

Sri Lanka's National Mangrove Regeneration — From Seacology-Sudeesa Microfinance to a UN World Restoration Flagship

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Sri Lanka

Quality score: 40/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

NGOs Seacology and Sudeesa used microloans to protect 8,815 ha and replant 3,885 ha of Sri Lankan mangroves by 2020, scaling into a national programme UN-recognised in 2024. A 2024 de-gazetting at Vidattativu, reversed only after a court challenge, exposed real enforcement gaps.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	1/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	2/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	1/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-08-26

Sudeesa (Small Fishers Federation of Lanka); Seacology; Sri Lanka Department of Wildlife Conservation — accessed 2026-08-26

UNEP — Bringing back Sri Lanka's mangroves with science and community spirit — accessed 2026-08-26

UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration — Sri Lankan initiative recognised as a World Restoration Flagship — accessed 2026-08-26

Seacology — Sri Lanka Mangrove Conservation Project — accessed 2026-08-26

Mongabay — Sri Lanka plans restoring revoked protection for an important mangrove patch in the island's North — accessed 2026-08-26

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