

RESTORING THE ECOSYSTEMS AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE: AN ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK ON THE PROTECTION OF ECOSYSTEMS IN SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

Even though the anthropocentric activities of humankind have triggered climate change and global heating, the repercussions are paid collectively by every living being including the natural environment. Ecosystems all over the world are constantly challenged by extreme weather conditions while the faunal and floral species are trying to adapt to the adverse outcomes of climate emergencies. Accordingly, terrestrial, coastal, and maritime ecosystems in Sri Lanka are also threatened by this global concern which in turn disturbs the livelihoods of the citizens and other living beings. However, the evidence shows that many of the related concerns and impacts of climate change can be positively addressed by adopting necessary protective mechanisms to restore the deteriorating ecosystems. Although these resolutions may be initiated as short-term goals, they can make a long-lasting difference in the present circumstances. Accordingly, this research will first investigate how the impacts of climate change are disturbing the unique ecosystems of Sri Lanka and thereby distress the lives of citizens and wildlife of the country. The next step is to explore any individual or collective legal protection granted to the ecosystems in Sri Lanka. This will require a thorough analysis of the prevailing legislative instruments which emphasize conserving the ecosystems and would be helpful to understand whether these protective measures of environmental management are capable of minimizing the impacts of climate emergency. Accordingly, the research will suggest what further steps should be taken to safeguard and reestablish the collapsed ecosystems in Sri Lanka, which will also prove to be helpful for other nations in the region who face the same circumstances.

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