



**THE NATIONAL TRUST – SRI LANKA**

***“Uncovering the Hidden Value of Trees,  
can they create a new economy to save us ?”***

by

**Dr. Ranil Senanayake**

**The Monthly Lecture Series No: 155 of the National Trust**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 6.00 pm**

**at the Auditorium of the College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka,  
No. 6, Independence Avenue, Colombo 7.**

(For those who join online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89094373286>)

Trees, while accounting for only 1 % of the biodiversity of a forest, provide a critical function in ensuring its sustainability. The evolutionary history of trees suggests that trees and soil have a common origin that began with the discovery of lignin. This relationship underscores the need to consider trees as critical elements in agroecosystems. The ecosystem services of trees have been greatly discounted and need to be better understood and appreciated to realise the value of ecosystem services that they provide. Identifying and quantifying such values can provide the capital for the restoration work so critical to face the oncoming changing climates and ensure a sustainable future. The concept of ecosystem services means many things to many people and is also often confused with environmental services. The lecture will attempt to provide clarity to the concept of ecosystem services of trees and discuss a scientifically logical system, that has been initiated in Sri Lanka.



Dr. Ranil Senanayake is a Systems Ecologist trained at U.C. Davis. He has developed Analog Forestry as a rural response to the critical need of restoring the worlds lost forests functions. He has served as Executive Director of the Environmental Liaison Center International in Nairobi, Kenya and as the Senior Scientist for Counterpart international, Washington D.C. He taught at Monash University and was the senior Ecologist at the Center for Farm Planning at Melbourne university, which assisted in setting up the national Landcare program for Australia. He was the first international crops inspector for the National Association for Sustainable Agriculture Australia (NASAA) and created the Forest Garden Products (FGP) certification system for the International Analog Forestry Network. Today he chairs EarthRestoration p/l in Sri Lanka which works at realizing value of Primary Ecosystem Services (PES) as a new source of rural wealth.

**The National Trust – Sri Lanka conducts monthly lectures generally on the last working Thursday of each month. The lectures are open to the members and the general public.**

Further information can be obtained from the Trust Office Tel.0112682730/ 0719566929