

## Sri Lankan civil society poised to support Green Climate Fund project in the Dry Zone

Galgamuwa, December 8, 2017 – Four leading civil society organizations have been inducted as partners in the newly-launched [Green Climate Fund-supported project in the Dry Zone](#), ensuring communities will play a leading role in building their resilience to climate change.

Hosted by the Ministry of [Mahaweli Development and Environment](#) – the implementing Ministry for the project – December 5-6 in Galgamuwa, the orientation workshop was attended by [Janathakshan](#), [Sri Lanka Red Cross Society](#), [South Asia Partnership Sri Lanka](#), and [Palm Community Development Services](#).

The four partner organizations were selected from 45 applicants in a competitive process, based on their experience in working with communities as well as in minor irrigation, agriculture, drinking water, and disaster risk reduction.

The organizations will support rolling out of the project in the target districts Anuradhapura, Vavuniya, Puttalam, and Kurunegala over the coming year (until end 2018). Their role will encompass raising awareness of climate change; mobilizing local involvement in planning, implementation and monitoring; identifying and communicating communities' needs and feedback; to coordinating with authorities.

“Working closely with the civil society organizations is really crucial to climate change adaptation,” said Buddika Hapuarachchi, the Project Manager. “Their role is indispensable to the success of this project, in ensuring project target beneficiaries are aware and supportive of its activities, in boosting cooperation between stakeholders at different levels, and in paving the way for the sustainability of the project beyond its lifetime. It’s by involving communities right from the start – and fostering their ownership and leadership – that a project like this will endure.”

The agenda of the two-day workshop focused on an introduction to the project; examination of impacts of climate change on the Dry Zone, especially to smallholder farmers; adaptation gaps and the theory of change behind the project; cascade-based approach for climate change adaptation; environmental and social safeguards and gender considerations; and monitoring and evaluation.

Janathakshan will support in Anuradhapura district; Sri Lanka Red Cross Society in Kurunegala district; South Asia Partnership Sri Lanka (SAPSRI) in Puttalam district; and Palm Community Development Services in Vavuniya.



<https://twitter.com/Janathakshan/status/938279263052148743>

			
<p>G.W. Priyadarshani, Executive Officer, Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, Kurunegala Branch</p> <p><i>“The workshop was a great success...This is a great start to develop a dialogue between all the parties of the project.”</i></p>	<p>Sunil Dombapola Director, PALM Foundation - East and North</p> <p><i>“The workshop is a very good foundation for the project and an important opportunity to develop relationships with all partners”</i></p>	<p>Gothami Chandraratne Senior Manager - Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience, Janathakshan (Gte) Ltd</p> <p><i>“Through the workshop we were able to gather the basic concepts, roles and responsibilities of each party, and how we can best move forward.”</i></p>	<p>K. H. M. Sasika Konara Program Officer - Development, South Asia Partnership, Sri Lanka</p> <p><i>“The approach of this project and the workshop this week enlightens the current development process, by supporting civil society’s contribution to sustainable development and empowering our rural communities</i></p>

## About the project

Launched in September 2017, with support from the Green Climate Fund, the 7-year project [‘Strengthening the resilience of smallholder farmers in the Dry Zone to climate variability and extreme events through an integrated approach to water management’](#) (the ‘Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project’) aims to increase the climate resilience of poor and vulnerable households in the Malwathu, Mi, and Yan river basins.

The project, for which UNDP provides technical support, pioneers a holistic approach to enhancing Dry Zone water security and agricultural productivity, and for the first time in a project in Sri Lanka, will include climate smart initiatives designed to combat the effects of extreme weather events on the continuity of irrigation and drinking water supplies.

The project specifically targets women and youth groups in implementation, maintenance, monitoring project investments.

Since [launching in September](#), the project has:

- Entered an agreement with the [International Water Management Institute](#), to develop a model for cascade water resource development and management (an key first step towards restoring of the cascades: one of the essentials for Dry Zone cultivation since ancient times);
- Carried out environmental surveys, with design work already in progress for three cascades in Anuradhapura and Vavuniya (including within them 54 village irrigation systems). The project is in the process of deploying survey teams to cascades in Vavuniya and Puttlam.
- Identified water-stressed, vulnerable communities and sources for water supply schemes in the districts of Puttlam and Vavuniya.

## About the partner organizations

[Janathakshan](#), meaning "people's technology" or "technology for people", is a non-profit organization promoting sustainable and green solutions in development. Janathakshan has previously partnered with UNDP on the project '[Strengthening the Resilience of Post-conflict Recovery and Development to Climate Change Risks in Sri Lanka](#)'; Wayamba Farmers Market; and Kaduwela Biogas Unit

[South Asia Partnership Sri Lanka \(SAPSRI\)](#) is a non-profit organization following a participatory approach in planning and implementation of development activities aimed mostly at empowering women (female headed households' widows and displaced) and youth. SAPSRI has worked with UNDP previously on the [GEF Small Grants Programme](#).

[Palm Community Development Services](#) is a non-government community development organization adopting a holistic approach to implementing community development & community mobilization. The organization has partnership with UNDP previously on the EU Support to District Development Programme by GLED, and Strengthening of Community based Organizations

[Sri Lanka Red Cross](#) is an independent non-government humanitarian organization with over 100,000 members and 6,500 active volunteers, focused on reducing risk and creating universal access to services through volunteerism and partnership.

## Links

For more information, please visit

[http://www.lk.undp.org/content/srilanka/en/home/operations/projects/environment\\_and\\_energ/Climate-Resilient-Integrated-Water-Management-Project.html](http://www.lk.undp.org/content/srilanka/en/home/operations/projects/environment_and_energ/Climate-Resilient-Integrated-Water-Management-Project.html)

Follow [@UNDPSriLanka](#) on Twitter

## Contact details

Buddika Hapuarachchi | Project Manager | +94(0)77 497 5226 | [buddika.hapuarachchi@undp.org](mailto:buddika.hapuarachchi@undp.org)

Awandi Kohilawatta | Climate Change Adaptation Associate | +94(0)11 315 8580  
[awandi.kohilawatta@undp.org](mailto:awandi.kohilawatta@undp.org) | Tw: @AIKohilawatta