

Foundation for Environment, Climate and Technology

*C/o Maintenance Office, Headworks, Administration, Operation and Maintenance Unit,
Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka, Digana Village, Rajawella, Sri Lanka.*

"To advance the application of science for societal welfare"

Introduction

The environment shapes lives, livelihoods, environment and the economy. It is difficult to overestimate its pervasive impact. The recent Tsunami highlights that many in poor countries do not adequately use science and technology adequately. Indeed, the sciences in environmental technologies are lagging in Sri Lanka. Little advantage has been taken of advances in weather and environmental prediction, advances in computing, satellite imaging and communication technologies. Realizing this, we started a Foundation in 2002 and registered it as a non-profit company in 2003. This builds on the work of the officers in Sri Lanka and internationally. Our work is oriented towards developing useable scientific and technological information that can be applied by users in diverse sectors. We work actively with other Sri Lankan partners in government institutions, Research Institutes and Universities. Our charter limits us from turning private profit but requires us to develop the science and technology field. We work with partners in our work.

Past Contributions

Our officers have engaged in projects in water resources, agriculture, environment, health and disaster management making significant contribution in:

- Demonstration of science application projects
- Science and Technology Data base development
- Climate and Environmental diagnostic work
- Development of local technological capacity

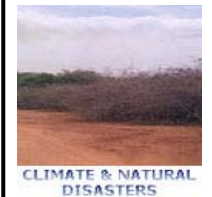
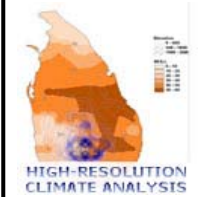
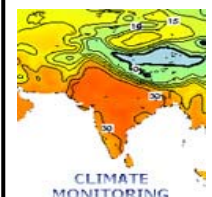
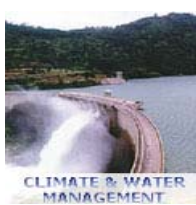
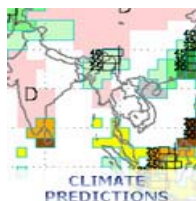
Capacity Building and Outreach

We have ensured that our work leads to developing capacity to generate and deliver scientific services in a sustainable manner. In particular, we have

- Trained Personnel and assisted Post Graduate Education
- Provided Lectures, Seminars, a Newsletter and articles
- Assisted local scientists and professionals

Work in Disaster Management

Our officers have lead projects to identify disaster hazard risk in Sri Lanka in 2002-2004. They published locally and internationally, proposed early warning system and disaster management systems well before the Tsunami. Responding rapidly to the Tsunami they created two Internet Resource Centers for bringing scientific information to the Relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts. Now they seek to leverage all this work with an expanded program.



Projects

Our scientists have contributed to projects for

- [River Basin Management in the Mahaweli River Basin in Sri Lanka](#) (2000-to present)

We collaborated with the International Research Institute for climate prediction (IRI) and the Mahaweli Authority (MASL) to identify the use of seasonal climate forecasts for water resource and environmental management. We studied climatic impacts on rainfall, streamflow, investigated drought and flood indices and system management. This project is resourced by the IRI and MASL.

- [Climate Change and Variability and Tea and Coconut Plantations in Sri Lanka](#) (2002 – 2005)

This project is a collaborative undertaking between five Sri Lankan organizations with funding from the Global Environmental Facility. The project objectives include climatic analysis, impact assessment, development of adaptation strategies and capacity building. We have provided climate change assessments and yields predictions.

- [Climate Variability and Rice Production in Sri Lanka](#) (2000)

We showed a relationship between rice production in Sri Lanka and El Nino System. These findings are useful to underpin the use of seasonal climate predictions for agricultural management and policy-making.

- [Climate and Human-Elephant Conflict](#) (2001 – 2002)

We seek to use climate information, seasonal climate prediction, remote sensing and spatial-analytic techniques to assist wildlife, natural resources, environmental and water management. We established the climate influences on human elephant conflict. This effort was funded by the IRI.

- [Climate and Natural Disaster Risk](#) (2002 – 2004)

We have identified the seasonal and spatial variations of drought, flood, landslide and cyclone risk at a resolution of 10 km. The risks posed by multiple natural hazards in Sri Lanka were explicitly identified. We identified the potential for mitigation and response that take into account the interactions among different hazards and vulnerabilities. This effort was funded by the World Bank through Columbia University.

- [Malaria and Dengue and Predictive Risk Mapping and Early Warning Systems](#) (2003 – 2006)

We are contributing to a project on climate and malaria and dengue in Sri Lanka in collaboration with the International Water Management Institute and other partners to develop an early warning system for malaria risk in the Uva Province as a prototype. This effort is funded by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Collaborations

Our team members have collaborated with:

- Sri Lankan Institutions

Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka
National Water Resources Authority
Department of Meteorology
University of Peradeniya
Intl. Water Management Institute
Anti Malaria Campaign
Coconut Research Institute
Tea Research Institute
Department of Wildlife Conservation

- International Institutions

International Research Institute
University of North Carolina
Columbia University
Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology
Indian Institute of Science
Frontier Research System for Global Change
National Aeronautical and Space Agency (NASA)

Officers

Zeenas Yahiya - Projects Manager
Ruvini Perera - Hydrologist
Vidhura Ralapanawe - IT
Neil Devadasan - IT/ Database
Upamala Tennakoon - GIS
Janaki Chandimala – Water Resources
Manjula Siriwardhana– Climate Change
M.R.A Siraj – IT
Yoosuf Ashraj - Data
Badra Nawarathne – Civil Engineer

Further Information

A detailed brochure is available on request. In addition, see our websites

<http://www.climate.lk>

<http://www.geolanka.net>

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