

Annual Report - 2015



Botanical Garden Trust Fund

Department of National Botanical Gardens

Peradeniya

Trust Fund for developing and welfare of Botanical Gardens in Sri Lanka

ANNUAL REPORT - 2015

Approval for establishing a Trust Fund for improving and welfare of Botanic Gardens has been granted at the Cabinet meeting met on 07/02/1996 by considering the Cabinet memorandum dated 15/12/1995 submitted by the Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Wild Resources themed “improving and welfare of the Botanical Gardens in Sri Lanka”.

25% of the annual income generated by entrance fees at Botanic Gardens is nominally credited against the Trust Fund for developing and welfare of Botanical Gardens. For this, Provisions are made in every year under the 2201 Expenditure Head (capital transfer) of estimate approved by the Treasury, Money needed for expenditures of the Fund are secured through imprest of the Department on needs and reimbursed at the end of year.

In addition, Action is also taken to attend requirements needed for increasing the income of the Fund.

This Fund is administered by a board of Trustees consisting with Secretary to the Line Ministry as the Chairman, Director General of National Botanical Gardens Department as the Secretary and Director – Budget of the Treasury as a member of the said Board of Trustees.

Botanic Gardens Trust Fund

1. Name of Fund	:	Trust fund for developing and welfare of Botanic Gardens in Sri Lanka
2. Category	:	providing financial assistance for recurrent activities in Developing and welfare of Botanical Gardens at needs
3. Circulars concerned	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Establishment of Fund - in accordance with Fund Ordinance No. 09 of 1917 ii As per circular No. 836 dated 16th August 1977 for account keeping and account reporting and Public Finance Circular PF/423 issued on 22.12.2006.
4. Date of commencement	:	20 th December 1996
5. Office	:	Head office of National Botanical Gardens Department, Peradeniya
6. Bank	:	Bank of Ceylon, Peradeniya – Account No. 0007040848

Aims of Fund:

- ✓ Taking action to boost image of the Botanic Gardens within and outside Sri Lanka.
- ✓ Implementing meaningful programmes in respect of current conservation of environmental education and trees.
- ✓ Improving scientific knowledge, activities and facilities of scientists employed in Botanical Gardens as well as providing financial assistance to purchase equipments needed for the purposes.
- ✓ Working out a promotional programme on collection of trees.
- ✓ Promoting activities and assisting in technical fields for conservation and improving environmental knowledge to be used in Botanical Gardens.
- ✓ Undertaking any urgent construction activities for meeting facilities to scientists and those who visit Botanical Gardens.
- ✓ Attending recurrent provisional deficiencies at times of need.

Financial progress of Fund in year 2015

Debit balance as at 01-01-2015	=	Rs. 124,411,696.21
<u>Added:</u>		
Income in year 2015 (debiting)	=	Rs. 109,624,910.00

Total		Rs. 234,036,606.21
<u>Less:</u>		
Expenditure in year 2015 (crediting)	=	Rs. 88,638,951.56

Treasury balance as at 31.12.2015	=	Rs. <u>145,397,654.65</u>

* (This balance is only a nominal balance)

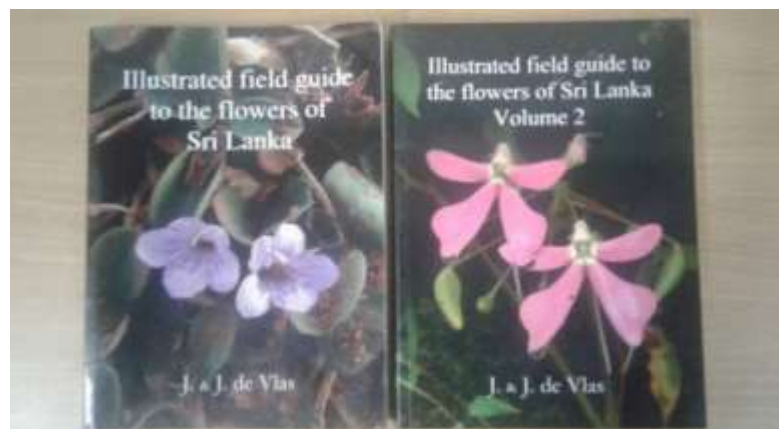
The following activities were undertaken with the aim of further improving image of Botanic Gardens in Sri Lanka under Trust fund in the year 2015;

- ▶ Under the Botanical Research, a systematic programme was initiated by the National Herbarium for conserving endemic trees and for collecting information on trees. Accordingly, a collection of plant specimens has been started.



A sample of plant collected

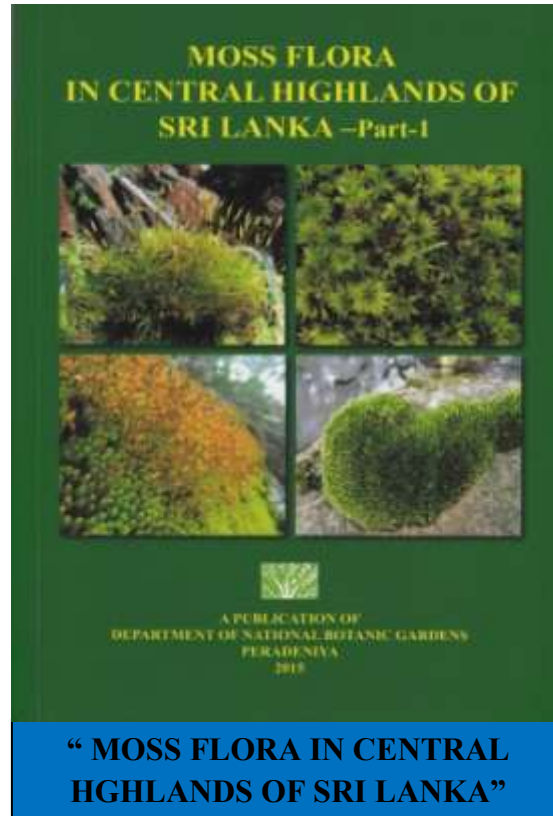
- ▶ For improving knowledge on flowers of Sri Lanka of scientists and other technical officers who are in Botanic Gardens, two series of hand book titled “Illustrated Field Guide to the Flowers of Sri Lanka” were purchased.



Two books purchased

- ▶ Training classes on landscaping, flower cultivation, planting and plant identification are conducted for local flower growers by using provisions of the Fund at the Education & Training Centre. These training are also conducted to the selected garden officers and employees.

- ▶ The book titled “MOSS FLORA IN CENTRAL HIGHLANDS OF SRI LANKA” released recently with details of research carried out on Moss flora in highlands of Sri Lanka with the aim of improving knowledge of students and those who are interested in Botanical Gardens. This book was printed by the National Herbarium has also been issued to sales center of the Botanical Gardens.



- ▶ In addition, the book titled “Beautiful Wild Flowers of Sri Lanka” written on wild flowers in Sri Lanka is being printed. It is to be released to sales centers of Botanic Gardens for sale in the year 2016.
- ▶ Steps have been taken to improve knowledge of scientists in Botanical Gardens of Sri Lanka based on knowledge gained at the 09th International Conference on Botanic Gardens Conservation held from 26.04.2015 up to 01.05.2015.
- ▶ Action has taken to improve officer employee knowledge by conducting in-service workshops.
- ▶ Under providing facilities to visitors in the Botanical Gardens, five 08 seat cars and five 04 seat cars was purchased for providing travelling facilities to visitors. By using battery operated cars, earning additional income of the Fund had been

increased. Accordingly, Rs. 9 million had earned through income from battery operated cars during the year 2015. These cars have been given for use of visitors who visit Peradeniya Botanical Garden, Hakgala Botanical Garden, Gampaha Botanical Garden, Avissawella Botanical Garden and Hambantota Garden.



visitors using battery operated cars at Hakgala Botanic Garden



Visitors using battery operated cars at Hambantota Botanic Garden



Visitors using battery operated cars at Peradeniya Botanic Garden

- ▶ Maintaining Gardens very attractively during this year was continued to attract more visitors at the Botanic Gardens with provisions allocated by the Trust Fund. Accordingly, flower groves and beds have been improved beautifully by purchasing flower plants and seeds of new varieties.

Views of flower hedges enhancing beauty of Peradeniya Botanic Gardens



Views of flower beds prepared for spring season at Hakgala Botanic Garden



A view of flower hedge adding beauty to Gampaha Botanic Gardens



A view of Rose Garden of Seethawaka Wet Zone Botanic Gardens, Avissawella



Special development activities undertaken in year 2015 by utilizing provisions of the Trust Fund

Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya

- ▶ Construction of an ultra modern Plant Conservatory in the Royal Botanic Garden at Peradeniya costing 15 million rupees was commenced utilizing latest technology in the final quarter of the year 2015.



Plant House constructed in Royal Botanical Garden

- ▶ With the view of attracting hearts and minds of the visitors, constructing a new ponds with a cost of Rs. 1.7 Mn. was commenced. Accordingly, action was taken to prepare new part of the Garden very attractively.



Established ponds at Royal Botanic Gardens

- ▶ Foot paths of the Royal Botanic Garden, Peradeniya were developed at a cost of Rs. 2.1 Mn. With that, facilities were provided for visitors to walk with easy and care.

- ▶ The refectory with two halls was constructed at a cost of Rs. 1.9 Million for supporting communal meals under facility expansion to visitors who visit the Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya.



Renovated refectory

- ▶ Under providing sanitary facilities for tourists visiting Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya, action is taken to develop toilet system at a cost of Rs. 1.9 Mn.



Renovated toilet building

- ▶ Facilities to enter and leave the Garden over the suspension bridge from Gannoruwa area were provided. Accordingly, visitors who enter the garden over the suspension bridge will provide with an aspiring experience. For this, Rs. 1.4 million had been spent.



ticket counter at the Gannoruwa side

Hakgala Botanic Gardens

- ▶ The following development activities at the Hakgala Botanic Garden have been accomplished with provisions of the Trust Fund.
- ▶ As the main entrance of the Hakgala Botanic Garden gets congested with presence of visitors in groups. Construction of an entrance with a new access building for entering visitors in to the Garden had been commenced. The approved rough estimate for this is Rs. 12 Mn.



Construction of New entrance building at Hakgala Botanic Gardens

- ▶ As small office is not spacious enough to allocate officers and employees of Hakgala Botanic Garden. It was started to upgrade it as a two storied building at an estimated sum of Rs. 6.7 Mn.



Constructions of Office Building At Hakgala Botanic Garden

- ▶ As Hakgala Botanic Garden is located in difficult area, accommodation facilities have to be provided for the officers. Accordingly, action was taken to construct two official quarters at a cost of Rs. 6.6 Mn. (rough estimate).



Staff official quarters on construction in Hakgala Botanic Gardens

Gampaha Botanic Gardens

- ▶ Construction of an Orchid plant house at a cost of Rs. 21.3 Mn. for disseminating knowledge on Orchid flower cultivation among visitors had been started by the State Engineering Corporation.



Construction of Orchid plant house in Gampaha Botanic Gardens

Seethawaka Wet Zone Botanic Gardens, Avissawella

- ▶ It was observed to complete entrance fence and gate of the Seethawaka Wet Zone Botanic Gardens, Avissawella prior to opening it to visitors and this construction was commenced in the last quarter of year 2014 by the Western Provincial Road Development Authority accordingly. The construction was accomplished in the year 2015 at a cost of Rs. 11 Mn.
- ▶ Construction of a car park for parking vehicles of tourists visiting the Seethawaka Wet Zone Botanic Gardens, Avissawella was started in the last quarter of the year 2014 according to the plan and estimates submitted by the Western Provincial Road Development Authority and accomplished in the year 2015. For that, a cost of Rs. 27 Mn. had been incurred.
- ▶ The Seethawaka Wet Zonal Botanical Gardens in Avissawella was declared open for public on 25th March, 2015.



Fence and entrance (gate) completed at Seethawaka Wet Zone Botanic Gardens



Vehicle park accomplished at Seethawaka Wet Zone Botanic Gardens



Tank and surrounding at Seethawaka Wet Zone Botanic Gardens

**Summary of special development activities performed under Trust Fund
during year 2015**

	Activity	Estimate Rs.	Total cost as at 31/12/2015 Rs.	Balance at hand Rs.
1	Expenditure for administration functions of Trust Fund	400,000.00	373,087.80	26,912.20
2	Expenditure on improving facilities in Botanic Gardens	35,570,000.00	33,216,787.18	2,353,212.82
3	Expenditure for Developing Peradeniya Royal Botanic Garden	33,350,000.00	27,186,014.82	6,163,985.18
4	Expenditure for Developing Hakgala Botanic Garden	8,830,000.00	6,762,272.46	2,067,727.54
5	Expenditure for Developing Gampaha Botanic Garden	5,500,000.00	5,111,444.32	388,555.68
6	Expenditure for Developing Seethawaka Wet Zone Botanic Gardens, Avissawella	350,000.00	329,983.61	20,016.39
7	Expenditure for Developing National Herbarium	16,000,000.00	15,659,361.37	340,638.63
	Total	100,000,000.00	88,638,951.56	11,361,048.44

Mr. R.M.D.B. Meegasmulla
Chairman, Botanical Gardens Trust Fund
Secretary
Ministry of Sustainable Development & Wildlife

K.N. Yapa
Secretary to Botanical Gardens Trust Fund
Director General,
Department of National Botanic Gardens