

Back to Office Report - General <i>(Maximum two- three pages plus annexes)</i>	
Project/ Programme Visited:	Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustenance of Ecosystem services in Environmentally Sensitive Areas Project
Event/ programme participated:	To attend Focus Group discussions with key project stakeholders in Puttalam & Anuradhapura district on Pre MTR requirements. (DS, DWC, FD, PDoA, PDoI, CEA, LUPPD)
Key Objective(s) of the Visit/ participation:	To meet the Responsible partners and understand their comprehension of ESA project and to understand the issues and way forward.
Districts/ Place visited:	DS, DWC, FD, PDoA, PDoI, CEA, LUPPD Offices in Puttalam & Anuradhapura
Participant/ Visitor (Name/ Position):	Sugandhi Samarasinghe/ Technical Coordinator
Date/s of Visit:	30-31/ 08/ 2018

A. Observation

1. Observations on project's progress towards the objective(s).

The project objective is to operationalize Environment Sensitive Areas (ESAs) as a mechanism for mainstreaming biodiversity management into development in areas of high conservation significance. The efforts at field level are moderately satisfactory.

2. Other general observations (if available)

- The community is actively engaged in the project activities **but more efforts should be applied on communicating the ESA concept.**

B. Learnings

a. Key learnings, including positive findings.

- LUPPD, PDoI, FD , DWC have understood the concept but they face limitations within their mandates to a certain extend. Should find pragmatic ways to manage ESAs.

b. Issues identified


- Need to address operational delays among government stakeholders in implementation of project activities

c. Recommendations

- Field Coordinators must spend more time in understanding and communicating ESA concept . FCs need to study the technical documents well to improve their comprehension and use all platforms, forums to refresh the message.

C. Itinerary (pls. refer the attachments of UNDS)

Date/Time	Details	Remarks



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Sugandhi Samarasinghe

Technical Coordinator -ESA Project

Date:20/09/2018.....

United Nations Development Programme



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