

POST-Tsunami

progress or standstill ?

Report of the CCA-ECOT
ecumenical delegation to Sri Lanka
on rehabilitation and reconstruction processes
September 2005

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PREFACE :

Six months following the devastating tsunami that struck coastal areas of Asia, what progress has there been in helping victims rebuild their homes and their lives? How has the tourism sector been affected and as it rebuilds will more progressive forms of tourism be created that allow local communities to not only benefit from it but also have a say in how it is conducted in their areas?

These and other questions were asked by a delegation of twelve individuals from Korea, India, Japan, USA and Germany who visited Sri Lanka from July 13 to 20, 2005. The delegation, coordinated by the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA), the Ecumenical Coalition on Tourism (ECOT) and the National Council of Churches in Sri Lanka, visited many coastal communities affected by the December 2004 tidal wave as well as individuals and organizations providing assistance.

The following report entitled "Report of the CCA-ECOT Ecumenical Delegation to Sri Lanka on Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Processes" provides details of the findings made during the visit. Special thanks must be given to Mr. K T Suresh, Mr. Syed Liyakath and Mr. L. Antonyswamy of Equations, Bangalore, India for doing the documentation and research which has made this report possible.

The delegation noted that, as tourism is one of the major income earners for countries like Sri Lanka which have beautiful coastal areas, the rebuilding of the tourist infrastructures tend to be a priority, often at the expense of the local coastal communities of fisherfolk. Tourist hotels and resorts depend on beautiful, uncluttered beaches, world-standard accommodations and comfortable, safe transportation. In many cases, providing these tourist-related facilities has meant the dislocation of local fisherfolk communities and the destruction of mangrove swamps

and sand dunes, both of which can provide protection for large tidal waves if left untouched.

As rebuilding takes place along the coast, it is imperative that serious efforts be made:

1. To protect existing mangrove swamps, sand dunes and coral reefs and rebuild those that have been destroyed in earlier "development" schemes.
2. To develop tourism forms that allow for management by local communities so that they benefit from the inflow of guests as well as from the resources earned from tourism.
3. To ensure that local communities are involved in planning the reconstruction of their own homes and villages and that their livelihoods are guaranteed.
4. To take precautions to ensure that the special needs of women and children are met.
5. To recognize the present tensions between different ethnic and religious communities in the area and develop programs in such a way that these tensions can be solved and peace restored.

This Tsunami Reader is the third in this series of dossiers looking at specific issues related to the tsunami. This issue highlights the progress, or lack thereof, in reconstruction and rehabilitation work six months after the tsunami hit. We hope readers will find the report helpful in understanding the serious issues which yet must be responded to, especially those issues affecting the grassroots coastal villagers who must contend with the emphasis governments are making on rebuilding the tourist business.

Dr. Lee Hong Jung
CCA-JID

Chan Beng-Seng
DAGA

Ranjan Solomon
ECOT

Commissioning of the study

The study coincides with the six month period after the tsunami of 26th Dec 2004. There have been questions raised about the validity of rehabilitation and reconstruction processes. People, in general, feel uninvolved in the decision-making processes. They also do not see any future for themselves in the post-tsunami period because many have been displaced; many thousands have lost land holding rights and have been uprooted by unscrupulous real estate dealers and land-grabbers.

Governments are viewing rapid development of coastal areas in the aftermath of the tsunami, and as in the case of Sri Lanka, to bring back tourists. In the process, they are showing little or scant regard to conservation of coastal ecosystems and reinforcement of legal frameworks.

In this situation, there is a need to develop reconstruction processes (*read rebuilding lives of affected communities*) that are people-centered and people-oriented; on the basis of reliable impact assessments, and developing long-term strategies that will hopefully protect people from another storm or tsunami. It is obvious that many of the recommendations will require fresh thinking about coastal communities in terms of livelihoods, ecology, and development policy and practice. Adequate laws and/or enforcement mechanisms need to be put in place.

The field-level study was also rooted in the understanding that relevant and appropriate action would require the knowledge of the situation on-the-ground as experienced by the victims of the tsunami. Based on discussions, it was felt, the CCA-ECOT staff could gain an understanding of the hopes and fears and aspirations of the people, develop lines of advocacy, and draw up long term strategic plans for international action and support in the reconstruction of lives and livelihoods. Furthermore, the commitment to community-based reconstruction and the need to develop community-based organizations, who will plan and carry out the process of reconstruction, meant an understanding of what kind of support mechanisms would be needed to make this possible.

It was in this context that EQUATIONS was commissioned to carry on the study, in view of the fact that they have acquired expertise in issues of small islands and coastal communities from a variety of perspectives but especially related to questions of tourism and its impacts on environment and livelihoods. EQUATIONS is also well known for its studies/impact assessments and work in promoting resistance to projects that cause displacement of people. This report will serve as a basis for our future interventions planning.

Study team profile

The study team comprised the representatives of following various organizations:

- Mr. KT Suresh
- Mr. L. Antonysamy
- Mr. Syed Liyakhat

EQUATIONS, India

Established in 1985, EQUATIONS is a non-profit organisation that investigates impacts and alternatives in tourism policies and structures. We believe that the present forms of tourism raises serious questions regarding its real benefit, as also its socio-economic impacts on host communities. We see ourselves as a campaigning and advocacy organisation. Our programmes in recent years have focused on the indigenous people, ecotourism, tourism policy interventions and areas of coastal issues, women and tourism, child and tourism and tourism education.

EQUATIONS envisions tourism that is non-exploitative, where decision-making is democratized and access to and benefits of tourism are equitably distributed. We endorse justice, equity, people centered and movement centered activism, democratization and dialogue as our core values.

EQUATIONS has intervened in coastal area debate in South India and has been working with Coastal Regulation Zone Notification issues since 1991. After the tsunami, EQUATIONS is involved in a Coastal Area Assessment project in Tamil Nadu and Andaman & Nicobar Islands to address the issue of unregulated development in the light of coastal policy and law and the tsunami impact.

Mr. Kingsley Perera

Consortium of Islamic rehabilitation Organization (CIRO), Sri Lanka

Relief and rehabilitation in tsunami affected areas. Newly founded. Designed to focus on work with Muslims communities who face neglect. But seek to work also on an inter-faith basis and support all excluded people within the scope of their work. Mostly work in the Eastern provinces.

Mr. Ranjan Solomon

Ecumenical Coalition on Tourism, Hong Kong

Is a coalition of Regional Ecumenical Organisations and over seventy secular and faith-based groups. It seeks to unite people around collective efforts that negate the undesirable effects of

modern tourism and, in its place, institute socially responsible and ethically oriented tourism. It believes that tourism must be based on justice and sustainability for host communities and that, therefore, tourism planning and practice must be democratized. ECOT advocates respect for the protection and dignity of the human rights of women, children, indigenous peoples and workers in the tourist trade. It opposes tourism projects that create environmental devastation.

Mr. Heinz Fuchs

EED Tourism Watch, Germany

Tourism Watch was established in 1975 by the Church Development Service of the Protestant Church in Germany as a worldwide Special Desk for Tourism. As a branch of the Overseas Service, it is involved in training programs and in solidarity initiatives surrounding the issue of "Third-World" tourism, and it promotes socially and environmentally responsible developments in tourism. Against a background of numerous negative consequences resulting from tourism, TOURISM WATCH questions the assumption that "tourism equals development".

Mr. Max Ediger

Center for Justpeace in Asia, Hong Kong

Traces its beginnings to a workshop organized in 2001 where participants discussed the need for a regional program to support and promote grassroots initiatives in peacemaking and conflict transformation. The purpose of this project is to connect grassroots peace activists from around Asia to enable a process of discussing, documenting and building the indigenous experiences of local grassroots communities and to seek ways to make use of this accumulated wisdom and experience to develop more effective and appropriate models for conflict transformation and peacemaking at the national and global levels. The CJA also hopes to be a link between just peace movements in Asia and those in Africa, Europe and North/South America in order to strengthen the global just peace movement.

Ms. Yun, Jae Hyang

Documentation for Action Groups in Asia, Hong Kong

It was formed in 1973 by the Urban Rural Mission desk of the Christian Conference of Asia to serve ecumenical action groups in the area of information solidarity by collecting, analysing and sharing information for action. DAGA envisions a just world in which all peoples, especially the marginalized, participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives and livelihood. DAGA also envisions a world where peace is not the absence of war or violence but rather a product of a community living with justice.

Rev. Hauhiko Akiba, Pastor of the Anglican Church in Japan

Ms. Michiko Kikawada

Ms. Sumiyo Omatsa

Ms. Sayoko Ooka

Members of the Committee on Women (national) of The Anglican Church, Japan.

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The study team would like to place on record the following persons and organizations for their help and support during the course of the study.

Rt. Rev. Duleep De Chikera

Mr. Chrishantha Hettiyarachchi, Sri Lanka YMCA

Rev. Warshamanage

Mr. Immanuel Gopala kitnan, Student Christian Movement of Sri Lanka,

Ms. Shyamalee Aponso, National YWCA

Maj. Edward Daniel, The Salvation Army

Rev. Fr. Sarath Iddamalgoda

Mr. Deepalal Gamage, Caritas Sri Lanka

Rev. K. Piyadasa, The Presbyterian Church

Mr. Ranjith De Silva, Gami Seva Sevana,

Rev. Dr. Jayasiri T. Peiris, General Secretary, National Christian Council of Sri Lanka

Mr. Marshal Fernando, Ecumenical Institute

Ms. Tamara Bernard, Mr. Lal Motha, Mr. Peter (GLIDE)

Interfaith Cooperation Committee, Tangalle

Mrs. & Mr. SM Izzadeen, SLMM

Consortium of Integrated Relief Organizations, Ampara

INFORM - Sri Lanka Human Rights Organization

Movement for Natural Resources and Land Reforms (MONLAR)

Mr. Anil Premaratane, Additional Director, Coastal Conservation Department,

Govt. of Sri Lanka

Ms. Cyrene Siriwardhana, Ms. Bhavani Fonseka, Mr. Nikhil Narayan - Center for Policy Alternatives

Ms. Damaris Wickramasekara, Law & Society Trust

Dr. Prathap Ramanujam, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism

Mr. Ravi Algama, Environmental Foundation Ltd., Sri Lanka

A special thanks to Jerome & Dillony for facilitating the field visits and meetings.

Objectives

The objectives of the study were:

1. To see and understand the situation and gauge the challenges ahead in terms of reconstruction
2. To understand how the tourism sector has been affected with particular reference to coastal communities - including the violation of coastal zone regulations, destruction of mangroves, sand dunes, and coral reefs etc (and other environmental related issues)
3. To understand the effects of shrimp farming (a rape-and-run industry) designed by the World bank to give quick profits and long term suffering to coastal communities.
4. To consider how long term reconstruction of the devastated areas and people can be carried out in an integrated way (ecological in a complete sense) - taking into account a participatory/ people-centered/democratic/equitable approach. This will have particular reference to coastal communities where tourism is a dominant activity. It will also factor in effects of the crisis on children and women who have suffered multiple consequences stemming from their dislocation.
5. To identify strategies for a multi-faith approach involving secular groups too in reconstruction-development processes which also take into account the ongoing conflict-peace building processes in Sri Lanka.
6. To consider how this can support the beginnings of a South Asia Network in dealing with long term conservation issues and the related dimensions of human security in small islands and coastal areas which are fragile and vulnerable to ecological crisis.

Methodology

This study was designed to bring the collective experience of the team members from different organizations around the world in coming to grips with the situational reality in Sri Lanka six months after the devastation of the tsunami. The approach that was agreed was that of an enquiry through dialogue, field visits and biting into the analysis that civil society and government actors in Sri Lanka have evolved in the past months. The only value addition that is intended in this report is to bring an 'outsider's perspective' to the situation and to also clearly bring out the issues related to tourism development. *Refer annexure 1 for details.*

This visit of the study team was preceded by a more detailed work by ECOT as partner of EED-Tourism Watch which looked at:

- Stocktaking of the touristic reconstruction in the affected areas
- Evaluation of existing information concerning tsunami-disaster-aid and tourism
- Analyzing type and extent of the disaster aid for marginalized population groups in the informal tourism sector

Limitations

The main limitations that the study team faced were:

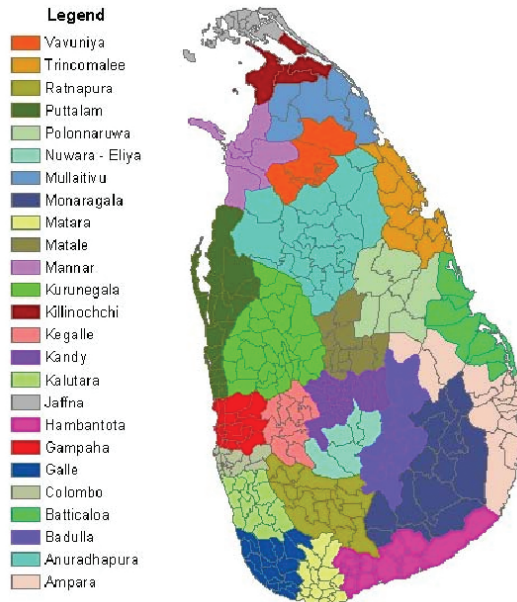
1. Due to political tensions prevailing in the eastern province, the team could not visit Trincomalee and had to return to Colombo from Batticaloa. Therefore the perspective from Batticaloa and Ampara districts are limited.
2. The environmental impact assessment reports on ecology and infrastructure carried out by the Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources, Govt. of Sri Lanka could not be obtained.

Qualifiers

Study area

The districts that were covered during the study were:

- a. Gampaha, Colombo and Kalutara in the Western Province
- b. Galle, Matara and Hambantota in the Southern Province, and
- c. Ampara and Batticaloa in the Eastern Province.



Source: http://www.gov.lk/map_main.html

List of abbreviations used in the report:

GoSL	Government of Sri Lanka
MoT	Ministry of Tourism
MENR	Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources
SLTB	Sri Lanka Tourist Board
CCA	Coastal Conservation Act, 1981
CCD	Coastal Conservation Department
CNO	Centre for National Operations
TAFREN	Task Force for Rebuilding the Nation
I-NGOs	International NGOs
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
WB	World Bank
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ADB	Asian Development Bank

Basic definitions

a. Relief

The United Nations Disaster Relief Organization defines as:

Relief¹ is the provision on a humanitarian basis of material aid and emergency medical care necessary to save and preserve human lives and enable families to meet their basic needs for shelter, clothing, water, and food (including the means to prepare food). Relief supplies and services are provided, free of charge, in the period immediately following a sudden disaster. They may need to be provided for extended periods in the case of slow-onset emergency situations and population displacements (refugees, internally and externally displaced people)².

b. Rehabilitation

The United Nations Disaster Relief Organization defines as:

Rehabilitation³ refers to the actions taken in the aftermath of a disaster to enable basic services to resume functioning, assist victims' self-help efforts to repair physical damage and community facilities, revive economic activities and provide support for the psychological and social well

¹ Aysan, Yasemin and Davis, Ian, 1993. "Rehabilitation and Reconstruction - Disaster Management Training Programme", UNDP/ DHA, 1st Edn.

² **The relief phase** is the period immediately following the occurrence of a sudden disaster (or the late discovery of a neglected/deteriorated slow-onset situation) when exceptional measures have to be taken to search and find the survivors as well as meet their basic needs for shelter, water, food and medical care. UNDP/ UNDRO, 1992. "An Overview of Disaster Management - Disaster Management Training Programme", UNDP/ UNDRO, 2nd Edn., pp22 [<http://www.undmtp.org/english/Overview/overview.pdf>]

³ Ibid.

being of the survivors. It focuses on enabling the affected population to resume more-or-less normal (pre-disaster) patterns of life. It may be considered as a transitional phase between immediate relief and more major, long-term development⁴.

c. Reconstruction

The United Nations Disaster Relief Organization defines as:

Reconstruction⁵ refers to the full restoration of all services, and local infrastructure, replacement of damaged physical structures, the revitalization of economy and the restoration of social and cultural life⁶.

Brief profile of Sri Lanka⁷

Location & Physical Features

Sri Lanka, an island in the Indian Ocean is located to the south of the Indian subcontinent. It lies between 5° 55' and 9° 55' north of the equator and between the eastern longitudes 79° 42' and 81° 52'. The total land area is 65,610 sq. km. with a length of 445 km. and breadth of 225 km. The relief features of the island consist of a mountainous mass somewhat south of the centre, with height exceeding 2,500 metres, surrounded by broad plains. Palm fringed beaches surround the island and the sea temperature rarely falls below 27°C.

Economy

Sri Lanka is mainly an agricultural country. The chief crop is rice with which the country is almost self sufficient. Tea, rubber and coconut are also important agricultural crops, with tea being a major foreign exchange earner. In addition, other crops of importance are cocoa and spices such as cinnamon, cardamom, nutmeg, pepper and cloves. Fruit and vegetables, native to both tropical and temperate regions, grow well in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka is also a major exporter of precious and semi-precious stones.

The last three decades have seen tourism emerge as an important industry. There has also been a rapid growth in manufacturing industries which offer a wide range of export goods such as petroleum products, leather goods, ready made garments and electronic equipment.

⁴ **Rehabilitation** is the operations and decisions taken after a disaster with a view to restoring a stricken community to its former living conditions, while encouraging and facilitating the necessary adjustments to the changes caused by the disaster. UNDP/ UNDR0, 1992. "An Overview of Disaster Management - Disaster Management Training Programme", UNDP/ UNDR0, 2nd Edn., pp22 [<http://www.undmtp.org/english/Overview/overview.pdf>]

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ **Reconstruction** is the actions taken to reestablish a community after a period of rehabilitation subsequent to a disaster. Actions would include construction of permanent housing, full restoration of all services, and complete resumption of the pre-disaster state. UNDP/ UNDR0, 1992. "An Overview of Disaster Management - Disaster Management Training Programme", UNDP/ UNDR0, 2nd Edn., pp22 [<http://www.undmtp.org/english/Overview/overview.pdf>]

⁷ <http://www.gov.lk/aboutsrilanka.htm#Government>

Demography

Sri Lanka has a population of 18.5 million of whom the majority are Sinhalese (74%). Other ethnic groups are made up of Sri Lankan Tamils (12.6%), Indian Tamils (5.5%), Moors, Malays, Burghers (of Portuguese & Dutch descent) and others (7.9%). Although Sri Lanka is a multi-religious country, Buddhists constitute the majority with 69.3%. Other religious groups are Hindus 15.5%, Muslims 7.6% and Christians 7.5%. Sri Lanka's literacy rate of 88.6% is one of the highest in Asia.

The main ethnic groups of Sri Lanka are:

Sinhalese

The Sinhalese are the largest ethnic group in the country and are distinguished primarily by their language, Sinhala. The Sinhalese are predominantly Buddhists and a few are Christians.

Tamils

The people collectively known as the Tamils use the Tamil language as their native tongue.

Muslims

Muslims, who make up approximately 7 percent of the population, comprise a group of minorities practicing the religion of Islam. Most Muslims speak Tamil; *bahasa melayu* is spoken by Malay Muslims.

Burghers⁸

The term Burgher was applied during the period of Dutch rule to European nationals living in Sri Lanka. By extension it came to signify any permanent resident of the country who could trace ancestry back to Europe. Eventually it included both Dutch Burghers and Portuguese Burghers. Always proud of their racial origins, the Burghers further distanced themselves from the mass of Sri Lankan citizens by immersing themselves in European culture, speaking the language of the current European colonial government, and dominating the best colonial educational and administrative positions. They have generally remained Christians and live in urban locations. Since independence, however, the Burgher community has lost influence and in turn has been shrinking in size because of emigration.

Government

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka is a free, independent and sovereign nation. A system of administration through provincial councils was introduced in 1988. Legislative power is exercised by Parliament, elected by universal franchise on a proportional representation basis. Executive power of the people, including defence, is exercised by the President, who is also elected by the people.

For detailed description of Sri Lanka, refer section 2 of this report.

⁸ <http://countrystudies.us/sri-lanka/38.htm>

REPORT

Part I

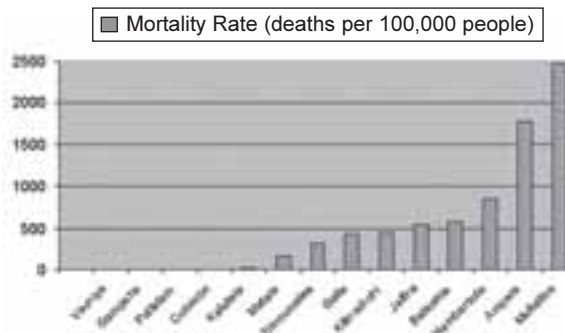
1. Introduction

The tsunami impact

Impact of the tsunami on people:

The toll that the tsunami of 26 Dec'04 had on the demography of Sri Lanka is that it left 30,882 people dead; 15,166 injured and 6,088 missing. The highest number of deaths has been reported from the North and East provinces where 20,529 people have died. Secondary and primary data search has not revealed statistics pertaining to specific number of deaths, missing, affected and displaced persons; only the total figures were obtained from the Govt. of Sri Lanka website.

As per the website: "according to a report issued by CNO (Centre of National Operations)⁹ Director Dr. Tara de Mel, the death toll in Sri Lanka following the tsunami is 30,882, while 15,166 people were injured and 6088 are still missing. Based on reports from CNO, the highest number of deaths of 20,529 persons has been reported from the North and East"¹⁰. The highest recorded mortality rate (no. of deaths per 100,000 people) [refer Graph no.1] is in Mullaitivu and the next is Ampara.



Source: <http://www.recoverlanka.net>¹¹

⁹ "In the sixth week after the tsunami, the CNO ceased to exist".

¹⁰ http://www.priu.gov.lk/news_update/Current_Affairs/ca200501/20050113tsunami_relief_camps_reduced.htm

¹¹ <http://www.recoverlanka.net/images/mortalitydistrict.jpg>

Displacement:

The tsunami has also displaced people and they have been living as refugees in their own lands. The situation is worsened in the provinces of North, East and North-West where the internal conflict between the government and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has already displaced 'thousands' of people, especially Tamil speaking people and Muslims.

Information that was provided to us during meetings with groups involved in post-tsunami issues stated that: "the number of internally displaced people¹² (IDPs) is now placed at 835,028 in 751 camps. The largest number of IDPs is from Batticaloa (203,807) and Ampara (183,527) and Galle (120,000). The breakdown of displacement per province is:

North : 123,056
 East : 439,197
 South : 189,251
 West : 82,495
 North-west : 1,029

According to these figures, the proportion of displacement is 52% in the East and a total of 67.3% for the North and East together (INFORM, 2005)."

Impact on housing:

The impact of tsunami on housing is that the Eastern & Northern Provinces has been the most affected: Ampara has reported 19.97%, Batticaloa 14.83% and Trincomalee 11.24% of total affected houses in Sri Lanka and Mullaitivu has reported 10.88%. The total number of affected houses is given in table 1 below.

Table 1: Number of affected houses

District	Houses destroyed	Houses damaged	Total number of affected houses
Gampaha	292	307	599
Colombo	4,170	2,521	6,691
Kalutara	3,100	3,668	6,768
Galle	5,407	5,628	11,035
Matara	7,188	5,659	12,847
Hambantota	2,303	1,744	4,047
Ampara	29,097	0	29,097
Batticaloa	15,939	5,665	21,604
Trincomalee	5,974	10,394	16,368
Mullaitivu	10,585	5,270	15,855
Kilinochchi	3,400	4,250	7,650
Jaffna	12,000	1,114	13,114
Total	99,478	46,292	145,770

Source: extracted from MONLAR's briefing paper: "The politicization of aid".

¹² Internally displaced people are defined as: persons or groups of persons who have been forced to flee or leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular, as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border. From: Ross, Rod. "Humanitarian Concerns in Relation to Refugees, Returnees and Internationally Displaced Persons", 49th agenda of Model United Nations Far West. <http://www.munfw.org/archive/49th/3rd3.htm> and "If a family or community is forced by war, politics, economics, or natural disaster to temporarily leave their country, there is a global network of refugee and international organizations to offer assistance. But if that same family or community is forced by the same factors to leave their homes but remain inside the borders of their country, they are called "internally displaced persons (IDPs)." For the IDP, there is no global network of support". From: <http://www.refugeesinternational.org/content/article/detail/1353/>

Impact on communities:

The community that was most impacted as a single entity was the Batticaloa Burgher community who lost nearly 58% of their people in the tsunami¹³. Media reports say that next was the Muslims community who was very badly affected.

"Sri Lanka Muslim Congress Secretary-General and Parliamentarian Hassan Ali in a speech made on May 6 revealed some mind boggling statistics in this respect. Excerpts from what he said then:

'The fact remains that the Muslim community that was worst affected in the December 26, 2004 tsunami, especially the Muslim community of Ampara district in the Eastern Province. In Ampara District, of the total 7,300 people dead or missing due to tsunami 4,292 were Muslims. Similarly, of the 27,605 houses damaged in Ampara District, 16,327 belonged to the Muslims. Loss of properties are also in the same ratio. Of a total of 37,988 displaced in the district, 24,464 are Muslims'.

...some statistics published in the Tamil daily Virakesari also provided a picture of the magnitude of the Muslim predicament. Muslims constitute eight percent or about 1.7 million people of Sri Lanka's 20 million people, but they account for 40.8 percent of the dead in the December 26, 2004 tsunami. Out of the total of 30,718 people killed in the island, 12,562 were Muslims. In the Amparai district, 7,258 Muslims died (58 percent of total dead)

The overall island-wide figure for the missing is 5,815. Out of this, 1,980 (34 percent) are Muslims. Of the 14,998 injured, 7,285 (48.5 percent) are Muslims. The tsunami displaced 230,700 persons island-wide. Out of this, 41,671 (18 percent) were Muslims. A total of 85,833 houses were fully damaged, out of which Muslim houses accounted for 21,751 (25.3 percent). Out of the 36,616 houses partially damaged, 12,207 (33 percent) belonged to Muslims."¹⁴

Other impacts:

The tsunami has had a significant impact on women and children and concerned groups have raised the issue numerous times. One report said that: "Of special concern are children who have been orphaned by the tsunami or who have only one parent left. The NCPA (National Child Protection Authority) estimates that over 900 children have been orphaned by the tsunami and almost 3000 left with one parent (INFORM, 2005)."

Environmental impacts¹⁵

a) Variation in depth of penetration.

The tsunami impacted the eastern coastline of Sri Lanka shortly after 08.00 hours on 26th December 2004 and then swept along the southern and south-western shores over the following

¹³ DBS Jeyaraj, "Muslims short-changed in joint mechanism", The Sunday Leader, June 26, 2005.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ <http://www.menr.lk/tsunamipublication2.pdf>

90 minutes or so. There were typically three large waves and several lesser ones at each site, with the largest ranging from 3-9 metres high at the shore, and penetrating inland for distances ranging from a few tens of metres to up to 3 km. The median depth of penetration was about 300 m in Trincomalee and Ampara districts, 130 m in Batticaloa, 110 m in Matara, 100 m in Hambantota, 70 m in Galle, and 50 m in Jaffna district. The depth of penetration was influenced by the shape of the sea-bed, which is thought to have funnelled the wave into a higher shape in some areas, and by on-shore terrain and vegetation, being resisted by large sand dunes, absorbed by mangroves and lagoons, and facilitated by inlets and estuaries. Complex coastal environments (e.g. those containing beaches, dunes, lagoons, plantations, mangroves, rivers, home gardens, etc. in the same area) absorbed tsunami energy and provided protection.

b) Debris and solid waste.

Well over 500 million kg of rubble were created by the tsunami and are still posing an enormous challenge to the solid waste management system. Debris and sea sand, whether deposited by the tsunami or by subsequent clean-up operations have blocked drainage channels in many areas, posing an acute risk of water-logging and loss of agricultural land, as well as increased mosquito-borne disease.

c) Salinization of drinking water wells.

This has affected large areas and rendered more than 15,000 wells unusable, greatly reducing water supplies. Over-pumping of wells in an attempt to clean contaminated or saline water and restore fresh-water supplies has often encouraged salt-intrusion, which has done more harm than good. Existing mobile water treatment units in this respect need scrutiny.

d) Contamination of water bodies.

Several coastal water bodies have been contaminated with salt-water, debris, floating material, faecal matter and black sediments, etc. Karagan Lewaya, Hambantota, Shastriwila, Panama and Arugam Bay are some sites that need urgent restoration. In these cases, the original ecosystem is completely disrupted, much of the fauna and flora have died, and natural self-purification has ceased, resulting in highly toxic water bodies.

e) Resettlement and reconstruction.

These activities are placing a huge burden on natural resources, especially through the location of new settlements in or near protected areas and other ecologically sensitive locations, and increased demand for sand and wood for reconstruction and firewood for brick-making. Faecal contamination of ground water has become a major issue in some of the tsunami-affected areas, and further resettlements could worsen the situation. Without careful management, these activities have the potential to cause more irreversible damage to Sri Lanka's environment than did the tsunami itself.

f) Damage to marine ecosystems.

These showed a variety of impacts; shallow fringing coral reefs were damaged mechanically, with breakage of branching corals and dislodging of boulder corals, with some smothering by debris carried by backwash; intact coral reefs acted as buffers, but these were few because of pre-tsunami damage from mining, blast-fishing and bleaching.

g) Damage to shoreline ecosystems.

Estuaries often acted as channels of entry for the tsunami, facilitating damage and salt water intrusion far inland. Front-line mangroves were badly damaged, while deeper mangroves were left intact and dense mangroves converted the wave into a flood. Lagoons absorbed tsunami energy, but in doing so lost seasonal sand barriers, their banks were scoured, and mangroves at their entrances were dislodged, but they were otherwise little affected and/or recovered quickly (apart from litter and debris pollution, and some cases of blocked water flow causing stagnation). Large, vegetated sand dunes stopped tsunami intrusion. Beaches were eroded and scoured, losing width and height, mainly from tsunami back-wash. There is much debris on most beaches.

h) Damage to inland ecosystems.

There was severe damage in near-shore areas, including to seashore *Pandanus* (*Wetakeyia*) and creeper vegetation, and inland palmyrah trees, with near-shore coconuts less affected as were inland economic trees. *Casuarina* plantations proved vulnerable to tsunami damage and by themselves had little protective value, though in places they helped stabilise sand dunes which themselves moderated the tsunami. Alien invasive species have been spread by the tsunami into new areas.

2. Situational Analysis

A. Challenges of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction

Background and context

Government Response to the tsunami: The Government of Sri Lanka's first response was to establish three main task forces on 28th Dec 2004, which were:

1. TAFRER - Task Force for Rescue and Relief
2. TAFREN - Task force for Rebuild the Nation
3. TAFLOL - Task force for Logistic Law and Order

Of these, TAFREN "is entrusted with Rebuilding and Reconstructing Infrastructure in the following key areas of Tsunami affected regions:

- a. Hospitals
- b. Schools
- c. Power
- d. Roads and Bridges
- e. Railway
- f. Water Supply and Drainage
- g. Telecom
- h. Tourism
- i. Housing, Urban Development and Environment
- j. Insurance and Financing Services
- k. Fisheries" (TAFREN)¹⁶

For details *refer annexure*.

TAFRER & TAFLOL at present seem to have set aside and TAFREN has become more influential in its approach to reconstruction. Another step that the Govt. of Sri Lanka took was to establish a Centre for National Operations (CNO) within the Presidential Secretariat on the 29th Dec 2004, by Her Excellency the President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumarathunga, to coordinate emergency relief work among different governmental, non governmental institutions,

¹⁶ <http://www.tafren.gov.lk/>

international organizations and donor community during the first four weeks after the tsunami. The core activities of the CNO were to:

- Collect and analyze data to assess the humanitarian needs of all disaster affected sectors / regions.
- Coordinate and facilitate emergency relief work among provincial, local government authorities, other government institutes and Commissioner General Essential Services.
- Coordinate and channel all international donor assistance, NGO activities and voluntary services to the most needed sectors, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant line ministries, as appropriate.
- Facilitate the smooth implementation of activities in a systematic manner.
- Coordinate communication with local and foreign media on relief and rescue operations. (GoSL)¹⁷ Refer annexure 2 for details of CNO.

The CNO ceased to function after six weeks of the tsunami. It is quite revealing that the CNO which was initiated to largely coordinate and have a unified response by keeping the big picture of has been set aside for TAFREN - a task force for re-building the nation. TAFREN role was one of recommending possible strategies and options but today it has become the de-facto setter of the 'post-tsunami development agenda', the coordinator, facilitator and implementor.

By dissolving the CNO and giving the charge of rebuilding to government structures, there have been concerns raised on crucial issues that have arisen due to lack of consultations and public participation in decisions and planning processes. Initially, there was an intervention of the US and other military forces in the relief process and cleaning up operations. Later on, series of decisions made between the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Asian Development Bank and the Government and the already declared intensions of including the previous Development and Economic Restructuring agenda in the proposed plans for "Rebuilding the Nation" has made monitoring important to ensure that justice is done to the affected people (Fernando, 2005).

The emphasis is on using the opportunity that the tsunami has provided to "in place new infrastructure and systems that will meet international standards and attract significant long term investment, both locally and internationally (TAFREN)¹⁸." This reflects a primacy of a certain understanding of development interests and disconnected-ness to peoples' issues of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction at all levels. The GoSL has received nearly \$ 3.5 billion in aid money but there has been lack of transparency in the manner of its use. It is seems evident that the interest of the government is to bring in more development with this fund to further its own interests rather than support people to rebuild their lives; to whom the funds actually belong and the government's role is that of a trustee. Further, "no framework or mechanisms through which funding for medium and long-term relief and reconstruction can be disbursed and spent in the north and east, in particular in areas under the control of the LTTE, has been devised"(INFORM, 2005).

¹⁷ http://www.priu.gov.lk/CNOFinal/CNO_Executive_Summary.pdf

¹⁸ <http://www.tafren.gov.lk/index.php>

Observations: the study team was able to identify and highlight issues related to relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction, which have been categorized below.

Humanitarian issues

Relief

The dignity of affected communities, their self-respect and right to have a say in matters pertaining to them are fundamental premises on which any form of aid is based. These have not been given adequate consideration by the government and its mechanisms and it seems there is apathy to the process. The process also seems to be disconnected from the peoples' perspective and the relationship between the government and people is of a 'giver and receiver'.



In our meetings and discussions there was a strong feeling expressed among the people in eastern and southern districts that they have been neglected by the government. This feeling is prevalent in both the Tamil and Muslim groups. In our discussions with Muslim groups, they said that most of the relief material, including food, clothing, temporary shelter, medicines etc. was first provided by local businessmen and a little later from Colombo; the international NGOs had come in after that. Even the promised ration and 'subsistence amount' from the government had not reached them yet. The Government had promised to give an immediate relief grant of Rs. 5,000 per family per month for three months. In fact, much of the immediate relief came from voluntary agencies and civilian groups. In some instances, the ration and subsistence amount had been given only in the first month but later even that had stopped¹⁹. This team

¹⁹ Discussion with Muslim community at Hambantota.



came across groups of people in Balapittiya who were carrying out a peaceful demonstration asking the government to commence the promised subsistence amount of SLR 5000 per month, six months after the tsunami [Plate 1].

Rehabilitation

The government estimates put the number of affected houses to 150,000, which includes both houses damaged and destroyed. The people displaced have since then been provided temporary shelters either in relief camps or they have been staying with relatives and friends. The primary concern of rehabilitation measures adopted by the government is regarding the quality of such provisions. The affected people have been subjected to conditions beyond their endurance levels. The temporary shelters are either tin-shacks or tents, and occasionally a thatched hut of wood or tin walls [Plate 2 & 3]; they don't offer any respite from the extreme heat but make it even more intolerable for the people to stay inside. Effort of the people to put thatch over the tin roofs was in vain as winds blew them away. With the monsoons approaching, the situation may worsen and make sanitary conditions a challenge to prevent outbreak of diseases (Fernando, 2005).

Reconstruction

The level of insensitivity can also be judged from the fact that the government had initially asked the people to move beyond the 300m coastal conservation zone. Then TAFREN has proposed a 'buffer' zone of 100m and 200m from the mean high water line (the reference for coastal conservation zone) in the northern, north-western, southern provinces and eastern province respectively. In the buffer zone, no construction of houses would be allowed but people could retain legal ownership. There have also been instances wherein the Prime Minister had asked the coastal community to move out in order to make way for a harbour project in Hambantota and the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Tourism Board had suggested forced eviction of small and medium scale tourism enterprises in Arugam Bay to make way for high-end tourism infrastructure development. It is reported in notes taken at a meeting organised by Sewalanka Foundation between the community and the Sri Lanka Tourist Board Chairman wherein he said: *'The land belongs to the government. Maybe your forefathers lived in that area, but the 860 acres belongs to the government. It will be developed as a tourist zone. We will put up buildings and develop the area and we will ask you to come and work there...After I became the Chairman I captured 5,000 acres of land for the Tourist Board. My target is 15,000 acres'*

(Fernando, 2005). All this when the government should be seized of the situation where people are traumatized and struggling to bring their lives back to normalcy; the government instead of privileging efforts to help this process is capitalising the situation to bring in its own agenda of "development" which in no way will improve the lot of those displaced and traumatised by the tsunami.

The issues that have been raised pertaining to relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction have been summarised in the chart below.

Phase Level	Relief	Rehabilitation	Reconstruction
Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missing a rights based approach • Lack of organizational strength in peoples' groups for critical interventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary structures, their quality and temporal context • Bureaucratic red-tape and issues of parallel organizations • Children-housing, schooling, psychosocial wellbeing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livelihoods • Ecological considerations of activities • Buffer zone proposed by TAFREN • Provision of land
Provincial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livelihoods of fisher people • Livelihoods of farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sidelineing community structures • Inclusive justice for deprived groups is missing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's issues • Widows of war in post-tsunami context • Interfaith cooperation & linking communities to deal with violence • Internal/ ethnic conflict
National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccountability and lack of transparency in funds utilisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of clarity on govt. policy including govt.'s proposals and subsequent responses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of consultation and participation in planning processes & decision making • Declared intention of GoSL to include previous "Development & Economic Restructuring" agenda in proposed plans for "Rebuilding the nation" • Address development policy & issues; understand what is coming through backdo or politics • Legal & conservation policy issues & aspirations of people • Discrimination against religious/ethnic groups.
International/ Regional		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of I-NGOs and their increasing influence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Govt.'s reconstruction plan to make coastal land (within 100m) available to tourism development • utilization of rebuilding processes; infrastructure by IFIs and Sri Lankan government for their economic reforms

The team identified the following local issues pertaining to:

Local

Rehabilitation

- Temporary structures, their quality and temporal context: The conditions that the affected people must endure in this situation are extremely difficult. Temperatures reach 50°C in the tents during the day, while the many tin-roofed shacks provided are no better in offering respite from the heat. The need for rapidly constructing new permanent houses is therefore of dire urgency, particularly prior to the onset of heavy monsoons in the year.

Reconstruction

- Ecological considerations of activities

The team observed that in many areas the coastal community has been living very close the coastline [*Plate 4*] in Hambantota. Even in the event of a disaster or not, it is not advisable for settlements to be located there. This is in the interest of the coastal community itself and for the coastal ecosystems to perform their ecological functions.



Many settlements have existed in close proximity of the coastline prior to the issue of the CCA in 1981 and there have been many developments that are being considered as violations by the CCD. There has also been a sense of realization among the coastal community, and in some cases manifestation in the form of fear, that it is better to maintain some distance from the coast line.

The buffer zone proposed by TAFREN is by no means an alternative. The idea of a blanket 100 or 200 metre zone is questionable on the rationale for its proposal and motives behind it.



Many activities, especially those of the fisher folk, would require the shorefront e.g., to keep their boats and nets [Plate 5].

There are existing tourism structures which are low-key in terms infrastructure and scale of operations, which as in the case of Arugam Bay [Plate 6] are owned by local community. These cannot be set aside to clear the coasts for large scale development as proposed by TAFREN.

The immediate requirement is to have consultations with coastal communities on their aspirations and needs before any steps for reconstruction are taken.

- Provision of land

The most important issue that calls for immediate and concerted intervention is that of land: for both identification of land that is suitable for rebuilding and the mechanisms for allocation of land on an equitable basis. This could be contentious issue and may have serious social implications; especially in the war affected areas where these issues also have a direct impact on the peace process. The state authorities have been identifying land that is state-owned and that has been set aside for various developmental projects. This land has been allocated to government agencies as well as it is land owned by private individuals in the tsunami affected areas. However, this land is located further away from the coastline. Therefore, the process of relocation and resettlement has to be carried out with care and in constant consultation with the affected communities. However this does not seem to be the practice so far (INFORM, 2005).

Over arching issues

There are a few issues that would entail strengthening of back-end processes so that the reconstruction process is effective, has a rights based approach and is participative and equitable. These are:

- a. Develop capacity of affected people/ concerned groups to monitor processes,
- b. Conduct widespread education on right to demand detailed information of resources/ aid, utilization; right to be consulted on all issues.

Provincial

Relief

- Livelihoods of fisher people

It has been reported that out of nearly 172,000 active fishermen, 80% have been affected and many of their family members are missing or dead. This will make a strong impact on the next generation of fishermen. Apart from fishermen, there are about 100,000 persons affected who have been employed in the fisheries sector.

Rehabilitation

- Community structures have been ignored

Each community has its own way of life and religion is closely linked to lives of the people. This is especially true to Asia with its cultural and religious diversity, and Sri Lanka is no exception. This fundamental principle has been overlooked in the rehabilitation measures that have been provided to the affected communities. During discussions with the affected community, particularly the Muslims in Ampara district, it was pointed out that the privacy of women has been completely ignored. In the Muslim community, there is no intermingling of sexes and distinct boundaries are maintained in all spaces. But the camps that have been set up ignored this aspect and the Muslim women were left with little privacy to take care of themselves and their children.

- Marginalization of civil society organizations

Civil society continues to remain marginalized within the structures of both local and national government. This has led to a lack of coordination of their activities and financial /other inputs in the post-tsunami relief and reconstruction processes.

- Women's issues

The tsunami has also thrown open many issues pertaining to young, unmarried, orphaned women and displaced women. The category of women between the ages of 18 and 30, who have lost their parents and / or adult family members are especially vulnerable to a range of abuses and it is being felt that they lack adequate protection. Given a socio-cultural context in which an independent existence is extremely difficult for a single woman, it is essential to pay particular attention to the rights of this age-group. Issues of security and protection of women were raised in the first week of the tsunami itself, following reports of rape and sexual harassment of survivors while in flight and while in the welfare centres. These issues continue to raise concerns in the process of temporary and permanent relocation (INFORM, 2005).

National

Rehabilitation

- Bureaucratic red tape is hindering processes and steps for timely rehabilitation

It has been reported that displaced persons continue to confront a range of bureaucratic obstacles and they struggle to obtain their entitlements, combined with corrupt practices that deprive them of their rights.

- There has been a lack of clarity on the government's policy, including proposals and subsequent responses, especially the dilemma over negotiations with LTTE.

Reconstruction

- There has been a lack of consultation and participation in planning processes & decision making

- The declared intention of the GoSL to include previous "Development & Economic Restructuring" agenda in proposed plans for "rebuilding the nation" only reflects the vested interests of the government.

- There is a need to address development policy & issues in order to understand what is coming in through backdoor politics.
- Legal & conservation policy issues & aspirations of people need to be harmonized to ensure that the interests of communities and coastal ecosystems are protected.
- Discrimination against religious/ ethnic groups.

It has been observed that there is insufficient sensitivity to the differences between the south and the north and east in terms of developing post-tsunami resettlement policies. The fact that the north and east have faced consequences of a protracted war is compounded by the fact that 68.7% of all displacement related to the tsunami is in the North & East. The population which has faced consistent abuse of their human rights by all parties and groups involved in the conflict must now confront further violations and deprivation due to the post-tsunami situation. Some of those now displaced due to the tsunami have been displaced, several times in some cases, because of the conflict of the past 15 years. There are over 360,000 persons who were displaced due to the conflict who have been awaiting resettlement for up to ten years. A serious question emerges as to whether their case will recede into the background and those displaced due to the tsunami receive priority treatment (INFORM).

International/ Regional

Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction

- There is a need to prevent utilization of rebuilding processes and infrastructure by International Financial Institutions and the Sri Lankan government in order to meet their agenda of economic reforms.
- Role of International NGOs and their increasing influence
 - It is generally felt that there is a gap between the people and I-NGOs
 - The I-NGOs have been accused of dictating terms to the people, e.g. on the process and types of constructions
 - It seems that there is no dialogue of the I-NGOs with anybody; they work independently and there is no coordination between themselves.
 - The impression is that the I-NGOs recklessly spend money leaving a negative impression on the minds of people.
 - No transparency on obtaining and spending of funds is seen in their operations.
 - The government's reconstruction plan is to make coastal land (within 100 m) available to tourism development, there are proposals to develop at least 18 new towns as tourist towns, build a new airport, expressways and privatize; there are impacts on the local people that the government has conveniently overlooked.²⁰

²⁰ Discussion with Sarath Idemalgoda, Colombo 13 July 2005.

The way forward

The formulations of this section have been extracted from the call for action that was given by members of the Global Tourism Interventions Forum.

Guiding principle

Governments must ensure that in the Tsunami rehabilitation and reconstruction process national guidelines and legislation pertaining to development along the coasts e.g., the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification in India & Coastal Conservation Act of Sri Lanka are strictly implemented to protect the environment and livelihood resources of local inhabitants. This includes respecting international conventions and agreements on human rights and sustainable development of the UN and its Bodies - such as the Declaration of Human Rights, the Conventions on the Rights of Women and the Rights of the Child, the ILO Conventions in particular the core labour rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as the conventions, recommendations and action plans of the Commission on Sustainable Development, Agenda 21 and sustainable tourism principles, and in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity. Government guidelines, regulations and processes of implementing tourism should reflect local concerns and ensure that tourism does not replace local economies, displace people and result in unsustainable use of natural resources.

Action point

- Aid should be collected and disbursed through a mechanism, which does not discriminate on the basis of ethnicity, religion, social status, gender, caste or creed. Governments must guarantee that the rehabilitation process will not lead to further displacement of local communities already displaced by the tsunami.
- Apart from material aid it is important for governments and aid organisations to identify gross human rights violations and criminal activities such as rape, human trafficking - especially of children, and corruption which are taking place during the rehabilitation process and punish the offenders.
- It is evident from ground level inputs/ observations that governments have failed to maintain basic standards of relief & rehabilitation. Aid agencies have adopted dual standards in providing temporary structures for affected people and have shown insensitivity to living conditions, e.g. by providing tin-sheet huts in hot & humid areas with little or no ventilation. The rationale for low standards adopted by aid agencies in affected developing countries is questionable.
- Special teams should be created to deal with the trauma aspects and give comfort to affected populations.
- We have a special concern regarding the care of children orphaned by the tsunami and hope that organisations experienced in this field will take up this call.

- In affected areas that have history of social/ political conflicts, the approach of the governments should not discriminate against disaster victims because they are political refugees.
- For a thorough understanding of the long-term socio-economic and environmental impacts of the tsunami, governments must commission research studies to analyse the trends in labour displacement, human trafficking and other issues as well as the sustainability of coastal developments. This must be supported with complete transparency on information regarding use of relief grants and an assessment of how they have helped the situation on the ground. Governments should thereby be supported by the international community, by the UN, 'donor' countries and aid organisations for an efficient monitoring of the long-term impacts of the tsunami.
- In its precautionary and preparedness efforts for future disasters of this nature, governments should not build on costly high technology warnings systems alone, but must recognise the significance of traditional, low technology community-based early warning systems and strengthen them.

B. Tourism scenario in Sri Lanka in aftermath of the tsunami

The Sri Lanka Tourist Board (SLTB) feels that the industry has gone through one of the worst crises during the tsunami and its aftermath. According to a report published in LMD, a leading business magazine in Sri Lanka, the Chairman of SLTB Mr. Udaya Nanayakkara has stated that "of the 248 star-class hotels registered with us, only 48 were damaged. Thirty one are fully operational now and 10 will refurbish and upgrade their original product. The seven that were structurally damaged will take about two years to become operational."²¹ In another editorial, it was reported that there was a 24% drop in tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka after the tsunami²².

As per the details given by the Secretary - Ministry of Tourism (MoT), Mr. Prathap Ramanujam, the survey carried out by the MoT had revealed that nearly 424 tourism establishments had been affected; all tourism and allied infrastructure was also affected. The livelihood of about 30,000 people involved in tourism has also been affected. The MoT has assisted the industry

²¹ LMD, June 2005. "Tourism's Bounce Back Strategy", p134.

²² Lakshman Ratnapala (PATA President Emeritus) in LMD, June 2005, "Global Landscape Perceptions are Key," p127.

by procuring loans at low interest rates & purchase of duty free construction materials but he admitted that they have not helped small and medium establishments, including small vendors and 3-wheeler owners who are indirect beneficiaries of the tourism trade. They have been trying for help from the WTO; also for small and medium enterprises. Large establishments have insurance and had the capacity to cope with the damage but the small and medium enterprises have suffered the most. The aim of the SLTB was to get back to normal by September 2005. He felt that the main limitation was GoSL's decision to impose the buffer zone and hence people are in a dilemma; that there is a more preparedness for another tsunami and early warning systems, he suggested the buffer zone proposition may be rethought. Contrary to the SLTB Chairman's statements quoted above, he felt the idea of the buffer zone was never to remove people and people and bring in tourism²³.

In the post tsunami context, and in relation to small and medium scale enterprises, the [Sri Lankan] Central Bank's '*Susahana* Scheme' has offered upto 5 million Sri Lankan Rupees (SLR) on low interest rates; for tourism it could go upto 10 million. He said the Japanese government had also offered an assistance of upto 20 million, the Spanish government has agreed to help but so far nothing has materialized. As reported in the LMD, the latest offer of help for the SLTB has come in the form of a USAID initiative of US\$ 3 million for a global media campaign to lure travellers to the Sri Lankan shores. Many people in the tourism industry see this as support for the nation's post-tsunami recovery in tourism. The Secretary - MoT has stated that the media campaign is to convince the world that only 15 per cent of Sri Lanka's landmass was affected by the tsunami. To add to the USAID initiative of US\$ 3 million, the private sector has agreed to raise the other half of the amount for the campaign, whose theme is anticipated as 'We were touched by your sympathy, now come and enjoy our hospitality', to conduct road shows in major source countries of tourists.²⁵

Civil society organizations monitoring post-tsunami reconstruction and development have severely criticized moves of the government, and the SLTB. The first exception to the proposed controversial buffer zone was the tourism industry. Within days of the disaster, the government had announced that people should not rebuild their houses on the coast. Within weeks, an exclusion zone of one or two hundred metres had been announced. Shortly afterwards, exceptions were announced for tourist businesses (Fernando, 2005). The perception, and rightly so, is that the government has always been harping on the need to develop and promote tourism. The Sri Lanka Tourist Board says, "*In a cruel twist of fate, nature has presented Sri Lanka with a unique opportunity, and out of this great tragedy will come a world class tourism destination*"²⁶ and the LMD quotes Roy Silva, a travel writer, saying that the "*tsunami did for Sri Lanka what the Sri Lanka Tourism Board, since its inception, could not do for the country - worldwide publicity!*"²⁷ The tourism industry is still fascinated with the coast and wants to maintain its focus on the beaches, although there are ideas to promote nature, culture and adventure. In addition, the Additional Secretary to the Ministry of Tourism, Mr. George Michael, has been

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²³ Prathap Ramanujam, Personal Interview, 19 Jul 2005.

²⁴ LMD, June 2005. "Tourism: Sea Change Needed", p29.

²⁵ Namini Wijedasa in LMD, June 2005. "Forward Strategy - Regaining Paradise", p110.

²⁶ http://www.srilankatourism.org/bb_slrebuilds.htm

²⁷ Namini Wijedasa in LMD, June 2005. "Forward Strategy - Regaining Paradise", p109.

quoted in the LMD stating that the tsunami has provided an opportunity for planned development of the coastline as the industry would not be bothered about a 100-metre setback, provided it can go in for soft tourism within that area.

Further development that is anticipated on the promotions front is a new tourism act that is soon to be presented in parliament, which envisages the setting up of a Tourism Promotion Authority. It will be a mechanism to fund campaigns without referring to the government and it will have adequate private-sector participation to guide promotions more effectively than before. The industry seems to be upbeat about this act as, according to Mr. Gehan M. Perera, immediate past-president of Sri Lanka Association of Inbound Tour Operators, the industry wont need anybody's help (may be read: will not have interference from any constituency) and the industry will boom (Wijedasa²⁸).

The SLTB Chairman has estimated that the requirement of star class hotels by 2010 will be 25,000 and to fulfil that need, they are going ahead with acquiring land, developing infrastructure and calling upon the local and international private sector to invest in new resorts on a planned-development basis.²⁹ Apart from this, the primary cause for concern is the master plan to transform and develop 15 coastal towns into tourism destinations as part of the post-tsunami rebuilding process; they are -

- i. Wadduwa
- ii. Beruwala
- iii. Bentota
- iv. Hikkaduwa
- v. Galle
- vi. Unawatuna
- vii. Koggala
- viii. Matara
- ix. Hambantota
- x. Tangalla
- xi. Yala
- xii. Arugam Bay
- xiii. Passikuddah
- xiv. Nilaweli
- xv. Kalpitiya

Of these, the first plan is for the redevelopment of Arugam Bay. It is said that the general direction in which plans for rebuilding are being driven are counter to the interest of people; they are being displaced and their livelihoods being affected. This would also mean losing 40% of total grants obtained [as aid] and about 75,000 families displaced to make way for high-class tourism products. The picture that seems to be emerging is that the direction being taken in the post tsunami rebuilding process is completely against the interests of the affected people. They are being driven off their land and out of their livelihoods in the name of a grand plan for the 'modernisation' of the country. Although the process was started much before the tsunami,

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Udaya Nanayakkara, Chairman, Sri Lanka Tourism Board in interview with Rochelle Jansen, LMD, June 2005: "Post- tsunami Tourism Dead or Alive," p115.

it is now being pushed on the muscle of \$3 billion that the government has received as aid in the name of tsunami victims. If all of the 15 tourist townships require an investment of \$80 million, the cost will be \$1.2 billion, or a massive 40% of the total amount raised. If all of the 15 tourist township plans follow the model of Arugam Bay, the number of families pushed out of the way of hotels, yachting marinas, helipads and floating plane landing strips could be well over 75,000 (Fernando, 2005).

C. Tourism and ecological concerns in Sri Lanka

The process of providing clearance to tourism projects is that all projects have to pass through 6 levels of clearances with the Central Environment Board, Urban Development Authority, Coastal Conservation Dept (CCD) etc. for projects with more than 20 rooms, an environmental impact assessment (EIA) is required whereas for project with less than 200 rooms, an initial EIA is only required³⁰.

In 1970s, tourism came in a big way when there was no integrated approach between various government departments. After the passing of the Coastal Conservation Act (CCA) [*Refer Annexure 3*] in 1981 and establishment of the CCD, and operationalization of the CCA in 1983, allocation for fishing & tourism has remained a challenge; elected persons do not allow proper implementation of the Act. There needs to be a national agreement on what is to be allowed & what is not to be allowed. The CCD is labelled as anti-development, which is a simplistic understanding and probably not the case. Post tsunami, many people accept the relevance of regarding the regulations of the CCA but more awareness is required with proper targets and themes³¹.

Prior to the tsunami and after it, there has been a conscious effort to permit the tourism industry in the coastal regulation zone and flexibility has been allowed even in the buffer zone proposed by TAFREN. The impact of allowing such activities on one hand and displacement of coastal communities on the other is a concern that needs to be addressed. From the beginning, the government and TAFREN have repeatedly stated that the continuation of tourism and tourist hotels in the protective border of 300 meters would be encouraged. The President stated that the repairs and reopening of the hotels within the border would not be prevented. Thence, the budget for tourism for 2005 has also been doubled.

³⁰ Prathap Ramanujam, Personal Interview, 19 Jul 2005.

³¹ Anil Premaratane, Additional Director - CCD, Personal Interview, 18 July 2005.

On 18th January 2005, as stated in Daily News (Sri Lanka) on January 21, 2005, the Minister of Tourism, Anura Bandaranayake said "Sri Lanka has many properties away from the coast. Tourists still prefer to visit the hotels on the coastal belt and this is one reason we want to have flexibility on this 100 meters proposal" So, it is clear that the whole plan is one of driving away about 800,000 small scale fish workers and their families from their livelihoods and settlements near the beaches in order to clear the beaches and the sea of the people living on the sea, to make way for rich tourist businesses and big fishing industry (Fernando, 2005).

The coastal communities are already sensing a threat from the takeover of coastal areas by the tourism industry. The fact that many of the bigger tourist hotels that had semi-transparent structures on the beach have re-commenced operations with those structures in place contributes to heightening tension among the poor communities that lived on the beach, who feel that the tsunami has confirmed their marginalization from the beach and serves the purpose of hotel owners (INFORM, 2005).

The evaluation done by ECOT as partner of EED - Tourism Watch Germany showed that: The World Tourism Organization - Phuket Action Plan and ST-EP Initiative

- Focuses on jobs, small businesses and return of tourists, no connection to ST-EP Initiative
- Five operational areas: Marketing-Communications, Community Relief, Professional Training, Sustainable Redevelopment, Risk Management
- Implemented instruments up to now: Marketing - Communications

DRV - Relief initiative "Aid without frontiers"

- 521.000 Euro donations received plus 250.000 Euro donations confirmed to receive from tour operators
- Support of projects in Thailand and Sri Lanka, not related to tourism
- e.g.: Treatment plant for water, village reconstruction, children's clinic project

German Tour Operators

- TUI: 1 Mill Euro in village reconstruction, Sri Lanka, in cooperation with Plan International
- REWE-LTU: 310.000 Euro for rebuilding 8 pre-schools, Sri Lanka, in cooperation with HEMAS
- Thomas Cook: 106.000 Euro donation to DRV, to support a village in Sri Lanka (private initiative of the employees)

Evaluation of the initiatives taken by the private sector reveals that:

- Only support of prestige objects, not related to tourism
- No change in the entrepreneurial behavior visible
- Tourism seen as victim of the catastrophe
- Tourism promoted as development aid
- Selling out the destinations at a 40 % discount
- Tsunami not existing anymore

The Relief Organizations

- Not attractive to carry out touristic projects
- Almost no relief organizations working on touristic recovery or sustainable tourism development
- No monitoring of the tsunami relief and recovery work
- Relief organization competing in rebuilding houses, pre-schools and donations of fisher boats

Tourism Policy

- Action plans to bring back the tourists
- No alternative industries developed
- Pseudo participatory mechanisms
- Concerns about: buffer zone, implementation of social and ecological standards, the role of SMEs

Guiding principle

Government guidelines, regulations and processes of implementing tourism should reflect local concerns and ensure that tourism does not replace local economies, displace people and result in unsustainable use of natural resources.

Action point

- The tourism industry must abide by regional, national and international regulations regarding tourism development and be transparent with their industry partners as well as tourists on the extent to which such tourism stands to benefit the local community at destinations.
- While the tourism industry must not deviate from its core business, it must also acknowledge that corporate responsibility in the wake of such disaster cannot be limited to donations alone. Corporate responsibility in tourism includes:
 - A focus on ethics in the overall management of the tourism business
 - Responsibility towards the people who have helped to build the industry and thereby addressing the labour rights and displacement issues surfacing in the post-tsunami period, including the tourism labour force in the informal sector
 - Consequently, a guarantee of employment for local people dependent on the industry for their livelihoods in the coming tourist season
 - Social security for small and medium enterprises within the industry
 - Recognition of the priority use of basic resources like land, water, sanitation and other infrastructures for the livelihood of the local inhabitants
- In areas where small and medium size enterprises have been affected, it is the

responsibility of the governments to provide adequate assistance for them to build a sustainable future; SMEs rarely have the competency/ capacity to raise loans and claim insurances.

- Government tourism departments/ agencies and the tourism industry are attempting to showcase affected areas as safe havens thereby projecting insensitivity to ground issues. There is need, therefore, to stop such advertisements and instead a true picture be presented to tourists; provide them information to take informed decisions on travel and increase their sensitivity to ground issues.

D. Impact of aquaculture on coastal communities and ecosystems

The history of aquaculture in Sri Lanka dates back to the 1950s when the government set up a brackish water research station at Negombo in the western province; a second one was established at Chilaw in the north-western province in 1970s - these supplied milkfish fingerlings to pond farmers. Later on, these were converted to produce larvae of fresh-water prawn (*Macrobrachium rosenbergi*). Apparently, the first shrimp farm was started in Batticaloa in the eastern province in 1970s but the internal conflict caused the shrimp farms to move to the North Western Province in 1980s; the industry was fully privatized. Since then, most of the shrimp farms have been concentrated in the North Western Province (Firth, 1997).

The first government-initiated brackish water shrimp culture farm commenced in Batticaloa in the late 1970s. However, due to civil disturbances in the North and East of the Country, the industry that is now fully privatized, was diverted to the North Western Province in the early 1980s, and since then has recorded clear signs of steady progress.

Towards the end of 1993, 91 shrimp farms covering 1,633 ha were established. As of 1995, there were 350 authorized farms covering 2,000 ha and another 550 unauthorized farms spread over 600 ha; another 100 ha of paddy fields had been sold for conversion to shrimp farms (Firth, 1997). The Department of Fisheries and Agriculture (DFAR) puts the inland aquaculture resources at about 158,000 ha in lagoons & estuaries, with a current production of 100,000 tons and potential of 200,000 (DFAR³²).

³² <http://www.fisheriesdept.gov.lk/divisions/satistics.htm>

Impacts of shrimp farming in Sri Lanka:

a) Environmental impacts - these may be broadly categorized into:

i. Degradation of mangrove forests & wetlands

Firth (1997) quotes a CCD survey carried out in 1980s that showed that 12,189 ha of mangroves existed in Sri Lanka; later studies carried out by the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) in 1991 showed that mangroves had dwindled to half in recent years. He says that in Sri Lanka mangroves are found in lagoons, bays, estuaries and river mouths. Mangroves are destroyed for expansion of aquaculture (Min. of For. & Env.³³). The study team, in its visit to Negombo and Chilaw, found out that large tracts of mangroves had been cleared for shrimp farms next to Anavilundavadi wildlife sanctuary.

Resources within lagoons and estuaries [which include mangroves] have been overused for fishery and shrimp culture, a billion rupee [SLR] industry. It has however caused considerable loss of coastal wetlands since 1980 due to encroachment and pollution by the establishment of mariculture ponds covering an area of over 200 ha (Ministry of Forests & Environment). The other impacts are disruption of nutrient chains, due to high use of fertilizers and pesticides, and increased salinity of waterways resulting in biodiversity loss.

ii. Pollution

Pesticides are used to control undesirable species in the shrimp farms and fertilizers are used for fattening of shrimps and prawns. The pesticides kill all other species of fish and aquatic organisms and the left over fertilizers have undesirable effects on wild varieties of shrimps and prawns (Firth, 1997). Moreover, there are high amounts of effluents discharged from shrimp farms that cause considerable pollution of coastal and marine areas. The high levels of nitrates and phosphates released from shrimp farms into the coastal waters have caused eutrophication of nearby watercourses in the region and also the pollution of ground water (MENR). This was also highlighted in the study team's interaction with coastal communities in Chilaw.

Ediger (2005) also reports similar observations in his report on his visit to Udappuwa, a small coastal village to the south of Puttalam at the bottom of Mundal Lagoon. It was not affected by the tsunami, but has suffered heavily because of large prawn farms that have destroyed much of the mangrove swamps which once provided the villagers with an abundance of food. The prawn tanks were recently abandoned because of a disease that began killing off the prawns. The owner of the prawn tanks, which cover a large area of land around the village, made not attempt at clean-up so the chemicals used in prawn farming still pollute the land including some of the water wells the people depend on. As of now, no mangrove trees have started growing in the abandoned prawn tanks.

iii. Soil erosion

The process of setting up shrimp farms is mechanized; involves removal of surface soil

³³ Ministry of Forestry and Environment.

Biodiversity Conservation in Sri Lanka - A Framework for Action, Sri Lanka, 1999. pp 59

and leads to soil erosion (Firth, 1997). The serious impact of soil erosion is depletion of coral reefs, which are filter feeders, as the silt smothers them. The areas that have been affected by erosion are Palliyawatta, Koggala, Polhena, Negombo, Yala, Puttalam, Kalpitiya, Chilaw, Pottuvil (MENR, 2003).

iv. Flooding

Flooding of houses and small cultivable plots has also been reported due to blocking of waterways by the farms (Firth, 1997).

b) Social and economic impacts

The primary reasons given by the government for developing shrimp farms are higher sustainable economic growth, equitable distribution of benefits and employment generation. In reality, sustainability criteria are only in favour of the shrimp farming industry. In fact, the government machinery is already at work provide every possible assistance to promote and sustain initiatives of the private sector in the area of shrimp farming. Coastal lands, a vital requirement for shrimp culture, have been identified and the private sector invited to invest in the enterprise. Setting up of new hatcheries has been promoted and others are being planned in order to meet the increasing demand of the farmers.

It has been analyzed that the shrimp farming industry has brought in profits only for the investors who had the support of the government and the banks, privileges not always available to the small fisher people. At the "micro" level, the inter-play between the principal stakeholders (i.e. the government, the investors and the fishing communities), has not always been a harmonious or a happy one. It is here that situations of conflict have emerged, combined with social dislocation and ecological imbalance that are reminiscent of the crises that stemmed from many Green Revolution technologies.

The shrimp industry has scored very low on providing employment opportunities. While the government should seek to promote industries that are labour intensive, the fact remains that shrimp farming, though a lucrative enterprise, has limited potential for job creation, except perhaps at the pond construction stage. A large farm of about 20 ha will employ a maximum of 10 to 12 "security guards" and about 15 to 20 farm workers. But even these too would not be from the villages around the farms to prevent theft and any untoward threat to the production process. Closing the door to job seekers from the village, particularly farmers and fisherfolk who have given up their typical forms of livelihood, has evidently become another bone of contention, adding to the social conflicts that have been generated in the area.

Firth (1997) finally goes on to say that "what we are witnessing today in Sri Lanka is that rather than improving the quality of life of the rural poor, the shrimp culture industry has significantly harmed the interests of many poor farmers and fishermen and given rise to various conflicts, some of which have even turned violent.

E. An interfaith approach to rebuild lives

Tangalle - Inter-religious Human Rights Committee

The name of the group was Inter-religious Human Rights Committee, which was a coalition of 3 local religious groups (Buddhist, Christian & Muslim) united to protect human rights and face challenges/ problems of tsunami in Tangalle. The president is Mr. Mirise Dammavansa, the head of the Buddhist monastery. The committee has worked together earlier during drought and flood situations in the area, to distribute food and water. The study team had a meeting with the Committee at Tangalle on 15 July 2005. For more details, *refer annexure 1*.

Young Men's Christian Association - community centres

The YMCA in the Eastern Province has worked extensively with communities all across the coast starting from Galle right upto Trincomalle. Much of this work began in 1996 when the war was its highest point. The YMCA now continues to work with both war victims and tsunami victims. In order to provide a shelter for people, and a centre to gather, they have started building community centres in several of key locations along the coast. They intend to initiate **community based work** of a long-term nature in the area aimed at creating livelihoods, youth development, children's programmes, and work with young women who have lost breadwinners/husbands in the tsunami or the war. The community-based approach will be **inter-faith** in nature and scope. The YMCA also plans to develop programmes that will involve them in issues of justice particularly in terms of fighting for **land rights** where they have been deprived of land, and to enable them to get land records. The YMCA is also intending to work in the stretch between Hamanthota and Arugam Bay including the interiors- not directly affected, but indirectly so- because of the wild life reserves-also of interest to tourists.

Consortium of Integrated Relief Organizations

The Consortium of Integrated Rehabilitation Organisations (previously the Consortium of Islamic Rehabilitation Organizations), is working for the upliftment of Muslim community with Tamil and Sinhala communities in Sri Lanka. The main objective of CIRO is to mobilize the common people for higher participation to get their just share and link them to other Sri Lankan social structure .Focus all project activities to be people centered, to address peace and co-existence among all ethnic groups and finally towards achieving conflict transformation

- Through mobilization, strengthen existing community based societies, form new ones, build institutional capacities, and empower them to reduce dependency on government and outsiders
- Link to other ethnic social organizations and work towards promoting inter-faith coexistence.
- Provide psycho social guidance to tsunami victims, incorporating modern, traditional and religious values and coping mechanism and help them to fit into the main stream of society.
- Provide necessary training, guidance and micro-finance income generating activities, encourage sustainable development in agriculture, fishing and assisting local CBOs to manage their own resources, especially targeting youths, women ,children, and other vulnerable persons.

At present, CIRO has the following organizations are members:

1. SEDO - Socio-Economic Development Organisation

2. OPED - Organisation for Protecting and Ensuring Democracy
 3. GNF - Gareeb Nawas Foundation
 4. EEDO - English Education Development Organisation
 5. ALBHA-Al-Baithul Hikma Association
 6. ELDS-English Language Development Society
 7. Home Management Training Centre for Muslim Women
 8. SEEDO
 9. South Eastern Muslim Assembly
 10. Islamic Youth Movement.
 11. MYC Social Welfare Organisation
 12. Centre for East Lanka Social Service
 13. Al-Arafath Social Welfare Association
 14. As-Safa Women Social Development Society.
 15. Islamic Social Service Association
 16. Islamic Social Welfare Development Association
 17. Islamic Social Welfare Association
- For more details, refer <http://www.ciro.lk>, the official website of CIRO.

Observations:

It was observed that the ethnic communities in Sri Lanka - Sinhala, Tamil and Muslims - do not mix and this is a problem³⁴. The team felt that the communities were getting more ghettoized and the cluster approach was being propagated. The government was playing about with new guidelines and implementation plans. Hence the situation is not alright; the politicians, government and industry were taking control of things with their own agenda and interests. The civil society organizations were not fully tuned or trained to look into the overarching issues whereas the other parties are well organized and structured. The situation is now against the people and the CSOs were powerless.

F. Priority areas for interventions

Geographical - Small Islands:

Tourism development in the island states is growing at an enormous pace across the world as tourism is seen as one of the few development options for small island states. Small islands renowned for their smallness, remoteness and diversity in species make them prime attractions as tourist destinations.

Tourism development in the island states is growing at an enormous pace across the world as tourism is seen as one of the few development options for small island states. Small islands renowned for their smallness, remoteness and diversity in species make them prime attractions as tourist destinations.

³⁴ Cresantha Hettiyarachchi, Personal Interview. 20 July 2005

Tourism poses a dilemma for the people in the Sri Lanka. On the one hand, people see tourism as a money-spinner. But those who are impacted also see an unfortunate intrusion of their culture, ecology and development strategy. As almost anywhere else in the world, the question to be raised is "who really benefits from tourism". It is not whether tourism should be allowed but to what form and patterns of tourism is to be encouraged. Tourism has to be equitable, people centered, sustainable, and ecologically sensitive and gender just.

There have been extensive consultations between the National Conference of Churches - Sri Lanka, and ECOT on the issue of small islands and how there can be a comprehensive intervention by churches in Sri Lanka in tackling the negative consequences of tourism. The churches in have expressed their need to address the cultural, ecological and development dimensions in relation to tourism.

Tourism in the small island states will serve as a viable development option provided it is conditioned to local needs and realities, democratized so as to be the base for local communities to be the determinants the limits and scope of the tourism enterprise, and where the fruits of tourism are equitable distributed to the local people.

Alignment to global interventions

a. World Social Forum

Participation in the WSF is effectively viewed as an avenue to broaden the access of ECOT to wider civil society/social movements/peoples struggles/anti-globalization movements/environmental movements/women's movements and other groups pertinent to the struggle for a just tourism. The activities of ECOT and its network partners in the WSF 2004 and 2005 showed how useful such participation was in broadening the network of ECOT. It has already enabled ECOT to elevate the profile of tourism issues among the movements named above. The consciousness about tourism as a justice-development-ecology-human rights-gender justice-child protection issue was relatively unknown and ignored. WSF 2004 and 2005 changed all that significantly both for movements with similar concerns as well as for ECOT.

The Activists Strategy Meeting is complimentary to the World Social Forum.

The purpose of the strategy meeting after the WSF is to reflect on the activities at the World Social Forum and to enable a more focused opportunity for global groups and networks on tourism to align, strategize, build solidarity, and work together on global campaigns. It will create links for sustained information flow and solidarity. As a desired outcome, ECOT envisages a more sustained coordination, to keep the momentum and to maximize impact by building on the complimentary skills and expertise developed over the decades.

ECOT will actively relate to and work on the Regional Social Forums 2006 and the World Social Forum 2007 in Africa. This will be done through interventions of a collaborative nature involving tourism networks and broader fronts/social movements. The objectives will be to enlist civil society/social movements/peoples struggles/anti globalization movements in the tourism issue. The expected outcomes will be broader set of linkages with the civil society/social movements/peoples struggles/anti globalization movements and the inclusion of tourism issues in the working of other groups.

b. Global Tourism Interventions Forum

The Global Tourism Interventions Forum (GTIF) was created in recognition of ongoing debates on tourism development that have taken place in consultations around the globe, the World Social Forum and international fora like the CSD. The GTIF seeks to support, strengthen and sustain the debate and interventions on tourism issues within a multitude of anti-globalisation and human rights movements, and is committed to change the character of global tourism. In solidarity with local movements, it works together with community representatives, activists, and researchers in various parts of the world to strengthen our struggle for a tourism that is equitable, people centred, sustainable, ecologically sensible, child friendly and gender just.

3. Conclusion

The governments of the tsunami affected countries, including Sri Lanka, have played a significant role in intensifying the impact of the tsunami that struck the coastline on 26th December 2004. After issuing the Coastal Conservation Act, 1981, political influences & interferences have resulted in an inefficient implementation and management of coastal areas. What is worse is the large scale perpetrations of violations that have happened all along the coastline, which have resulted in degradation of landscapes and coastal ecosystems - rendering them incapable of fully performing their vital functions. One such function is protecting the coastal areas from natural disasters like cyclones, and the occasional tsunami.

That the governments with their shortsightedness in anticipating these natural impacting factors, which, as the tsunami has demonstrated, could devastate large areas and cause immeasurable damage to life and property, is directly culpable for large scale damage to life and property is beyond an iota of doubt. It is also deplorable that governments have actively connived with perpetrators in converting coastal environments into artificial landscapes; removed natural vegetation, mangroves and sand dunes ... these could have offered natural protection to the thousands that perished in the disaster. And now, audaciously, the governments are invoking the very legal frameworks that they had kept aside to pave the way for displacing coastal communities and to bring in large scale 'development' under the guise of tsunami reconstruction.

REPORT

Part II

Factual information supplement

1. Technical assessment - geography, demography, ecology

Source: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. *National Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Activities in Sri Lanka*. Srilanka, 2003. <http://www.hilltops2oceans.org/documents/NPA%20Sri%20Lanka.doc>

Sri Lanka's coastal region and marine environment is greatly influenced by the island's location in the northern part of the Indian Ocean (Cooray, 1984) between 5° 54' and 9° 52' N and 79° 39' and 81° 53' E (**Fig. 1.0.1**). The coastal region is located in the lowest of the three peneplains forming the island, and generally consists of a flat coastal plain averaging an elevation of less than 30 m (Cooray, 1984). This coastal plain extends outward from the island and under the sea as the continental shelf for a width between 8 km (along the southeastern and eastern coasts) and 40 km (in the north, northeastern and northwestern coasts) - about 20 km in most parts. The depth within the shelf area ranges from 0 to 200 m with an average depth of about 65 m below sea level. The continental shelf is narrow around the southern and eastern part of the island, but widens considerably towards the north, northeastern and northwestern part where it merges with the shelf around India (Cooray, 1984). The country claimed a 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in 1976, adding to its territorial waters a total of 233,000 km². Sri Lanka's maritime boundaries are shown in **Fig. 1.0.1**.

Sri Lanka has a coastline of approximately 1,620 km (including the shoreline of bays and inlets, but excluding lagoons) (CZMP, 2003). For management and conservation purposes of the coastal environment, the coastline is defined as the 'Coastal Zone' which is described in the Coast Conservation Act of 1981 as the area lying within a limit of 300 m landward of the Mean High Water Line (MHWL) and a limit of 2 km seaward of the Mean Low Water Line (MLWL); in the case of rivers, streams lagoons or any other body of water connected to the sea either permanently or periodically, the landward boundary extends to a limit of 2km measured perpendicular to the straight base line drawn between the natural entrance points thereof and includes the waters of such rivers, streams and lagoons or any other body of water so connected to the sea (**Fig. 1.0.2**).

For administrative purposes the coastline is included in the coastal region, which is generally viewed as the area of 74 Divisional Secretariat Divisions with maritime boundaries which are in close proximity to the coast (Fig.1.0.3).

The transverse type coastline in the southwest and northeast is characterized by a series of picturesque sandy bays protected on either side by rocky headlands (Cooray, 1984). The bay of Trincomalee on the northeastern coast described as "the most perfect natural harbour of the Indian seas" is of particular significance (Beny, 1970). The northwestern and southeastern coastlines exhibit sand bars, dunes and spits that sometimes extend over many kilometers. Recent estimates show that the coastline of the country contains around 5620ha of sandy beaches, barrier beaches and sand spits and around 15,930ha of dunes (CZMP, 2003). Lagoons and estuaries are the other important coastal habitats that contribute considerably to the fishing industry. Lagoons are more abundant along the southern, southeastern and eastern coasts where the littoral drift causes an accumulation of sand to form barriers and spits at river mouths through which the freshwater discharge is low. There are around 89 lagoons in the country with a total extent of about 36,300ha. There are 45 estuaries with a total extent of about 90,960ha. Among other important coastal terrestrial habitats are the mangrove stands (around 4,640ha) which can be seen as fringing vegetation of lagoons/ estuaries and river mouths, salt marshes (around 26,250ha) and coastal marshy wetlands (around 880ha), all with scattered distribution (CZMP, 2003).

The shallow water areas in the continental shelf around the island with high primary productivity have induced the formation of coral reefs. The most extensive coral reefs in Sri Lanka are the patchy coral reefs in the northwestern coastal and offshore waters. Patchy coral reefs have also been recorded in the western and eastern coastal areas of the island at a distance of about 15-20 km from the shore, at an average depth of 20 m. The southwestern, eastern and northern coasts also contain fringing coral reefs adjacent to the shore, growing from the sea floor usually on a nucleus of rock (Rajasuriya and Premaratne, 2000). It has been estimated that about 2% of the coastline contains fringing coral reefs (Swan, 1983). Barrier coral reefs, consisting of ridges of coral lying some distance from the shore, parallel with it and forming a broad 'reef lagoon', are rare in Sri Lanka but can be seen in some places in the northeastern coastal waters (Rajasuriya and White, 1995). Corals also can be seen in association with sandstone reefs in varying degree which are widespread along the coast. Many of these are located along the bathymetric contours of the continental shelf. Rocky reefs which are also covered by corals in varying degree occur from the west coast to the northeast (Rajasuriya and White, 1995).

Large deposits of coral are also found inland in the coastal region, particularly between Ambalangoda and Matara on the south west coast, deposits at Akurala being one of the largest. However this deposit is depleted now due to over-exploitation. There is another large deposit in Habaraduwa which is being extracted for the lime industry.

In addition to the rich coral areas, Sri Lanka's marine waters have extensive sea grass beds, often occurring in association with coral reef ecosystems or in estuaries and lagoons. They are particularly apparent in some basin estuaries and lagoons of the country (Samarakoon and Pinto, 1988). Very extensive seagrass beds also have been reported in shallow coastal waters from northwestern to the northern and across the Palk Bay to Rameswaram Island on the

Indian coast (Samarakoon and Pinto, 1988). Seagrass beds in Sri Lanka have particularly evoked interest because they are believed to be the main habitat of the endangered dugong (*Dugong dugong*). They also provide an important part of the diet of turtles and serve a vital function as nursery grounds for many commercially important food and ornamental fish species and shrimps.

Sri Lanka has 103 river basins, and most of the rivers radiate from the hill country and flow down to the sea forming estuaries/lagoons. These rivers, transport large amounts of sand, silt and clay essential for beach nourishment.

A noteworthy physical feature of the coastline of the country is its retreating and accreting nature. Some segments along the southwest coastline are retreating due to natural erosive action of the sea compounded by anthropogenic activities such as river sand mining and destruction of protective coral reefs (CZMP,2003). In contrast, some areas of the northwestern (e.g. Kalpitiya) and southeastern (e.g. Kalawanchikudi) coastlines are advancing due to accretion of sand, silt and clay (Cooray,1984).

1.1 CLIMATIC FEATURES

Almost all major climatic zones of the country are represented in the coastal and marine environments. The western and southwestern coasts are within the Wet Zone which is characterized by an annual rainfall of 2,500 mm to over 5,000 mm, and a temperature of around 27°C. There are two strips of coast in the western and southern part of the island which falls within the intermediate climatic zone with an annual rainfall between 1900 -2500 mm. Most other areas of the Coast fall within the Dry Zone which averages an annual rainfall between 1,250-1,900 mm and a temperature of around 30°C. The two extra dry coastal strips in the northwest and southeast form the Arid Zone, which receives less than 1,250 mm of rain annually (CZMP,2003) (Fig. 1.0.4).

Fig. 1.0.1 Territory of Sri Lanka (including maritime zone)

(Source-Survey Department of Sri Lanka)





Fig. 1.0.4 Bioclimatic zones of Sri Lanka

(Source: Wijesinghe, et al., 1993)

The wave pattern around the island is seasonal with moderate wave heights. The tide is microtidal, mixed to semi-diurnal, with generally weak tidal currents. The wind pattern is influenced by the shifting monsoons with light to moderate wind speeds. During May to September, the coastal areas of the southwestern part of the island experience heavy rains from the southwest monsoon. The east coast receives its highest rainfall from December to February from the northeast monsoon which also provides rain to the rest of the island. The coastal areas also receive inter-monsoonal rains from April-May and October- November through tropical cyclonic activity. Cyclones are not frequent phenomena in Sri Lanka although the country is located at the fringe of the northern Indian Ocean cyclone belt. Most cyclones have traversed the northern part of the island moving from southeast to northwest, with the northeast coast experiencing the highest impact. The mean annual occurrence of storms affecting the northern areas of the island is 0.2, indicating a return frequency of a storm in every five years. This situation can vary, however, in the future with climate change, particularly as cyclone patterns in the equatorial zone have shown increasing frequency and intensity during the past two decades. (CZMP, 2003).

1. 2 SOCIO- ECONOMIC FEATURES

At present Sri Lanka has been divided into 25 Administrative Districts comprising 324 Divisional Secretariat (DS) Divisions. Of these Districts, 14 have maritime boundaries representing 74 DS Divisions (CZMP,2003). The last population census (2001) has estimated a 18.73 million population in the country. It should however be noted that it did not cover the five (5) Districts in the North and East Provinces. The estimated population in the coastal Districts is 10.79 million, which is about 58% of the total population (Department of Census and Statistics,2002) .

Conventionally poverty is viewed as the lack of access to adequate quantities of goods and services to satisfy an individual's material and social needs. Poverty is a common phenomenon in developing countries and Sri Lanka is no an exception. According to a recent study carried

out by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), except the Colombo District, five Districts in the coastal region showed a high incidence of poverty ranging from 25%-30% which is above the national average of 23%. The number of Samurdhi (a social welfare programme) recipients is also a good indicator of the existence of poverty in the coastal region. The number of Samurdhi households in 14 maritime districts were 0.669 million and 34 percent of the total Samurdhi households of the island (Department of Poor Relief, 2001).

As regards other basic needs, such as clean water (pipe borne) supply, only 16.5 percent of the population in the maritime districts had access to this facility which is slightly lower than the national average of 17 percent. However, except for Colombo, Mannar and Jaffna all the other Districts had less than 10 percent of pipe borne water (IUCN,2003) .

It has been shown that the coastal region comprise 65% of urbanized areas of the country. For instance, of 14 Municipal Councils of the country, six large Municipal Councils including Colombo, the commercial capital and 19 Urban Councils out of 39 are located in the coastal region. The expansion of urban areas in the coastal region and migration of rural people particularly to Colombo has also been noticed in the recent past (IUCN,2003).

Sri Lanka's coastal and marine areas has had considerable socio-economic significance since time immemorial and the use of coastal and ocean resources is linked to public health, food security and economic benefits including traditional livelihoods, and social benefits including cultural values of the people. The economic significance of the coastal region is generally shown in its contribution to the national economy. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross National Product (GNP) are the important measures on national accounts. The GDP measures the value of economic activities in the nation as a whole or in a particular region usually over a period of one year. In 1983, the coastal GDP contributed 35 percent to the national GDP while this percentage increased to 40 percent by the year 1989 showing its importance to the economy (Saundranayagam et. al. 1994). Wholesale and retail trade were the major element of this contribution while industries, transport and communication were the other important sectors. Agriculture, forestry and fishing were ranked as the fourth contributor representing 15% in 1989. The coastal agriculture consists of mainly coconut, paddy and other food crops and was relatively less important. Fishing activities in the coastal economy play an important role. The fishery sector had contributed about 2.6% of the GNP at Current Factor Cost Prices in 2000 (NARA ,2001) and continues to be an important source of foreign exchange. Estimates show that the marine fishery provided approximately 88% of the total fish production in 2000 with the coastal fishery (primarily by day boats over the continental shelf) contributing 68% of this share. (NARA ,2001) , while the value of export earnings from fish and aquatic products was over Rs. 6 billion. Fish also constitutes the top source of animal protein for Sri Lankans (DCS,2000) . The coastal region is also the hub of industrial production and contains around 62% of all industrial units (Anon, 2002a). Coastal region' s contribution to Tourism which is the fifth income earner of the country (US\$ 211 million in foreign exchange in 2001) (CZMP,2003) is also tremendous as 70% of all hotels registered with the Tourist Board are located within the coastal region. Location of around 260 high priority sites of archaeological, historical, religious and another 119 or so scenic and recreational high priority sites in the coastal zone enhance the economic value of the coastal zone through tourism related activities. Country's economy is also enhanced by the commercial ports, fishery harbours, anchorages (Thotupolas), fish landing sites and salterns located in this area.

Economic development and the economic growth in the coastal economy have created pressure and stress on the coastal resources . Economic growth is achieved through utilization of coastal/marine resources which are subjected to degradation and depletion as a result of unplanned development and irrational management. The future productivity of coastal resources shows a declining trend.

ANNEXURES

Annexure 1

Schedule of field work carried out by the study team

13th July 2005

- I. Meeting with Church representatives & NGOs
 - Sri Lanka YMCA
 - Sri Lanka Baptist Church,
 - Student Christian Movement of Sri Lanka,
 - Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG)
 - National YWCA
 - The Salvation Army
 - Janawaboda Kendraya
 - Caritas Sri Lanka
 - The Presbyterian Church
 - Gami Seva Sevana
 - National Christian Council of Sri Lanka
 - Ecumenical Institute
 - Center for Policy Alternatives
- II. Meeting with NGO representatives
 - GLIDE, Mr. Peter, Ms. Tamara Bernard
 - Law & Society Trust, Ms. Damaris Wickremesekera

14th July 2005

Travel from Colombo to Tangalle

- I. The team conducted site inspections at various locations - Payagala, Akurala, Hikkaduwa, Unawatuna and Koggala.
- II. Discussion with local people at Unawatuna
- III. Discussion with people at relief camp in Ahangama.

15th July 2005

Travel from Tangalle to Ampara

- I. Meeting with Inter Religion Human Rights Committee in Tangalle
- II. Meeting with NCC local church, Hambantota
- III. Meeting with Muslim community, Hambantota

16th July 2005

Travel from Ampara to Batticaloa

- I. Meeting with President, Arugam Bay Tourism Association
- II. Meeting with Consortium of Islamic Relief Organizations
- III. Meeting with LTTE local area representative

17th July 2005

- I. Travel from Batticaloa to Colombo

18th July 2005

- I. Travel from Colombo to Negombo, Chilaw
- II. Meeting with MONLAR
- III. Meeting with Add. Director, Coastal Conservation Department

19th July 2005

- I. Meeting with Center for Policy Alternatives
- II. Meeting with Law & Society Trust
- III. Meeting with Secretary, Sri Lanka Tourist Board
- IV. Meeting with YMCA

20th July 2005

- I. Debriefing meeting of Study Team
- II. Meeting with Adv. Ravi Algama

Annexure 2

The Chairman of the TAFREN Taskforce is Mr. Mano Tittawella. The other members of the Taskforce are Mr. Lalith Weeratunge, Mr. Harry Jayewardene, Mr. Ken Balendra, Mr. Rajan Britto, Mr. Mano Selvanathan, Mrs. Rohini Nanayakkara, Dr. Nihal Jinasena, Mr. Nihal Fonseka & Mr. Mahesh Amalean.

<http://www.tafren.gov.lk/index.php#>

The Terms of Reference (TOR) for TAFREN are as follows:

Source: <http://www.tafren.gov.lk/terms-of-reference.php>

1. Assessment of damage
2. Develop a detailed and comprehensive Development and Infrastructure Rebuilding Action Plan. (which commenced on 15th January 2005 and will be completed within one year giving priority to the areas indicated earlier.)
3. Coordinate and Implement the approved Action plan (referred to in 2. above), through the relevant Line Ministries, relevant Government Authorities and Agencies, State and Private Sector Organizations, District Secretaries/GA's and relevant Local Government Agencies.
4. Coordinate all Donor Assistance, Fund Raising and other Financing Avenues towards achieving the Development and Infrastructure Rebuilding Action Plan (referred to in 2 above), in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and Planning, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the relevant Line Ministries.
5. To prepare a draft bill to be presented to Parliament (submitted in January 05) as an urgent bill to set up the Authority for Rebuilding the Nation. (successor to TAFREN)

Annexure 3

Source: http://www.priu.gov.lk/CNOFinal/CNO_Executive_Summary.pdf

Presidential Secretariat Government of Sri Lanka

TSUNAMI DISASTER RESPONSE

"The tsunami has awakened us in Sri Lanka. Let us join hands as one people and one nation in this hour of grief to convert adversity into triumph. We were not prepared at all, practically or mentally, to face a disaster like this..." Daily News

Her Excellency Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga
President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
03rd March 2005

Government Response to the Disaster

Government of Sri Lanka established three main task forces On the 28th December 2004;

1. Task Force for Rescue and Relief TAFRER
2. Task force for Rebuild the Nation TAFREN
3. Task force for Logistic Law and Order TAFLOL

Establishment of Centre for National Operations

The Center for National Operations (CNO) was established within the Presidential Secretariat on the 29th of December 2004, by Her Excellency the President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumarathunga, to coordinate emergency relief work among different governmental, non governmental institutions, international Organizations and the donor community during the first four weeks after the Tsunami devastation.

The core activities of the CNO were to:

- Collect and analyze data to assess the humanitarian needs of all disaster affected sectors/ regions.
- Coordinate and facilitate emergency relief work among provincial, local government authorities, other government institutes and Commissioner General Essential Services.
- Coordinate and channel all international donor assistance, NGO activities and voluntary services to the most needed sectors, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant line ministries, as appropriate.
- Facilitate the smooth implementation of activities in a systematic manner.
- Coordinate communication with local and foreign media on relief and rescue operations.

The CNO was established to fulfill the void of a "think-tank" which would be capable of strategic planning & overall monitoring of the Tsunami disaster management of the Government, until the state machinery had increased its capacity to meet with this unexpected challenge.

The CNO was the key focal point for the co-ordination of relief initiatives of the government with seven key operational desks to handle specific relief operations. The workload of the individual desks varied across the board, in as much as their successes, defined in terms of the attaining the objectives that were set out for them.

STRUCTURE

The organization structure of the CNO initially developed to handle relief, rescue & recovery initiatives is given in the annexure.

The Key operational desks comprised of the following:

- Emergency Disaster Unit and Search & Rescue servicing the Internally Displaced People (IDP).
- Line Ministries which included the Ministry of Social Services, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Rehabilitation Reconstructions & Reconciliation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Infrastructure & Utilities Housing, Ministry of Public Security Law and Order, and Special Desks for Logistics, Food, Provincial Councils, private sector & pledges etc..
- Commissioner General of Essential Services and National Child Protection Authority
- Communication and Media
- Joint Operations Head Quarters
- Donor/UN desk
- Mapping /Department of Survey

Human Resource

• The CNO which was established on an emergency basis consisting of volunteer staff from public and the private sector, working together in a lateral organizational structure, highly successful and commended by the visiting foreign dignitaries for being the well managed Tsunami affected Countries in the world. This achievement could be attributed for dedicated commitment and enthusiasm of the volunteer staff of the CNO.

• The key strength of the CNO was the highly committed volunteer staff of nearly 120 working round the clock operations on special tasks.

Special tasks

• All weekly Donor conferences were chaired by the Director CNO with the respective CNO desk Officers / Coordinators. During the CNO operations, more than 100 local & foreign organizations attended this weekly donor conference. Special meetings / briefings were also organized for Business leaders, Religious leaders and community leaders.

• The CNO Management was coordinating the relevant tasks with the District Secretariats

and District Coordinating officers appointed by the Joint Operations Headquarters (JOH) within the Tsunami affected areas and also visited the respective districts on a weekly basis.

- The CNO distributed more than 5000MT essential items/medicines, which were donated by local & foreign Companies / Organizations / institutions as per for the responses for the 7120 letters and e-mails initiated by the CNO. (To-date Sri Lanka is receiving goods in container loads as per the above)

Public Relations

- All political party leaders visited the CNO and gave valuable guidance for the CNO operation to become more effective and efficient.

- Secretary General (UN), Director General (IOM), foreign Diplomats, Former Prime Minister of Belgium, most of the foreign delegates visited the CNO within the first four weeks of its operations.

- www.cnosrilanka.org was the official website of the CNO and was highly recognize as the Official source of information / database from the very high frequency of hits from around the world. Twice a day all information updates were made to the CNO web site with regard to updating of content / news / reports, need assessments of the Tsunami affected regions and also the digitize maps helped all viewers who were keen to assist in the Tsunami relief Operations.

- Highly reputed local & international print and electronic media institutes participated at daily CNO press briefings. Visiting media institutions gave wide publicity to the information given by the CNO through their papers / magazines / journals / TV channels/ Radio Channels etc.

Initiated special Projects

- The CNO initiated a state of the art centralized data management system which shall be launched in the near future as the "National Data Centre" under the purview of the Secretary to the President.

- The CNO initiated the establishment of a DNA finger printing center within the Institute of Molecular Biology, University of Colombo

- The CNO cleared and donated more than 500Mt of essential goods to the Seva-Vanitha Branch of the Army and the JOH for distributions among Tsunami affected Regions.

Handing over functions to the successive Government Departments

- After completion of the assigned and identified emergency activities the CNO was wound-up in line with the given time line of 4 weeks.

- Within the operational time-lines of the CNO, the respective Government institutions / authorities had to expand their capacity and to smoothly absorb all Tsunami related activities which were carried out by the CNO.

- The CNO initiated special project on Data Collection Infrastructure report was handed over to the Secretary to the President.

- Considering the requests made by several International organizations and local relief institutions, the CNO Management decided to host the website (www.cnosrilanka.org) for further period of two weeks with the comprehensive information.

- The CNO has handed over all relevant documents to the successive Tsunami related authorities.

Annexure 4

REGULATORY CONTROL OF COASTAL DEVELOPMENT IN SRI LANKA

R.A.D.B. Samaranayake

Coast Conservation Department, Colombo, Sri Lanka

May 1995

Source: <http://www.ccd.gov.lk/rpapers/dire1.htm>

Background

A Coast Protection Unit was established in the Colombo Port Commission in 1963, with the realization that a comprehensive approach to coastal resources management was required. In the 1970s problems associated with coastal development began to surface. A more management oriented approach was recommended in 1971, in a report submitted to the Government by the Coast Protection Unit of the Colombo Port Commission. In 1978, a Coast Conservation Division was established in the Ministry of Fisheries. This division was upgraded to a Department, the Coast Conservation Department., in 1984.

Coast Conservation Act

In 1981 Parliament enacted the Coast Conservation Act No 57 of 1981. This Act decreed the appointment of a Director of Coast Conservation with the following responsibilities.

- 1) Administration and implementation of the provisions of the Act;
- 2) Formulation and execution of schemes of the work for coast conservation within the Coastal Zone; and
- 3) Conduct of research, in collaboration with other Departments, Agencies and Institutions for the purpose of coast conservation.

The Coastal Zone is defined in the Coast Conservation Act as that area lying within a limit of three hundred meters landwards of the Mean High Water Line and a limit of two kilometers seaward of the Mean Low Water Line. In the case of rivers, streams, lagoons, or any other body of water connected to the sea, either permanently or periodically, the landward boundary extends to a limit of two kilometers, measured perpendicular to the straight base line drawn between the natural entrance points and includes waters of such rivers, streams and lagoons or any other body of water so connected to the sea (Figure 1).

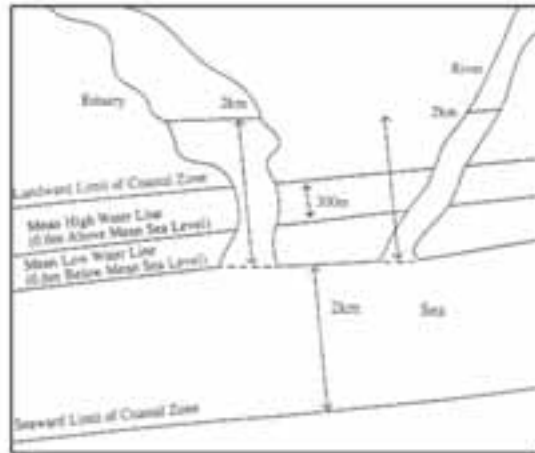


Figure 1. The Sri Lankan Coastal Zone

The Coast Conservation Act required the Director of Coast Conservation to have a survey made of the Coastal Zone and, on the basis of the results of the survey, to prepare a comprehensive Coastal Zone Management Plan.

It also established the Coast Conservation Advisory Council which reviews coastal management problems of significant concern and advises the Minister in charge of Coast Conservation.

Coastal Zone Management Plan

The legal framework for this plan is provided by the Coast Conservation Act No. 57 of 1981 and the Coast Conservation Act (Amendment) No. 64 of 1988. The plan received the assent of Cabinet Ministers in April 1990. The Objectives of the plan area to:

- Identify coastal problems that need to be addressed;
- Indicate why these problems are important;
- Present the Coast Conservation Department's Management Programme to address these problems;
- Identify what should be done by Governmental and Non Governmental organizations and the public to reduce the scope and magnitude of the coastal problems ; and
- Identify research activities of immediate importance to the management of coastal resources

The Coastal Zone Management Plan deals with the coastal problems, erosion, loss and degradation of natural coastal habitats and loss and degradation of archeological, historical and cultural monuments and sites and recreational and scenic areas. It describes the nature, scope, severity and causes associated with each of this problems. Objectives and policies for the management of each problem are identified along with specific management techniques.

In particular, the rationale and procedures for continuing the coastal permit system are outlined in detail.

Implementing actions in this plan are of several types: regulations, direct development, research coordination, education and plan and policy development.

Regulations

The regulation of various types of coastal activities constitutes the primary type of implementing action in the Coastal Zone Management Plan. The principal means of regulation is the appraisal of proposed development activities in the designated coastal zone by the Coast Conservation Department Staff prior to issuances of a permit for the proposed development activity.

A permit is required for all development activities that are likely to alter the physical nature of the Coast Zone. But fishing, cultivation of crops, planting of trees and other vegetation, and construction and maintenance of coastal protection works by the Coast Conservation Department may be engaged in without a permit within the Coastal Zone.

Activities within the Coastal Zone prohibited by the Coast Conservation Department are:

- Removal of coral other than for research purposes;
- Mining of sand except in areas identified by the Coast Conservation Department;
- Development within 200 meters of designated archeological sites; and
- Any development activity that will significantly degrade the quality of designated natural areas of exceptional value

All the other development activities within the Coastal Zone may require permits. The Director shall issue a permit if:

- The activity is consistent with management policies stated in chapter 3, 4 and 5 of Coastal Zone Management Plan.
- The activity is not prohibited by the Coastal Zone Management Plan
- The activity is outside designated set-back lines.

The National Standards set by the Sri Lanka Standards Institute for the relevant environmental parameters are met, and where such standards are not available the interim standards of the Central Environmental Authority are met.

- The activity allows for continuation of existing fishing activities.
- The activity is consistent with the intent agency zoning schemes and/or guidelines recognized by Coast Conservation Department

Issue of Permits

Issue of permits is handled by the Coastal Resources Development and Planning division of the Coast Conservation Department (Figure-2) Any person desiring to engage in a development activity within the Coastal Zone will be required to obtain a permit issued by the Department prior to commencing the activity. The procedures for obtaining a Coast Conservation Department permit are summarized in Figure 3.

Set-backs

A set-back is defined as an area left free of any physical modification. It is good planning practice to leave a minimum set-back of 60 meters from the Mean Sea Level Line. Such a set-back desirable to allow for dynamics of seasonal and long term fluctuations of the coast line, and to ensure public access to the water front and visual access to it. The set-back standers for construction activities listed in Table 2.2. of the Coastal Zone Management Plan have been designated as minimum standards.

Variances

Variances from a standers (for example set-back) may be granted by the Director only if the Coast Conservation Advisory Council determines that there are compelling reasons for allowing a variiances and recommends the granting of same. Variiances may be granted only if thee following criteria are met:

- The proposed alteration will not result in significant adverse environmental impacts of use conflict;
- Due to conditions at the site in question, the stranded will cause the applicant an undue hardship;
- The variiances requested by the applicant is the minimum necessary to relive an undue hardship: and
- The undue hardship is not the result of nay prior action of the applicant.

Exemptions

Exemptions may be granted to engage in prohibited activities if the proposed activity serves compelling public purpose which provides benefits to the whole as opposed to the public as a individuals or private interests. Such an exemption may be granted by the director if the Coast Conservation Advisory Council determines that there are compelling reasons for allowing an exemption and recommends the granting of same

Environmental Impact Assessment

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be required in the case of the development activities that are considered to have significant impacts on the coastal environment. Terms of Reference of EIA will be given to the developer for preparation of the EIA report. On receipt of the EIA, the Director shall submit a copy of EIA to the Coast Conservation Advisory Council for its comments. The Director shall also publish a notice in the gazette, indicating the place and time at which the EIA can be inspected by the public and invite public to comment in it. The Coast Conservation Advisory Council and the public will submit the comments to the Director within 30 days of the gazette notification. The Director shall consider all comments received and make a decision whether a permit can be issued, and the conditions thereof

Contravention

Engaging in any development activity prior to obtaining a permit issued by the Director, and/ or non compliance with conditions stipulated in the permit are contravention. The Coast Conservation Act specifies penalties for contravention of the provisions of the Act. Penalties may include fines and imprisonment and/or confiscation of equipment and machinery and /or demolishing of unauthorized structures.

Decentralization of Permit Procedures

The Coast Conservation Department has decentralized several functions to the Divisional Secretaries under the terms of Public Administration Circular No. 21/92 dated 21st May 1992. This delegation of administrative authority is being made under Section 5 of the Coast Conservation Act No.57 of 1981. The delegation of authority has been designed to improve the efficiency of the Coast Management Programme by allowing local authority to:

- 1) Issue minor permits for removal of 2 cubes of sand from specified areas of the Coastal Zone, designated by the Coast Conservation Department; and
- 2) Issue minor permits for small houses and commercial establishments with floor areas not exceeding 1,000 sq feet, outside set-back areas defined in the Coastal Zone Management Plan.

Monitoring

The Coast Conservation Department ensure compliance with permit conditions through a monitoring system. Monitoring is mainly done through periodic site visits by Coast Conservation Department Staff and the direct supervision by Coast Conservation Department personnel or by a nominated authority such as Divisional Secretary or Urban Council . Further, survey teams such as Universities are hired for surveys of permit compliance, on annual basis. Some developers are required to furnish certificate of conformity from a nominated authority that the permit conditions have been addressed to, and to submit reports, carry out surveys, test etc.

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