

Contribution of Maduganga Wetland for Economic Development; With Special reference to Balapitiya Divisional Secretarial

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Maduganga estuary is most valuable Ramsar wetland, situated in Galle District in Sri Lanka. This is a Special Area Managed by the Coast Conservation Department. The objective of this research is to study the contribution of the wetland for economic development of the area. Furthermore paid attention about the obstruction for the economic activities and discussed how to develop this economic activity as ecofriendly industries. The investigation was done by using primary and secondary data. The primary data was collected from the sample of 50 house from 5 Gramaniladhari divisions and seven Boat Service Centers in Balapitiya Divisional secretarial by applying questionnaire and interview methods. Secondary data was collected from investigation report, websites and electronic press archives. Raw data was analyzed by using statistical techniques available in Microsoft Excel Software. Analyzed data was presented by using Graphic Methods and tables. According to this study tourism is the most famous and large industry in the area. There is much potential for the development of Maduganga for eco-tourism. Prawn catching, Inland fishing, Aquaculture and Coir industry are other major economic activities in the area. Some activities of the people contribute to the deterioration of habitats. Example is high powered motorized boats operating. Some economic activities are threatens to persistence of Maduganga wetland and want to get immediate action for sustain these economic activities.

Key words: Wetland ecosystem, Economic activities, Tourism, Aquaculture, Prawn catching

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