



**THE NATIONAL TRUST – SRI LANKA LECTURE ON**  
**THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2020**

**“WETLANDS, THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENCE AGAINST  
CLIMATE CHANGE”**

**By Professor Devaka Weerakoon**

**The 127<sup>th</sup> Session of the Monthly Lecture Series of the National Trust - Sri Lanka will be delivered online at 6.30pm on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020.**

The lecture link is as follows

[Join with Google Meet](https://meet.google.com/bep-aowz-wwj)  
[meet.google.com/bep-aowz-wwj](https://meet.google.com/bep-aowz-wwj)

Wetlands cover approximately 6% of the Earth's surface. They perform a range of services such as provision of food, medicine, protection from hazards, regulation of water quality and climate and serve as an important repository of biodiversity. Yet wetlands are the most abused ecosystems by man. However, wetlands may be our first line of defense against the predicted changes of climate change. Therefore, protecting and nurturing wetlands are no longer a choice but an imperative. This lecture will focus on wetlands, historical association with wetlands, their ecology, drivers of change and the present status of the wetlands in Sri Lanka and the need for sustainable use of our wetlands for the benefit of all life forms inhabiting the earth.



Professor Devaka Weerakoon graduated from University of Colombo in 1985 with a major in Zoology. He joined the Department of Zoology, University of Colombo as a probationary lecturer in 1986. He received a Fulbright Scholarship in 1988 to study in USA where he has completed his MSc. and PhD. at Illinois State University. In 1995 he returned to University of Colombo and currently he is holding the post of Professor in Zoology and Environment Sciences at University of Colombo. His main research interest has been on conservation of threatened species in Sri Lanka. He has also worked on wetland ecology and wetland management for nearly a decade. He serves as a technical advisor on fauna for the Red Listing programme of Sri Lanka from 1996 to date. He is also a technical advisor to the Ministry of Environment on conservation of threatened species in Sri Lanka. Prof. Weerakoon has also served as a consultant on Biodiversity to IUCN Asian Regional office as well as IUCN Sri Lanka.

**The National Trust – Sri Lanka conducts monthly lectures on the last Thursday of each month. The lectures are open to the members and the public. The HNB Sustainability Foundation is the principal sponsor of the events of the National Trust – Sri Lanka.**

**Further information can be obtained from the Trust Office Tel 2682730 / 0778081214 at the Post Graduate Institute of Archaeology, 407 Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7.**