

082**Household willingness-to-pay (WTP) for a better waste management system:  
An empirical investigation in the Mawanella Pradeshiya Sabha region**P D Pathirana<sup>1</sup> and U K Jayasinghe-Mudalige<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup> Environment and Energy Programme, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Country Office, Colombo, Sri Lanka<sup>2</sup> Department of Agribusiness Management, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka

The Mawanella Pradeshiya Sabha in the Kegalle district that serves to a population of 100,280 has introduced a novel approach to manage its waste under its "Increased Public Awareness & Local Government Capacity Building Program" in 2004. The key feature of this program was, educating and encouraging households to collect and sort waste at its source, which was facilitated by distribution of plastic bags and waste bins with different colour codes designed for the purpose, and subsequently, treat the waste at specific dumping sites using the principles of recycling to produce marketable products. This study assesses the progress of this program, and in particular how much the households are WTP for continuation and advancement of the program, because the regulatory authorities insist that it cannot run the program with taxpayers money for any longer time. A survey was conducted with a help of a structured questionnaire with 120 households selected randomly to represent 31% households joined to the pilot program in 2004. The WTP of each household was modeled with a number of variables, including age, income and education level, amount of waste production, distance to waste collection centre etc. The Contingent Valuation techniques were employed to estimate the coefficients of model. The results suggest that all variables, except the level of education, have a positive and significant impact on households' WTP for a better system. It was estimated that a household, in general, would like to pay Rs. 39.05 per month to continue the program. The officials from the Pradeshiya Sabha indicated that this is a rational estimate as it can cover the net operating cost of about Rs. 25-30 per month per household, and the rest can be used to improve the system.

083**Ecotourism for sustainable development: A study on "Bambarakanda"**

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The main objective of this study is to explain relationship and consequences between Bambarakanda eco tourist attraction and human activities in the vicinity. It was aimed to explore the main factors for environmental degradation in Bambarakanda and its surrounding, environmental issues arise from the unplanned implementation of eco tourism and resource requirements for conservation of Bambarakanda as a focal eco tourism destination.

Fieldwork methodology was adopted for the study. It was hoped to produce descriptions and explanations appropriate to the people actually behave at the Bambarakanda and its surrounding. The structured interviews were conducted as which were based on onsite documentation and guided by objective of the study. 75 villagers in Weerakoon Gama and 25 visitors to the attraction were interviewed. In addition, direct observations at the site were made to gather data while taking photographs as physical evidences to prove artifacts in the study. Interviews were interpreted by way of method of qualitative analysis (sociological paraphrasing) focusing on passages in the interview concerning Environmental conservation, Eco tourism and Local capacity development. 80% of the villagers mentioned that there were no economic benefits for them with presently existing disorganized nature of eco tourism. 67% of them clearly indicated that present situation would enhance environmental degradation at an alarming rate. More than 50% of the visitors to the vicinity ready to obtain service of local guides and ancillary service providers. Based on these results of the study on Bambarakanda in Kalupahana it is suggested that unless active participation of local community in ecotourism service provision and planning, with focus on income generation and employment creation for all stakeholders in the vicinity, environmental condition may be severely damaged. Therefore to implement vibrant and successful ecotourism it must promote sustainable development by enhancing people participation with improvement in standard of living of local community and eco tourist service providers.