

Environment

The biological diversity that sustains and drives the Earth's ecosystems is under intense pressure from human activities. We are now exceeding the world's capacity to regenerate by 25 per cent. This means humanity is turning resources into waste faster than nature can turn waste back into resources and we are drawing down on nature's capital rather than living off its interest.

These issues require urgent attention within the global international development agenda and are a key focus of our work.



Examples of CWW Environmental partners....

India

Toxics Link: This environmental NGO is one of the very few organisations in India providing an information link and research-based action for a greater impact at policy and grassroots level. The organisation has expertise in areas of hazardous, medical and municipal waste and works on specific issues such as the use of pesticides and persistent organic pollutants (POPs). They have implemented best practice models and helped scale and share them nationwide. Toxics Link network, campaign and exchange information with several hundred groups and individuals spread nationally.

Belize

Belize Audubon Society: This NGO is dedicated to the sustainable management of Belize's natural resources. Since its formation in 1969 BAS has been Belize's foremost environmental organization protecting Belize's precious natural resources while educating the public about their value and sustainable use. BAS has grown from an all-volunteer organization with 55 charter members to a Society of over 1200 members with a staff of more than 42. BAS has been instrumental in the management, development and financing of protected areas that have been designated under the National Parks System Act of 1981. Currently BAS manages nine of Belize's protected areas.

Case Study

CWW Delivery Partner: Rainforest Rescue International (RRI), Sri Lanka

CWW Volunteers: Julia Frankl and Karen Chambers

A new CWW Delivery Partner, based in Galle, Sri Lanka is Rainforest Rescue International (RRI). When the tsunami struck in December 2004, RRI halted existing conservation programmes to assist with humanitarian relief efforts.

As the need for tsunami related relief work winds down, RRI is turning its attention back to the many environmental problems plaguing Sri Lanka – severe soil erosion, decreasing fish stocks, biodiversity loss, flooding and landslides associated with deforestation and coastal vulnerability to storms, rising sea levels and tsunamis due to severe coastal ecosystem degradation.

As part of the Scottish Government funded programme in tsunami affected areas of Sri Lanka, CWW volunteers Karen and Julia have been working with RRI to build their capacity to deliver programmes which address these environmental problems. In particular they are supporting the organisation to raise awareness of their project *Galle: Rainforest City*.

Galle, now a thriving town, was once covered in rainforest and a few rainforest species can still be found in the town. Sri Lanka's last remaining rainforest area is only 1.5 hours drive away from Galle and is home to 50% of the island's endemic species of mammals, butterflies, insects, reptiles and rare amphibians.

To launch the programme, CWW volunteers supported RRI planning high profile events including a ceremonial tree-planting event with Sri Lankan and English cricket players on the eve of the final 2007 test match! They placed four native Sri Lankan trees in the recently restored Galle Cricket Stadium.



Future Plans....

We are continuing to expand our work in this area, focusing on two of the highest priority environmental issues – biodiversity conservation and climate change.

Over the next year we are building new partnerships with Fauna & Flora International (FFI) - the world's oldest established international conservation organisation as well as the Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy - a leading supporter of innovation in sustainable energy production.

