



C/O Gimán Free Beach Resort

# Eco System Research Institute

Our objective is to preserve our nature and heritage for our next generation

About

## Eco System Research Institute

Since its inception in year 2010, we have been working on various projects which are of top priority and our scope has expanded beyond what we expected to do in the Eastern Coast of Sri Lanka. Unexpectedly our focus has been diverted to urgent issues on ground.

We advocate the principles of sustainable tourism. It is the foundation for our Work at the Institute.

Due to a 30 year long civil unrest, these areas had been neglected and the communities have suffered immensely. It the right time for us to share our thoughts, resources, knowledge, efforts and more importantly valuable time to bring in much needed sustainable development.

1. *We make sure the benefits to the communities are maximized and the negative impact is minimized.*
  - *We give priority to the local community for employment.*
  - *We procure items from the local village and households as much possible.*
  - *We recruit female employees and promote their participation.*
  - *We provide training & retraining.*
  - *We share resources and sustainable reduction in poverty.*



*2. Promote cultural and local heritage and minimize negative impact.*

- We promote Cultural heritage, Historical and ancient Heritage in the Country and mainly in our own area.*
- Respect such cultural and historical heritage and make sure there is no negative impact.*
- Preserve cultural values and ancient practices.*

*3. Secure the Eco system and provide benefits and minimize negative impact.*

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*4. We effectively manage the above process with the help of key personalities in the Country.*

- Efficient management of resources and equal distribution of resources.*
- Positive contributions to manage climate change.*
- Conserve the natural Habitat*
- Converse the traditional Fishing tribal (Veddha) community in our neighborhood.*
- Converse and promote the underwater world of species and Marine Archeology*
- We converse Wildlife Habitats*



## Our Track Record

We initiated our work as an informal group way back in year 2010, after the end of the Civil war. Our work was more to do with situation – driven, we initiated projects when the need arose. We began to rescue turtles when they were killed for meat, we began to rescue when Dolphins were killed for various reasons.

## Our Priority areas

We conserve Turtles who are in danger of extinction in the East Coast, Dolphins, Whales, Elephants, Eagles and many more endangered pieces with the help of our Research facility

We continuously monitor in order to do research in conserving endangered species in the in Northern and Eastern Coast. We research work was initiated with the conservation of Sea Turtles



Salletheiv

Vakerai

Kayankerni

## Sea Turtles

*Sea Turtles are in Extinction in the Eastern Province. Many years ago sea turtles were popular in the areas of Vakerai, Salletheiv, Kayankerni and Mamkerni. But today due to man made hindrances they are in extinction.*

*Sea Turtles are being hunted for meat by boatmen/fisherman as there is a high demand from Batticaloa in particular, due to its high content of protein and is free of toxic contents.*

*Our efforts to conserve the endangered Sea Turtle is somewhat challenging due to the threat of smugglers involved in the trade. Despite severe resistance we are keen to continue with our conservation work and hope to implement the following actions on a consistent basis:*

*Educate villagers.*

*Educate school teachers and staff.*

*Involve all parties concerned to participate in this process.*

*Obtain the support of the law enforcement agencies.*

*Educate smugglers for alternative job opportunities.*

*Provide alternative job opportunities for people who are involved for illegal activities*

*Initiate turtle hatcheries*

*Motivate Tourists to participate in this process there by promoting conservation across boarders*

## Attract local Tourists to promote Conservation

*Turtle hatchery is being conducted at Gimán Free Beach Resort in Kayankerni and second such hatchery would be initiated in Vakeraí where the original grounds to lay eggs many years ago. This process will take long time to be fully implemented and requires significant amount of time and resources.*

## Dolphins

*Dolphins in the Eastern province is no hidden secret but due to man-made obstacles and activities of Humans there is a greater threat to their existence in the region. We have been trying our utmost, during last two years to control the menace but due to lack of resources the results have not been able to control it to a greater extent. Today we see alarming news which could be prevented with proper, organized surveillance and with required facilities and resources. We continue to educate fisherman, villages and smugglers who are involved in the trade great much resistance from the mafia that operates in the trade.*



## Nine persons arrested in Trincomalee dolphin massacre



Nine persons have been arrested in Trincomalee over killing twelve dolphins. Police found the suspects when they were towing the killed dolphins who had been trapped in the seines connected to their trawlers.

The officers of the Trincomalee Crime Prevention Unit had arrived at the location to conduct a search based on a tip off that a school of dolphins had been trapped in a seine.

When confronted, the fishermen had reiterated that they had released the dolphins that were trapped. However, having conducted further investigations, the police had discovered the bodies of the dead dolphins.

Dolphins are a protected species in Sri Lanka and environmentalist, attorney-at-law Jagath Gunawardana said that killing dolphins was a punishable crime.

### Challenges ahead

The Institute faces many challenges as stated above and our team is motivated towards this task and keen to achieve its desired objectives. We have identified the following to be geared to handle the situation at site and devote our selves to achieve such objectives

- Surveillance Towers
- Surveillance equipment including a Boat
- Skilled Divers to man the important sentry points
- Diving and Communication Equipment
- Computers and accessories

We plan to get more help from volunteers main from the Universities around the Country where they get exposure while they participate in a worthy cause.

We plan to reach to the International community and Institutions locally and overseas who are keen to preserve our Eco system and Sri Lankan heritage

Unfortunate recent Events that we try to avoid,

Fishing using Dynamite



Illegal Fishing of Turtles



*Save our Forest reserve and Eco system*

*We at Kingdom secret Kiriella have programs for research at UNESCO heritage rain forest " Singharaja.*

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