

Project:

Polwaththa Forest Healing Project

Location:

Polwaththa, Sri Lanka. Just outside the Knuckles Conservation Forest World Heritage Site and biodiversity hotspot

Goal:

Restore degraded forest and conserve nearby high biodiversity forest

PROGRESS SO FAR



3ha
restored
of degraded high
biodiversity value forest



550
trees planted
primarily species endemic
to Sri Lanka



70%
survival rate
through effective sapling
care by our team



\$4k
donations
to the Forest Healing
Foundation in 2019



30+
local families
supported by community
shop initiative

NEXT STEPS

Our future plans are aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals:



15 LIFE ON LAND
We aim to purchase an **additional 3ha** of biodiverse forest to protect it from deforestation for development.



13 CLIMATE ACTION
We estimate that this will help secure a carbon stock of approx. 12,000 tonnes as well as ensuring further CO₂ sequestration.



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
We will continue to raise awareness of the energy and well-being benefits of the forest, as well as its environmental importance, to our visitors and local community.



Time is of the essence. The local government recently announced plans to rebuild two roads passing close to the area of forest identified for protection. These are likely to significantly increase the risk of deforestation for development on the forest land, as well as increasing the land price. We must act quickly to protect the forest.

CONTACT

We are urgently looking for funding to help protect this beautiful forest. If you are able to help or would like to make a donation, please contact:

info@foresthealingsrilanka.org.



OUR TEAM



Henk Kieft

Co-founder and CEO

Henk is a technical expert in sustainable agriculture and rural development with a special focus on soil and water conservation



Nihal Ellegala

Co-founder and Head of Operations

Nihal is an experienced tourism specialist with a passion for conservation and community development



Nel Kapteyn

Polwaththa Planting

Nel and her local team manage tree planting and care following their carefully developed methodology – they do the hard work!



Remon Ellegala

Business Manager

Son of Nihal and Nel, Remon heads up the eco-lodge business management and Foundation coordination

Board

The Forest Healing Foundation is governed by a Board who's members also include key figures in the local community, such as the village officer Grama Niladhari and the local Buddhist priest. The team are also supported by an advisory group of professionals in the fields of agronomy, forestry and project management.

OUR HISTORY

1890

Nihal's grandfather purchases **5ha of forest** in what would later become Polwaththa, near Kandy

2009

Nihal and Nel take over the property and begin the creation of a **sustainable eco-lodge**

2017

2ha of nearby degraded forest is purchased with Henk for restoration

2019

Foundation established and retreats launched, offering the opportunity to plant trees and incorporating a donation to fund ongoing work

1920s

The land is converted to be managed as **Kandyan Forest Garden** – akin to modern day permaculture. This maintains a large mosaic of forest habitat among a diverse array of trees for fruit and spice cultivation

2010

Nel initiates a **tree planting program** on the land and researches the most effective techniques to ensure sapling survival

2019

Organic land certification is achieved for the lodge area, enabling visitors, staff and their families to enjoy organic vegetables

2020

Urgent need identified to protect adjacent forest from deforestation following announcement of new roads

FIND OUT MORE

For more information, please see foresthealingsrilanka.org or follow us on Twitter @ForestSri.

