

President – Mr. GLS Perera

Secretary – Ms. Manoja Weerakkody

Treasurer – Mr. Ranjan Gunawardana

Our tag line - A CONSERVATION JOURNEY THROUGH GENERATIONS

<https://lnclk.org>

Our Website was officially launched on 21st March, 2026 at the 10th year commemoration event at Green Gardens, Reception Hall, Colombo 6. Sri Lanka.

This year marks a significant year for LNC as it celebrates a milestone, a decade of efforts in the conservation of biodiversity of Sri Lanka.

Over the years, we have created awareness, inspired action, to protect the environment through a collective effort.

A dedicated team with commitment has taken small steps for greater impact in the future, beach cleaning, tree planting, forest restoration, turtle conservation and habitat restoration are some of them. We continue to engage in advocacy role to educate and create awareness among the public, and other interest groups for the protection and conservation of biodiversity in Sri Lanka.

A 10th Anniversary Special Edition publication was distributed to members and well wishers of The LNC

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LNC Public Relations Committee -

Professor Emeritus Indira D. Silva
Ms. Neelanganie Hidellarachchi

Ms. Iyanthi Gunawardana
Mr. Amitha Munasinghe

On the broad topic of Compassion for Earth....

An excerpt from Bhikkhu Paṇṇakāra's speech in the Commemoration of the International Day of Vesak 2026 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on Tuesday, May 12, 2026.

“..... As Buddhists, we are also reminded to extend compassion beyond humanity itself.

We must protect nature. We must care for the animals.

We must recognize the deep interconnection of all life.

From a Buddhist perspective, all sentient beings share the experience of fear, pain, and the desire to live. Animals, like humans, seek safety, comfort, and freedom from suffering.

Yet in many parts of the world today, countless animals endure suffering through neglect, exploitation, and unnecessary harm. Industrial systems of food production, experimentation, and entertainment often treat animals as objects rather than living beings.

When we reflect deeply, we begin to see that Compassion cannot be selective. If compassion is genuine, it naturally extends beyond human boundaries. To cultivate kindness toward animals is not separate from cultivating kindness toward humans. It is part of the same moral and spiritual development.



When we harm other beings unnecessarily, we also lose our own sensitivity. When we protect life, we refine our awareness and strengthen our capacity for empathy.

The Buddha's teaching of non-harming invites us to expand our circle of care as widely as possible. To understand that all life is interconnected is true wisdom.

Caring for animals is therefore not a secondary concern. It is part of cultivating a peaceful world.

A society that respects life in all its forms is a society that moves closer to true harmony.

At the same time, our responsibility extends to the environment that sustains all beings. The Earth is not separate from us. It is the condition for our survival.

When nature is degraded, all beings suffer. When ecosystems collapse, human society also becomes unstable.

When humanity lives without mindfulness toward the environment, suffering eventually follows for all beings.

Please know that caring for the Earth is also an act of great compassion.

Today, standing here at the United Nations, I believe there is still reason for hope.

Hope exists whenever human beings choose kindness over hatred.

Hope exists whenever nations choose dialogue over conflict.

Hope exists whenever communities come together in mutual respect.

And hope exists whenever humanity remembers that peace begins within.....

LNC Annual General Meeting and 10th Anniversary Celebrations

The Ninth AGM was successfully held on 21st of March, 2026 at the Green Gardens Reception Hall, Robert Gunawardene Mawatha, Colombo 6 with the participation of our valued members, coinciding with The International Day of Forests.



Tenth Anniversary Celebrations

The celebrations commenced by lighting of the traditional oil lamp by the distinguished dignitaries and invitees. The Director General of the Department of Wildlife Conservation, Mr. M.S.L.R.P. Marasinghe presided as the Chief Guest. Former Director General of the Civil Security Department (CSD), Major General KHP Palitha Fernando (Retd) who is also a member of the LNC was the Guest of Honor for the function.



The session provided a review of the past year's Annual Report and Financial Statements by the Secretary Ms. Manoja Weerakkody, highlighting key projects accomplished by LNC from its inception a decade ago with the commitment and dedication of our members, while indicating the association's commitment to transparency and accountability, in conservation and protection of biodiversity in Sri Lanka.

The official launch of the LNC website <https://lnclk.org> marked a significant milestone for our association, symbolizing our commitment to effective communication to showcase our initiatives, share updates, events, and information to engage with a wider audience.



Following the formal proceedings, the evening was transformed into celebrations of ten successful years, with the participation of over a hundred guests, members, their friends and families joining to recognize the founding members and past presidents who contributed over the past years to making LNC what it is today.



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The decade of celebrations concluded on a high note with an evening of music, dinner, dancing, and an exciting raffle draw, bringing together members in a spirit of fellowship and camaraderie from the YZA days. The Committee acknowledge the presence of Dr. Jagath Gunawardene, a lawyer wellknown for his advocacy in wildlife conservation and environmental protection, and the Wildlife Veterinarians Dr. Malaka Abeywardana and Dr. Kalani Samarakoon who do yeoman service for the wellbeing of animals living in Sri Lanka's wilderness.

The LNC 10th Anniversary Special Edition publication, and other LNC memorabilia were made available for the members and well wishers who attended the occasion.

As we conclude this memorable chapter, we thank each and every member for being part of this journey and look forward to creating many more meaningful moments together."



News from LNC Environmental Task Force

Tree Planting Activity- Nallathanneer

LNC had our latest Environmental Task Force (ETF) activity in Nallathanni, where young volunteers together with their mentors, took part in planting saplings hoping to help Earth recover, and make a better environment and a healthy ecosystem for wildlife and humans – to live and share our planet in harmony.



PROGRESS OF THE TREE PLANTING IN AMPARA

The ETF activity in October 2025 held in Paragahakelle, Ampara. The saplings planted are growing well as seen in the images below captured during a recent visit to the site by Mr. Lalith Gamage, Vice President, LNC.



Proud Sri Lankan Leopard Parents Yala and Asanka

The Sri Lankan leopard mother Yala and father Asanka's first litter of two males and one female cubs born to on 1 January 2026 at Singapore Zoo made their public debut. The Curator at Animal Care (Operations), Mandai Wildlife Group, had noted that the two males tend to be more laid-back, while the female is feistier. Yala, an experienced mother with two previous litters before her transfer to Singapore, has been attentively nursing and caring for her triplets since their birth. The little ones were given a clean bill of health at their first veterinary check in February and, and also received vaccinations against common feline diseases and deworming treatment as part of routine preventive care.



They are among the approximately 80 Sri Lankan leopards in zoos worldwide. Sri Lankan leopards are listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List due to threats by habitat loss, declining prey and illegal wildlife trade. Fewer than 800 individuals estimated to remain in the wild.

Yala and Asanka were paired as part of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) Ex-situ

Programme (EEP), an internationally coordinated breeding programme aimed at maintaining healthy and genetically diverse populations of threatened species. the 8.5 years old Yala, arrived In 2024, from Banham Zoo and Aquaria in the United Kingdom, while Asanka, was transferred around age 5 from the National Zoo & Aquarium in Australia in 2025.

After positive behavioural responses were observed, the pair were brought together in late September, with mating occurring soon after. Pregnancy was confirmed a month later in October, with weekly ultrasound monitoring of the development through to birth.



Dame Valerie Jane Morris Goodall

The most revered conservationists

On October 1, 2025, the world lost one of its most revered conservationists, Dr. Jane Goodall, who earned global recognition and scientific stature through her groundbreaking studies of wild chimpanzees in East Africa. She passed away at the age of 91 in Los Angeles, California, USA. Dr. Goodall's remarkable journey began in 1963, at the age of 29, when National Geographic magazine published her 7,500-word, 37-page account describing the lives and behavior of chimpanzees she had observed in the Gombe Stream Chimpanzee Reserve in Tanzania. The article vividly portrayed her struggles to overcome disease, predators, isolation, and frustration while working from a primitive research station in the African rainforest in an effort to gain the trust of the chimpanzees. Her pioneering work with chimpanzees became one of the Western world's greatest scientific achievements. Dr. Goodall authored 32 books, including 15 written for children. Her final book, *The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times* (2021), reflected her enduring optimism about the future of humankind.



During her years in the African wilderness, despite encountering numerous dangers, she devoted her life to understanding and protecting wildlife. Dr. Goodall also helped open doors for women in the largely male-dominated world of science. In July 2022, Mattel honored her with a Jane Goodall doll as part of its Barbie-branded “Inspiring Women” series. The doll, featuring her signature blond hair and dressed in a tan field shirt and shorts, was to commemorate the 62nd anniversary of her first visit to the Gombe reserve.



Much of Dr. Goodall's research focused on several generations of a troop of 30 to 40 chimpanzees. Chimpanzees, along with bonobos, are the species genetically closest to humans. In later years, Dr. Goodall dedicated much of her time to protecting chimpanzees and their rapidly disappearing habitats. She strongly opposed the capture of wild chimpanzees for zoos and medical research. In 1977, she established the Jane Goodall Institute, which evolved into one of the world's largest nonprofit global research and conservation organizations, with offices in the United States and 24 other countries. In 2002, the United

Nations honored her as a Messenger of Peace, one of the organization's highest recognitions for global citizenship.

The University of Cambridge accepted Dr. Goodall into its doctoral program in 1961 without an undergraduate degree, and she earned her doctorate in 1965 — a remarkable achievement in itself. Her many honors included the National Geographic Society's Hubbard Medal in 1995 and the Templeton Prize in 2021. In 2003, Queen Elizabeth II appointed her Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire. In January 2025, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States.

One of Dr. Goodall's most powerful and enduring quotes continues to inspire people around the world:
“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”