

SLT-MOBITEL reaffirms Commitment to Environment with Landmark Mangrove Restoration Project

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During the mangrove restoration project initiative.

SLT-MOBITEL has embarked on a significant environmental initiative with a new mangrove restoration project at Pubudugama, Wanathavilluwa, in Puttalam District. The project, in collaboration with the Department of Forest, aims to restore 4.2 hectares of abandoned shrimp farms and one-time slattern into a thriving mangrove ecosystem over the course of five years. The initiative aligns with the company's ESG theme, 'Co-connection,' demonstrating SLT-MOBITEL's commitment to nurturing a harmonious coexistence

between the organization's operations, the environment, and society. The project, which spans five years, involves carefully examining surrounding mangrove vegetation, mimicking the same zonation and species to the restoration area by planting the suitable species and collecting required scientific data on survival, growth, and natural settlement of plants and maintenance. Most of the funds and efforts will be directed to recreating the hydrology so that the tidal water, the most important type of water for mangrove growth, is directed to these heavily altered landscapes. The mangrove restoration project aligns with several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 13: Climate Action, SDG 14: Life Below Water, and SDG 15: Life on Land. Also, restoration is a key target under the Kuming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework of Convention of Biodiversity. This alignment strengthens SLT-MOBITEL's sustainability reporting and positioning, highlighting the company's dedication to the 2040 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Mangroves are highly effective at sequestering carbon dioxide and aiding in climate change mitigation. They also act as natural barriers against storm surges and coastal erosion, protecting infrastructure and communities and reducing potential damage to coastal facilities. Equipped with an environmentally responsible mindset, SLT-MOBITEL aims to leverage the project to support its carbon offset goals. The company's other environmental preservation efforts include conserving natural habitats, biodiversity, and ecosystems and actively participating in reforestation efforts. Through the initiative, SLT-MOBITEL aims to engage with local communities and strengthen relationships. The project builds goodwill among local communities by providing employment and educational opportunities. The project will benefit these communities as the mangroves improve water quality by filtering pollutants. Additionally, the mangroves will provide resources such as fish and seafood.