

REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR SOUTH, SOUTH EAST AND EAST ASIA ON CAPACITY BUILDING FOR NATIONAL
BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS AND MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY
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National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans



Vimukthi Weeratunga

Implementation of the United
Nations Convention on Biological
Diversity in **Sri Lanka**

Sujith S Ratnayake
Biodiversity Secretariat

Urocissa ornata -Sri Lanka Blue Magpie (Vulnerable) Red List 2007

Outline

- History
- Status of NBSAPs
- Strategy
- Action Plan
- Preparatory process
- Governance & Integration
- Implementation



Philautus mooreorum –
Moore's shrub frog (Endangered)
Red List 2007



Concept of Biodiversity Conservation was introduced to Sri Lanka in the late 1980s

Country has a long-reaching history of biodiversity conservation initiatives especially during the ancient civilization and pre colonial times

Sri Lanka has a very high endemism per unit area. Region including Western Ghats and Sri Lanka is considered as one of 34 biodiversity 'hot spots' identified in the world (Mittermeier et.al., 2005)

History

- **1990** - The subject of Environment elevated to Cabinet Ministry level – Ministry of Environment & Parliamentary Affairs
- 1992 - Sri Lanka Sign the Convention
- **1994** - SL commits itself to be ratify the CBD
- 1994 - Completion of Strategy to BCAP
- 1995 - National Experts Committee on Biodiversity
- 1998 - Cabinet Approval for Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan (BCAP)
- **1999** - Cabinet Ministry fully devoted to the subject of Environment & NR
- **1999** - Biodiversity Secretariat under MENR
- **1999** - Launch Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan (BCAP)
- 2000 - 1st National Report on the Implementation of CBD
- 2001 - 2nd National Report
- 2007 - Addendum to the BCAP
- 2008 - 3rd National Report preparation project



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Loris tardigradus –
Sri Lanka Red Slender Loris
(Endangered) Red List 2007



Status of NBSAPs

- **Biodiversity Conservation in Sri Lanka - A Framework of Action – 1999**

Provide broad but detail Framework guide future policy and actions . Broad activities recommends for 12 Thematic and Crosscutting areas. Spells out the mechanisms and need for integrating BD concerns into national development efforts

- **An Addendum to the Biodiversity Conservation in Sri Lanka - 2007**

Spell out detail each activity for 16 thematic/cross-cutting areas and Activity Plan with 45 prioritized recommendations including responsible agencies for implementation and time frames

- **Provincial Biodiversity Profiles and Action Plans – 2008**

Integrate biodiversity conservation and Sustainable use concerns into provincial economic development plans and activities



Sri Lanka was one of the first countries in Asia to prepare a **National Conservation Strategy (NCS)** in 1988. This comprised a preliminary strategy to deal with key issues of environmental and biodiversity degradation in the country.

Lowland tropical rain forests in the wet zone of Sri Lanka are home to 90% of endemic woody plants and 75 of endemic animals of the island



Other key strategies to support NBSAPs

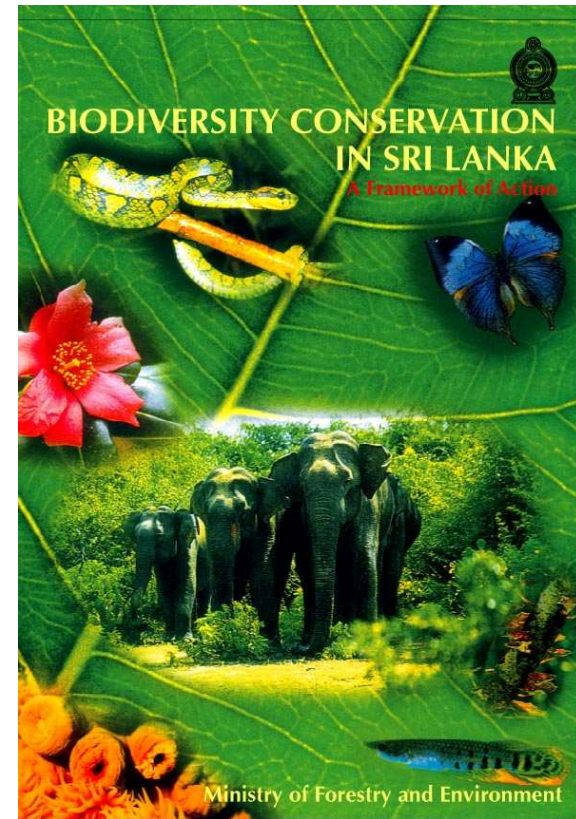
In view of the importance awarded to biodiversity conservation, many other related institutions have also addressed the conservation of biodiversity in their sectoral plans and programmes

Sector	Strategy
Environment	National Environment Policy and Action Plan 2003 National conservation strategy 1988
Forestry	National Forestry Policy and Forestry Sector Master Plan 1995
Wildlife	National Wildlife Policy 2000
Coastal & Marine	National Coastal Zone Management Plan 2004
Agriculture	National Agriculture and Livestock Development Policies and Strategies National Agriculture Research Policy & Plan 1999
Inland Waters	National Wetland Policy
Land/Spatial	National Land Use Policy & Watershed Management Policy National Action Programme for Combat Land Degradation 2006 Revised National Physical Planning Policy & Strategy
Biosafety	National Policy on Biosafety & National Biosafety Framework of SL 2006

Strategy – BCAP & Addendum

Hierarchy

- 06 Themes
- 15 Bio-regions
- 04 Thematic Areas
- 15 Cross-cutting Areas
- 41 Strategic Objectives
- 280 (147 +133) Recommendations
- 45 Priority Actions





Strategy – BCAP & Addendum

Six Main Themes

- Sri Lanka Biodiversity - Overview
- Principles, Goals and Broad objectives
- Conservation and Sustainable Use
- Bio Regions
- Integration of Biodiversity Concerns
- Implementation

*Sinharaja forest complex – Lowland wet forest and tropical sub-montane forest -
World Heritage Site, International Man & Biosphere Reserve*

Strategy – BCAP & Addendum

15 Bio-regions

- Biodiversity regions were identified primarily to facilitate the identification of spatially defined areas for conservation action. (Species & Habitats)

- Identification of biodiversity regions for priority action will help the regional administrators and planners to recognize and include in their programmes the areas needing urgent action for biodiversity conservation action.

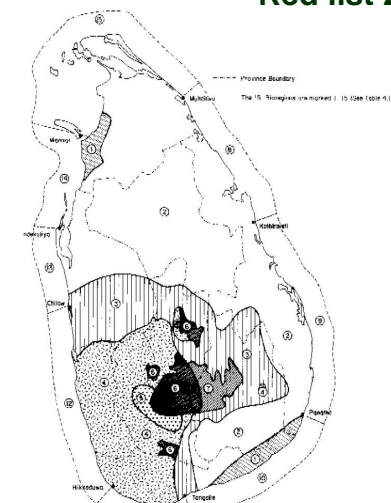


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Elephas maximus – Asian Elephant
(Vulnerable)

Figure 4.1 Bioregions of Sri Lanka

Red list 2007



Bio regions of Sri Lanka



Strategy – BCAP & Addendum

4 CBD Thematic Areas

- Forest Biodiversity
- Marine and Coastal Biodiversity
- Agriculture Biodiversity
- Inland Wetland Biodiversity

Pathan Oya falls

Strategy – BCAP & Addendum

15 CBD Functional themes & Cross-cutting Areas

1. In Situ Conservation
2. Ex Situ Conservation
3. Access to Genetic Resources
4. Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Biodiversity
5. Impacts on Biodiversity
6. Sustainable Use and Benefit Sharing
7. Biosafety
8. Biodiversity Valuation and Economics
9. Policies, Strategies and Action Planning
10. Monitoring and coordination
11. Institutional Aspects and Capacity building
12. Legal Framework on Biodiversity
13. Education Awareness and Training
14. Research Development and Technology Transfer
15. Biodiversity Information Management



Ceratophora stuartii
-Rhino Horn Lizard (Endangered)
-Sri Lanka Red list 2007

Strategy

Example

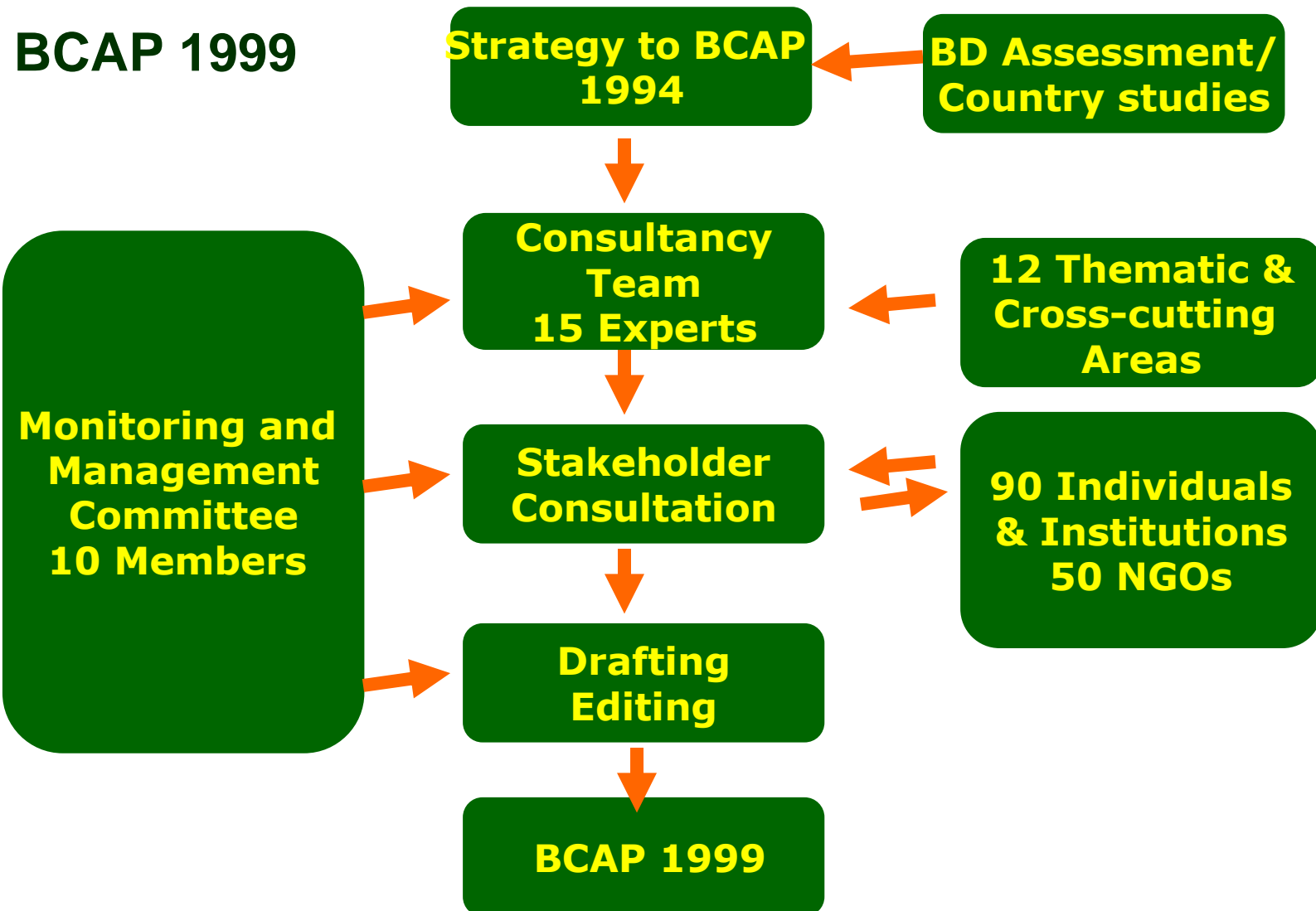
- **Theme:** Conservation
- **Thematic Area:** Forest Biodiversity
- **Cross Cutting Area:** In-situ conservation
- **Strategic Objective:** To ensure threatened forest ecosystem & species are given adequate protection
- **Recommendation:** Promote In situ conservation within & outside PAs targeting threatened species & habitats
- **Priority Action:** Identify critically important BD hotspots and linkage outside PA network and bring them under protection
- **Responsible Agency/s:** DWLC, FD, CCD, DOA, DFAR
- **Time Frame:** 1st three years



Dilup Chandranimal

Vanda tessellata -Anuradhapura
Orchids (Vulnerable) Red List 2007

NBSAP Preparatory process

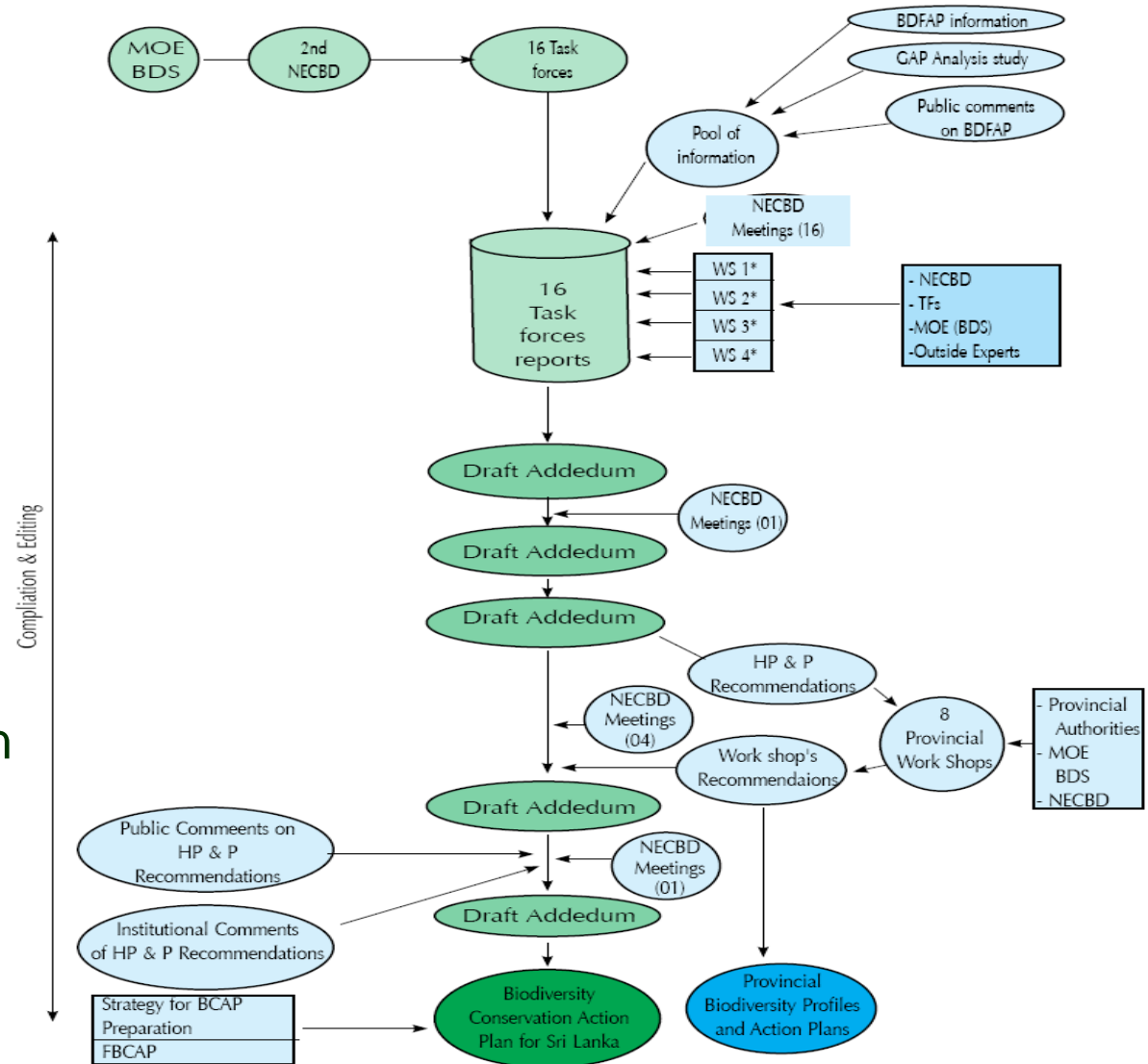




Addendum 2007

- Over 90 Experts
- 16 Task Forces
- Gap Analysis
- NECBD Guidance
- Review workshops
- Public Comments
- Stakeholder consultation
- 15 Cross-Cutting Areas
- Provincial Action Plan
- Activity Plan

1.3 The Preparatory Process Depicted Diagrammatically;



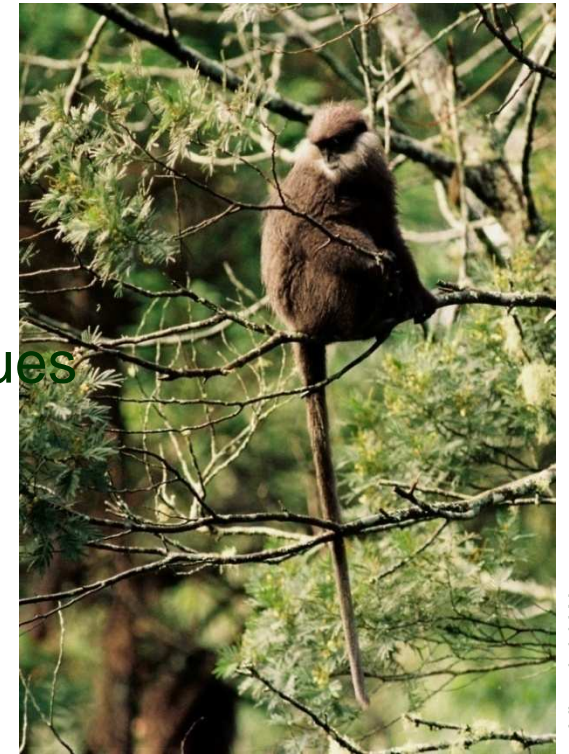
WS 1* - Workshop to review addendum Preparatory process
 WS 2* - Workshop to review the structure of the addendum
 WS 3* - Workshop to identify overlappings and gaps of and amendments to the addendum
 WS 4* - Workshop to finalize the recommendations of the addendum
 HP & P - High Priority and Priority Recommendations of Addendum
 2nd NECBD - Second National Expert Committee on Biodiversity

BDS - Biodiversity Secretariat
 MOE - Ministry of Environment
 TF - Task Force
 BDFAP - Biodiversity Conservation Framework Action Plan

Governance-Integration-Implementation

The importance of integrating biodiversity conservation into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans has been acknowledged, and several measures have been instigated.

- Ministry of Environment & NR (1999)
- Biodiversity Secretariat (1999) to Implement the CBD & BCAP
- 30 state institutions to address NRM/BD issues
- 80 laws enacted to address NR & Environment Issues
- Integrated BD in their sectoral policies and programmes
- BD Liaison Officers in all stakeholder agencies
- BD related Conventions, Agreements, Treaties, Protocols (CBD, CITES, CMS, Ramsar, WHC, UNCCD UNFCCC, Biosafety, ITPGR)



Semnopithecus vetulus Purple faced leaf monkey (Vulnerable) Red List 2007

Governance and Integration

- Inter-sectoral coordination through CEPOM mechanism (6 sectors)
- Apex Committee-Integrating Environment and Development (CIEDP)
- Provincial BD profiles & Action Plan (BCAP-Local level)
- National BD experts, technical & steering Committees, Inter-ministerial committees for BD, Inter-institutional coordination committees
- Legal Sub Committee (Review Legislations)
- NGO networks & Private sector participation
- Integration through BD Projects implementation
- Other National sub national Strategies & Action Programmes (MDG, 10 Development Plan, NPRS, SLSSD Land degradation,



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**Serendib scops owl (Endangered)
Red List 2007**



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**Scyphiphora hydrophyllacea
(Critically Endangered)
Red list 2007**



Provincial Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan

- Plan provincial level actions to implement the recommendations of the national BCAP
- Integrate biodiversity conservation and Sustainable use concerns into provincial economic development plans and activities
- Identify representative ecosystems at provincial level, prioritize areas that needs to be protected in order to sustain provincial biodiversity
- Identify Urban BD Refugees (Avenue plantations, BD parks, ponds, Plant Sanctuaries)
- Establish provincial ex-situ conservation facilities
- Integration of biodiversity concerns into provincial development projects

Kekuna Ella falls

Status of enabling environment for integration

- The economic and political climate adequate for implementation of the BCAP
- The legal framework is very adequate to support BCAP implementation.
- Adequate weightage given to biodiversity considerations in other environment plans and policies



Human Elephant Conflict

Status of enabling environment integration - Challenges & Obstacles

- Public participation and involvement of non-conservation sectors for BD conservation is poor
- Failure of institutional mechanisms to maintain the interests of partner agencies for BD concerns to be effectively integrated into sectoral & corporate planning & implementation
- Absence of a holistic mechanism to implement the BCAP in its totality due to financial ,technical & Institutional inadequacies
- National BD communication initiative inadequate to targets the critically important institutions and stakeholder groups having significant impacts on biodiversity to obtain their support for BD conservation and sustainable use.



Leopard Project



Leopard Project

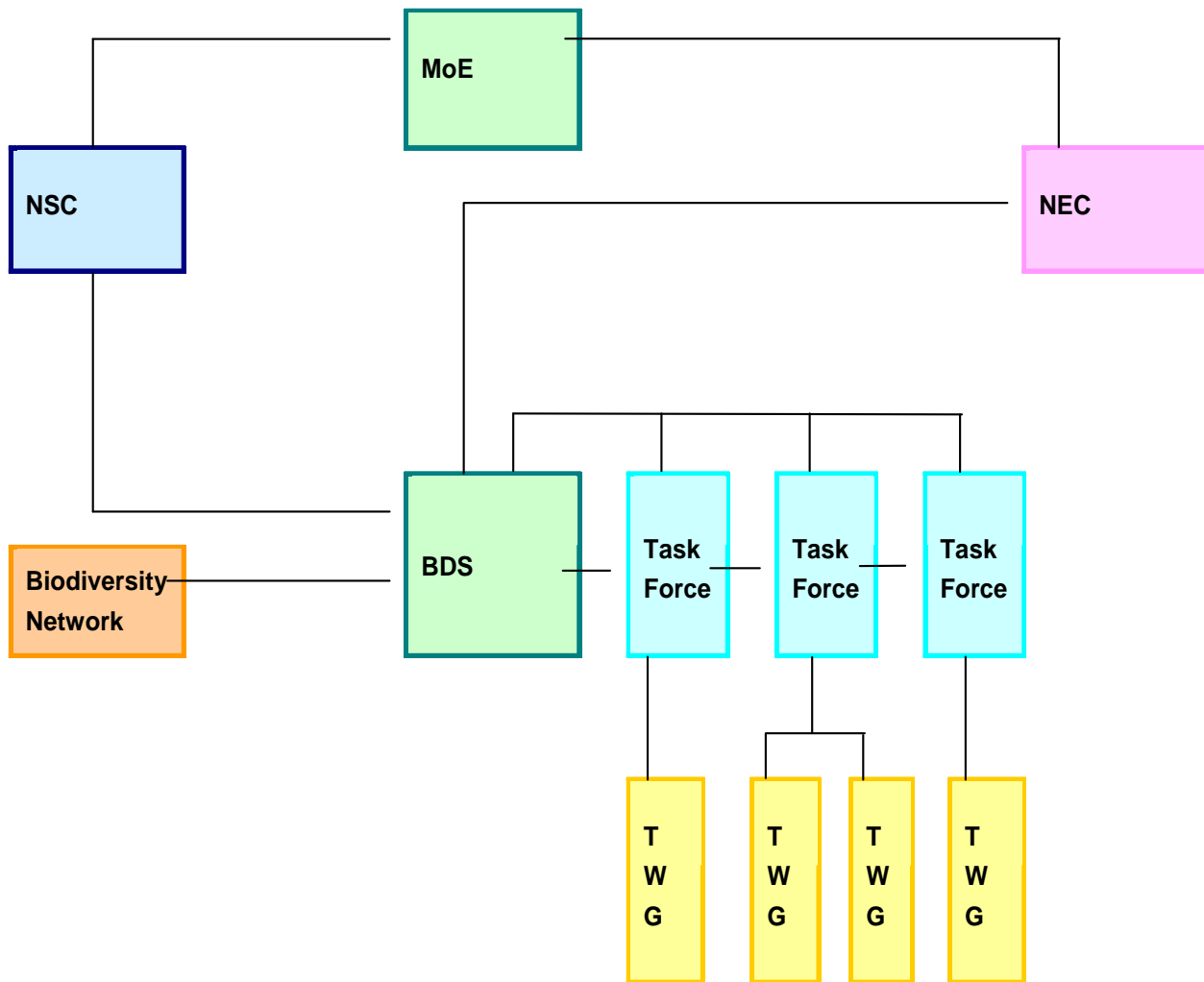
Illegal Wildlife Trade



Implementation

- Although many BD related policies and plans exist, they lack support from all sectors as a due to absence of a **functioning integrated policy** for conservation & management of natural resources which governs the public sector institutions directly responsible for such action as well as other users & impactors

**INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE RECOMMENDED FOR IMPLEMENTING THE BCAP BY
ADDENDUM 2007**

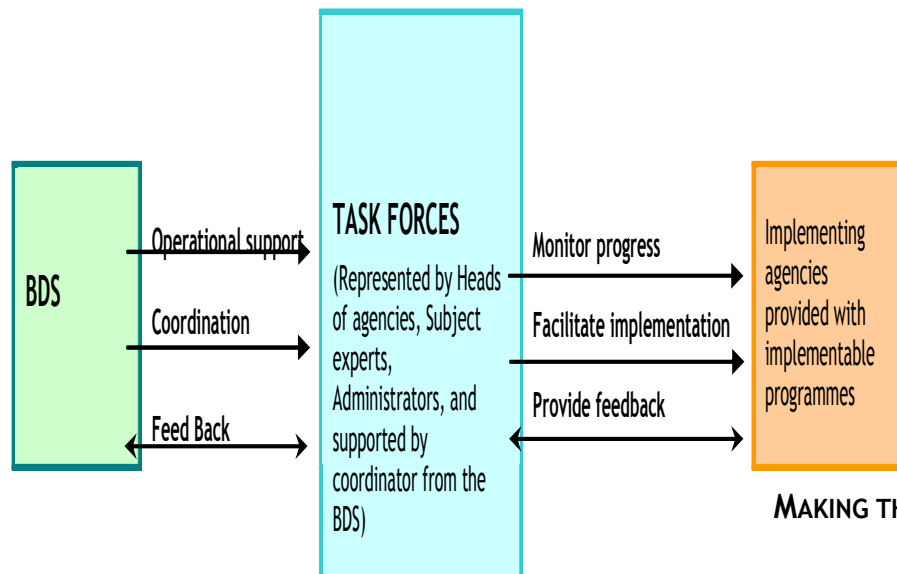


Proposed TFs

1. *In-situ* and *ex-situ* Conservation
2. Research and information management
3. Legal issues
4. Access and biotechnology:
5. Communication, Education and Public Awareness
6. Integration and devolution
7. Policy
8. Traditional knowledge and cultural practices

NSC=National Steering Committee, NEC= (National Experts Committee), BDS=Biodiversity Secretariat, TWG=Thematic Working Groups. Biodiversity network of mid professional level staff in BCAP stakeholder institutions.

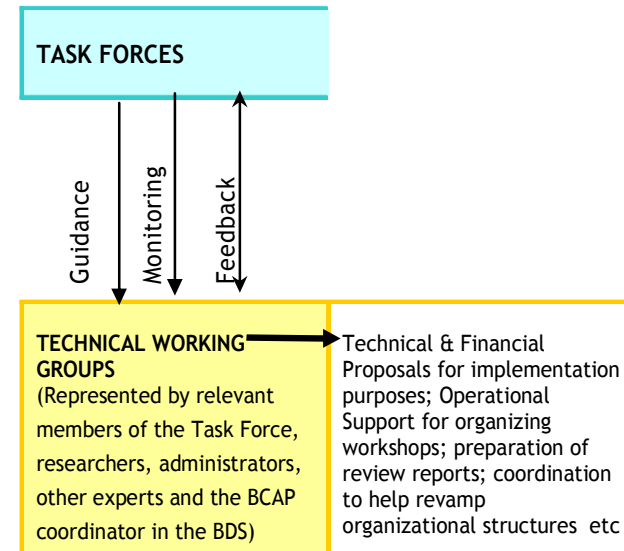
MAKING THE TASK FORCES OPERATIVE AS PROPOSED BY ADDENDUM 2007



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***Impatiens repens* (Critically Endangered)
Red list 2007**

MAKING THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS OPERATIVE TO ASSIST TASK FORCES

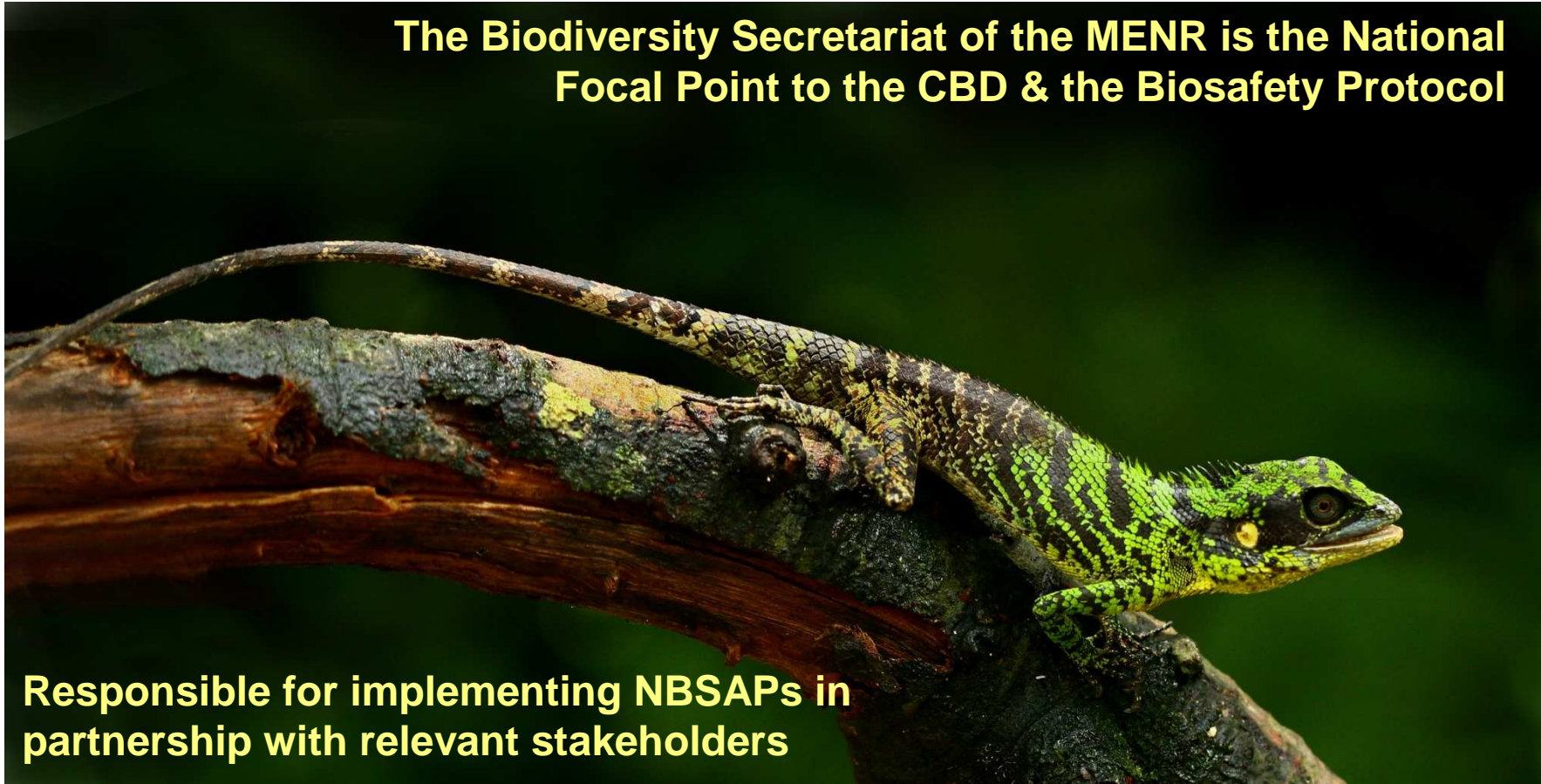


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***Pathysa antiphates*- Five-bar sowerdail
(Endangered) Red list 2007**



The Biodiversity Secretariat of the MENR is the National Focal Point to the CBD & the Biosafety Protocol



Responsible for implementing NBSAPs in partnership with relevant stakeholders

Calotes liocephalus - Crestless lizard (Endangered)
Red list 2007



Achieving the
2010
Biodiversity
Target



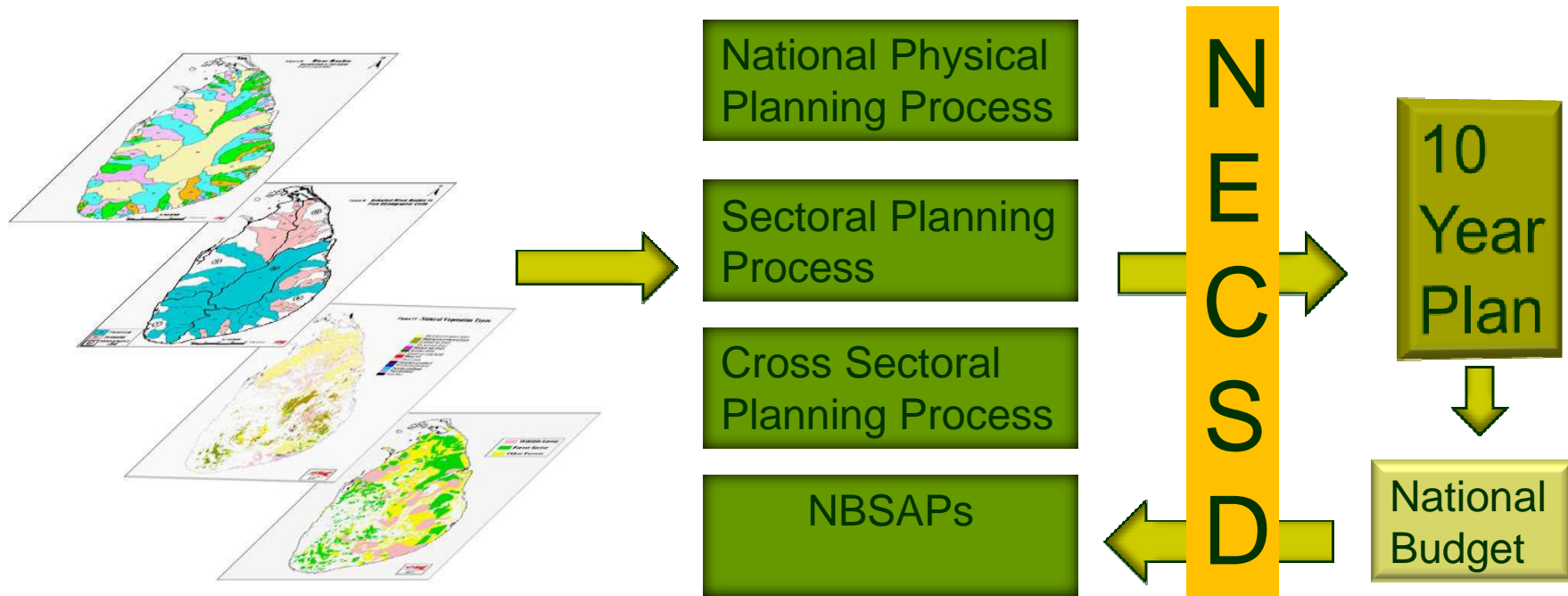
CBD

Support to Implementation

- Cross-cutting Policies & Strategies (*Information, CWR, IAS, Biosafety, TK, ABS, PGRFA, FAnGR, Threatened Species Archaeological BD, Research, Protected Areas, IPAs, IPR, Biosafety etc.*)
- GEF focal point for international cooperation & BD Project implementation
- National Status Reports on Biodiversity
- BD Impact Assessment tools (EIA, SEA, SIA)
- Agreements & MOUs (MTA, Code of Ethics, Data & information Sharing)
- BD Statistical Compendiums
- BD Assessment Studies, Gap Analysis & Check lists, Registries (TK)
- BD Meta Data Base & Information Networks
- National Capacity Need Assessments (NCSA)
- National Red listing Process



PORTFOLIO of STRATEGIC CONSERVATION SITES / PROTECTED AREA GAP ANALYSIS



Identification of High Conservation Value Areas (HCVA) to Conserve Sri Lanka's Biological Diversity and these areas assemble as strategic portfolio of conservation sites that better represent biodiversity and ecological systems. Its include Ecological system targets (Climate Soil, PAs, Watersheds etc.) Community targets (Vegetation, hotspots etc) and Species targets/Taxonomic overly targets