







"IT IS OUR COLLECTIVE AND  
INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY,  
TO PRESERVE AND TEND  
TO THE WORLD  
IN WHICH WE ALL LIVE"

*DALAI LAMA*

LIFE AND NATURE ARE ALL AROUND US.

YOU CAN SEE IT, FEEL IT, TOUCH IT.

OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, WE HAVE BEEN HEARING ABOUT DISTURBING CHANGES TO OUR ENVIRONMENT. MOST OF US ARE CONCERNED, MANY FEEL IT'S TOO BIG A PROBLEM, AND SOME OF US ARE TAKING ACTION TO CHANGE IT.

SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT MEANS SAVING OURSELVES, OUR CHILDREN AND THE PLANET WE CALL HOME.

THE EARTH HAS BEEN AROUND FOR BILLIONS OF YEARS.

SHE IS RESILIENT –WE ARE NOT!

POLLUTION, HEALTH ISSUES, EXTINCTION OF SPECIES, NATURAL DISASTERS, RISING TEMPERATURES AND SEA LEVELS ARE SOME OF THE EFFECTS THAT WE CAUSED BY NOT TAKING CARE OF HER.

HUMANKIND IS PAYING A PRICE AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO UNLESS WE ACT NOW.

JOIN US ON THE MOST IMPORTANT JOURNEY OF OUR LIFETIME TO PROTECT WHAT WE HAVE.





## Background

The Lanka Environment Fund (LEF) was set up in 2019 as a facilitator of funding towards Sri Lankan conservation issues.

Sri Lanka is faced with an interesting dilemma. It has been identified as one of the world's 35 biodiversity hotspots and home to 722 species of fauna found nowhere else on earth. On the other hand, Sri Lanka was listed as #6 on the countries most vulnerable to climate change in 2020.

We partner with conservationists who have a deep passion for the problem they are trying to solve, a proven track record and domain expertise.

We have strict guidelines for grant acceptance and apply rigorous practices of monitoring, reporting and verification of project execution.

LEF is a member of the Conservation Collective (CC), which was set up to attract funding to facilitate grassroot environmental initiatives, whilst offering world class oversight and management. CC currently has 13 member organizations around the globe.



*"I was lucky enough to travel to Sri Lanka for three weeks in February 2017.*

*I found an island whose people have lived in harmony with nature for thousands of years. I was astonished to find beautiful forests stretching to the horizon, studded with vibrant, colourful villages and interspersed with small-scale, nature-friendly farms, elephants, vividly coloured birds of all kinds, seas teeming with fish and marine mammals, wetlands, Sri Lanka has it all! But this is all now under threat from unsustainable development. A handful of committed, passionate nature-lovers and campaigners are working hard to help Sri Lanka find its way back to a healthy relationship with the nature world. The Lanka Environment Fund seeks to provide financial support to these individuals."*

*Ben Goldsmith -Founder, Conservation Collective*





# OUR GOALS

## VISION

Create a Sri Lanka where conservation and development converge and people & nature co-exist in peace

## LOCAL

Funding the best grants in the country, executed by the best implementing partners to move the needle on Sri Lanka's key conservation issues.

## INTERNATIONAL

Primary allocator of conservation capital in Sri Lanka





## OUR APPROACH

At LEF every donation is seen as a responsibility. We conduct extensive diligence to ensure funds are allocated to the right organization and the right project.

After the grant is made, we maintain close contact with the grantee organization to ensure that milestones are met and reporting follows an agreed upon template.

We have minimal overheads (one full time employee & no physical office) to ensure maximum deployment efficacy.

In order to converge the need for conservation, development and mitigate the effects of climate change, LEF decided to concentrate its efforts on four thematic areas that if positively enforced could ensure the long-term survival of Sri Lanka's ecosystems.

### 1. Terrestrial Conservation

### 2. Marine Conservation

### 3. Effective Waste Management

### 4. Responsible Tourism

For a description of the thematic areas, LEF's chosen approach to intervention and the filters applied in determining which proposals to support, please see the appendix at the end of the presentation.

## DOMAIN KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCE

The LEF Steering Committee (SC) brings together experienced professionals from a variety of disciplines and is able to draw upon a rich tapestry of knowledge and experience.

## INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS

Our affiliation with CC brings together a network of like-minded and influential individuals working together for a common goal. We are able to quickly identify ideas and best practices from other funds in the CC's network and apply it at LEF.

Furthermore, this affiliation gives us leverage with which to scale our ideas quickly. Drawing upon our international networks has already yielded outside benefits for our work on the ground.

## WORLD CLASS GOVERNANCE STANDARDS

Every grant application is vetted by the LEF SC for viability, risk assessment & mitigation along with an assessment of the profile, credibility and track record of the implementing partner.

The LEF SC meets once a quarter, at which the project portfolio and project pipeline are reviewed.





# TERRESTRIAL

## Our current projects

### BIODIVERSITY CORRIDORS IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

Recognized as one of the best places in the world to view leopards, the island is home to approximately 800 – 1200 adults. However, the natural habitat of the highland leopard has been degrading since colonial times. Forest were destroyed first to make way for coffee, then for tea and now for human habitation and vegetable cultivation.

The loss of natural habitats leads animals to come into inhabited areas in search of food which leads to the eventual Human Wildlife Conflict.

The Wilderness and Wildlife Conservation Trust (WWCT) aims to create biodiversity corridors through reforestation of underutilized and degraded forest and plantation lands. This will not only protect the dwindling highland leopard population but also allow for the conservation of endemic fauna and flora. Through community engagement the WWCT also fosters environmental stewardship.

The grant from LEF has allowed the WWCT to identify and establish two new biodiversity corridors frequented by leopards, rusty spotted cats, pangolins, endemic golden palm civets and dusky palm squirrels. It has also helped create an endemic species nursery, carry out two larger themed awareness programs, and disseminate over 5000 trilingual educational pamphlets amongst 25 estate communities.

*"Obtaining the LEF grant has allowed us to scale up one of our conservation concepts of identifying key wildlife corridors and refuges for collaborative landscape conservation in Sri Lanka's Central Highlands. The flexibility of this grant also enabled WWCT to act quickly in addressing, via outreach, the unfortunate situation of increased wire snaring on this fragmented tea estate landscape, which caused numerous leopard deaths in the pandemic hit year of 2020. It is grants such as these that enable small organizations like ours to continue with our on ground research for conservation work, and helps to make a sustainable impact where it matters".*

Anjali Watson, Lead Researcher with the Wilderness & Wildlife Conservation Trust

**Funding mobilized: US\$ 21,500**





## Our current projects

### Trilingual Digital Bushmeat Campaign

The growing demand for bushmeat, usually in the form of wild boar and venison, from the urban population has led to an increase in snare related deaths of leopards.

Researchers state that approximately 47 leopards have been caught in wire snares in the last decade, with 90% of these leopards eventually dying. Between the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2020 and the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2021, there have been 15 incidents of leopard poaching across the island.

LEF have partnered with Small Cat Advocacy and Research (SCAR) to create a trilingual digital awareness campaign to educate the public on the negative consequences of bushmeat consumption in order to reduce the demand for bushmeat.

This grant commenced on the 01<sup>st</sup> of May 2021 and LEF will be working with SCAR to fund the research and development, creation and dissemination of the campaign and to network amongst local conservation organizations and assist with obtaining global press on this issue.

*"With the countrywide lockdown brought about by COVID-19 in 2020, we saw a surge in wildlife snaring incidents throughout the country. The LEF grant has given us and our collaborators a chance to kickstart a year-long digital awareness campaign that will raise awareness of the devastating effects brought on by the local bushmeat industry. As an organisation that works on lesser known species, finding funds to carry on our conservation work is always a challenge, and without this grant we would not have the resources to put together this campaign."*

Ms. Anya Ratnayaka - Co-Founder, Small Cat Advocacy & Research

**Funding mobilized: US\$ 3,500**





# MARINE

## Our current projects

### MANNAR REGION SYSTEMIC SOLUTIONS (MARRESSOL)

#### *A Transboundary project between Sri Lanka and India*

The Gulf of Mannar is home to 3 out of 4 of Sri Lanka's largest marine Protected Area (MPAs) and frequented by the locally critically endangered dugong, the finless porpoise, several species of sea turtles and whales. Due to the prevalence of mangroves, seagrass meadows, tidal marshes and coral reefs, this area is one of the island's most productive fisheries.

Marine debris from the Indian Ocean – predominantly originating from the fishing industry – washes ashore and deposits on the fragile Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve's coastline degrading its beaches and ecosystem.

Damage caused by marine debris includes the negative effects of ghost nets (nets that have been lost, abandoned or discarded at sea) on marine species, and microplastics being absorbed into the food chain.

LEF have worked to create the transboundary MARESSOL coalition to address common issues faced by both coastlines within the Gulf of Mannar. Having coordinated and facilitated the submission of several grant applications to secure external funding for the project, a grant of US\$ 415,000 was secured to conduct a systemic study on the origins of marine debris, engage with the fishing community to curb the amount of debris originating from the industry and cooperate with government and non-government stakeholders to propose new policy recommendations.

**Funding secured: US\$ 415,000 over a three-year period**





### MANGROVE PROTECTION, RESTORATION AND SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION

Mangroves are highly resilient and highly productive ecosystems. They offer a multitude of benefits including effectively sequestering carbon, providing a nursery for fish, shellfish, turtles and migratory birds. These ecosystems also aid in stabilizing shorelines against storm surges, preventing erosion and protecting the land and people who live there.

With Sri Lanka's mangroves having dwindled to 19,726 ha (0.3% of its landmass), it is critical that these important ecosystems that provide a multitude of ecosystem services are conserved and restored. With Sri Lanka being listed as No 6 on the Climate Risk Index, we need all the help that ecosystems such as mangroves provide against change in climatic conditions.

Deforestation for aquaculture and tourism development projects has led to the degradation of the mangrove ecosystems around the island; currently mangroves account for 19,726 ha (0.3% of its landmass). Listed as #6 on the 2020 Global Climate Risk Index, we need all the assistance that habitats such as mangroves provide against changing climatic conditions. It is essential that what remains of these ecosystems are conserved and restored to their full potential.

LEF are working towards the conservation and reforestation of mangroves by Co Chairing the Mangrove Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods forum, networking amongst local and global mangrove conservation organizations and offering technical expertise and funding for mangrove related programs.

LEF was part of a coalition that successfully carried out an advocacy campaign to ensure the continued protection of Sri Lanka's third largest Marine Protected Area (MPA), the Vidattalivu Nature Reserve. The LEF is also currently bidding for international funding to establish the island's first blue carbon credit program and potentially establishing a national charter of the Global Mangrove Alliance in Sri Lanka.

**Funding to be mobilized: TBD**





# RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

## Our current projects

### SUSTAINABILITY BEST PRACTISE GUIDE FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM TOURISM STAKEHOLDERS

Sri Lanka was ranked as 2019's number one travel destination by Lonely Planet and has received much attention from global travelers since the ending of the civil war in 2009.

Haphazard, rapid and non-planned development, especially amongst small and medium scale tourism stakeholders, has degraded many tourist zones within the island.

LEF are partnering with the Sri Lanka Tourism Alliance (SLTA) to design and disseminate a sustainability best practices guide that aims enable small and medium scale tourism stakeholders to develop in a more sustainable and responsible manner, thereby contributing positively to the tourism sector and conservation of Sri Lanka's natural beauty and heritage.

The English language guide has been designed and disseminated amongst the relevant stakeholders. LEF are currently working on the design of the translated document.

**Funding mobilized: US\$ 1,000**





## Projects in the pipeline

### Accelerated Natural Regeneration of Mangroves

Through working with the Wildlife & Nature Protection Society (WNPS), Department of Forest Conservation (DFC) and local communities, this ambitious long-term project aims to restore a degraded mangrove habitat within the Anawilundawa Sanctuary – one of 7 RAMSAR\* designated ecosystems in the island. Learning from several failed mangrove restoration efforts, this science backed project aims to establish a new model for mangrove restoration.

**Funding to be mobilized: TBD**

### Sustainable Yellow Fin Tuna (YFT) Fisheries Project: Improving Sri Lankan stakeholder awareness of and engagement in the management of the Indian Ocean YFT fishery.

This project's long-term objective is to ensure that Sri Lanka derives the maximum sustainable economic and social benefits from the Indian Ocean's YFT stocks. The intermediate objective is to ensure Sri Lanka's engagement in the decision-making for YFT at the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). By December 2023, Sri Lanka is expected to be one of the top five yellow fin tuna fishing nations in the Indian Ocean.

**Funding to be mobilized: TBD**

### Improved Management of the Kayankerni Marine Sanctuary

This project with Blue Resources Trust (BRT) aims to improve overall fisheries management in the area, as fisheries mismanagement is the biggest problem faced by this marine sanctuary. Establishing a surveillance, monitoring and enforcement mechanism will ease the stresses on the area, thereby allowing this MPA to thrive. LEF has been in discussions with a global funder and secured funding for this project at the beginning of 2022.

**Funding secured: US\$ 30,000**

\* The highest accreditation a wetland can receive globally / a wetland of global importance





## Approved projects in the pipeline



### **Increasing Resilience of Coral Reefs (and dependent communities) to Climate Change through Improved Governance and Community Based Management**

This project with the Environmental Foundation (EFL) will implement fisheries management plans and address long-term sustainability of coral reefs through the creation and implementation of community based natural resource management activities.

**Funding to be mobilized: \$12,195**

### **Island-wide Mangrove Mapping & Field Assessment**

This project with the Environmental Foundation (EFL) seeks to deliver a comprehensive assessment of existing mangroves and degraded habitats around the island. It will be conducted through a series of geospatial mapping exercises and field assessments.

It will create a resource that helps the conservation community protect, restore and sustainably utilize mangrove ecosystems. With no such survey and field assessment being conducted prior to this, it is a critical step in establishing regeneration projects, blue carbon credit programs and ensuring the continued protection of remaining mangrove ecosystems.

**Funding to be mobilized: TBD**





# Key areas of interest

## Human Wildlife Conflict

Deforestation driven by developmental needs, has been slowly eating away at the island's wilderness areas. According to Global Forest Watch, 23,000 ha of forest cover has been lost or degraded from Sri Lanka's protected area network since 2010. This in turn has led to an intensification of the Human Wildlife Conflict.

With over 375 elephants and 70 humans dying each year from the Human Elephant Conflict (HEC), Sri Lanka receives the unenviable status of recording the highest rate of HEC in the world.

We hope to help mitigate the negative consequences of the Human Wildlife Conflict by engaging in projects that seek holistic and innovative solutions, that address the livelihood requirements of rural communities without harming the environment and the beauty of its wildlife.





# LEF Projects - Locations, SRI LANKA



## LEF PROJECTS

-  CURRENT PROJECTS
-  APPROVED PROJECTS
-  PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE



# CONTACT



For more information please contact us:



Vinod Malwatte  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



[vinod@lankaenvironmentfund.org](mailto:vinod@lankaenvironmentfund.org)



[lanka.environment.fund](https://www.instagram.com/lanka.environment.fund)



[lanka.environment.fund](https://twitter.com/lanka.environment.fund)



[Lanka Environment Fund](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Lanka-Environment-Fund)



[www.lankaenvironmentfund.org](http://www.lankaenvironmentfund.org)



# Steering Committee (Honorary)



## **Satish Selvanathan (Chairman)**

*Satish is the Executive Director of Goodhope Holdings, where he is responsible for the turnaround of its Edible Oils & Fats business in Malaysia & Indonesia. Satish has experience in Private Equity, Management Consulting & Investment Banking. He is a CrossFit Level 1 trainer, has an MBA from Columbia Business School & an undergraduate degree from Oxford University.*



## **Ben Goldsmith (Founder of CC)**

*Ben is CEO of Menhaden Capital, a new energy and resources focused investment trust listed on the London stock exchange. Previously, in 2005 Ben founded WHEB, one of Europe's leading specialist sustainability-focused fund management businesses. Ben is also Chairman of the UK Conservative Environment Network and of the Goldsmith family's environment-focused philanthropic foundation, the JMG Foundation.*



## **Nirmal Madanayake**

*Nirmal is the founder of VOC Capital, whose objective is funnel investments into ecologically sustainable ventures in developing countries with a focus on re-wilding. For 30 years Nirmal built an FMCG company in school & office supplies which he sold in 2018 to focus on his passion on spending time on environmental issues, though a novice to environmental issues is eager to learn and contribute.*



## **Chandan de Silva**

*After a career spanning 23 years in the UK and 9 years at MAS Holdings in Sri Lanka, Chandan retired from executive roles.*

*He now serves as the non-executive Chairman of a diversified group of publicly listed companies and as a Director on the boards of companies in the financial, investment, property development, IT services & poultry farming industries, guiding organizations' in their development and in the application of good governance.*

*In semi-retirement, Chandan is pursuing his interest in supporting environmental protection and human rights in Sri Lanka.*



## **John Balmond**

*John has a real passion for the environment and responsible sustainable tourism. This cumulated in the development and creation of a jungle lodge across 25 acres close to the forgotten Gal Oya National Park. The lodge was built entirely by the village community using only local Sri Lankan materials such as cajun and illuk. A research centre was also set up to track the local animal species. He is in the process of creating Sri Lanka's first sustainable tourism wildlife brand with a collection of lodges across the island.*



## Steering Committee (Honorary)

### **Daisy Honeybunn**



*Daisy is a classical singer, photographer and tv presenter. Founder of events photography company Honeybunn Photography, Daisy also presents HCTV's hit show Daisy Dines With, and is a director of the All England Jumping Course, Hickstead. Daisy and her husband Pravin Mukhi founded the DHD Foundation in 2020, which supports charitable organisations and philanthropic causes. The foundation's current core projects are working with the LEF, and leading a joint campaign to increase diversity and inclusion throughout the equestrian industry. Daisy has spent many happy times in Sri Lanka, and her and husband have a home near Tangalle.*

### **Pravin Mukhi**



*Pravin is a director of Par Excellence, a music management agency in London. After he completed his MBA, he went on to work in music management, whilst maintaining a career as a touring musician. He has taken part in many mentoring programmes to help young people get a foothold in the industry. He is also a co-founder of the philanthropic organisation, the DHD Foundation with his wife Daisy Honeybunn.*

## Executive Committee

### **Jade Budenell (Executive Director, CC)**



*Jade is the Executive Director of the Conservation Collective. She oversees the smooth running of the network, and is focussed on raising funds to support the growth of the network and its members. Jade oversees seeding and launching new foundations, in partnership with groups of people with strong connections to each new location. Her background is in marketing and investor relations, in the environmental investment sector.*

### **Vinod Malwatte (Executive Director, LEF)**



*A conservationist originally from Colombo, Sri Lanka, Vinod now lives seasonally between the east and southern coasts of the island. With an interest in converging conservation and development, his primary interest lies in working with fringe communities to protected areas. He co-founded the Parrotfish Collective, a group of conservation communicators, operated as project coordinator for the Rewilding for Tourism (RFT) project under the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) and was the founding co-project manager for Waste Less Arugam Bay (WLAB).*



# Donations

Are you interested in supporting our current projects and the long-term conservation of Sri Lanka's biodiversity and ecosystems?  
If so, you can help by donating through LEF.

You can either donate by going to LEF's website

[www.lankaenvironmentfund.org](http://www.lankaenvironmentfund.org)

or by bank transfer to:

---

## SRI LANKA ACCOUNT:

<b>Account Name:</b>	<b>Lanka Environment Fund</b>
<b>Account Number</b>	<b>01-1632272-01</b>
<b>Bank Name</b>	<b>Standard Chartered Bank</b>
<b>Bank Address</b>	<b>No.37, York Street, Colombo 1</b>
<b>Currency Type</b>	<b>LKR</b>
<b>Bank Code</b>	<b>7038</b>
<b>Branch Code</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>SWIFT Code</b>	<b>SCBLLKLX</b>

---

## UK ACCOUNT:

<b>Account name:</b>	<b>CC - ring fenced</b>
<b>Sort code:</b>	<b>40-17-10</b>
<b>Account number:</b>	<b>92559781</b>
<b>IBAN:</b>	<b>GB66HBUK40171092559781</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>2, The Promenade, Cheltenham, GL50 1LR</b>
<b>Ref:</b>	<b>Lanka Environment Fund</b>

---

## EURO ACCOUNT:

<b>Account Name:</b>	<b>FGN Current-conservation collective</b>
<b>Sort code:</b>	<b>40-12-76</b>
<b>Account number:</b>	<b>85570320</b>
<b>IBAN:</b>	<b>GB86HBUK40127685570320</b>
<b>BIC:</b>	<b>HBUKGB4B</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>1, Centaury Square B1 1HQ</b>
<b>Ref:</b>	<b>Lanka Environment Fund</b>





**"THE NATURAL WORLD IS THE  
GREATEST SOURCE OF  
EXCITEMENT. THE GREATEST  
SOURCE OF VISUAL BEAUTY. IT  
IS THE GREATEST SOURCE OF  
SO MUCH IN LIFE THAT MAKES  
LIFE WORTH LIVING"**

**SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH**



CONSERVATION  
COLLECTIVE





# APPENDIX

## Descriptions of LEF's four thematic areas, forms of intervention and criteria for choosing projects:

### Terrestrial Conservation

With deforestation rates on the rise (Global Forest Watch, estimated in 2010, that Sri Lanka had lost over 23,000 hectares of forest cover from its protected area network) much of the island's endemic biodiversity, found nowhere else on earth, is under severe threat. With terrestrial ecosystems offering a plethora of ecosystem services (benefits that humans gain from the natural environment) to local communities, conserving these are of utmost importance. Through looking at **pragmatic solutions to restoring habitats**, conserving what remains intact and equipping researchers on the frontlines with the necessary tools and resources, the LEF aims to positively influence this space which is severely under-funded and in need of much attention.

### Marine Conservation

Possessing a territorial sea of 21,000 KM<sup>2</sup> and an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) that is nearly 8 times more than Sri Lanka's landmass, conserving and promoting the sustainable utilization of dwindling marine resources is critical. For example, the most recent analysis of 2019, suggests that as much as 80% of recorded yellow-fin tuna are categorized as juveniles; what does this mean for our yellow-fin tuna stocks in the coming years? With the marine resources such as fish stocks supporting coastal communities, the LEF hopes to mitigate the socio-economic effects on local communities. This can also be achieved through **conserving coastal ecosystems** such as **seagrass meadows** and **mangroves** that act as nurseries for fish, sequester large amounts of carbon (blue carbon), act as a shock absorbers against floods and erosion and offer ecotourism opportunities to local communities.

### Effective Waste Management

With non-disposable packaging and consumer culture on the rise, disposing of waste has proved to be a serious issue in Sri Lanka. 2016's garbage dump disaster which killed 26 people and the horrific images of elephants consuming trash which shocked the world in 2020, serve as sobering reminders as to how trash is negatively affecting Sri Lanka. In order to alleviate the negative impacts on the island's ecosystems, which are at the receiving end of this issue, through illegal dumping and the creation of landfills adjacent to protected areas, the LEF has identified supporting the **creation of an effective waste management system** as an area of interest.



# APPENDIX

## Descriptions of LEF's four thematic areas, forms of intervention and criteria for choosing projects:

### Responsible Tourism

Named as Lonely Planet's #1 travel destination in 2019, Sri Lanka has seen a steady rise in tourist numbers since the ending of the civil war in 2009. Deemed as a small island that offers a big trip, the diversity of this island has intrigued adventures for decades. However, with unsustainable and unregulated tourism practices taking hold around the country, much of the wonders that attracted travellers are slowly being degraded. In order to ensure that the magic that makes Sri Lanka - 'a land like no other' - the LEF has decided that mitigating the effects of irresponsible tourism is an area of engagement; given the scope that if tourism, done right, can have on local communities and the environment. Through **aiding tourism related stakeholders engage in more responsible and sustainable methods of operations**, the LEF wants to foster a sense of conscious tourism in the island.

### How does the LEF filter the many opportunities to offer support across these four thematic areas?

Through a rigorous process of analyzing proposals in collaboration with LEF's Steering Committee (SC), advisors, the Conservation Collective's advisory panel and through seeking expertise from local and global experts through LEF's network, we allocate funds to projects that have a clear conservation outcome. Projects that are holistic and offer multi-pronged approaches to addressing topical conservation issues that affect Sri Lankan biodiversity are prioritized.

By being plugged into an international network of conservation organizations, the LEF acts as a facilitator locally, for example by bringing local groups together to work on issues of global importance such as the establishment of blue carbon projects to conserve mangrove ecosystems (which are vital in the global fight to combat climate change) or working on transboundary projects such as addressing marine debris from the fishing industry in the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve which is shared between India and Sri Lanka.