

**Study Title:** A review of coral reefs on the east coast of Sri Lanka: distribution, ecology, status and threats

**Study Area:** Eastern Province of Sri Lanka

**Study Objective:** To generate an overview of coral reefs on the east coast of Sri Lanka, identifying the locations of major coral reefs; outline the ecology of each reef formation; provide a short summary of the known status of each reef formation and identify the types and degrees of threat facing each reef formation, to enable planners at the provincial, district, divisional and local government level to make technically informed decisions in respect of the management and conservation of coral reef resources in the Eastern Province.

**Scope of Work:** The Consultant will review all available data describing coral reefs in the Eastern Province to identify the main reef formation, the type of reef formation and wherever possible to identify relevant indicator species of corals, fish species as appropriate. The Consultant will under a field survey and in consultation with fishing communities engaged in the exploitation of the major coral reefs identified collect field data describing the recent history of each coral reef formation; the nature and extent of recent and current exploitation by coastal communities of each reef formation and identify the types and degrees of threat facing each coral reef formation surveyed.

In particular the Consultant will summarise data on past and current coral mining operations and assess the current and future impact of coral mining on coral reef formations along the east coast. During the field survey the Consultant will investigate the nature and extent of 'colour fish' collecting along the east coast, assess the main species collected and estimate the fishing effort and production and outline the marketing networks linking colour fish collecting in the Eastern Province to exporters elsewhere. The Consultant will prepare guidelines, appropriate for planners at the local government, divisional, district and provincial level, to strengthen and improve the management of coral reefs and marine resources found in association with coral reefs in the Eastern Province.

Coral reefs generate a variety of environmental 'goods' (e.g. coral, fish, colour fish and other 'collectable marine species) and environmental 'services' (e.g. coastal protection and tourism) that are of considerable importance, both now and for the future, however there has been no systematic survey of coral reefs in the Eastern Province to date. Although the current security situation precludes marine surveys of coral reef formations along the eastern coast at the present time, the Technical Study will consolidate the available information, including marine surveys that took place in the period following the Ceasefire Agreement and the tsunami and corroborate the available data with primary data collected from coastal communities currently exploiting coral reef resources. The Technical Study will provide both a baseline for future marine surveys (to be undertaken when the security situation improves) and a synopsis of the current status of coral reefs in the Eastern Province.

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

1. Collect and review all available information describing coral reefs (location, ecology, status and threats) in the Eastern Province.
2. Undertake a rapid field survey with coastal communities engaged in the exploitation of coral reefs, paying particular attention to coral mining and 'colour fish' collecting.
3. Undertake up to 5 rapid marine surveys of coral reefs sites selected by the NECCDEP<sup>1</sup>.
4. Produce an overview of coral reefs in Sri Lanka, within which to contextualise the information reviewed and data collected from the Eastern Province and in particular outline the local, regional and national linkages with respect to coral mining and 'colour fish' in the Eastern Province.
5. Draft guidelines to improve the management / exploitation of coral reefs and marine resources associated with coral reefs along the east coast for planners in the Eastern Province.

**Suggested Staff**

	<b>Nature of Consultant</b>	<b>Experience</b>	<b>Duration</b>
01	<b>Team Leader</b> Marine Biologist / Coral Ecologist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning, implementation and management of marine biology / coral ecology research projects</li> <li>• A thorough understanding of marine biological process / coral ecology and marine resource management</li> <li>• A demonstrated ability to undertake environmental impact assessments involving marine resources</li> </ul>	2 months
02	<b>Research Assistant</b> Marine Biologist / Coral Ecologist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of marine biology / coral ecology research projects</li> <li>• An understanding marine biological process / coral ecology and marine resource management</li> </ul>	4 months
B3	Diver (x2) Marine Biologist / Coral Ecologist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience of undertaking coral reef surveys, for example using ReefCheck or similar rapid surveying techniques</li> </ul>	2 months
03	<b>Field Assistant</b> Marine Biologist / Coral Ecologist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field research experience in marine biology / coral ecology research projects</li> </ul>	2 months

**Timeframe:** The estimated timeframe for the proposed *review of coral reefs on the east coast of Sri Lanka: distribution, ecology, status and threats* is four (04 months), from the date of signing the contract.

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<sup>1</sup> Security clearance at each location will be arranged by NECCDEP

**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