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PART I: SECTION (I) – GENERAL

Government Notifications

FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES ACT No. 2 OF 1996

FISHERIES Development and Management Plan of the Garanduwa Lagoon Management Area made under Sub Section (4) of Section 31B of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No. 2 of 1996.

DOUGLAS DEVANANDA,
Minister of Fisheries.

Colombo.
31st March, 2024,

Fisheries Development and Management Plan of the Garanduwa Lagoon

The document containing these rules, regulations, principles and the operating procedure has been compiled aiming at maintaining the environmental conditions of the Garanduwa Lagoon located in Matara District out of the 116 lagoons in Sri Lanka in a sustainable manner thereby securing and upgrading the livelihoods carried out in and around the lagoon.

After the plan is approved and forwarded to the Director General of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources by the Coordinating Committee of the Garanduwa Lagoon, the Director General, having examined the compliance with the matters mentioned in the Act, shall forward the same to the Minister of Fisheries for approval.(Section 31 B)



After the Minister approves this plan and publishes it in the gazette, the matters mentioned herein will come into effect. (Sub Section 4 of Section 31 B)

The Minister shall give effect to the provisions in the plan by making appropriate regulations under Section 61 and by publishing appropriate notifications under Section 34. (Sub Section 5 of Section 31 B)

01. Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of the Garanduwa Lagoon

The committee appointed by the Director General of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources under the Section 31A of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act No.2 of 1996 as amended No.35 of 2013 designated as the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Garanduwa Lagoon hereinafter. (Its composition is shown under Annexure 01) This committee shall meet under the chairmanship of the District Secretary of the respective district while the District Assistant Director of Fisheries shall function as the secretary of this committee.

02. Principles:

Measures shall be taken according to the following principles and values in making decisions on harvesting, use and consumption of the resources in the lagoon ecosystem.

- Equitable distribution of resources
- Lawfulness
- Co-ordination/Representation
- Transparency
- Environmental Friendliness
- Efficiency and effectiveness
- Accountability
- Common Consensus (Irrespective of races/religions/castes/political/professional powers)
- Effective response
- Collectivity

03. The area in which the Fisheries Management Coordinating Plan of Garanduwa Lagoon is implemented:

The Garanduwa Lagoon waters belonging to the Weligama Divisional Secretariat Division in Matara District Southern Province of Sri Lanka and the land area belonging to 6 Grama Niladhari Divisions identified adjacent thereto are designated as the Fisheries Management Area of Garanduwa Lagoon (Garanduwa Lagoon Management area published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1997/19 and dated 15.12.2016 provisions in section 31 (1) of the Fisheries Management Areas of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No.2 of 1996 as amended No.35 of 2013 is designated as the Fisheries Management area of Garanduwa Lagoon.)

- Geographical Area: The lagoon area identified within the Garanduwa Lagoon will be explained by a map containing G.P.S.data, which has been mentioned under Annexure No.2
- There are 06 Grama Niladhari Divisions of Weligama Divisional Secretariat Division bordering the identified land area of Garanduwa Lagoon
 1. Mirissa Udumulla-405 B
 2. Mirissa Udupila-405 A
 3. Bandaramulla-407 A
 4. Thal Aramba North-407 D
 5. Thal Aramba East-407 C
 6. Garanduwa-408 B

04. Institutional Structure

There is 01 Lagoon Fisheries Management Committees that include lagoon fishermen engaged in the fisheries industry in Garanduwa lagoon. (Fisheries Management Committees had been established and registered for Garanduwa Lagoon Management area Published in Gazette Extraordinary No.2027/33 and dated 13.07.2017 by Director General of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources provisions in Sub section 3 of Section 32 of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No.2 of 1996)

Name of the Fisheries Committee

Registration No.

1.1 Garanduwa Fisheries Lagoon Management Committee DFAR/F.Com/G.L./01

1. Fisheries Management Committee of Garanduwa Lagoon operating within the Garanduwa Lagoon consists of 30 members.
2. The Executive Committee of the said Committee (11 representatives) shall meet once a month.
3. The General meeting of the Lagoon Fisheries Committee shall be held on the last Full moon Poya day once every two months.
4. The Annual General Meeting of the Fisheries Management Committee shall be held in the month of December every year.
5. In accordance with the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act No. 02 of 1996 and as per the provisions of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (Amendment) Act No. 35 of 2013, the composition of the Fisheries Coordinating Committee of the Garanduwa Lagoon shall consist of the officers and the institutions as indicated under Annexure No. 01.
6. Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Garanduwa Lagoon is held once every three months and the District Assistant Director of Fisheries District is acting as its Convener while the District Secretary will chair the same.
7. In the case of an exigency, the said committee shall meet even before the prescribed time.

05. Decision making methodology in the institutional structure

1. The decision making process in respect of harvesting, use and consumption of the aquatic resources of the lagoon shall be carried out by the Lagoon Management Committee and the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Garanduwa Lagoon in accordance with the principles and agreements identified in this plan.
2. The District Secretary of Matara will act as the Chairman of the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Garanduwa Lagoon.

3. Fishing operations in the lagoon shall be monitored by the Lagoon Fisheries Management Committees. In case of any unsolvable disputes the same should be referred to the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Garanduwa Lagoon.
4. When submitting proposals of the Fisheries Management Committees of Garanduwa Lagoon to the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Garanduwa Lagoon, the proposals to be submitted shall be adopted with majority votes by each Fisheries Management Committee. Then the same shall be caused to be taken up and decided on at the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Garanduwa Lagoon.
5. The proposals submitted by the Lagoon Fisheries Management Committees and the other stakeholders for the decision of the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Garanduwa Lagoon shall be taken for discussion according to the principles under (No.05.1) in the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee.
6. When presenting or implementing a development proposal affecting the lagoon fisheries ecosystem, the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Garanduwa Lagoon should obtain an Environmental Assessment Report (EIA/IEE) from the Central Environmental Authority in relation to the relevant project and then take into account the recommendations mentioned in the relevant report. Subsequently, the relevant proposal should be submitted for the recommendation of a panel of experts.
7. In an instance where it is not possible to make a decision on the proposals presented to the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Garanduwa Lagoon, the Fisheries Management Co-coordinating Committee can consult the opinion of the relevant institutions at the national level and take decisions accordingly.
8. The Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of Garanduwa Lagoon shall prepare a plan in relation to the lagoon and then the committee by implementing the plan shall take action to monitor, regulate and follow up the same.

06. Protected Natural Resources of the Lagoon

- All plant communities in the mangrove ecosystem including the land belt/ lagoon water/ fish, birds and other aquatic life and the identified island within the lagoon management area will be designated as natural resources belonging to the Garanduwa Lagoon.
- Areas associated with mangroves and lagoon limit will be identified at the time of marking the GPS coordinates and then the area will be designated as an ecologically sensitive area.
- Specific areas where aquatic organisms breed will be identified and those areas and limits will be designated as no-harvesting zones.
- The undertakings such as researching/acquiring/destroying/filling all living or non-living resources other than edible fish without the permission or consent of the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of the Garanduwa Lagoon are considered as those matters which violate the Fisheries Management Plan of the Garanduwa Lagoon and no any such action shall be done within the lagoon limit and protected areas.
- The reserve of canals through which water flows to the lagoon should be at least 05 meters each to either side from the bank of the canal.

07. Appropriate activities and restrictions in the lagoon

1. Only a maximum of 30 fishermen registered with the Fisheries Management Committee of the Garanduwa Lagoon are allowed to engage in fishing activities in the lagoon.
2. If every fisherman engaged in fishing in the Garanduwa lagoon owns a canoe, he shall get it registered with the Department of Fisheries and the relevant registration number be marked on the boat to be clearly visible.
3. Every registered fisherman is permissible to use setting net in the lagoon during the period only from 6.00 p.m. to 8.00 a.m. and a maximum of 300 meters of netting (06 pieces) can only be set at a time. The minimum limit will be decided on by the Fisheries Management Committee of the lagoon when the amount of fish harvest decreases.
4. The minimum mesh size of the setting net that can be used for fish species throughout the year should be a minimum of 3 - 3 1/2 inches.
5. The fishermen registered with the Fisheries Management Committee of the Garanduwa Lagoon can use cast nets in the lagoon throughout the year.
6. Only a maximum of 10 registered canoes can be used for fishing operations in the Garanduwa lagoon.

The fishing methods allowed in the lagoon;

- Netting
- Throwing cast nets
- Pole and line

08. Prohibited Activities in Garanduwa Lagoon

1. Use of Thangus thread for fishing is strictly prohibited.
2. All mechanized boats and mechanized canoes are strictly prohibited to sail in the lagoon.
3. Landing aircraft on the surface of the lagoon is strictly prohibited.
4. In the lagoon,
 - Beating the water by setting nets into the water and spooking the fish
 - Hand plucking
 - Catching prawns by squeezing the mud
 - Stinging fish (with wire rods and pointed hooks)
 - Fishing basket cane trap and prohibited fishing methods identified under the Fisheries Act are also included.
5. Netting in the lagoon from 8:00 a.m to 6:00 p.m. is strictly prohibited.
6. Throwing cast nets for fish during the night is strictly prohibited.

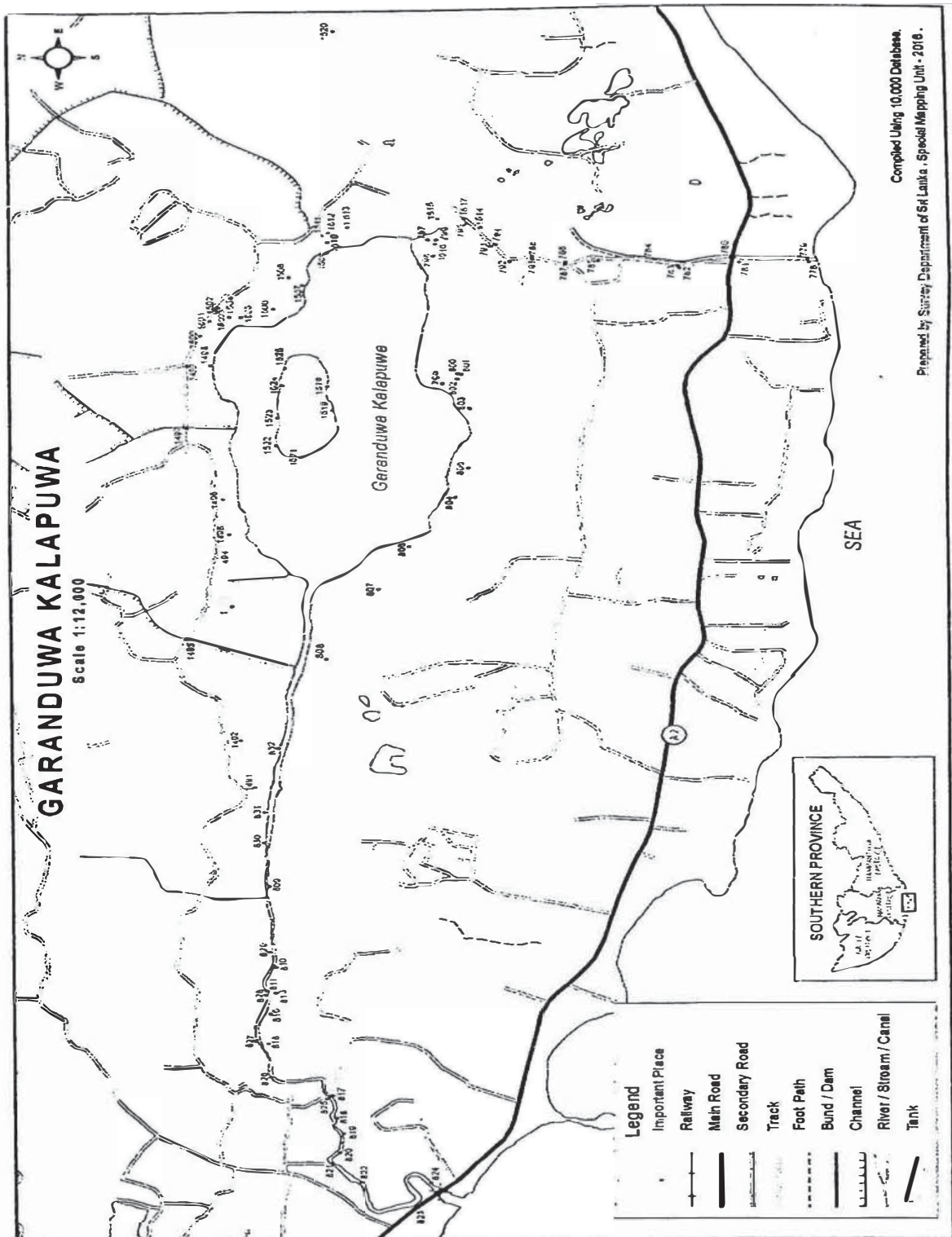
7. No any temporary or permanent construction or reclamation shall be done within the surface and land reserve of the lagoon.
8. There is no any right to divide and own the lagoon considering the same as a common resource of all the registered fishermen.
9. When the contents introduced in the Fisheries Management Coordinating Plan of Garanduwa Lagoon are violated,
 - In the case of violation of the matters in this plan related to the fishing activities of the lagoon, a team appointed by the Fisheries Management Committee of the Lagoon should identify the people who violate the laws and agreements first and inform the officials of the Department of Fisheries in this regard. Persons and gear that continue to violate the relevant agreements should be referred for legal action by the officials of the Department of Fisheries in accordance with the Fisheries Act.
 - Any person and organization can make complaints at the Weligama Police Station against the persons and institutions that violate the conditions in connection with mechanized boats running in the lagoon, cutting mangroves, reclamation of the lagoon, construction carried out in the lagoon. At the same time, such complaints should be forwarded in writing to the Secretary and the Chairman of the Fisheries Management Coordinating Committee of the Garanduwa Lagoon.
10. Submission of amendments to the Coordinating Plan of the Garanduwa Lagoon .
 - Decisions and orders taken by a 2/3 majority vote at the General Assembly of Fisheries Management Committee of the Lagoon shall be submitted to the Coordinating Committee.
 - The orders taken by the Co-ordinating Committee in its sessions shall be forwarded to the Director General of Fisheries by the end of the year, and the proposals received by the Director General of Fisheries should be submitted Fisheries Regulations.

Annexure -01

1. District Secretary
2. District Assistant Director of Fisheries
3. District Office of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources - Two officers
4. 04 members on behalf of the Fisheries Management Committee of Garanduwa Lagoon
5. Divisional Secretary - Weligama
6. Chairman - Pradeshiya Sabha - Weligama
7. An officer of the Urban Development Authority
8. Provincial Director of Fisheries

9. An officer of the Department of Coastal Resources Management
10. An officer of NARA (National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency)
11. An officer of the National Aquaculture Development Authority
12. An officer of the Central Environment Authority
13. An officer of the Department of Wildlife Conservation
14. An officer of the Forest Department
15. An officer of the Marine Environment Protection Authority
16. An officer of the Ministry of Lands
17. An officer of the Department of Police
18. An officer of the Department of Coast Guard
19. An officer of the Sri Lanka Navy In terms of the Act, under any other institutions the Committee may require
20. An officer of the Irrigation Department
21. An officer of the Department of Agricultural Development
22. Community organizations in the area -Two representatives of Garanduwa Lagoon Conservation Organization
23. Two representatives of farmer organizations around Garanduwa Lagoon (Udupila/ Udumulla)
24. An officer of the Department of Land Use
25. An officer of the District Planning Office

Annexure - 02



Annexture - 03

FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES ACT, No. 02 OF 1996

NOTIFICATIONS made by the Director General of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources under section (3) of section 32 of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No. 02 of 1996.

Notice

It is hereby notified that a Fisheries Management committee *had* been established and registered for Garanduwa Lagoon Fisheries Management Area published in *Gazette Extraordinary* No. 1997/19, 15th December 2016.

Name of the Fisheries Committee

Registered No.

1. Garanduwa Fisheries Lagoon Management Committee

DFAR/F.Com/G.L./01

M. C. L. FERNANDO

Director General

Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources,
New Secretariat Building,
Maligawatta, Colombo 10.
10th July, 2017.

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