

Forest Garden Project at Kodigahakanda in Sri Lanka

On 19.09.1994, the Mihithala Mithuro (Earth Friends) Environment Development Foundation was established to protect the Kodigahakanda forest system which was under severe threat.



This is the first time the message of conservation of Kodigahakanda has been taken to the public



Recognizing that conservation is not effective without community involvement, our organization organized a special program to educate the community on forest conservation on March 12, 1995



Our Vision

Towards a Better Society Based on Sustainable Development ...

Our Mission

Dedicate towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals with all national and international communities

Our Executive Committee Members



**Mr.K.Munagama
President**



**Mr/R.Sadaruwan
Secretary**



**Mr.P. Manushka
Treasurer**



**Mr. C.S. Gunathilaka
Vice President**



**Mrs.Chandra Pathma
Vice Secretary**



**Mr.B.K.Wimalasiri
Ex.Co.Member**



**Mr. Danin
Nisantha
Ex.Co.Member**



**Mr. Kapila
Kumata
Ex.Co.Member**

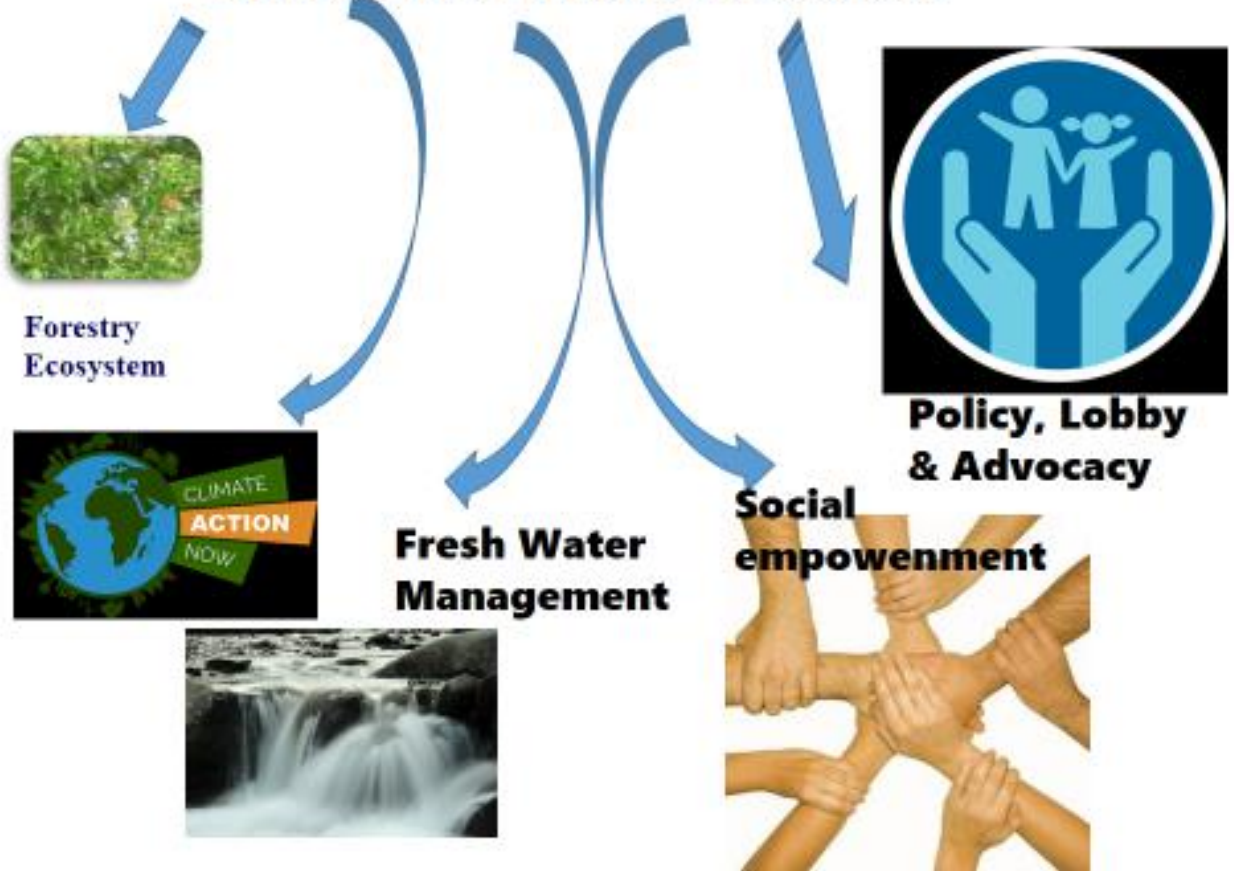


**Mr.G.P.Kumaranayake
Ex.Co.Member**

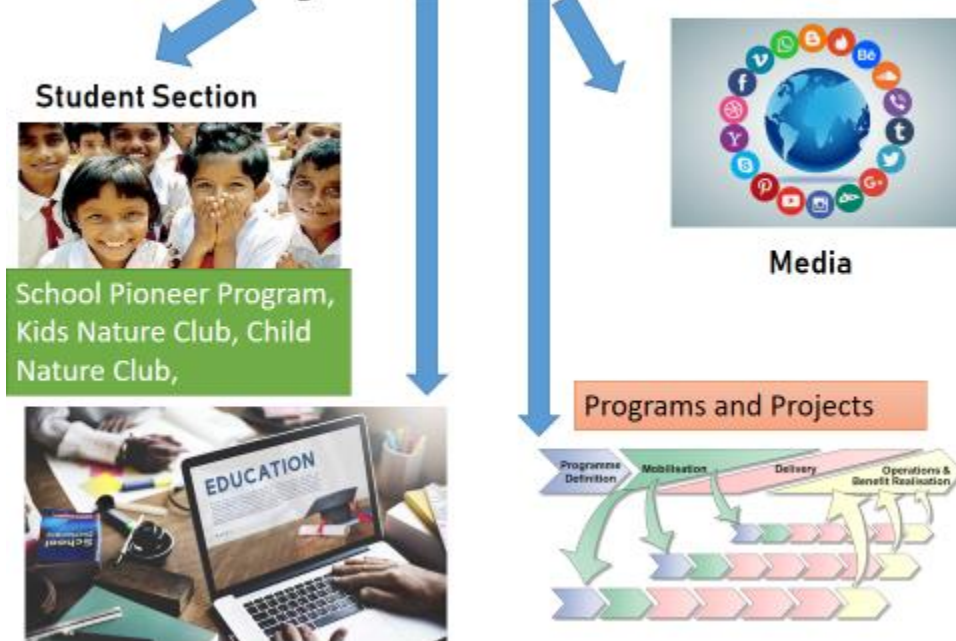


**Mr.
S.Samuditha
Ex.co.Member**

OUR MAIN THEMATIC AREAS



Organization Main Sections



There are several sections to make the organization's work easier and more efficient. Each of them is headed by an Executive Committee member.

The Kodigahakanda Conservation Community Foundation was established in 2007 with the objective of making the contribution of the community efficiently and effectively to the conservation of biodiversity in Kodigahakanda Forest.



This community contributes to the conservation of Kodigahakanda forest. This is the only forest preserved by a community in Sri Lanka. Therefore, this forest is known as Kodigahakanda Community Conservation Sanctuary.

These services we have done with the community have also been met with international recognition.

Equator Prize 2014: Results

Inbox



Martin Sommerschuh <martin.sommerschuh@undp.org>

Jun 14, 2014,
3:01 AM

to me

Dear Karunadasa Munagama,

Thank you for submitting a nomination for the Equator Prize 2014. This year's Technical Advisory Committee reviewed 1,234 nominations from 121 countries and found the level of competition exceptionally high. Of these, your nomination of Mihithala Mithuro Environment Development Foundation had the distinction of being selected as one of only 111 finalists. However, we regret to inform you that your organization has not been selected as one of this year's winners.

We are pleased to inform you that three of the initiatives selected by our Technical Advisory Committee have strong youth involvement:

o **Mihithala Mithuro Environment Development Foundation – Sri Lanka**

o Associação Ashaninka do Rio Amônia – Apiwtxa – Brazil (Alto Juruá, Marechal Thaumaturgo, State of Acre)

Jeffrey Town Farmers – Jamaica (Jeffrey Town, St. Mary, 40 mi north-west of Kingston)

Issues that this project addresses /The problems facing the community

- 01. Suffering from poverty due to lack of proper income**
- 02 Severe soil erosion of community lands**
- 03 Low productivity of land**

Main objectives of the project

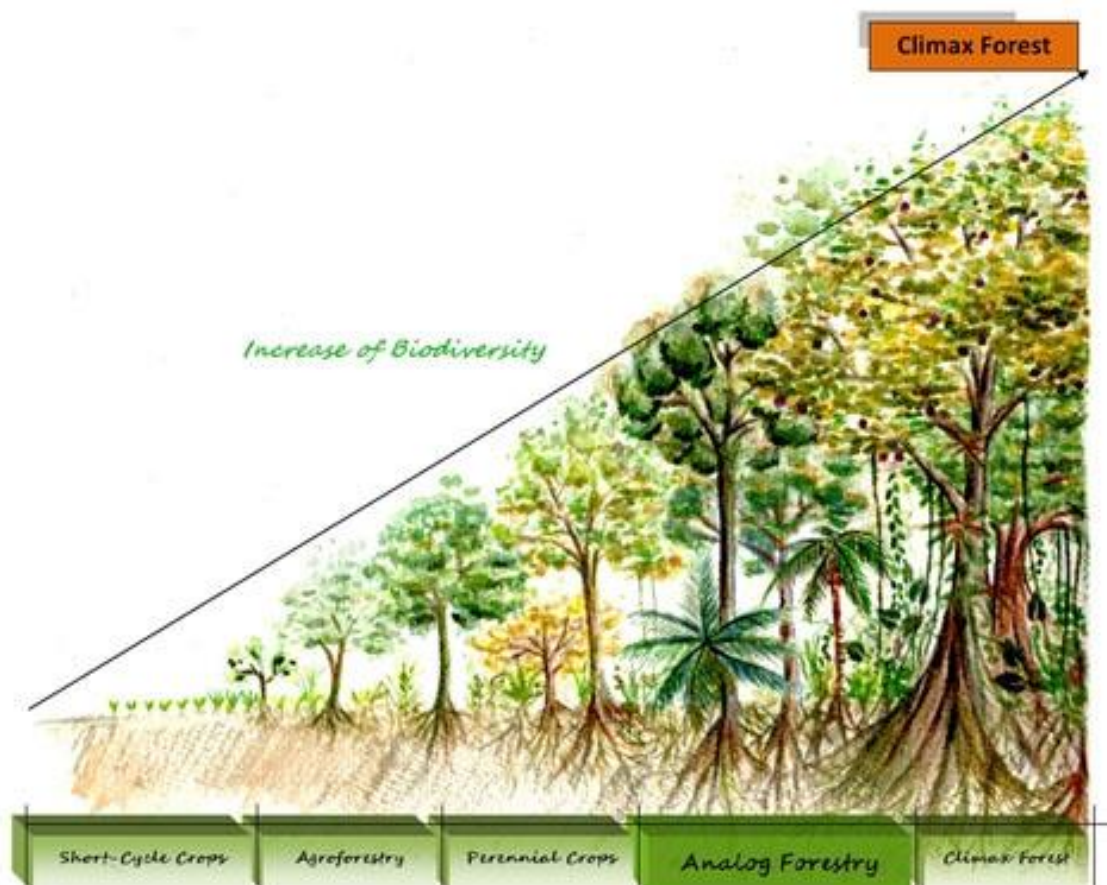
- 01. Steps have been taken to prevent soil erosion in 50 community lands by December 31, 2020.**
- 02. As of December 31, 2020, 2500 trees were planted in 50 lands with at least 50 perennial plants in one land.**
- 03. By 2025, five hectares of new forest cover will be built.**

Project Summery

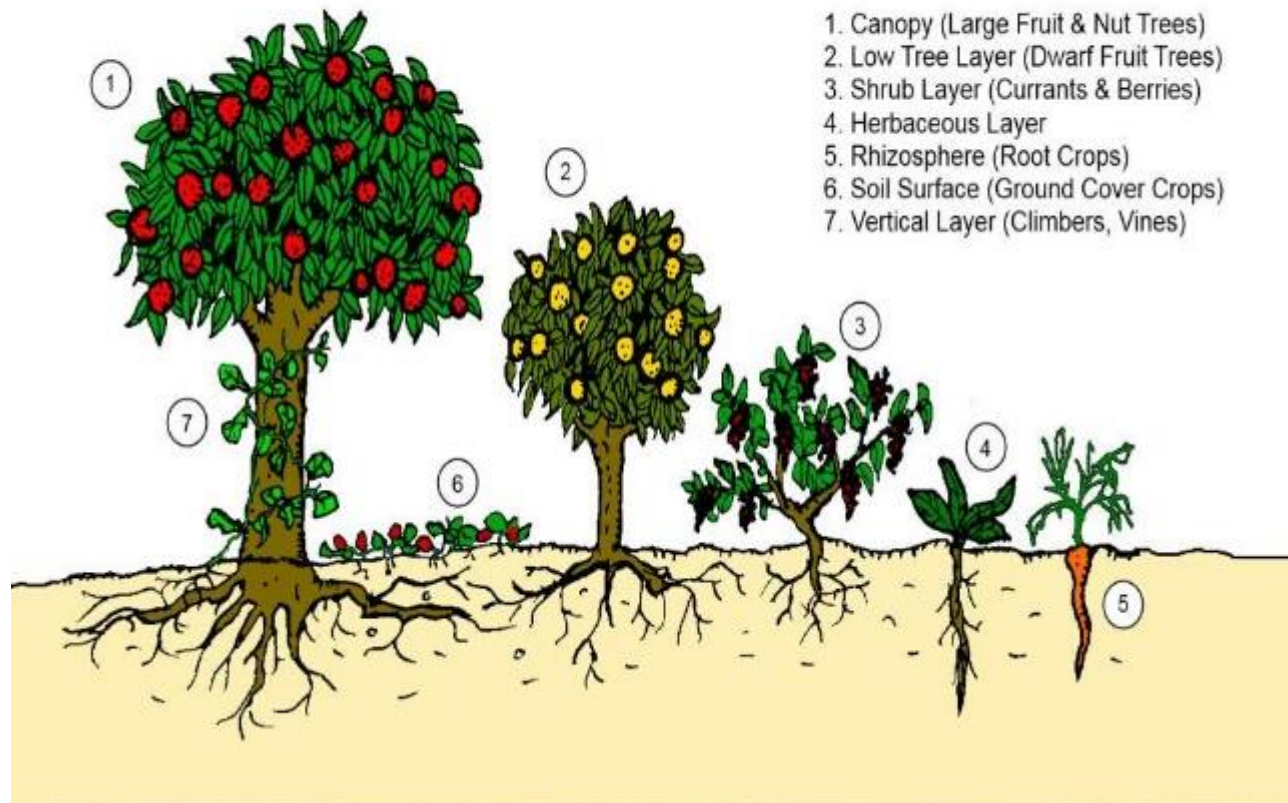
Kodigahakanda can be described as an isolated forest near the capital city of Colombo in the Western Province of Sri Lanka. The world is experiencing rapid deforestation and Sri Lanka loses about 17,000 hectares of forest each year. Preserving existing forests is an essential task before the new forest population is developed. A new five hectare forest will be built near the Kodigahakanda forest.

What is the main difference between a natural forest and this new forest?

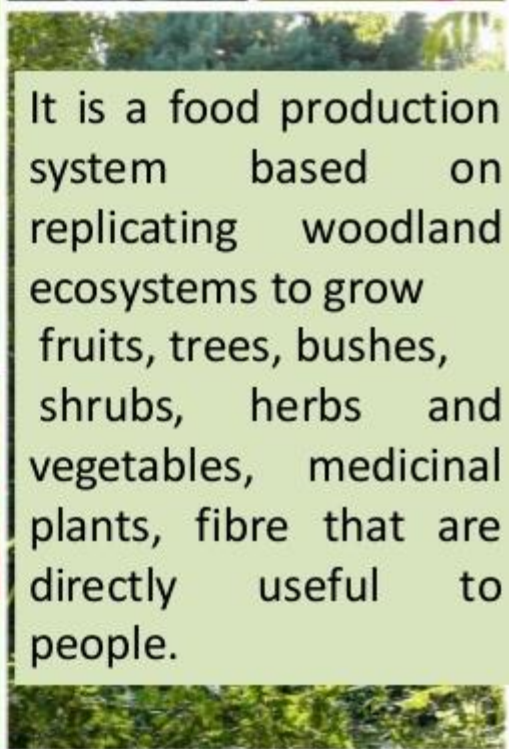
This ecosystem is known as forest gardens or Agro Forestry/ Analog forest/ Kandyan Forrest garden and all the plants are economically useful. The variety of the Forest garden provides family income throughout the year. These plants will accumulate atmospheric carbon over time. Through this, the forest will contribute to mitigate climate change.



The Seven Layers of a Forest Garden



1. Canopy (Large Fruit & Nut Trees)
2. Low Tree Layer (Dwarf Fruit Trees)
3. Shrub Layer (Currants & Berries)
4. Herbaceous Layer
5. Rhizosphere (Root Crops)
6. Soil Surface (Ground Cover Crops)
7. Vertical Layer (Climbers, Vines)



Food security - growing a wide variety of food plants in your backgarden means that you have a steady supply of fresh food that is independent of price fluctuations, fuel availability, failed harvests etc.

➤ Because the food is produced close to the point of use there are no transport costs and there are no energy costs associated with industrialised farming.

HOME GARDENS IN SRI

LANKA

Dry Zone Home Gardens

- Average size 0.5 to 1.0 ha
- Species composition is low
- Water scarcity is major problem
- Soil fertility is high
- Potential for more crop varieties
- Very Low sloppy land



Wet Zone Home Gardens

- average size 0.25ha
- Species composition is very high
- Soil fertility is very low
- Perennial crops are more common
- Very High sloppy land



Kandyan Forest Garden

- Located in Kandy, Matale, Kegalle and Ratnapura districts of Sri Lanka
- Out of total area 20% consists KFG in Kandy district.
- Almost same as Tropical Rain Forest Structure
- Tree height is around 30 m - 35 m
- Many strata - almost 5 canopy layers
- Litter is very thick
Very low light penetrate to the ground
- Soil erosion is very low - similar to the Tropical rain forest
- Provide many habitats for wild animals
- Animal husbandry - Cattles , Poultry (free range system)



Expected results of this project

- 1. There were 2500 perennial plants planted and maintained in 50 community lands.**
- 2. Methods has been made to prevent soil erosion in 50 lands.**
- 3. The annual income of 50 families has been grown.**
- 4. Five hectares of forests have been built.**
- 5. The food security and sovereignty of 50 families has grown.**
- 6. The forest garden has an ecosystem with animal communities.**
- 7. Forest Gardens have contributed to mitigating climate change by absorb carbon.**
- 8. Contributing to the improvement of groundwater level by activating water springs.**

Budget (USD)

No.	Description	CO. Funding	Global Giving	Total
01	Formulation of necessary measures in 50 selected lands for prevention of soil erosion (Stone Bunt, Bio fence etc...)	2,000	2,755	4,755
02	Established five community plant nurseries	200	337	537
03	Provision of agricultural equipment to the community	300	750	1,050
04	Land Preparation and digging holes	100	688	788
05	Supply of 50 kg per family of organic manure to 50 families	200	551	751
06	Planting 2000 plants	110	-----	110
07	Bee keeping program	1,374	-----	1,374
07	Project coordination cost	500	-----	500
	Total	4,784	5,081	9,865

Project Sustainability

A business plan for the sustainability of the project is being prepared. Under the guidance of Lanka Social Ventures, a people's company will be established in the future. Through this project, the business opportunities identified will be utilized.