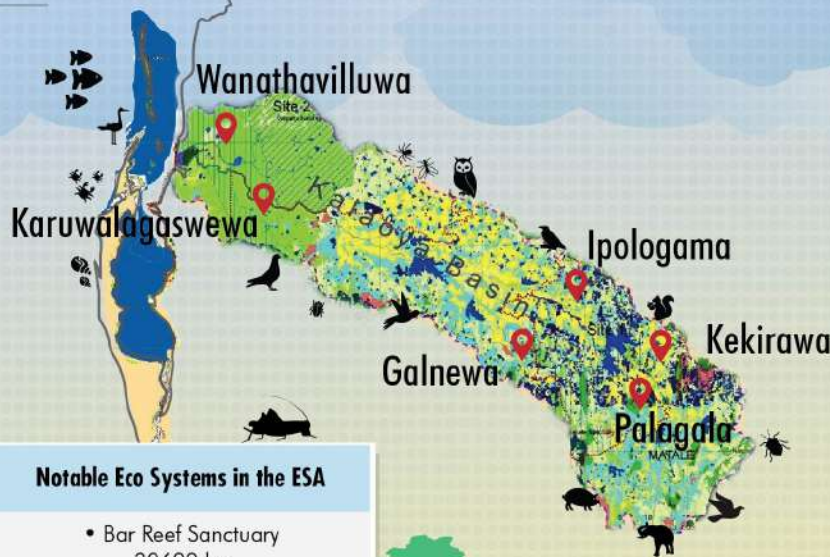


Kala Oya Region

Environmentally Sensitive Area



Notable Eco Systems in the ESA

- Bar Reef Sanctuary
30600 ha
- Wilpattu the sixth Ramsar Wetland
131667 ha
- Ritigala Strict Nature Reserve
1528 ha
- Saltwater Marshes
250ha
- Mangrove Forests
620 ha
- Riverine Forests
400 ha
- Moist Mixed Evergreen Forests (Ranawe Kanda)
- Dry Mixed Evergreen Forests (Kahalla Pallekale Sanctuary)
21690 ha
- Scrub on Floodplains
100 ha

Environmental issues of the Kala Oya Basin

- Deforestation
- Degradation of forests and catchments
- Unsustainable use of natural resources
 - Invasive Alien Species (IAS)
 - Pollution
- Hunting and poaching
- Habitat loss and fragmentation
- Unplanned human settlements resulting in the human-elephant conflict
- Natural Disasters and Climate Change

Proposed areas to be restored under the Environmentally Sensitive Area Project.

| | |
|--|----------|
| I. Critical forest habitat | 8000 ha |
| II. Catchment and tank cascade systems | 7000 ha |
| III. Coastal and river based habitats | 1000 ha |
| IV. Isolated hillside land | 1500 ha |
| V. Agriculture production lands | 25000 ha |

Animal species of the Kala Oya Basin

Mammals including elephants, leopards, torque monkey, purple faced langur, fishing cat, red slender loris, sloth bear, sambur wild boars, and deer;

Reptiles such as crocodiles, Hawks bill turtle, Olive ridley turtle, black headed ibis, Vipers, pythons, green vine snake, Sri Lanka cat snake, bronzeback, wolf snake, Cobra

Fishes including Giant Grouper, Snakehead murrel,, kaha koralia, grey eel catfish, attentive carplet soreya, Barb; Corals

Further, endemic birds such as crimson breasted barbet, malkoha, Ceylon grey hornbill and migratory birds can be observed in this area during different periods.

The Kala Oya Basin is one of 103 river basins in Sri Lanka. Approximately 25km wide, its length is 150 km. 76% of the Kala Oya Basin lies in the dry zone of the North Western province. The Kala Oya River Basin is unique and is spread across at different heights ranging from 600 m above sea level and reaches up to sea level.

There are 600 small tanks in this region of which a few are in ruins and the rest in good condition. Th Kala Oya flows through the North Central, Central and North Western Provinces and nurtures the eco systems and the fauna and flora that lives in it.

Plans have been made to include an area of 209,700 ha to the Kala Oya Environmentally Sensitive Area. This includes 158,700 ha of landscape and 51,000 ha of seascape.

Protecting the Kala Oya Environmentally Sensitive Area

This project is adopting conservation principles to preserve the ESAs of this region. Thereby, various strategies will be taken for sustainable preserving of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The local communities in the selected sites of Anuradhapura & Puttalam districts are active stakeholders of this process and they will receive support to adopt sustainable livelihood & production practices. This includes promoting environmentally friendly agriculture and biodiversity friendly land use to facilitate rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems services and sustainable management of Environmentally Sensitive Areas.