

# International Day for Biological Diversity: Sri Lanka Events 2009

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## National Symposium on Alien Invasive Species

21-22 May, 2009, Colombo

The symposium is organized by the Biodiversity Secretariat of the Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources in collaboration with Institute of Biology and the Agriculture Education Unit of the University of Peradeniya, to commemorate the 'International Biodiversity Day' (IBD) 2009. The theme of the IBD 2009 is 'Invasive Alien Species'. Technical assistance is provided by the Experts Group of GEF/UNDP funded Project 'Strengthening Capacity to Control the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Alien Species in Sri Lanka'.

Focusing on the different global and national issues of invasive alien species, the symposium will provide an opportunity to enhance the understanding of the issues through keynote presentations, poster session and panel discussion by researchers, policy makers and practitioners in the field.

## Project on Strengthening Capacity to Control the introduction and Spread of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Sri Lanka

Biodiversity Secretariat of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Sri Lanka has initiated a full-sized project on management and effective control of invasive alien plant and animal species with the financial and technical assistance of the UNDP/GEF.

This project intends to address the present gaps in controlling the introduction and spread of invasive species in the country by addressing barriers through appropriate policy intervention, coordination, economic instruments, legislation and information.

Project further aims to build capacity to control the introduction and spread of Alien Invasive Species to safeguard globally important biodiversity, endemic and threatened species and critical ecosystems in Sri Lanka. Project could contribute immensely to generate new findings and information to the scientific community

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