

Unplanned development activities and its impact on coastal environment and human livelihood: with special reference to Negombo - Marawila coast line

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From 1505 to 1947 Sri Lanka, especially the maritime zone of the country was occupied by the Western powers. Therefore all infrastructure facilities and other development activities began in this areas.

This paper identifies impact of these development activities to the natural system and human livelihood. Most of development activities were unplanned and this is the main reason for coastal environment degradation. Government had to launch conservation programmes and spend national income to prevent disasters in the area. However, in the development process, the country finds it difficult to invest on huge conservation projects.

To draw up a plan for environment conservation of coastal area while providing opportunities to strengthen the live hood of the rural communities through an ecosystem management approach would be one of the best ways in achieving such a goal. This will greatly ensure environmental sustainability of the society and strengthen the rural economy and live hood of the people.

Key words: coastal areas, livelihood, environment, conservation, Sri Lanka

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