

# Strengthening Voices for Better Choices: Improving Forest Governance in Knuckles, Sri Lanka

PROTECTED AREAS, EQUITY AND LIVELIHOODS  
Asia-Pacific Forestry Week Parallel Session  
Hanoi, Vietnam  
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## Session II – Lessons Learnt, Strategies and Methods

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## The Outline

1. The Objectives of SVBC and Pilot Site
2. History of Knuckles
3. Milestone of SVBC
4. Starting Scenario at the Pilot Site
5. Key Interventions of SVBC
6. The Progress
7. Lessons Learnt

## The Objectives of SVBC and Pilot Site Intervention

Forest governance arrangements that facilitate and promote sustainable and equitable forest conservation and management are in place and under active implementation

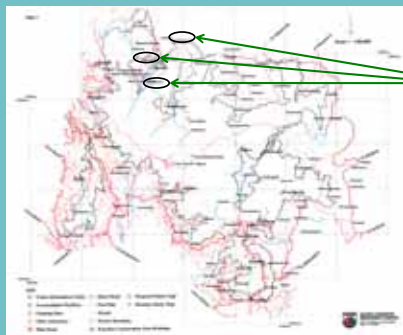
### Component 2:

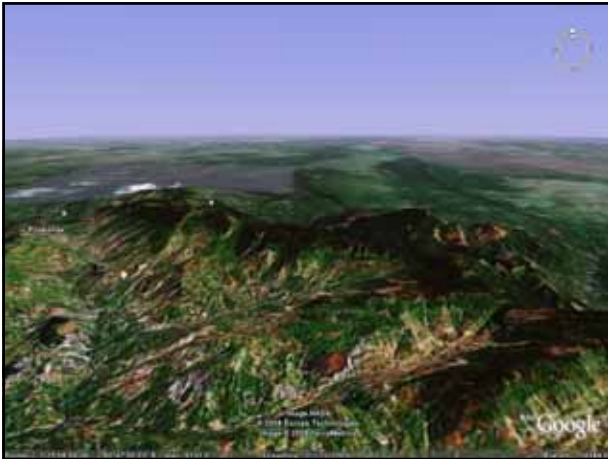
#### Pilot testing of Innovative approaches

New and innovative approaches to overcoming the obstacles to good forest governance pilot tested and assessed.

New and innovative approaches to creating a level playing field at the local level in the six pilot countries pilot tested and assessed.

MAP OF KNUCKLES CONSERVATION AREA





## The History of Knuckles

- 1873 Knuckles was declared Climatic Reserve (all land lying above 1500 meters)
- 1929 1st Forest Policy Gov. Sir. Herbert Stanley.
- 1960s FD allowed under-plant the forest with Cardamom.
- 1976 US Anthropologist Scott Blundale visisted Knuckles
- 1980 National forest policy.
- 1988 Knuckles Conservation Area declared (above 3500')
- 1988 Knuckles Mangement programme started
- 1988-1991 1st Phase of Knuckles Conservation Project
- 1990 Boundary of Knuckles Conservation Area demarcated.
- 2000 April MAB Reserve (National Heritage Wilderness)
- 2000 May Knuckles Conservation Forest by Gazette 2000**
- 2002 Out of 21,000 ha of the range 3,000<sub>2</sub> ha. are covered by Cardamom
- 2005 SVBC Project Knuckles
- 2007 Knuckles Protection Area Gazette and Knuckles Protection Committee established with multi-stakeholder participation

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### MILESTONES OF SVBC

Date	Event
October 2005	National Project Coordinator hired
January 2006	Project Introduced to Forest Department, Project Steering Committee Formed
March 2006	Pilot Site Selected
May 2006	Field Office opened in Illukkumbura
June 2006	Assessment surveys initiated
July 2006	Linkage with Dilmah made, Small Entrepreneur Programme introduced
August 2006	Takkali Samithi established
September 2006	National Assessment presented to the PSC
October 2005	Dumbara Surakinno reestablished formally
November 2006	Second Project Steering Committee Meeting
December 2006	CCSF grants proposal submitted

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### MILESTONES OF SVBC

Date	Event
March 2007	Meetings with Eco-Friends the Private Land Owners
May 2007	Internal Review
June 2007	Knuckles Forum Established SEP grants distributed
July 2007	Knuckles school programmes started Knuckles ecotourism project started English language programme started Second Takkali Samithi formed Project invited to District Development Committee
August 2007	Knuckles Story is being Written
December 2007	Agricultural Improvement Project started.
May 2006 contd.	Strengthening DS through discussions/ training Conflict Resolutions among stakeholders Mediating between FD/Community/Eco-Friends (tripartite) Livelihood development

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- ### The Starting Scenario at Pilot Site
- 
1. Lack of knowledge and understanding of the Knuckles Conservation Zone
  2. Mutual distrust of the key stakeholders
  3. Lack of participation in decision making
  4. Loss of livelihoods
  5. No compensation for the losses
  6. Poverty and limited alternative livelihoods
  7. No benefit from the Knuckles Conservation Zone to the community
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- ### The key SVBC Interventions
- 
1. Permanent Office 24/7
  2. Increase the awareness of the Conservation Zone:
  3. Build trust and understanding among the stakeholders
  4. Strengthen the local CBOs
  5. Create a forum to influence decision making
  6. Help create alternative livelihoods
  7. Enhance the productivity of local agriculture
  8. Improve the marketing of local produce
  9. Create opportunities to benefit from the Knuckles Conservation Zone
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- ### The progress of the Project Pilot Site Activities; Governance
- 
1. Reestablishing Dumbara Surakinno
  2. Strengthening Dumbara Surakinno
  3. Building amicable relationship among stakeholders
  4. Formation of the Knuckles Forum- A meeting of all the stakeholders; Tripartite Approach – Leveling Field:
  5. To meet twice a year to discuss the issues on conservation and the community living around the KCZ
  6. Indirectly influence the Gazette 1,507/9 July 23, 2007 Declaration of “Knuckles Environmental Protection Area” and the establishment of “Knuckles Environmental Protection Area Management
- FSC Certification

- ### The progress of the Project Pilot Site Activities: Livelihood
- 
1. SEP grants to 42 families
  2. Formation of Two Tomato Societies in two villages to improve the marketing and thus the income of the villagers
  3. Initiate a project on “Conservation of Knuckles through Informed Ecotourism” to reap benefits from tourism
  4. Initiate an Agricultural Improvement Project to increase the productivity
- All these activities are expected to lure the community away from the traditional uses of the Forest
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Discussion with Dumbara Surakinno -CBO



Forming the Elanwala Tomato Society



Meeting with the Farmers on Agricultural Improvement Project



Agricultural Experts at Meeting with the Farmers on Agricultural Improvement Project



**TRIPARTITE WORKSHOP**



**TRIPARTITE WORKSHOP**



DIRECTOR, DILMAH TEA TREKING INOT THE PILOT SITE VILL AGE

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IUCN- DILMAH TEA ON FORMING THE TOMATO SOCIETY

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EXPLAINING KNUCKLES TO SCHOOL CHILDREN

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EXPLAINING KNUCKLES TO SCHOOL CHILDREN

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## Lessons Learnt

The Conclusions of the Knuckles Story on Forest Governance

- Governance and livelihood go hand in hand
- Private Sector involvement is necessary and required and lead to win-win situation
- Tripartite approach with respect and trust
- Strong, continual field presence as a honest broker
- Flexible and adaptive management- not being a prisoner of the log frame
- Address conflict indirectly through confidence building
- Ally of everyone, ally of no one

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## Thank you

and

*Guido Brokehoven, GPC  
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 Andrew Ingles and Nathen Badenoch*

The World Conservation Union