

Study Title: An assessment of the potential and current constraints for the promotion of 'Bird Watching' nature tourism in the Eastern Province.

Study Area: Eastern Province of Sri Lanka

Study Objective: To ascertain the present status of resident and migratory birds, including by not restricted to population, flyways, seasonality, nesting and habitats and inclusive of any threats, in respect of the sustainable use of migratory and resident birds for the promotion of high value Bird Watching based tourism in the Eastern Province.

Scope of Work: The Consultant will review all available data describing resident and migratory birds along the entire coastline of the Eastern Province, identifying species, abundance, migratory patterns, period of residence. The Consultant will generate a map indicating the relative importance of key freshwater and brackish wetland sites in the Eastern Province, in respect of both resident and migratory birds.

The Consultant will review both international and national interest in bird watching based tourism, prepare guidelines to assist the proposed Eastern Tourism Bureau of the Eastern Provincial Council in development infrastructure in support of Bird Watching based tourism and recommendations and constraints to be addressed in promoting bird-watching based tourism through the Eastern Tourism Bureau.

Bird Watching based tourism in the Eastern Province has been identified as the most likely source of 'high-end' nature tourism development in the Eastern Province as a result of the expansive areas of wetlands found in the province (e.g. Kumana, Thandiyadi, Batticaloa Lagoon, Mahaveli Delta and Kokilai). To fully exploit this potential detailed ecological information is necessary describing resident and migratory birds, as well as the types of tourism promotion and development that are required to successfully exploit this tourism development opportunity.

Terms of Reference: In consultation with the NECCDEP, the Consultant will undertake to:

1. Collect and review all available information describing resident and migratory birds in the Eastern Province and prepare a map.
2. Undertake a field survey of major wetlands in the Eastern Province and record resident and migratory species and describe the sites, flyways, staging sites, nesting sites in relation to Bird Watching tourism development.
3. Review international and national interest in Bird Watching based tourism and prepare guidelines and recommendation appropriate to the Eastern Province.

Suggested Staff

	Nature of Consultant	Experience	Time Period
01	Senior Researcher Ecologist / Ornithologist	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning, implementation and management of ecological / ornithological research projects• An understanding of the nature based tourism, 'bird watching' tourism	2 months
02	Research Assistant Ecologist / Ornithologist	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of ornithological research projects• An understanding of the of the nature based tourism, 'bird watching' tourism	4 months
03	Field Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Field research experience in nature based tourism	2 months

Timeframe: The estimated timeframe for the proposed *assessment of the potential and current constraints for Bird Watching in the Eastern Province* is four (04 months), from the date of signing the contract.

Reporting: The Consultant will submit the following reports at the specified time periods

1. An Interim Report submitted within one (01) month from the commencement of the contract
2. A Draft Final Report to be submitted one (01) month before the completion date of the Contract
3. A Final Report to be submitted on the date of completion of the Contract