

# Community Livelihood and Biodiversity Improvement (COLIBRI)

Quarterly Report (Q4 – September 15<sup>th</sup> 2021 – December 15<sup>th</sup> 2021)



The crucial Q4 was so far the most successful implementation wise with the GMSL teams working tirelessly in the field to ensure that the activity timelines were met. While residual issues related to COVID19 still persisted causing some delays that resulted in the Maha cultivation season treatment program becoming less than optimal, nevertheless, the GMSL did not compromise quality nor attempt to short circuit the program for convenience.

Presented  
By



The Green Movement of Sri Lanka Inc.

to

ACTED

Colombo, Sri Lanka  
03<sup>rd</sup> February 2022

## 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Project title	Community Livelihood and Biodiversity Conservation Project (COLIBRI)
Project area, region and country of implementation	Knuckles Conservation Forest (KCF) and its environs, Matale and Kandy Provinces, Sri Lanka.
Project Start Date	15 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
Project End Date	15 <sup>th</sup> December 2022
Type of report (monthly, quarterly, bi-annual, interim, final)	Quarterly
Reporting Period (start and end dates)	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2021 – 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
Report due date to ACTED	15 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Date of report submission to ACTED	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2022

Name of focal point	Arjuna Seneviratne
Name of organisation	The Green Movement of Sri Lanka Inc.
Address	54C, Vimukthi Mawatha, Pelawatte, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka.
Telephone / Fax	94-112786480, +94 716874552
Email	<a href="mailto:office@gmsl.lk">office@gmsl.lk</a> , <a href="mailto:netcontroller19@yahoo.com">netcontroller19@yahoo.com</a>

## 2. PROJECT OVERVIEW

### [All types of reports] Project Summary.

*Please provide a short overview of the project (objective and expected results), what has been realized by the end of the reporting period, and the main issues faced. This section should not be more than half a page long.*

The implementation of 08 EIR D64/Contract ref.CSO-I-A/2020t420-267 I Community Livelihood and Biodiversity Recovery (COLIBRI) aims to contribute to the recovery of community livelihoods and biodiversity through CSOs management of the protection and preservation of natural resources in Sri Lanka. The Green Movement of Sri Lanka Inc. (GMSL) is tasked with implementing that component of the project earmarking the Kunckles Conservation Forest (KCF), its environs and selected communities living in those regions. The GMSL component aims to optimally harmonize the human-environment interface in the targeted region amount to approximately 502.4 square kilometers and shall:

1. Lobby for sustainable practices in KCF with local/district authorities
2. Capacity building and creating linkages between existing community groups and government institutions to optimise biodiversity conservation, regeneration and climate resilience
3. Form and advise a youth-oriented community monitoring group to uphold environmental protections within KCF
4. Promote and assist the adoption of natural agriculture practices to local farmers
5. Facilitate market connectivity, competitiveness and quality of produce
6. Improve the volunteer carbon offset program through strong local and international linkages between stakeholders and players

**[All types of reports] Context.**

*Please provide a brief update of the context situation (including security) and the problems that the project aims to resolve.*

---

**Geophysical and environmental context:**

The KCF geography and environs: or the Ududumbara Range straddles the northern end of the central highlands of Sri Lanka. It extends for 19 km from Laggala to Urugala, is situated at 7°21 – 7°24 to the North and 80°05 – 80°08.5 to the East, covering an area of 159 square kilometres, and shouldered on the west by the Matale plains and on the south and east by the Mahaweli river basin. It received 2500mm-5000mm of rainfall annually and has a humidity of 70%-90%. Several rivers are sourced from this range including the Heen ganga, Kalu Ganga and Hulu ganga providing critical water sources for many downstream communities. The range comprises of mid elevational wet evergreen forest, mid elevational dry evergreen forest, montane wet evergreen forest or Cloud forest. Despite covering just 0.5% of the land it contains nearly 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the country's flowering species with 1033 species belonging to 131 families as well as a number of endangered fauna such as sāmbar, barking deer, mouse deer, giant squirrel and loris as well as the rare otter, endemic purple faced leaf monkey and toque monkey, 14 endemic bird species among other locals and migrants, 28 fish species of which 9 are endangered endemics, 28 amphibian species with 60% endemic, 54 reptile species with 43% endemic, and, 60 butterfly species with 8% endemic<sup>1</sup>. Recognizing the importance of the biodiversity and bio density of the Knuckles range, UNESCO, designated it a World Heritage site 2010.

The KCF watershed provides 30% of the water running in the Mahaweli river and therefore, the water generated here is used and reused by human settlements all the way to Trincomalee along the main trace of the Mahaweli as well as areas of the North Central Province, Matale and Kandy Provinces either directly or through irrigation systems that include a combination of dams, bunds, anicuts etc. for storage and rechanneling. Therefore, managing, regenerating, and optimizing these shared commons across many communities with widely disparate needs, cultures, aspirations and life/livelihood targets is a critical albeit complex exercise.

**The communities in and around the range:**

About 80 villages exist in and around the Knuckles range in the Matale and Kandy districts ranging across approximately 502.4 square kilometers with the villagers living simply, subsisting on paddy cultivation supported by chena cultivation with their landscape comprising of Kandyan home gardens (multilayer vegetation), farm houses, terraced paddy fields, chena lands and irrigation canals. They have a strong relationship with the forest shoring up their socioeconomic strength through forest products. With its pivotal position as a watershed, knuckles' resource impact extends beyond these communities to downstream villages as well. External intrusion is in the form of tourism mostly through the Meemure village entryway, forest and wildlife officials, and, a limited albeit environmentally significant number individuals engaging in illegal activities.

**Anthropogenic pressure:**

Cardamom cultivation within the forest, unregulated tourism related negative residuals and collaterals including escalation of solid waste and lessened bio-privacy, cannibalization of forest resources due to downturns in agro-economics resulting from reductionist agrarian practices and exacerbated by climate change, illegal activities in and around the preserve including pyromania, illegal logging and mining have significantly upset the ecological balance which, if left unchecked, could result in with

---

<sup>1</sup> These figures are according to the Ecosystem Conservation and Management Project (ESCOMP) and accessed through <http://www.escamp.lk/the-knuckles-range/>

potential for large scale, wide impact environmental, social and economic negatives for the entire country<sup>2</sup>.

**Intervention possibilities and threats:**

The GMSL has worked in these regions for over two decades and is a welcome and trusted civil partner that is seen to have been a sober, positive influence among communities living in these areas since it counts many local Community Based Organizations (CBOs) from those areas as part of its network and uses 10 of them in this intervention as well on a networked, voluntary basis. Additionally, the national and local state penetration of the GMSL through its work has also positioned it as a trusted supporter of state and local government initiatives. Therefore, from a goodness-of-fit perspective of the GMSL for this specific development exercise, it enjoys excellent interrelationships with three of the main stakeholders, namely, the communities, the local government and state.

However, illegal players as well as those that have political aspirations or plan politically motivated resistive action and interference, the GMSL understands that there are some risks involved although those risks are not clearly charted. Despite there negatives, unlike in delivery based civil sector interventions, the GMSL’s work is not merely limited to providing inputs or managing local development at a micro level but rather, encompasses the country and in the context of this exercise, its project design takes into consideration integrated mechanisms to optimally leverage Sri Lankan environment, social, agricultural, rural development policy, change what requires to be changed, manage what cannot be and overall engineer a project that can be used as a blueprint for future work. Therefore, bringing all players and stakeholders together is a primary takeoff point for this exercise and that very approach itself is considered to be a risk reducing one.

**[All types of reports] Security context (if relevant).**

*Please provide a brief update of the security situation and the measures taken to mitigate risks.*

---

With the lockdown easing up, the GMSL went full force into the field to complete as many tasks as it possibly could as earmarked by the project. Our hydrologist and CEO both contracted the coronavirus which seriously hampered our work given the already straitened HR circumstances under which we were operating. However, overall, the security of the beneficiaries and the staff were maintained reasonably well and we were fortunate that due to our precautions more people did not contract the virus.

**[All types of reports] Beneficiaries.**

*Please report on beneficiaries’ selection process, total number of beneficiaries reached by the end of the reporting period (households and individuals), providing gender and age desegregated data as much as possible.*

---

This has been detailed in the Q2 report

**3. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS**

**[All types of reports] Description of progress made in activities implementation.**

*Please list all activities of the contract implemented during the reporting period (as per Annex A – Project Description to the Grant agreement), using 1 paragraph per activity. Information for each activity should address each of the basic questions: who, what, when (specific dates), where, why, how, and how much / how many?*

---

<sup>2</sup> Implied by the baseline survey of the UNDP-SGP (2018-2019)

Example: CEPA VTC team trained 25 people in bakery techniques during the month of April in Gendrassa Refugee camp to enhance refugees' income generating opportunities. CEPA VTC team delivered 5 sessions of one hour during a month followed by 4 daily hours of practice.

Please provide details to support statements (quantified data, pictures, graphs, tables).

In case an activity has been modified/ cancelled/ postponed, please elaborate on the problems faced and way forward.

### Planned activities for the Fourth Quarter (Q4):

#### Quarterly snapshot:

Q4:M1: Sep-Oct	Strong interventions possible with quite a number of the planned activities completed although it was seen that the resistive factors of coronavirus related issues, escalation of market prices of equipment reduced overall effectiveness.
Q4:M2: Oct-Nov	The month was a comparative disaster activity wise with incremental weather preventing many on-ground agricultural initiatives that were planned from being implemented while communities found themselves "double booking" themselves vis-à-vis green cover work and livelihood activities. While this played havoc with timelines from a practical perspective, it was seen that the monsoon was actually delayed in some of the areas giving the GMSL a bit of temporal leeway in implementing some of the activities.
Q4:M3: Nov-Dec	Weather improved and allowed the GMSL to push ahead with a lot of its agro-bio stock acquisition and distribution as well as other floral stocks.

TABLE 01: OUTPUT 2 Q4 ACTIVITIES (EXECUTIVE SNAPSHOT OF THE WORK DONE DURING PERIOD UNDER REVIEW)				
<i>The ecological health of the Knuckles Conservation Forest (KCF) is improved by restoring ecosystem services and promoting sustainable use of natural resources for livelihood development</i>				
Description of task	Planned	Actual	% Output	Remarks
<b>Field Action Plan (AIME segment)</b>				
Create the procurement plan in line with ACTED directives	1	0	0%	The task was not completed during Q4 but was submitted and approved Jan (Q5)
Submit and clear procurement plan	1	0	0%	
<b>Indicator 2.1 related: Create 40 links between communities and officials</b>				
Links between Heen Ganga Communities and authorities (11 links)	11	22	200%	11 Links each were created with the FD/ GN
Links between Thelgamu Oya Communities and authorities (11 links)	6	19	316%	Links with EAD, GN and 3 with FD, 2 Samurdhi
Links between Namini Oya Communities and authorities (8 links)	8	6	75%	Links with EAD, EDO in 2 GNs
Links between Kalu Ganga Communities and authorities (9 links)	9	8	89%	Links with EAD, Each GN
Links between Barawardhana Oya Communities and authorities (6 links)	6	3	50%	Links with FD for canopy road and GN, ASD
<b>Indicator 2.2 related: Undertake climate disaster adaptation activities</b>				
<b>Reduce water waste in 826 households in the Heen Ganga Basin</b>				
Acquire services of hydrological engineer to provide optimal solution				This activity many not be applicable anymore
Site visit of hydrological engineer				
Obtain engineering report on optimal solution				
Purchase required equipment to treat the waste issue				
Provide leaflet to families on tech and managing water				
Monitor implementation of engineering solution				
Monitor change in water use				
<b>Increase Green Cover across 25% of the terrain</b>			0%	All of these had to be pushed to Q5 due to double booking of communities
<b>Create Children's Societies</b>				
Obtain consent from parents and school principals from each of the schools	9	3	33.33%	
Coach children on planting and maintaining green cover, give inputs	9	3	33.33%	
<b>Create four 2acre herbal forest each GNs Kalu Ganga</b>				
Engage with local medical practitioners to determine best plant mix	2	2	100%	
Determine best planting times as directed by ritualistic practices	2	2	100%	
Source required genetic material with assistance from practitioners	2	2	100%	
Plant the material and erect protection	2	0	0%	Planting materials provided and set up at nurseries but due to drought, actual planting differed to Yala rain season
<b>Creating a 500m green canopy road Rathninda</b>				
Obtain consent from relevant authorities	1	1	100%	
Identify required genetic material consistent with the area	1	1	100%	
Source required genetic material	1	1	100%	

Plant the material and erect protection	1	0	0%	There was a capacity issue for people who were already planting agricultural flora and they didn't have sufficient time so differed to Q5
Monitor morbidity and replace	1	0		
<b>Develop 100acre Forest and Flower garden Meddawatta and Dambagolla</b>				
Obtain consent from relevant authorities	1	1	100%	
Demarcate 1 acre nursery	1	1	100%	
Identify genetic materials required for the area	1	1	100%	
Source required genetic material	1	1	100%	
Plant nursery	1	0	0%	There was a capacity issue for people who were already planting agricultural flora and they didn't have sufficient time so differed to Q5
Monitor progress, identify morbidity and replace	1	0	0%	
<b>Plant Forest fruits in Meegahamada wewa catchment Pahalagaldebokka</b>				
Obtain consent from relevant authorities	1	0		There was a capacity issue for people who were already planting agricultural flora and they didn't have sufficient time so differed to Q5
Identify required genetic material consistent with the area	1	0		
<b>Create a 500m green canopy road Pahalagaldebokka</b>				
Obtain consent from relevant authorities	1	1	100%	
Identify required genetic material consistent with the area	1	1	100%	
Source required genetic material	1	1	100%	
Plant the material and erect protection	1	0		There was a capacity issue for people who were already planting agricultural flora and they didn't have sufficient time so differed to Q5
<b>Develop 50 hectare green cover on scrubland in Deanston</b>				
Obtain consent from relevant authorities	1	1	100%	
Demarcate 1 acre nursery	1	1	100%	
Identify genetic materials required for the area	1	1	100%	
Source required genetic material	1	1	100%	
Plant nursery	1	0	0%	There was a capacity issue for people who were already planting agricultural flora and they didn't have sufficient time so differed to Q5
Monitor progress, identify morbidity and replace	1	0	0%	
<b>Indicator 2.3 related: Reduce illegal anthropogenic activities in KCF</b>				
<b>Create youth Watchdog group</b>				
Identify 36 youth from selected areas based on oversight requirements	36	36	100%	
Coach youth on managing oversight activities	1	0	0%	Pushed to Q5 because there was no reason to do this during the target period because anthropogenic activities were very low as a result of monsoons and the coronavirus
Establish monitoring routine	1	0	0%	
Purchase required number of smartphones	1	0	0%	
Provide smartphones	1	0	0%	
Establish required connectivity to local authorities (FD,WD, DS, Police)	1	0	0%	
<b>Create 2 strategic fire belts</b>				
Engage FD, DS, and Army	1	1	100%	The requirement to do this in Q4 was that there was a strong possibility of fires during drought in September/October. However, there were torrential rains that meant that the program could be pushed to Q5 while more urgent matters were undertaken.
Conduct reccy and identify and post sentry points for physical monitoring	1	0	0%	
Identify community group willing to engage in volunteer work	1	0	0%	
Leverage assistance of GMSL network members	1	0	0%	
Cut the fire belt	1	0	0%	
<b>Awareness of Pathan yams in Pitawala (FD request)</b>				
Identify locations for two signboards	1	0		Initial discussions were completed but FD has not given as the proper demarcations for the area.
Prepare and situate	1	0		
<b>Indicator 2.4 Switch farmers to sustainable agriculture</b>				
<b>Create training materials and conduct TOT program</b>				
Shortlist resource persons	7	7	100%	8 women and 15 men selected as TOTs
Identify TOT training requirements	1	1	100%	Full TOT report annexed (Annex 01)
Create the curriculum and material	4	4	100%	
Create required spaces or methods for conducting the training program	1	1	100%	
Conduct the TOT training program	1	1	100%	
<b>Create farmer cooperative clusters (5x5 sub groups)</b>				
Potential TOTs, GNs, GMSL field staff identify 90 clusters of 2250 farmer HHs	90	55	61%	Due to workloads, weather issues, the total number that could be identified was approximately 1375 during the reporting period
TOTs Establish initial contact and outline coaching and ultimate outcomes	90	55	61%	
Determine final list of groups based on willingness to participate	90	55	61%	
<b>Conduct coaching of farmer clusters</b>				
Coach and train farmers on identifying climate smart crop mixes	27	27	100%	All GNs
Coach farmers on establishing Kandyan home gardens	15	15	100%	Those GNs where it is possible only
Coach farmers on Zero input agriculture	12	12	100%	Those GNs where it is possible only
Coach farmers on natural input manufacture (fertilizer and pest repellants)	27	27	100%	Those GNs where it is possible only
Coach farmers on techniques to establish HH level seed stocks	27	0	0%	Differed to Q5 - climate change of monsoons
<b>Provide limited seed stocks</b>				
Make request from PGRC and other reliable sources	4	4	100%	PGRC, CIC, Samarakoon and one other
Purchase required seed stocks	15	15	100%	Available but not distributed
Distribute seed stocks to farmers	2250	0	0%	Pushed to Q5 due to monsoon changes
<b>Complete 3 agro-wells Sulugune serving 12 in heen ganga basin</b>				
Obtain services of technical officer	1	1	100%	One TQ for both GNs where action occurred
Obtain report of requirements from TO	1	1	100%	Same BOQ for both wells
Purchase material	2	2	100%	Cement quote was not given due to price flux

Oversee construction	2	2	100%	GMSL + DS office EDO (Weekly report of GMSL) but no plaster
Complete 3 agro-wells Weheragala serving 12 Namini Oya basin	4	3		
Obtain services of technical officer	1	1	100%	One TQ for both GNs where action occurred
Obtain report of requirements from TO	1	1	100%	Same BOQ for all three wells
Purchase material	3	3	100%	Cement quote was not given due to price flux
Oversee construction	3	3	100%	GMSL + DS office EDO (Weekly report of GMSL) but no plaster
<b>Indicator 2.7 related: Reduce toxins in treatment areas by 50%</b>				
Pre-Treatment Testing				
Engage hydrologist	1	1	100%	
Purchase sample collection equipment				Discussions commenced during period under review and will be concluded in Q5
Train field officers on sample collection				
Obtain samples from predetermined testing points and submit for testing				
Create Required links with IFS for testing support				
Obtain test results				
Report				
<b>Outreach</b>				
Website development				
Establish biodiversity clearinghouse	1	0	0%	Discussions underway with BSSL, IUCN
Press Articles				
Shortlist journalists (Sinhala and Tamil)	2	2	100%	
Field visit for journalists	1	0	0%	Field visits were not possible during Q4
Press article	3	0	0%	Over allocation of staff prevented this exercises from happening
<b>Social Media activity</b>				
Create twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn accounts for COLIBRI	20	0	0%	Although some general posts done, no strategic push due to staff tie-up with other areas
SM posts	20	0	0%	

**Note on planned activities:** It can be seen that while all preparations for engaging in activities under Indicator 2.3 were completed, the actual planting was not possible due to inclement weather conditions that includes either high winds, torrential rain, combination of the two or drought. These were seen to be effects of climate change. Therefore, all of those activities were pushed either to Q5 or Q6. Additionally, there seems to be a shift in weather patterns that pushed the planting season for Maha which falls generally in October/November to January. The GMSL recognized this change and adjusted its programming accordingly so that any bio-asset inputs will have the best chance of surviving. For example, seed distribution was pushed to Q5 for this reason.

#### **Activity 1.4 Establish an online database for marine and forestry protected areas and leverage existing resources and platforms to enhance collective, open information sharing and evidence-based decision making**

**Website updates:** These slowed down comparatively due to the heavy field workloads.

**Leveraging social media:** Despite the decision to push strongly on social media platforms during the period under discussion, the deployment of the limited workforce to field activities prevented this from happening.

For both website and SM work, the GMSL recognizes that it is not the best outcome. Some work allocation has been redistributed to enable lead in-house staff to free up more time to work on the desk aspects of the project during Q5.

**Press articles:** Same as above.

**Biodiversity clearinghouse:** It was determined that the planned biodiversity clearinghouse was too big an exercise for COLIBRI and discussions with other stakeholders such as the Biodiversity Secretariat Sri Lanka (BSSL) and the IUCN indicated that it was better to have the engine hosted with the BSSL with the GMSL and COLIBRI playing supportive roles. Towards this, an initial discussion paper (Annex 02) was created by the GMSL and shared with the IUCN and BSSL during the period under review. The discussions for the purpose will occur in early Q5.

**Activity 1.5: Lead national-level advocacy and develop organisational strategy plans to scale up and replicate best practices under the action Carbon offset program:**

- The business forum that was planned as a combined COLIBRI effort was completed in December with GMSL taking an active role in the session itself. The outcomes were submitted to the Colombo Dialogues.

**Lobby for sustainable practices in KCF with local/district authorities**

**Create Children’s Societies:**

Children’s societies were created in those areas where there were plans for improving green cover through afforestation of KCF buffer zones, improving canopy roads, improving catchment habitat close to water bodies or improving medical biodiversity.

In this respect, after parental consent and school awareness was created, groups of 20-30 children were created depending on interest, density and tasks. These would service their communities by

1. Volunteering themselves for the actual planting operations
2. Acting as community monitors to ensure that plant morbidity is minimized through early action based on physical inspection, recording losses where such morbidity was inevitable (such as say, through wildlife damage) and reporting back to their communities as to where there was a need to replenish saplings lost for various reasons.



**GMSL field staff chats to members of the Children’s Society - Pahalagaldebokka**



**GMSL field staff chats to members of the Children’s Society - Pahalagaldebokka**



The requirement to create 9 such children's societies was identified out of which 3 were created during the period under review:

River basin	Society location (GN)	Reason for creation	Status
Heen Ganga	Navanagala		Created
Barawardhana Oya	Pahalagaldebokka	Assistance in improving canopy road and improving watershed of a critical water body	Created
Thelgamu Oya	Rathninda	Assistance in creating 500m canopy road	Created
	Pitawala	Assistance in monitoring rare fauna	Pending
	Madewatte	Assistance in creating 100 acre forest	Pending
Kalu Ganga	Halmuniya	Assistance in creating 50 ha green cover	Pending
	Narangamuwa	Assistance in creating 2 acre herbal forest	Pending
	Lakegala	Assistance in creating 2 acre herbal forest	Pending
	Ranamure	Assistance in creating 2 acre herbal forest	Pending

**Improving green cover:** As mentioned in the note to the activity list above, the actual planting was deferred to Q5. However, all other components were completed. This was in respect to the lines in table 01 related to the following:

1. Creating four 2acre herbal forest each GNs Kalu Ganga
2. Creating a 500m green canopy road Rathninda
3. Developing a 100acre Forest and Flower garden Meddawatta and Dambagolla
4. Planting Forest fruits in Meegahamada wewa catchment Pahalagaldebokka
5. Creating a 500m green canopy road Pahalagaldebokka
6. Developing 50 hectare green cover on scrubland in Deanston

In all of the above, the following four activities were completed:

1. Establishing contact with respective FD, GN, DS officers and consent and support obtained
2. Identification of the required genetic material with support from local experts, indigenous community leaders with knowledge of such matters
3. Source and identify required genetic material and/or locations for nurseries

The following activities were differed to Q5 or Yala:

1. Planting the material utilizing local communities and their children's societies
2. Monitoring through a combined effort of the children, GMSL and relevant government officials.

**Create 2 fire belts:** Although this activity was to have been done during the period under review since fires are set during the drought months leading up to Maha rains in September/October, torrential rains and reduced human movement due to the coronavirus were determined by the GMSL to be natural deterrents. Therefore, given higher priority activities, the cutting of fire belts was differed to Q5. However, the Sri Lanka Army was approached and they promised to conduct a reconnaissance of the vulnerable area and possibly establish a presence to act as a deterrent to such activity during Q5.

**Awareness of Pathan Yams in Pitawala:** There were some areas of the Pitawala Patana where this rare yam grew. However, due to lack of signage and general awareness of their importance, many tourists in the area were habituated to walk across beds of those yams without any idea that they were damaging a rare species. Therefore, the Forest Department requested the GMSL to create the signage that would have the awareness details also displayed prominently. Initial discussions were held but the actual signage was not put up due to delays on the part of the FD in demarcating the areas and informing the GMSL where the boards should be set up.

**Activity 2.2. Build the capacity and linkages between existing community groups and government institutions to optimize biodiversity conservation, regeneration and climate resilience**

**Creating linkages:** While initially, 40 links were determined by the GMSL to be necessary, as the implementation phase kicked during Q4, it was found that other links were required as mentioned in the activity breakdown in table 01 above and replicated here and detailed for clarity.

	Target	Actual	Percentage
Links between Heen Ganga Communities and authorities	11	22	200%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Each of the 11 GNs on the Heen Ganga basin has a Grama Niladhari and every single one was solicited for assistance and they pledged their support to see those components of the project that were occurring within their GNs was impartially and efficiently implemented.</li> <li>▪ All settlements on the terrain along the Heen Ganga have relationships both negative and positive on the KCF and its environments and therefore, the communities were put in direct contact with the Forest Department (FD) officials in charge of their areas and their support obtained for community activities to optimize the biodiversity improvement components of the project with respect to the protected areas</li> </ul>			
Links between Thelgamu Oya Communities and authorities	6	19	316%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Each of the 8 GNs targeted under the Thelgamu Oya basin has a Grama Niladhari and every single one was solicited for assistance and they pledged their support to see those components of the project that were occurring within their GNs was impartially and efficiently implemented.</li> <li>▪ The Export Agriculture Department (EAD) was linked to the communities of all 8 GNs to support them in the newly identified agrarian livelihood of cinnamon cultivation</li> <li>▪ Additionally, for increasing green cover, the FD officials of Dambagolla, Medawatte and Pitawala were linked.</li> </ul>			
Links between Namini Oya Communities and authorities	8	6	75%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Grama Niladharis of the two GNs were solicited for support and their assistance assured to the community.</li> <li>▪ The Export Agriculture Department (EAD) was linked to the communities of all 8 GNs to support them in the newly identified agrarian livelihood of cinnamon cultivation.</li> <li>▪ The Economic Development Officer of each of the GNs was also seconded into the activities with support from them for required components of livelihood improvement.</li> </ul>			
Links between Kalu Ganga Communities and authorities	9	8	89%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Grama Niladharis of the four GNs were solicited for support and their assistance assured to the community.</li> <li>▪ The Kalu Ganga area is unique in that home gardens have the required habitat to grow cardamom. The GMSL worked with the Export Agriculture Department and they have agreed to pay out LKR 40 per plants for their upkeep to each of the families who are already growing cardamoms on their lands. Four such links were created for each of the GNs with relevant EAD officers.</li> </ul>			
Links between Barawardhana Oya Communities and authorities	6	3	50%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Links were created between the Grama Niladhari, Economic Development Officer and relevant official of the EAD for growing cinnamon in the GN of Himbilyakada. However, a similar action in the GN of Veheragala has not been completed yet.</li> </ul>			



**Meeting with Regional Forest Office officials at their premises**

### Activity 2.3: Form and advice a youth-oriented community monitoring group to uphold environmental protections within KCF

**Forming watchdog groups:** The Watchdog group of 36 youth was finalized during the period under review. The key reason for establishing this group was to minimize anthropogenic damage to the KCF and its environments through tourism, excessive agro-toxin usage or blatant water and land pollution by internal and external communities, illegal activities such as purposefully setting forest fires etc. Training and deployment was to have been completed during the period under review. However, the GMSL, considering the density of the work that had to be completed reevaluated its importance during Q4 and realized that with almost no tourism, torrential rains and state policy on banning agrochemicals, differing the exercise to Q5 in order to ease the burden on the limited and already impossibly stretched GMSL teams would not damage overall outcomes.

Basin	WDs
Hingaga	15
Barawadana oya	2
Namini oya	2
Thelgamu oya	11
Kalugaga	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>

### Activity 2.4: Promote and assist the adoption of natural agriculture practices, including soil regeneration, toxin-free agriculture, solid waste management and reuse of natural resources, to local farmers

#### TOT Training:

The TOT training program for 23 shortlisted individuals (8 women and 15 men) was conducted during the period under review. The GMSL shortlisted 11 resource persons to conduct the 5 day training program conducted for 01<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 at the Wingate Hotel in Nagolla, Hettipola. The individuals covered areas related to Environment, Natural Farming, Development and Community Cohesion. The Assistant District Secretaries of both Matale and Kandy attended the training program to show support for the exercise and speak to the participants and pledge their continued assistance. The following resource persons were used for the program:

Basin	TOTs
Hingaga	11
Barawadana oya	1
Namini oya	1
Thelgamu oya	7
Kalugaga	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>

Name	Designation	Agency	Topic
Suranjan Kodituwakku	CEO	GMSL	Goal and Tasks / Global Env. crisis
Lionel Tilakaratne	Director	SNASA Development Bank	Moderation and community cohesion
Gamini Jayatissa	Director	Community Development and Environment Conservation Foundation	History of the KCF and its environments
Illukkumbura	Forest Officer	Forest Department	State responsibilities in conserving the KCF and its environment
Amila Chanaka	Warden	Ridiyagama Safari Park, National Wildlife Parks Dpt.	What is biodiversity?
Nimal Kumartunga	Chief Agricultural Advisor	GMSL	Traditional farmland and present day sustainability / Pest identification and control / nursery management / fertilizer manufacture
Leel Randeniya	Additional Director, Environment Economics	Ministry of Environment	International biodiversity covenants, traditional knowledge, trends
V.R.S.B.I. Illangatilake	Engineering Assistant	Minipe Irrigation Engineering Office	Soil, water conservation, land degradation and water usage
M.A.M. Ilmi	Project Officer	EAD, Laggala, Wilgamuwa	Export Crops as an economic strength for community life in the Knuckles

**TOT TRAINING PROGRAM – EXAMPLE PHOTOS (All photos and videos available on request)**



**Mr. Illukkumbura of the FD on conservation**



**Mr. Kumaranatuga practically demonstrates fertilizer manufacture**



**Breakout session**



**Practical field activities**

**Creating farmer cooperative clusters (5x5 groups):** The actual planting will be done through mutual support of farmers for each other to reduce overall costs of producing. For this, as designed, a cluster of 5 families (more or less) depending on terrain, proximity and ability to work with each other were created after detailed engagement and consultation with the communities themselves. During period under review, a total of 1375 families out of the total of 2250 were identified and clustered for subsequent coaching through the designed cascade training program. It should be noted that in some instances, the GMSL teams found that some families were geriatric in their entirety, completely dependent on children working outside their communities in towns and therefore unsuited for the exercise. In these cases, additional families were sort from areas where there was a lesser number (such as on the Namini / Barawardhana Oya areas) to make good the shortfall.

**CREATING FARMER CLUSTERS THROUGH COMMUNITY CONSULTATION – EXAMPLE PHOTOS  
(All photos and videos available on request)**

*The GMSL teams worked tirelessly in the field to engage with every single community holding the 2250 families. With a blanket intervention this was the only way despite difficulties. The engagement was opportunistic and the meets were held wherever and whenever possible with no consideration at all for standing on ceremony.*



On the side of a road, Lakegala



Informal chat on creating clusters, rathninda



Sometimes, an entire community as at Pahalagaldebokka...



At others, a single individual as at Meemure

**Coaching farmer clusters:** The cascade training was designed in two stages. In the first, a GN level training on generalities was to be conducted and in the second, the trainers would work at the level of each cluster/group to solve their specific and unique problems. The first stage was completed for the shortlisted families during the period under review in all river basins. The TOTs were given carte blanc to decide where and how they conducted their coaching activities. Note that while the TOTs were trained (i.e. formal training with specific curricula that enveloped a wide variety of sectors) whereas the coaching was task specific with no frills and the instruction was solely for the purpose of executing their work as natural farmers. The coaching was dependent on the terrain and the climate and took two major lines. In the first, some areas of the basins were provided with knowledge on how to create a Kandyan Home Garden whereas in other areas where the weather was drier, they were provided with training on chena (zero input) methods. In both, crop mixes were determined based on the actual possibilities of a location. The GNs of Navanagala, Kandegama, Dungolla (Heen Ganga), Dambagalla, Medawatta (Thelgamu Oya), Pahalagaldebokka (Barawardhana Oya), Himbiliyakada, Veheragala (Namini Oya) and Narangamuwa, Ranamure, Lakegala, Halminiya (Kalu Ganga) were given zero input agriculture training and the others were provided with Kandyan Home Garden training.

Basin	Clusters
Hingaga	179
Barawadana oya	6
Namini oya	5
Thelgamu oya	71
Kalugaga	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>275</b>

**CASCADE TRAINING STAGE 1 – EXAMPLE PHOTOS (All photos and videos available on request)**

*The coaching sessions were conducted by the TOTs at the convenience of the communities. They would gather either in small groups or larger ones depending on their workload and other activities in their daily lives. Where the sessions were held were again deemed unimportant and whatever convenient location was identified by the communities was the place where the TOT conducted the sessions.*



**IN THE FIELD: TOT Swarna conducts a fertilizer manufacturing coaching session at Sulugune**



**AT A TEMPLE: TOT Wasantha coaching community clusters at Pitawala on fertilizer manufacture**



**AT A HOUSE: TOT Upul Lakshita training a cluster again in input manufacture at Pusse Ela**

**Distribution of required agricultural bio-assets for planting:** There were two aspects to this. On the one hand, the GMSL planned to distribute saplings of fruit plants, spices and vegetables and on the other, it planned to provide seeds and propagules.

**Heirloom seeds and propagules:** As mentioned in table 01 as well as the previous quarterly report, identification of these were difficult to obtain. Due to this difficulty, the GMSL was forced to obtain quotes from single sources. In total, four such sources were identified and seed and propagules purchased from them during the period under review. These are the Plant Genetic Resource Center, CIC, Samarakoon Seeds and another supplier from Kurunegala. The lists of these seeds have been provided in the previous reports.

**Fruit plants and vegetables:** The fruit plants and cinnamon were purchased from multiple sources. Cinnamon plants were distributed to specific areas where it was possible to cultivate it. However, it should be noted that the GMSL has experienced the following in these types of procurements: a) The plants were in most cases substandard and b) Healthier plants were generally earmarked for community leaders or area officials while the actual farmers got material that was either impossible to use or had high levels of morbidity. Therefore, the GMSL teams expended significant amounts of time to obtain the healthiest of plants and watched them from the point of purchase to the point of delivery, following the transportation trucks/lorries to ensure that the utmost care was taken in their movement. The following table provides the distribution of the fruit plants to the clusters of all targeted GNs during the period under review:

Distribution of Cinnamon Plants		
GN	Families	# of plants
Pitawala	56	5600
Illukkumbura	47	4700
Etalwala	42	2110
Rathninda	57	5700
Meda Ela	43	4300
Mahalakotuwa	64	6400
Veheragala	180	10390
<b>Total</b>		<b>39200</b>

Fruit Plants distribution at the basin GN level										
GN	Families	Mango (Wilekolomban)	Tangerine (Local)	Jambu	Butter fruit	Olives	Guava	Uguressa	Durian	Required # of plants
Illukkumbura	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	416
Pitawala	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	528
Rathninda	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62	496
Mahalakotuwa	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	512
Etanwala	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	360
Meda Ela	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	368
Dmabagolla	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	960
Medawatte	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	480
Ranamure	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	157	1256
Narangamuwa	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	968
Halminiya	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	680
Lakegala	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	760
Veheragala	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	976
Himbiliyakada	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	744
Pahalagaldebokka	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	920
Kandegama	109	109	109	109	109	109	109	109	109	872
Padupola	83	83	83	83	83	83	83	83	83	664
Udukumbura	73	73	73	73	73	73	73	73	73	584
Udailuka	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	880
Navanagala	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	712
Meemure	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	920
Kaikawela	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	320
Pusse Ela	66	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	480
Kumbukgolla	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	736
Udagaladebokka	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	248
Dungolla	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	704
Sulugune	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	568
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2270</b>									<b>18,160</b>

**SELECTING FRUIT PLANTS – EXAMPLE PHOTOS (All photos and videos available on request)**

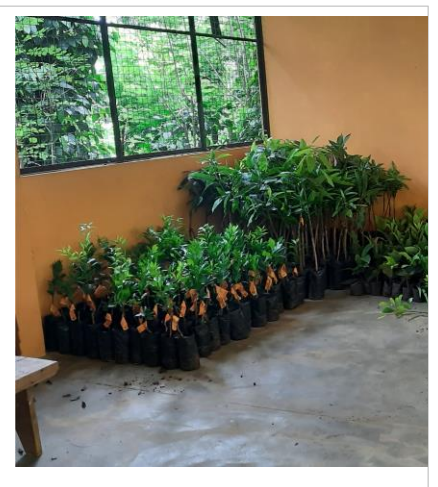
*From selection to loading to transportation to storing, the GMSL teams and volunteers including members of the newly created children's societies took it upon themselves to make sure that the process was perfect.*



**The healthiest plants were selected**



**Carefully stacked and transported**



**Delivered and stored with great care - children from the societies and youth helping out**





**Distributed to the communities with admonitions on how not to use them and an indication of the level of monitoring the that GMSL was going to be doing**



**...and taken away by each member of the community with much care to prevent them from being damaged due to the GMSL's prior coaching in the storage and planting of agricultural genetic assets**

**Construction of agro-wells:** The District Secretary of Wilgamuwa requested the GMSL to explore possibilities of helping a few families to complete their agro-wells. The construction of these wells was part of a project where the FAO part funded the exercise with funds distributed through the DS Office. The construction of such a well cost approximately LKR 250,000 whereas the available funds was LKR 166,000. Since the area was under severe water pressure and the families were mostly female headed and poor farmers, the GMSL acceded to the request to make up the shortfall through COLIBRI. The construction of the wells had initially been targeted at April but there was a dire need on the part of the families and therefore it was brought forward to Q4 and completed. In the exercise, the DS office provided their Technical Officer and the purchasing of materials was done according to his estimates. However, due to the rapid escalation of the price of materials, none of the hardware vendors were willing to offer quotes for cement. However, the GMSL went ahead with quotes for other materials and labor and completed the task.



**Construction of agro-wells at Veheragala (left) and Sulugune (top and bottom)**



**Testing soil and water:** As mentioned in the previous quarterly report this activity has become relatively less important due to the ban on agro-toxins and the visible signs that there was strong natural rebound when there is no serious interference with nature. However, such policies have had a tendency in the past of being redacted / renege and so, the GMSL shall perform the tests before the Yala Season as a benchmark for any future reestablishment of agrochemical usage through changes in state policy. Towards this, although it initially approached the IFS (Kandy) it was subsequently seen that some co-finance could be obtained for it through a new initiative of the IUCN. This opportunity went into initial discussions during the period under review and will be concluded during Q5.

**[All types of reports] Progress towards indicators’ targets.**

*Please report on the indicators of Annex A as attached to the Grant Agreement. Add as many rows as necessary.*

Field activities have progressed. However, until planting and yields are obtained and the watchdog groups operational, there is difficulty in measuring results against indicators except for agrochemical use which was completely stopped but not due to GMSL intervention but state policy.

## 4. PROJECT IMPACT

### **[All types of reports] Specific impact of the project.**

*Please give an overview of the achievements of the project from a short and long term point of view, indicating the source of information used. How the activities and the way they were executed contribute to the achievement of expected results and the overall objective of the project?*

---

The entire community in the target terrain was mobilized and there has been a significant level of enthusiasm on their engagement. However, the continuity of their commitment cannot be measured by their initial buy-in since much of the work is in their hands. The impact on the project will take a few months more in the very least and in some cases, especially with respect to improving green cover, the impact measurement may not be possible during the PLC.

## 5. NEXT STEPS / SUSTAINABILITY / EXIT STRATEGY

### **[Monthly, quarterly and other interim reports] Next steps in project implementation.**

*In light of the progress achieved within the reporting period covered by the report, please highlight the activities to be completely in the next reporting period.*

---

- Commence planting operations in agricultural livelihoods.
- Complete the soil and water testing.
- Commence improving green cover with identified bio-assets in identified regions.
- Establish the fire belts.
- Create the seed banks and improve sustainability and availability of heirloom bio-assets.
- Commence the social media and press related activities.

### **[Final report] Sustainability.**

*How will the structures created under the project continue to function after the end of the project? What is the long-term impact of the action?*

---

Not applicable.

### **[Final report] Exit strategy and/or future perspectives.**

*How did your organization ensure a sustainable way out? Is further support required?*

---

Not applicable.

## 6. SUCCESS STORY, CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT

### **[All types of reports] Success story.**

*Please insert a human interest story illustrating the project's success.*

---

Not applicable at the present time.

### **[Monthly, quarterly and other interim reports] Challenges.**

*Please use the table below to report on challenges faced and on how you overcame them. You may add as many rows as necessary.*

---

<b>Challenges faced:</b> <i>Describe below each challenge faced and its impact on the project</i>	<b>Mitigation measures:</b> <i>Describe how your organisation responded to the challenge faced</i>	<b>Prevention measures:</b> <i>Please indicate measures that will be taken in the future to prevent this challenge from occurring again</i>
<i>Price escalation of machinery and building materials</i>	<i>These fluxes are due to the current country and the GMSL does not have any way of controlling these because they are external dependencies that impact the project.</i>	<i>Not applicable for the GMSL.</i>
<i>Telescoped timeline creating difficulties in deploying HR assets</i>	<i>As mentioned in the last report, lack of HR assets creates significant issues. As the volume of work increased, it was seen that some percentages of activities earmarked for the period had to be pushed in to the future.</i>	<i>Not applicable.</i>

**[Final report] Lessons learnt.**

*What were the challenges faced during project implementation, how were they addressed, and what could have been done differently? What has your organization learned, and how has this learning been utilized and disseminated?*

Not applicable.

## 7. EXTERNAL COORDINATION

**[All types of reports] With Local Authorities.**

*How would you assess the relationship between your organization and State authorities? How has this relationship affected project implementation?*

As things progressed, substantial headway was made with the Gas and their teams in the Matala and Kandy district and at present, the GMSL's relationship with both of these may be considered to be excellent.

**[All types of reports] With other organizations.**

*Please describe your relationship with other organizations involved in implementation, including other implementing partners, CBOs, etc.*

The GMSL is now on the field and it engaged its network members, especially in conducting the TOTs and establishing the farmer cluster groups.

## 8. LIST OF ANNEXES

**[All types of reports] Annexes.**

*Please list all relevant annexes here.*

---

1. TOT report (Sinhala)
2. Biodiversity Clearinghouse discussion paper.