

Project Name : Community Based biodiversity conservation at Kodigahakanda
Grantee Organization: Mihithalamithuro Environmental Development Foundation
Location: Kodigahakanda-Horana
Province: Western
Duration: Two years (completed)
Project Number: SRL/SGP/OP5/STAR/BD/2013/02
Role of TERN: Knowledge Management and Capacity Building

The goal of this project is to monitor the effectiveness of the conservation activities while promoting Eco tourism potentials of Kodigahakanda with livelihood development.

The technical skills and scientific knowledge required for the long term forest conservation activities have been developed among the 80 beneficiaries. Participatory boundary demarcations of the forest were conducted and under the GEF/SGP project conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services was targeted specially to secure water resources for the beneficiaries.

Awareness development programmes, training programs, environmental Camps and School programmes were conducted to engage the communities to increase understanding of the values and the importance of protecting forest lands. An eco-adventure facility has been established in the location through the GEF funds and village youth who participated in the awareness programs were also trained in the eco-tourism activities and eco-adventure programs.

The newly established multipurpose center facilitates field studies for students, eco-tourism ventures and a sales outlet for the handicrafts (wall hangers, toys, kitchen utensils, flowers, vases, necklaces and earrings etc.) ayurveda medicine (hair oil, herbal balms, herbal tea), traditional food and five varieties of other herbal products made by the community. The community also learned organic farming methods including producing and using of bio-fertilizer, beekeeping and the production of herbal medicines.