



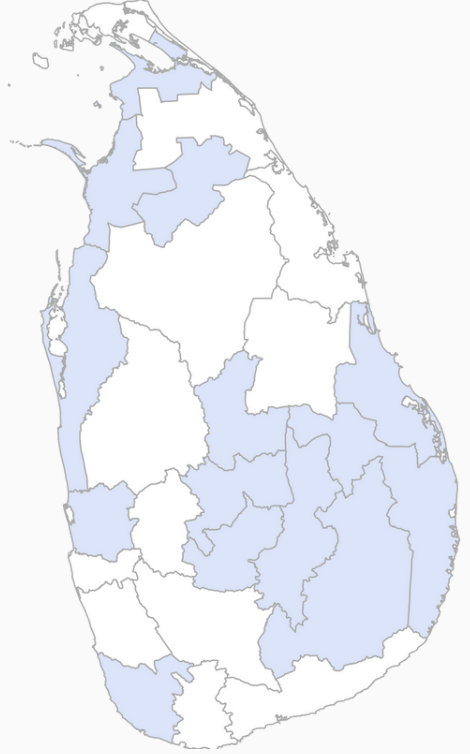
ACTED

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NEWSLETTER
Sri Lanka

ACTED is an international non-governmental organisation working in 40 countries around the world. ACTED supports communities to build a better future in line with our 3Zero Strategy.

ZERO EXCLUSION ZERO CARBON ZERO POVERTY

- Zero Exclusion** because nobody should be left behind
- Zero Carbon** because we only have one planet
- Zero Poverty** because poverty should not hold back potential



Our work in Sri Lanka

ACTED began operating on the island in 2005 in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean Tsunami. Over time, ACTED has expanded its portfolio in line with the 3Zero strategy to promote **climate smart and inclusive economic growth, civil society development, ending gender-based violence and social cohesion.**

Thanks to our donor and partners



European Union
இலட்சுமி கி.கமலம் ஐரோப்பிய ஒன்றியம்



Federation of Sri Lankan
Local Government Authorities



THIS YEAR SO FAR...



128 MSMEs

increased their income by over 25% following trainings and technical inputs to develop business capacities



200 million

rupees invested in MSMEs to support business recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic



181

individuals engaged in activities to promote social cohesion and coexistence among communities



Through the COLIBRI project over **50 farmers** in the Knuckles Conservation Forest were trained and supported to adopt sustainable agricultural practices



Over **200 MSMEs** participated in trade forums and fairs to strengthen market linkages via the Integrated Economic Development project



Campaigns organised in support of the **16 Days of Activism** aimed at preventing GBV against female garment workers

OUR ACTIONS

Integrated Economic Development

ACTED and project partners continued delivery of essential assets and established facilities. This has supported over 300 MSMEs' business expansion and growth to ensure sustained rural economic development across Central and Uva provinces despite Covid-19 and resulting economic challenges.



“**I received a tractor through the project which brought new life to operations on my farmland**”

- Hemakumara, a vegetable producer and collector in Monaragala District

To support economic recovery of MSMEs following the pandemic, cash grants valued at over 200 million LKR were disbursed to 68 enterprises to implement their business recovery plans.

ACTED also facilitated a 2-day provincial trade forum in Kandy District where over 80 MSMEs participated to increase their brands' visibility and engaged market actors to strengthen linkages. Post Covid-19, such events are crucial for the sustainable recovery of rural economies.

Promoting Social Cohesion and Inter-religious Collaboration

Following a capacity assessment, ACTED began mentoring 15 additional Coexistence Societies (CS) as a part of the second phase of the project. Through these interactive sessions, members of the CS are strengthening organisational capacities to ensure effective implementation of initiatives that promote coexistence among ethnic groups.



Meanwhile, ACTED's partner, the Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities continued to engage public officials to build their understanding of inter-religious collaboration and formalise mechanisms that promote social cohesion and ensure transparent conflict-resolution.

Next, 20 CS will be supported to implement initiatives within their communities that promote these values and, importantly, address ethnic divide based the learnings from the project on promoting inter-religious collaboration and conflict mitigation.



'Speak Out': Tackling Gender-based Violence Against Female Garment Workers

Through this project, ACTED aims to assist the Free Trade Zones & General Services Employees Union (FTZ&GSEU), and Women's Centre (WC) to protect and empower female garment workers in Sri Lanka. Recently, both organisations were engaged in interactive trainings to develop their communications and advocacy capacities for effective awareness raising on GBV.



By developing these capacities, FTZ&GSEU and WC engaged garment factory worker activists to develop advocacy campaigns and, subsequently, led initiatives across Northern and Western provinces in December to raise awareness on GBV as well as the need to reform existing regulations to safeguard female workers and protect their rights.

Staff from FTZ&GSEU and WC trained under the project also initiated trainings for 20 female garment workers selected earlier in the year. The trainings revolved around addressing GBV in the workplace to mobilise collective action for change across the garment industry.

So far the Speak Out project has...



Completed comprehensive training sessions on addressing GBV, sexual and reproductive health, and toxic masculinity



Established referral pathways to increase access to psycho-social support services



Introduced robust organisational processes to enhance civil society capacities to prevent GBV



Formalised counselling services for survivors/victims of GBV



Strengthened linkages between civil society and public officials to effectively address GBV



Organised community-level awareness campaigns on addressing GBV

COLIBRI: Community Livelihood and Biodiversity Recovery

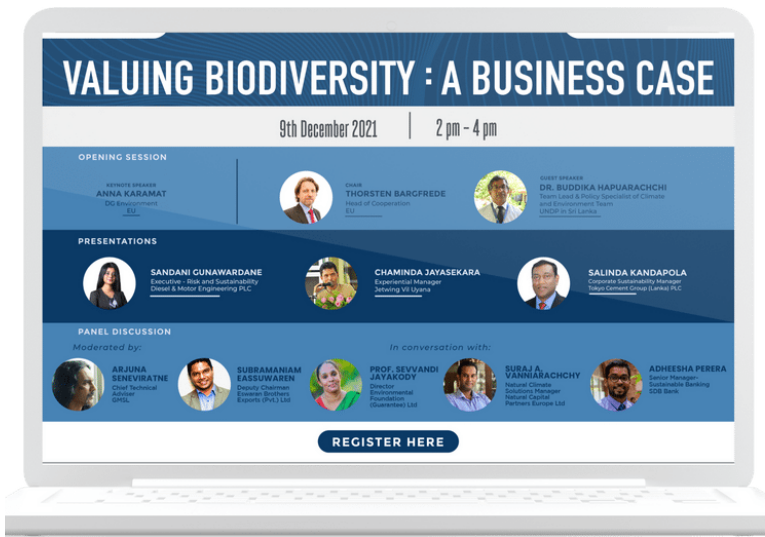
In line with its global 3Zero Strategy, ACTED and project partners, the Blue Resources Trust, Environmental Foundation Ltd. and Green Movement of Sri Lanka are implementing the COLIBRI project which supports local communities adopt sustainable livelihoods that facilitate economic growth while protecting valuable ecosystems and natural resources.

During a participatory GOCA process and through regular on-the-job mentoring, partner organisations were supported to identify and strengthen capacities by improving existing processes that complemented their organisational targets.



In parallel, communities in the Knuckles Conservation Forest were engaged to lead and monitor re-forestation efforts. Communities were provided with essential inputs and trainings on sustainable agricultural practices.

In December, COLIBRI partners, Biodiversity Sri Lanka, and the European Chamber of Commerce Sri Lanka in partnership with the UNDP in Sri Lanka hosted a webinar titled “Valuing Biodiversity: A Business Case”. The interactive webinar aimed to identify actionable strategies for businesses to accelerate progress towards biodiversity conservation and regeneration.



What's Next?



Sri Lanka imports 300,000 metric tonnes of plastic annually, of which 1.6 tonnes is mismanaged, ending up in canals, rivers, ocean, endangering marine ecosystems and contributing to the global plastic waste crisis. An immediate and systemic shift to circularity is required to address this.

In line with its 3Zero strategy and current transition towards greener operations and programmes, ACTED will be supporting Sri Lanka's shift to a circular economy by working closely with SMEs in the plastic value chain.

Watch out for our next newsletter to learn more about this new initiative.