

## **Project Update: September 2008**

### **Equator Prize 2008 by the UNDP**

The Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society has been chosen by the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Equator Initiative's Technical Advisory Committee as one of 25 outstanding winners of the Equator Prize 2008. The Equator Prize is an international award that honours community-based projects that represent outstanding efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. In their award notification the UNDP states, "The level of competition for the prize was extremely high and the depth of nominations received was truly impressive. Among this year's remarkable entries, you provided us with a strong demonstration of the inventiveness of community-based work currently being undertaken in the tropics, often against tremendous odds. By receiving an Equator Prize, the Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society now joins an increasingly influential avant-garde of 78 previous Equator Prize winners that stand at the forefront of translating local action into global sustainable development." According to Eileen de Ravin, the head of the Equator Initiative of the UNDP, the Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society will now become an essential part of a core global network of Equator Prize winners whose work will be enhanced and promoted by the UNDP's Equator Initiative.

The Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society states, receiving an Equator Prize reflects the tremendous support the Society has received from organizations such as the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), International Elephant Foundation and several other organizations over the years. These are all organizations that share a similar vision to the Society's, which is to develop a new paradigm for sustainable development and biodiversity conservation, and it has been a great experience working with them all. The Society has received felicitations from the First Secretary, (Development) of the Canadian High Commission and the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund Program officer of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for being selected to receive an Equator Prize. The Regional Manager for Global Vision International a partner organization of the SLWCS states, "Congratulations on the well-deserved award, it's great to see the work you do get some recognition and I really feel this is a huge credit to the huge effort made by all at SLWCS as well as the volunteers and supporters who help push forward the sustainable development initiatives you lead. From a personal point of view I'm also very proud to work with SLWCS, as having been out to visit (albeit briefly) I have seen the dedication and long-term perspective that you have in place"

Ravi Corea, the founder president and CEO of the Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society, will receive the award in Barcelona, Spain on behalf of the Society at an award ceremony that is being held during the IUCN World Conservation Congress taking place in Barcelona, from October 6-10th.

Details about the award and the Society's work can be found at [www.SLWCS.org](http://www.SLWCS.org), [Info@slwcs.org](mailto:Info@slwcs.org)