

Project: Participatory Community protection actions to conserve West border of Udawalawe National Park and Bambaragala Mukalana Forest

Location: Weligepola, Balangoda

Province: Uva province

Period: 2015/2016

Grantee Organization: United Community Development Womens' Association (UCDWA)

Role of TERN: Knowledge Management and Capacity Building

Participatory Community protection actions to conserve West border of Udawalawe National Park and Bambaragala Mukalana forest will be executed under this project, while enhancing their knowledge on REDD+ CBR+ programme and the importance of forest conservation. Six active CBOs will be formed within the community to form a strong network for the conservation the focal area.

A task force consisting of 20 community leaders representing eight peripheral villages will be formed to enhance the community participation. They will be trained to initiate the forest conservation of the area. The project will empower the beneficiaries to support the mitigation of some drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Systematic animal husbandry units will be established with the required training as the major drive of forest destruction of the area is free ranging native cattle. The community will be introduced to alternative livelihood sources such as pasture maintaining, organic home gardening to substitute the currently sources of income generation that are mostly destructive to the forest. Carbon efficient stoves will be distributed among the women and they will be educated of the importance of protecting forests. They will also be trained on domestic practices that will reduce emissions and damage to the forest.

A model forest plantation of five acres will be established and maintained to preserve rare fruit varieties native to Sri Lanka. A book on archeological and ecological importance of Bambaragala-Mukalaana forest will also be published to enhance the public awareness on the ecological importance of forest monasteries.