

(L–R): Amila Perera, Project Coordinator, WNPS; Dr Suhada Jayawardana, Department of Wildlife Conservation – Veterinary Surgeon; W A A U G Indrajith, Assistant Director, DWC (Western Province); Prof Lakdas Fernando, Project Chair Past President & Committee Member, WNPS; Sriyan de Silva Wijeyeratne, CEO, Abans Group & President WNPS; Buddhika Dharmawardena, Deputy Director, Abans; Terry Kim,

WNPS And DWC Partners With Abans To Combat Deforestation



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One of Sri Lanka’s most sig□nificant wildlife habitats in Attidiya-Bellanwila region, which is home to unique plant and animal species is facing the threat of

degradation as well as extinction as a result of in□creased urbanization, poaching and deforestation.

In response, the Wildlife Nature and Protection Society (WNPS) has partnered with LG and Abans to launch the Green Isle Project to combat habitat loss, which has been identified as a major threat towards the continued survival of Sri Lanka's unique position as a biodiver□sity hotspot. The Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) is also a project partner.

Over 200 environmental ac□tivists, educators and students took part in planting more than 1,000 trees in the Attidiya□Bellanwila Sanctuary. They were aided by Abans' own 50-mem□ber environment volunteer taskforce. Dr Iroja Caldera from the University of Colombo con□ducted a seminar for students on the significant role that the Green Isle Project will play in alleviating several of Sri Lanka's key environmental issues. Pro□posed actions for this project include habitat enrichment via a tree replanting scheme of over 30,000 trees, enabling the gradual replacement of invasive plant species, the revitalization of small canals, as well as the clearing out of weeds and other debris. A 3.5 Km Nature Trail will also be developed to enable wild□life enthusiasts, researchers, educators, and school children to observe and study Attidiya's na□tive species from a safe distance. The day-long launch was held under the auspices of Terry Kim, Product Director, Sol Lee, and Brian Kwak, LG Electronics. Abans' Senior Management Sriyan de Silva Wijeyeratne, Group Chief Executive Officer, Buddhika Dharmawardena, Deputy Director and Ruwan Gunasekara, Head of Home Ap□pliance Products also attended the occasion. Professor Lakdas Fernando from the WNPS and Siri Hettiarachchi, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism Develop□ment, Wildlife, and Christian Religious Affairs were also in attendance.