





Serious lack of data across all sectors

- The research exercise proved that Sri Lanka does not have a data culture with concrete evidence of pollution, environment damage through anthropogenic activity, agricultural inputs, disaster and health information largely unavailable either with communities or with agencies tasked with collecting such data and information
- Questioning communities yielded the fact that “facts” were largely surmises and deviance and variation too broad to make clear determinations – especially on the level of toxin use or the extent to which water or forest resources were used, misused or damaged
- The resultant reflection of the GMSL research team with respect to utilizing such instruments as a community questionnaire was therefore rejected since it was impossible to determine the veracity of the feed-in

REF: 3.4.1 of IR

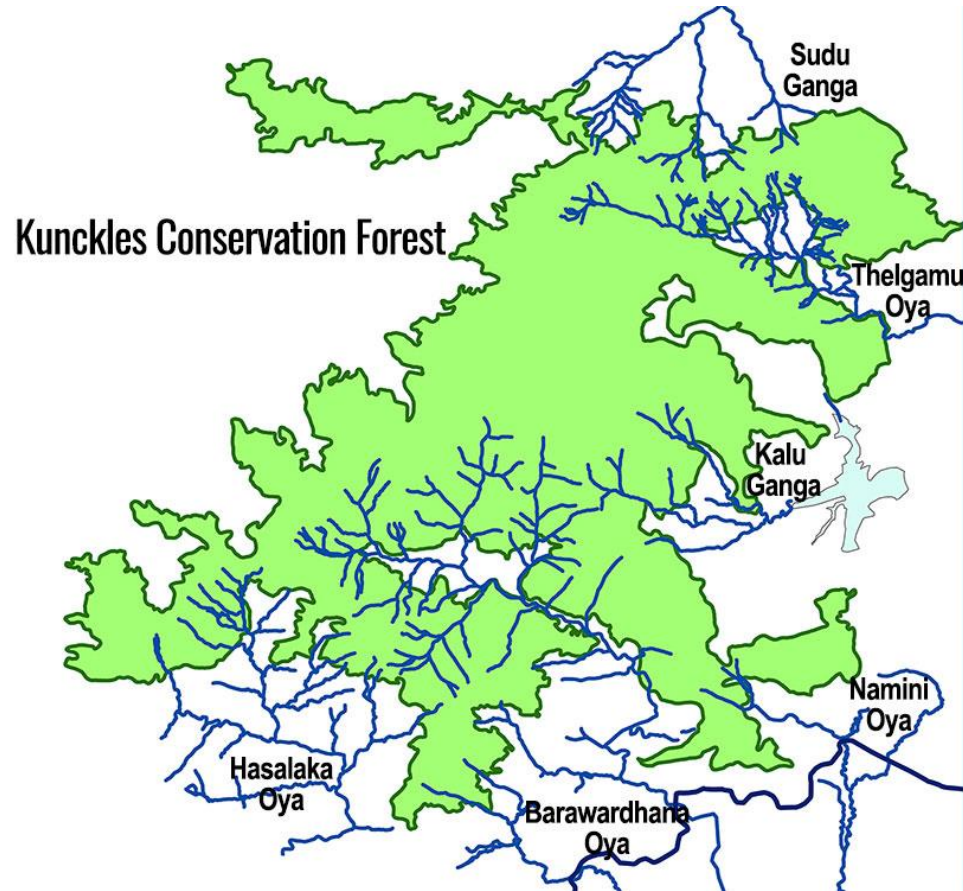
OBSERVATION

With the lack of data in most sectors, the GMSL research team observed that acquiring data “through any means possible” was not an option, understanding clearly that bad data was worse than no data at all.

However, this created a significant and serious problem with respect to determining baselines for toxins, anthropogenic activity, health etc. that could result in a suboptimal adjustment of indicators based on outputs rather than outcomes which is a lamentable situation

Geography of protection is irrational

REF: 3.2 of IR



REASON FOR THIS LEVEL OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASTYGMATISM

Mistaking protectionism for conservation and removing those areas that form the river basins because those have been settled by ICLCs for hundreds of years and disenfranchising those who had protected and used the forest in the past and placing its custody with state agencies and misguided environmental protectionists created more problems than they solved.

OBSERVATION

Needs redress and reimagining the idea of conservation in line with ABS, ideas such as those from Indonesia etc.

THEY LOOK ALIKE! NO ONE HAS EVER FRACTURED A CONSERVATION AREA IN THIS WAY ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD

“The creating of the KCF and designating as a UNESCO site has not given the people or the forest any advantage but put them and the authorities on a contentious footing” – SCORECARD feed-in from communities in the Kalu Ganga Region

The KCF is an anarchic warzone of competing stakeholders and players

- Those who claim legal custody and oversight of the KCF and its environs have absolutely no reliable data or information about any of their control activities so there is no reliable evidence of the volumes of any illegal activity such as logging, mining, encroachment, pollution etc.
- State officials, CSOs, activists have woefully inadequate knowledge of the terrain (except for the taxa), the issues, the response systems, habituated to and preferring seat-of-the-pants responses based on emotions rather than logic
- Politicians have taken advantage of oversight gaps and infighting among forest advocates to disenfranchise communities and exploit commons for their own gains
- Protectionists are sometimes altruistic and sometimes politically motivated and trigger media frenzies without any science behind their claims
- Communities either become chameleons or resisters to conservation moves depending on who is saying what and how advantageous those are to them
- Social-environmentalists find themselves in conflict with oversight, development, communal and protectionist elements

REF: 4.5.1-4.5.5, 5.3.3, Annexes 1, 2 and 6 of IR



This elemental level fracturing of the KCF is the outcome of a lot of conflicted “save our forest” armies first trying to kill each other off and completely losing the wood for the trees!

REASON FOR THIS LEVEL OF MUTUAL AND COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AGGRESSION

1. No science
2. No requirement for science
3. Chronic hiding of evidence by all stakeholders
4. Self-servitude
5. Deliberate ignorance of international covenants

OBSERVATION

Stakeholders must reject their own ideas of how best to do things and aims for mutually beneficial resolution



Climate data woefully inadequate

- The state departments tasked with maintaining climate records (RF, RH, Temp) have a dead-zone across the entire KCF seemingly concentrating efforts on the Mahaweli basin.
- Just two points (Katugastota and Kandy) maintain RH, Temp and the RF with RF point instruments in nearby locations broken.
- With the limited data, it is seen that there is one degree change in temperature over 1996 levels but across the bracket temporal flux is as much as 2 degrees with similar trends in RH while there seems to be a lessening of RF by a factor of about 50mm over 1990 levels. However, both reliability and usability of this data is highly questionable so it was not weighted as much as primary data and GMSL observations.
- Wind speed data is not available except as general geographic categories created for energy tapping purposes although outcome disaster data is there for the general region.

REF: 3.4.1 of IR

OBSERVATION

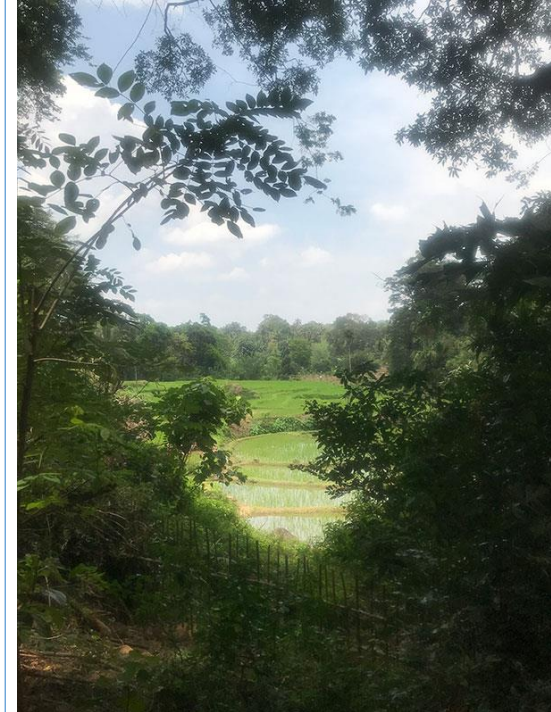
It is shameful to note that the website of the Meteorological Department has temperature data for the entire island prominently displayed on its front page for the period 1961-1990 showing the level of inadequacy of the body of work done by this department if nothing else.

While districts were tasked with creating disaster maps and preparedness plans related to climate change, the researchers found that such data was either spotty or non-existent compounding problems for determining baselines and indicators

Agro-toxin prevalence high requiring higher test frequencies

- Both micro-catchment and catchment level analysis and observations indicate that toxin and pollutant levels are high with the peripheral river basins showing the highest levels
- Exact chemical application figures are unavailable with farmers providing conflicting data on their own input densities indicating that testing must be done at a higher frequency across specific yearly temporal brackets (Yala, Maha, rain intense and flow flux areas) to have a better picture of the toxin intrusion
- The soil maps for the region (and Sri Lanka) are over 40 years old and chronic application of chemicals have changed the structure within the first nine inches of top soil significantly as visually observed by GMSL. However, physical tests may need to be carried out in addition to the earmarked chemical tests to determine overall soil health and treatment regimes but results will be slow to become visible
- Other livelihood activities such as uncontrolled tourism have contributed to the pollution of waterbodies
- A total of 107 points were identified of which 78 were deemed critical

REF: 3.4.1, 4.5.4, 5.2.4 of IR



Reductionist agriculture and uncontrolled tourism have both contributed to pollution



OBSERVATION

Although the utilization of agrochemicals ultimately affects the environment and therefore the KCF's biodiversity, the simplistic response of protectionists to rid the areas of human settlements is a non-starter contravening every international covenant the sustainable response of shifting paradigms and habits is a tough ask that will require significant increases in socioeconomic stability to achieve.

Critical ICLC knowledge subsumed and gradually fading

- Knowledge of indigenous medicine and the wide variety of flora that was used in it has been subsumed by the prevention of the use of forests
- Knowledge of heirloom varieties that are resistant to external threats such as incremental weather as well as ritualistic and metaphysical systems of mitigating and lowering their impacts significantly eroded
- Conservation principles of the past fade with local communities losing ownership of shared commons and the resultant disinterest in being the custodians and herders of the floral riches of the region often rapaciously exploiting

REF: 5.1.1 of IR



Dog's Tail, used for diabetes wild in the KCF



Protecting forests and being protected by forests was not based on sensibilities ritualized as above

OBSERVATION

Preserving and using ICLC knowledge is probably vital to sustainable conservation



Summary of findings - Agriculture



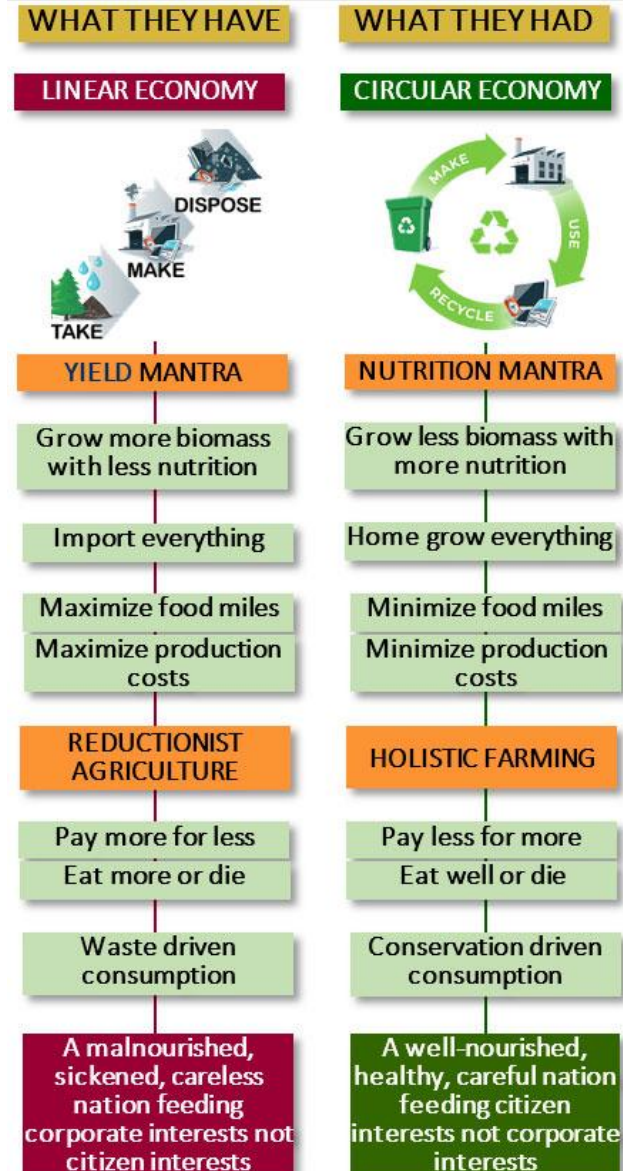
Linearity and security at the cost of circularity and sovereignty

- Although there is now a buzz about circular economics, the communities in and around the KCF had practiced them for centuries before they were disenfranchised of critical shared commons
- Traditional mechanisms based on chena cultivation and zero input agriculture was banned through what citizen representatives call an act of terrorism, resulting in damaged communities, the creation of smallholders, the enforced switch to reductionist agriculture and the resultant damage to community socioeconomic and natural environmental resistance

OBSERVATION

Linear market economics created two channels of thought that were both fallacious and both disastrous. The first was the concept of food security and the requirement to “grow more” to feed “more greed” with less food, allowing for the channeling of massive profits to corporate entities. The second was the concept of nature protection that was mistakenly taken up as conservation. In reality, conservation is the organic outcome of holistic livelihood practices that are based on the sustainable use of commons including rivers and forests.

REF: 5.1.1, PP 63 of IR



Banning the use of commons destroys livelihood viability

- With zero-input farming based on sustainable chena cultivation banned, the farmers were forced to cultivate on small land parcels using agro-toxins
- With the use of forest resources through sustainable consumption banned, the people recaptured these commons illegally but this time without any ownership or desire to protect the forest, simply cannibalizing it for their use “illegally” to make ends meet
- All activities supposedly banned in the protected areas goes on almost unabated including cardamom cultivation

OBSERVATION

The escalation of food inadequacy, disease, malnutrition etc. can be firmly laid at the door of the disenfranchisement of shared commons specifically for the purpose of chena cultivation.

REF: 4.5.1-2, PP 63, annex 03 of IR



Chenas were banned killing off food availability, food sovereignty and the farming economy



Cardamoms in the forests of the KCF are still flourishing but the greater damage is due to the fact that villagers dry them within the forest using wood culled from the environment, seriously damaging green cover

Banning the use of commons destroys livelihood viability

- The lands aggressively commandeered from the people through the banning of chena was left unattended allowing for the invasion of grasses
- While 22% of land is under agriculture and settlements, 16% of land is barren, fallow, grasslands or otherwise unused indicating both the extent to which those lands had been under chenas and the serious underutilization of land resources
- The invasion of grasslands has resulted in a proliferation of crop pestilences including porcupines, peacocks and smaller rodents such as rats and mice
- The periodic burning of these lands by the villagers to curb their spread had resulted in serious damage to dark forest regions as well

OBSERVATION

Without returning these lands to the people or, at the very least, utilizing it for the purposes of increasing green cover, the damage to the KCF cannot be ultimately stopped since these areas on the periphery are critical to its health.

REF: 4.5.1-2,5.2.3, 5.3.2, 5.3.3,
annex 03 of IR



This...



... became this.

REF: 4.5.1-2,5.2.3, 5.3.2, 5.3.3,
annex 03 of IR

- Lack of proper evidence despite best efforts to obtain it makes it difficult to determine baselines
- The original design was for 18 GNs and 1575 HHs. However, when analyzing the terrain the intervention area was seen to envelope 58 GNs when the research team saw that any sustainable impact would make a river basin based approach imperative
- There are various opportunities, considerations and implications that need to be weighed against each other to determine the best approach to the intervention and the GMSL research team listed out three main methods



Base it on the rivers, not on the administration





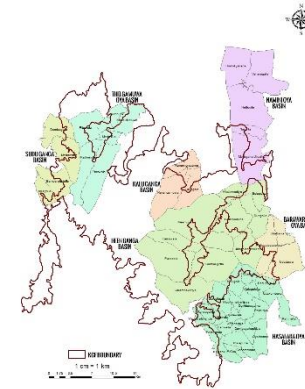
Options to move forward



INCEPTION REPORT
Identifying baselines and determining
optimal intervention strategies for
selected areas of the knuckles
conservation forest and its environs

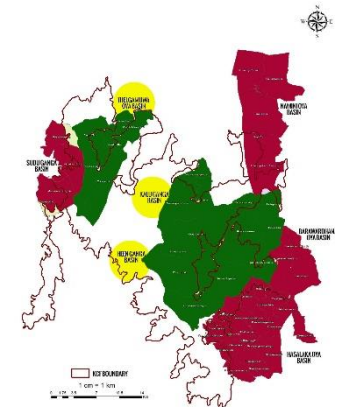
- Take all 7 considered river basins with all 58 divisions and a total of more than 8.900 families and work with them all
 - Not recommended despite the fact that all seven river basins are critical to the overall health of the KCF due to fiscal, temporal and pandemic related limitations
- Take just the three internal river basins of the Kalu Ganga, Heen Ganga and Thelgamu oya that cut deep into the KCF
 - By far the easiest option despite difficult terrain because it reduces the total geography of the intervention to about 180 square miles, reduces the total number of GNs to 19 GNs and 1561 families which is very much in line with the original design
- Take the three internal river basins as the primary treatment area but also take the peripheral basins to the east of the KCF (Hasalaka Oya, Barawardhana Oya and Namini Oya) to treat with responses to rehabilitating its large tracts of open land with green cover while also engaging with selected individuals within those communities in the lobby for better upstream-downstream water management strategies
 - Possibly the best option since it is the one most congruent with the original design and will create a decent balance between what is required and what is possible under the straightened circumstances under which COLIBRI must operate

6.1, - 6.7, ANNEX 04, ANNEX 05 of IR

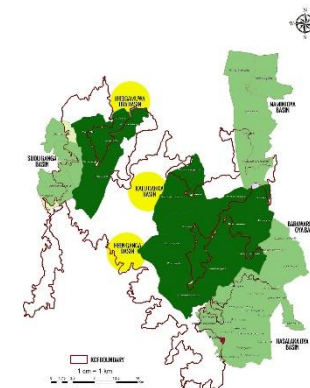


**OPTION 01 –
ALL BASINS**

**OPTION 02 –
INTERNAL BASINS
ONLY**



**OPTION 03 – INTERNAL
BASINS AND SELECTED
AREAS OF EXTERNAL
BASINS**





Portfolio of interventions and where they apply



INCEPTION REPORT
Identifying baselines and determining
optimal intervention strategies for
selected areas of the knuckles
conservation forest and its environs

6.1, - 6.7, ANNEX 04, ANNEX 05 of IR

	POLICY AND ADVOCACY LEVEL INTERVENTIONS	HEEN GANGA	THELGAMU OYA	KALU GANGA	SUDU GANGA	HASALAKA OYA	B'WRDHNA OYA	NAMINI OYA	DEVIATION FROM ORIGINAL DESIGN
01.	Lobby for improving selected community infrastructure								Addition based on research outcomes
02.	Create and deploy advocacy group for improved water management								In line
03.	Lobby for ABS and signing of Ngoya protocol								In line
04.	Support present policy push for organic agriculture policy								Addition based on emerging scenarios
05.	Provide inputs to the green economy policy								Addition based on emerging scenarios
06.	Create dialogue for mitigating human-wildlife conflict								Addition based on research outcomes