai and fisher people are not allowed to engage their traditional fishing activities there.

³¹ This is one of the clear examples of such forceful land grabbing of farmers, fishers living in coastal areas where we conducted our CLR study

The main stakeholders identified through the CLR study in the Kokuthoduwai area in Mullaitivu district is as follows;

Occupation/ Livelihood	Number of families
<i>Fishers</i>	00
<i>Farmers</i>	82
<i>Laborers</i>	00
<i>Public Servants</i>	00
<i>Others (Self -employed, Home gardening)</i>	00
Total	82

Chart 17: The occupation/ Livelihoods of stakeholder families in Semmalai, Kokkuthoduwai in Mullaitivu district.

Total: Male: 58 Female: 24

The stakeholders Responsible for the above Project are Local Government Body, Divisional Secretariat, Department of Lands and Mahaweli Development Authority,

Impact of the Project on environment and economic conditions of the people

Environment (Land, Water, Air, Trees)

- Pollution of air quality and environment due to the clearance of the area by cutting down trees,

Economic Factors (Livelihoods, farming, Fishing)

- Loss of their farmland, loss of their regular income and traditional livelihoods

Advocacy activities

- All the affected villagers came together and held a Protest rally and handed over a signed petition to the Divisional Secretary.

Demands from the Community members

- Spare the lands where people have been living for number of years
- Acquire lands from other areas for the new settlers.
- Consult the villagers before embarking on such projects. So, the Free, Prior, Informed Consent [FPIC] should be ensured when the projects are directly affect the community life and livelihoods,



Photo.3: Meeting with community Members at Mullaitivu



Photo.4: Media Briefing of Kilinochchi fisher leaders on renewable energy project at Kaudarimunai

4. The Effects of NPP to Livelihoods and Environment of the communities

4.1 The issues faced by People, the Loss and Damage

The CLR study reached only 924 people though we expected to cover 1200 people in our original plan. The study revealed the adverse effects to the coastal and agricultural communities and we identified the following areas of disturbances to the communities. The details will be shared in each site separately while summary is reported here in the first draft.

Adverse effects, disturbances for the coastal and Agricultural Communities reported at the CLR Survey

Category of the loss of resources	Number of People/ Respondents	Percentage%
Loss of Land	668	72
Beaches/ Lagoons. Water bodies	486	52.6
Loss fishing breeding areas	656	71.0
Destruction/ Pollution of water resources	306	33.1
Soil Pollution	398	43.1
Air Pollution	431	46.6
Other	89	9.6
Total		

Chart 18: Classification of loss of natural resources people depend on their livelihoods

The people living in studied sites were basically farmers, fishers and agricultural workers in those villages. So, we can learn that there are 668 families who lost their land which is a majority of people affected with loss of land hence eventually disturbed the livelihoods of the people. This situation further emphasized the people's disturbances and loss of access to beaches, lagoons and water bodies. The depth of the seriousness is shown through the loss of fishing breeding areas as 656 people [71%] claimed that as one of the adverse effects. This is an issue of long term livelihood situation and sustainability of the fisheries as degradation of fishing breeding areas is directly related with the livelihoods of small scale fishers.

Not only those adversaries, but also there are issues related to water pollution, soil pollution and air pollution as well. So, all these minimize the healthy environment, healthy living conditions of the people and create social, and environmental issues of the studied families. This is either close to 50% or above. It is unfortunate that the GoSL and relevant authorities consider only the foreign currency earning and economic growth without caring about the social, economic, and environmental issues faced by the majority of people in the country.

Affected Area(Hectares) of Lands, water bodies

The land and water are two main natural resources that the people need to produce food, ensure the livelihood security, and contribute to eradicate poverty among the communities depending on those resources.

Small holder farmers contribute to the food security of the people. However, small land plots to above 25 hectares of land have reported loss from the people. As survey revealed there is a majority of people [223] loss of land above 25 hectares which is 24% among all.

Pattern of Loss of Land or water bodies due to development projects as reported at the CLR survey

Amount of Land [Hectares]	No of People	Percentage%
1-5	94	10.2
6-10	126	13.6
11-15	44	4.8
16-20	52	5.6
21-25	62	6.7
Above 25	223	24.1
Don't Know	323	35.0
Total	924	100%

Chart 19: Classification of the pattern of Loss of land among the respondents

4.2. CLR Team Recommendations to various agencies and to the People’s Actions for resistance building and assert the rights

Although the GoSL projected the NPP as the major development strategy of the country, the affected communities from the implemented projects began agitations and resistance though they are isolated in nature and have no coordinated actions. However, it is important to learn the situation and realities of those affected communities as a whole and act collectively in order to resist the difficulties of the people and build sustainable and resilient communities.

The CLR aimed to learn this situation, and understand how to sustain lives, livelihoods and the environment as a collective effort, the important policy measures to adopt, how people engage this process with their leadership and we attempted to build strong connections among them. We have documented those efforts based on various developments and categorized them as follows.

4.2.1 NAFSO CLR Team and Community Observations

- o NAFSO strongly recommends to the community that they are the people who should take the leadership to assert their rights through their involvement. And the outsiders can only facilitate

their struggles through building capacities of the leadership, providing information, linking with other like-minded and concerned groups,

- Enhance the capacities of the youth to engage more social media campaigns to highlight the destruction, the Human Rights violations, possible dispossession of resources and displacement from their places of origin of the communities.
- NAFSO strongly recommended the people and the community leaders to understand the reality of the so-called development, not only Trincomalee district but NPP as a whole could possibly damage the country.
- NAFSO recommend to the like-minded civil society organizations, media personals, concerned political parties, religious leaders, trade unions to understand the NPP and its adverse effects and come forward to take a stand against the destruction.
- Appeal to IFT's, Regional and International Human Rights agencies, Development partners to focus attention on the people's voice and support any possible way that they can ensure the development and human rights of the people.

4.2.2 Recommendations to Community, INGOs, Social Movements, INGOS, UN bodies and IFIs.

a. For the Community

- x. Get organized community and take the leadership of the advocacy campaign,
- x. Build links with the groups who are having similar issues,
- x. Study facts and have clear understanding to stand firmly to attend any advocacy work
- x. Select few youths to build capacities on Paralegal and Meta legal skills and knowledge to attend community cases with some legal background,
- x. Approach some capacity building groups to understand better the NPP and the adverse effects to the communities,

b. For the CSOs and Civil Society Actors

- x. Provide capacity building opportunities to the community leadership, specifically youth and women to gain knowledge and skills to handle their cases.
- x. Make sure to connect the groups who are having similar effects due to development policies, programs and acts,
- x. Set up effective Legal Advocacy Program in order to build basic legal background of the community members,
- x. Facilitate to provide knowledge on various justice related programs land, water, food, fisheries, development and more to the communities,

- c. For the INGOs and Regional Agencies
 - x. Provide assistance to building connections through analyze and understand the people's struggles to assert their rights through exchanges,
 - x. Provide facilities to simplify the various UN instruments, such as VGSSF, UNDROP, UNDRIP, CEDAW, CESCRC and make them closer to the people to use as important instrument to assert the community resources,
- d. For UN and IFIs**
 - x. Listen to people's voices when people demand to assert their rights and not to proceed with the Corporate agenda,
 - x. UN need a mechanism to follow up the recommendations emerged through various UN systems and make the States accountable on their agreed responsibilities,
 - x. UN should make some mechanism to provide knowledge and information to the communities in order to people use them for their advocacy campaigns,

4.2.3 Actions envisage to launch to assert the rights of the communities

- > Print and Launch the CLR report by early March nationally, and engage community education programs in all 15 sites we conducted the CLR. This will be a multi stakeholder dialogue which will help to meet face to face with the possible players from all the sectors.
- > Organize people's tribunal based on the research findings, attend legal cases with the communities to claim the land rights,
- > Link with CoP 28 campaign of Land, Food and Climate Justice, People's caravan, one million signature campaign and People's Voice out campaign in collaboration with Asian Peasant's Coalition,
- > Launch a social media campaign aiming to highlight all the issues identified.
- > We expect to use various important international days to rally round the issues such as women's day, environment day, Ocean day, Fisheries day, Landless day, Food day, human rights day.
- > Organize Legal Advocacy training program for selected leaders emerged from the 15 sites and build them as the Paralegal advocates for their community land, water and other development issues,

5. CONCLUSION

The CLR exercise was a very effective tool to unite various communities fighting to assert their rights. As affected communities are struggling in isolation, they do not care about others' situations. So, this was one of the ways we could bring them to one umbrella and unite them for effective campaigning. It is a very effective mechanism to build capacities of the community leaders as they understand the root causes of the issues they faced. The continuous, collective dialogue we conducted during the CLR period. This will help us to work as a social movement to fight against injustices and to assert people's rights. However, our plan is to unite not only to national level movements, but also to connect to regional and international land, food, climate justice movements to strengthen our efforts and to have our voice globally. We hope this report will help to unite similar groups both at the national level and international levels.

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