Forest Restoration in Sri Lanka:

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Forest Cover of Sri Lanka
### Extent of Forests by forest types in 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forest Type</th>
<th>Extent-ha</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lowland Rain Forests</td>
<td>123,302</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moist Monsoon Forests</td>
<td>117,885</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry Monsoon Forests</td>
<td>1,121,392</td>
<td>17.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montane Forests</td>
<td>44,758</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub Montane Forests</td>
<td>28,513</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverine Dry Forests</td>
<td>2,425</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mangrove Forest</td>
<td>15,669</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savannah Forest</td>
<td>68,043</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open and Sparse Forest</td>
<td>429,485*</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,951,472</td>
<td><strong>29.7</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Forest Cover Change

Area ha

Year

1992 1999 2010

Open Forest
Closed Forest
Forest Restoration Programme of Sri Lanka

• Objective:
To increase the Forest Cover by 200,000 ha in order to increase the forest cover up to 32% and to meet Bonn Challenge.
Forest Restoration Programme

Source: David Lamb and Don Gilmour, 2003
Main Approaches of Restoration

- Replanting of heavily degraded lands with local species
- Promotion of natural regeneration and planting with limited number of seedlings

Achievement:

Restoration process commenced in 9500 ha of degraded forests from 2014
Natural Regeneration after suppression of Guinea grass in dry zone
Natural regeneration after removal of *Ziziphus iucida* (Eraminiya)
Removal of wire fern promotes natural regeneration in wet zone
Ecological integrity of restored or rehabilitated ecosystems and human well-being

Human well-being has improved but environmental conditions have not changed.

Ecosystem integrity has improved but there is no gains in human well-being.

Ecosystem integrity and human well-being have improved.
Forest Landscape Restoration

- Expanded landscape restoration programme was started by Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment and Forest Department
- Special attention is paid on watershed protection
- Lands belongs to different stakeholders will be restored
  - Government Forestry Agencies
  - Plantation Companies (Government and Private )
  - Mahaweli Development Authority
  - Private individuals
- Stakeholder identification has been done and stakeholder consultation is done
- Projects formulation is in progress . (Different stages)
Identified strategies

- Replanting of heavily degraded lands with local species, Pioneers, N-fixing legumes, Planting of fruit bearing species; Spices etc.

- Promotion of natural regeneration in moderately degraded lands and planting of limited number of seedlings.

- Reforestation with commercially valuable species
  - Timber, Fuel wood,

- Restoration of Animal Habitats

- Tree planting on private lands and home gardens

- Promotion of Soil and water Conservation