

## Using Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) for protected area management in Sri Lanka

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), also known as Conservation Drones are a cutting edge technology for remote sensing and monitoring. In collaboration with the Department of Wildlife Conservation and the National University of Singapore, we have designed a project to utilize UAVs for vegetation classification and monitoring, population estimation of large mammals and monitoring of protected areas to acquire information relevant to management and conservation decision making. We also conduct training for the wildlife staff in order to equip them with the cutting edge technology.



Left: A/P Webb sets up a UAV for flight with the staff of the Department of Wildlife Conservation at Minneriya National Park . Right: landing the UAV after a successful mission.