

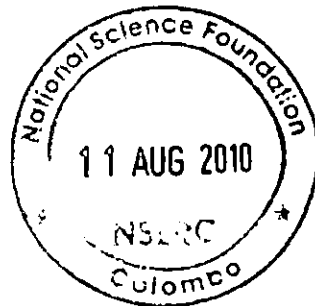


NATIONAL
SCIENCE
FOUNDATION

Stakeholder Meeting on Proposed Mannar Biosphere Reserve
NSF Auditorium
26th July 2010

Agenda

- | | |
|---|---|
| 0930 | Registration |
| 0945 - 0950 | Welcome Address – Director, NSF |
| 0950 – 1015 | Biosphere Reserve Concept and Introduction on proposed Mannar Biosphere Reserve –
<i>Dr Magdon Jayasuriya Chairman, Sub-committee for Mannar BR Nomination</i> |
| 1015 – 1045 | Introduction to Mannar BR proposal – <i>Prof. Shantha Hennayake</i> |
| 1045 – 1100 | Tea |
| Discussion sessions on the following topics. | |
| 1100 – 1140 | Biological aspects of the proposed Mannar BR region – |
| 1150 – 1220 | Archeological aspects of the proposed Mannar BR region - |
| 1220 – 1300 | Coordination and Management of the proposed MBR region – |
| 1300 – 1340 | Economic Development of the proposed MBR region – |
| 1340 | Lunch |



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Preparation of the Nomination Dossier for the proposed Mannar Biosphere Reserve

Introduction to the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme (UNESCO/MAB)

The UNESCO/MAB was established in 1977 to promote an interdisciplinary approach to research, training and communications in ecosystem conservation and rational use of natural resources. The primary goal is to declare environmentally significant areas found in different countries across all the regions of the world as Biosphere Reserves. Biosphere reserves are areas of terrestrial, coastal or marine ecosystems or their combinations promoting solutions to reconcile the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use. They are internationally recognized, nominated by national governments and remain under sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located. Biosphere reserves serve in some ways as 'living laboratories' for testing out and demonstrating integrated management of land, water and biodiversity. Collectively, biosphere reserves form a world network: the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). Within this network, exchange of information, experience and personnel are facilitated. Today the WNBR consists of 553 in 107 countries. To date, Sri Lanka has four Biosphere Reserves, namely Sinharaja, Hurulu, Kaneliya-Dediyagala-Nakiyadeniya and Bundala.

The biosphere reserve concept accommodates three complementary and mutually reinforcing basic functions:

1. a conservation function - to contribute to the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variation;
2. a development function - to foster economic and human development which is socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable;
3. a logistic function - to provide support for research, monitoring, education and information exchange related to local, national and global issues of conservation and development

Benefits of the Biosphere Reserve Concept

The biosphere reserve concept can be used as a framework to guide and reinforce projects to enhance people's livelihoods and ensure environmental sustainability. The designation of a site as a biosphere reserve can raise awareness among local people, citizens and government authorities on environmental and development issues. It can help to attract additional funding from different sources. At the national level, biosphere reserves can serve as pilot sites or 'learning places' to explore and demonstrate approaches to conservation and sustainable development, providing lessons which can be applied elsewhere. In addition, they are a concrete means for countries to implement Agenda 21, the Convention on Biological Diversity (for example the Ecosystem Approach), many Millennium Development Goals (for example on environmental sustainability), and the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. In the case of large natural areas which straddle national boundaries, transboundary biosphere reserves can be established jointly by the countries concerned, testifying to long-term cooperative efforts.

Role of the National Science Foundation (NSF)

The MAB programme in Sri Lanka is coordinated and hosted by the National Science Foundation (under the Ministry of Technology and Research) and its activities are guided by the National MAB Committee that consists of the representatives of the government departments managing the biosphere reserves, scientists (including social scientists) whose expertise relates to the objectives of the MAB programme and environmental NGOs.

Currently, the National Science Foundation, under the guidance of the National MAB Committee, has taken the lead in preparing the Nomination Dossier in relation with the proposed Mannar Biosphere Reserve. It has been working on this for about a year, through a special Sub-committee. Towards this goal the NSF is planning to carry out two national level activities. First is to develop a meta-database on the proposed area. NSF has identified over thirty (30) institutions having spatial and topical jurisdiction over the proposed area either fully or partially. NSF has also identified over

twenty (20) researchers who have carried out various physical, biological, and social research projects in this area. It is imperative that information from these institutions and researchers are collected for the preparation of the Nomination Dossier. Please be kind enough to take a little time and complete the attached form and assist NSF's endeavor at your earliest.

The NSF's second activity is to organize a stakeholder meeting on the proposed Mannar Biosphere Reserve Nomination. The NSF sincerely hopes that you will extend your fullest cooperation to realize this nationally significant goal which will elevate the environmental significance of the nation as a whole.

Proposed Mannar Biosphere Reserve

The proposed Mannar Biosphere Reserve is located between the coast line north of Kalpitiya to North Western edge of Jaffna peninsula and the International Maritime Boundary between Sri Lanka and India. The area is approximately 857,863 ha. It is important to note that the declaration of the proposed area as a Biosphere Reserve will not hamper any current or planned development activities of the area; it only make them more sustainable.

Environmental significance of the proposed Mannar biosphere is as follows;

1. High level of marine biological diversity, with several marine and coastal ecosystems and globally endangered animal species
2. Natural marine and coastal ecosystems represent the entire range of such ecosystems in Sri Lanka, including coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangrove, salt marshes, tidal mud flats, sand dunes, sandy coastal islets, lagoons and estuaries. The area harbours the largest tracts of sea grass beds, as well as the largest tract of intact mangrove (Kala-oya estuary) in Sri Lanka. The Gulf of Mannar contains the single largest coral reef systems in Sri Lanka, which consist of true coral reefs and sandstone reef habitats
3. Very important refuge (feeding and breeding grounds) for a wide range of marine and brackish water fish, marine reptiles, sea birds and marine mammals. The Shallow marine area, together with the sea grass beds, mangrove and rivers discharging into the sea (ie., Kala-oya, Moderagam ara etc.) have all contributed to a high productivity in this area, supporting a diverse marine life

Development significance of the proposed Mannar Biosphere is as follows;

1. Provide a variety of fisheries resources for a large number of fisher families in the Northwestern and Northern coastal zone of Sri Lanka.
2. The area has very high potential for nature based tourism, since it offers opportunities to experience the shallow marine environment, and associated biodiversity. This would provide additional opportunities for fishermen and coastal communities in this area to diversify their livelihoods.
3. This area is also a historically significant region, where settlers have moved between the Indian mainland and Sri Lanka throughout centuries. The Aryan King Vijaya, who initiated the Sinhalese race in Sri Lanka, migrated from India 2500 years ago, and landed in the Kudiramale natural harbour, located in the Wilpattu National Park.

Management of the Proposed Mannar Biosphere Reserve

The Management of the proposed Mannar Biosphere will be by a Committee to be established with the full involvement of all stakeholder institutions. It is envisage to develop a clear mechanism for this at the Stakeholder Meeting.

General Location Map of Proposed Biosphere Reserve



Point	Latitude	Longitude	Boundary Description
1	08°09'35"	79°49'28"	Point on the inner high water line of Kalpitiya lagoon
2	09°32'05"	80°13'00"	Boundary starting from Pt.1 connected to this Pt. along the high water line
3	09°34'50"	80°11'45"	Boundary from Pt.2 connected to this Pt. by straight line
4	09°46'03"	79°54'39"	Boundary from Pt.3 connected to this Pt. along the high water line
5	09°57'00"	79°35'08"	Point on Indo-Lanka boundary connected to Pt.4 by straight line
6	09°40'10"	79°22'44"	Point on Indo-Lanka boundary connected to Pt.5 by straight line
7	09°21'49"	79°30'50"	Point on Indo-Lanka boundary connected to Pt.6 by straight line
8	09°13'01"	79°32'08"	Point on Indo-Lanka boundary connected to Pt.7 by straight line
9	09°06'01"	79°32'08"	Point on Indo-Lanka boundary connected to Pt.8 by straight line
10	08°33'15"	79°39'43"	This point connected to Pt.9 by straight line
11	08°18'18"	79°39'43"	This point connected to Pt.10 by straight line
12	08°17'18"	79°44'49"	This point connected to Pt.11 by straight line
13	08°13'50"	79°43'24"	This point connected to Pt.12 by straight line
14	08°09'29"	79°44'22"	This point connected to Pt.13 & Pt.01 by straight line

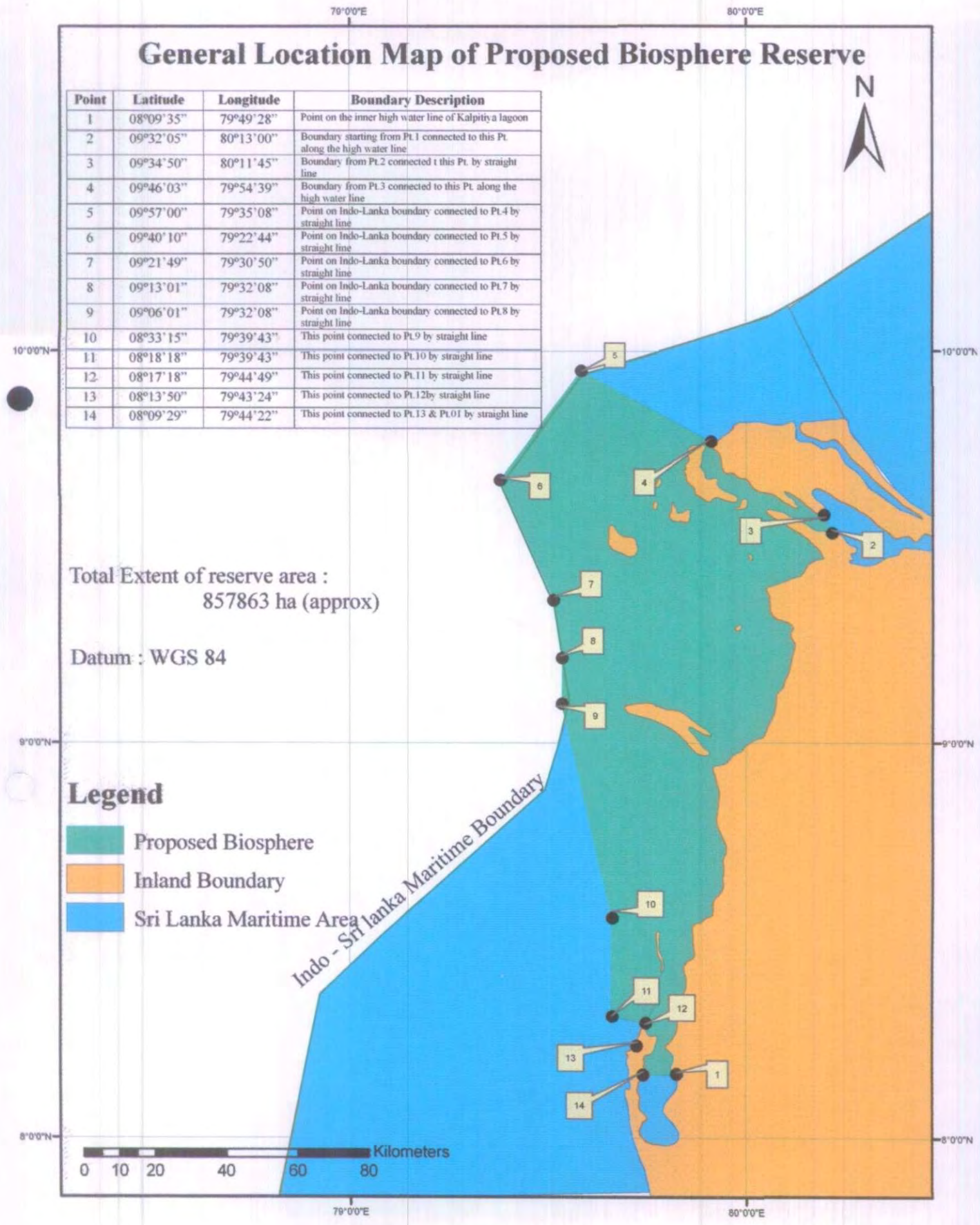
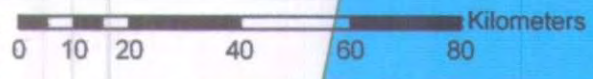
Total Extent of reserve area :
857863 ha (approx)

Datum : WGS 84

Legend

- Proposed Biosphere
- Inland Boundary
- Sri Lanka Maritime Area

Indo - Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary



**INFORMATION TEMPLATE
FOR THE PROPOSED
MANNAR BIOSPHERE RESERVE (MBR) NOMINATION TO UNESCO**

Contact Information		
1	Name of the Institution	
2	Address	
3a	Name of the person filling this form	
3b	Position of the person	
3c	Telephone number	
3d	Email address	
Jurisdiction		
4	Does your agency has jurisdiction over the area falling within the proposed Mannar Biosphere Reserve (see attached map)?	
5	Does your agency has jurisdiction over the any resource within the area falling within the proposed MBR?	
6	Please provide a list of relevant resources within the proposed MBR.	
7	Does your agency has any authority to legally approve any activity falling within the proposed MBR?	
8	Please provide a list of projects/activities within the proposed MBR that you have approved.	
9	Does your agency has any officer(s) stationed in the area falling within the proposed MBR?	
10	Please indicate the position of the person(s) and the location(s).	
11	Has your agency participated in any planning activity fully or partially covering the area falling within the proposed MBR?	
12	Please provide a list of planning activities that your agency has been involved with.	
Data and Information		
13a	Has your agency prepared any map covering fully/partially the area falling within the proposed MBR?	
13b	If so, please list them and attach a copy.	

14a	Has your agency collected any primary data from the area falling within the proposed MBR?	
	If so, what are the areas covered?	
14b	Socio-economic	
14c	Demographic	
14d	Resources on land	
14e	Resources in marine systems	
14f	Development	
14g	Biodiversity	
14h	Any other area	
15a	Has your agency published any of this data and information?	
15b	Has your agency published any pamphlets/documents/reports/ research papers on any subject relating to the in the area falling within the proposed MBR?	
15c	Please provide a list of such pamphlets/documents/reports/research papers.	
16	Has your agency a library containing material relating to any subject relating to the area falling within the proposed MBR?	
17a	Has your agency organized seminars/conferences on any subject relating to the area falling within the proposed MBR?	
17c	Please provide a list of such seminars/conferences with dates	
Views and Concerns		
18a	Does your agency has any objection to declaring this area as a Biosphere Reserve by the UNESCO in the future?	
18b	If yes, please give reasons.	
19	Would your agency be willing to be member of a committee to be set up to manage the proposed MBR?	
20	Any other relevant information/comments/suggestions	