THE INVESTIGATIVE REPORT ON THE LOOTING OF SUSTENANCE LANDS BELONGING TO KALPITIYA ISLAND INHABITANTS

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THE INVESTIGATIVE REPORT
ON THE LOOTING OF SUSTENANCE LANDS
BELONGING TO KALPITIYA ISLAND INHABITANTS

Study of the issues on Land Grabbing and its Socio-Cultural, Economic and Political Implications on Kalpitiya Island Communities

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List of Acronyms

CCD- Coast Conservation Department
DS- Divisional Secretary
Grama Niladhari – Village administrative officer attached to divisional secretariat
Diriya Piyasa- Government Housing Scheme for low income groups
Diyawara Gammanaya- Village Awakening Program for Fishing Communities
NAFSO- National Fisheries Solidarity Movement
NGO- Non Government Organization
Samurdhi Program- The Government welfare scheme for low income families
SEDEC- Social and Economic Development Center
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CHAPTER 1
THE CONTEXT

Background

The “Grand Tourism Project” which was planned by the Tourism Authority of the central government has acquired approximately 1700 ha. of land in the isles of Puttalam lagoon. The total area in the isles has been a traditional fisheries peoples’ habitat for generations. Presently, there are 2,640 fisheries families sourcing their livelihood from the isles. This tourism project has directly endangered the fishing rights and living of the traditional fisheries communities.

The proposal to acquire the fishermen’s lands was initially approved as enactment in year 2005, through the Tourism Affairs Act No.38. The Gazette Notifications No. 1568 / 18 and No. 1549 / 7 were published in 01 August 2007 and 13 May 2008, respectively. Currently, the fisheries isles have been acquired, blocked out and sold or leased to tourism industrialists while fisheries families are settled in the islands.

Introduction

Kalpitiya is a peninsula in the Puttalam district, comprising of 14 main islands. It separates the Puttalam lagoon from the Indian Ocean and is a marine sanctuary with a diversity of habitats ranging from bar reefs, flat coastal plains, salt pans, mangroves swamps, salt marshes and vast sand dune beaches. Dolphins, sea turtles and coral reefs are plentiful in the zone. The 14 islands have a total landmass of 1672.67 hectares (4133.19 acres).

Kalpitiya is home to 64,908 people (2009 Census) of which 12,967 are small-scale fishers, and with 25% of women engaged in fishing-related activities, according to one FAO research. Kalpitiya is also one of the 15 sites for SL’s Tourism Development Strategy which was formulated as early as 2003. The acquisition of some 4000 acres of land for the project has actually begun in 2004 pursuant to a Cabinet decision.

According to the Conceptual Master Plan, the following infrastructures are intended to be built in the islets:

- 6030 lodging units, including 5052 (4, 5 and 6 star) hotel rooms and a further 978 other units in the form of 200 cottages; 183 chalets; 205 villas (including water bungalows); 135 houseboats; 115 tents and 140 cabanas
- 1 Underwater restaurant for 100 people
- 1 Full-fledged international standard 18-hole golf course
- 1 Indoor sports complex
- 1 Race-course with a riding school and 20 stables

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2 Ibid. page 10.
• 1 Tennis academy with 12 courts
• 1 Domestic Airport (Palavi)
• 2 Yacht marinas
• 2 Seaplane harbours
• 1 200-bed international standard hospital with a sanatorium

In addition, the infrastructure planned but not specified in terms of numbers includes:

• Helipads/landing points
• Desalination plants, since potable and fresh water is in short supply
• Sewage treatment facilities
• Electricity distribution and regulation facilities
• Solid waste disposal facilities
• Roads – Recent proposal of construction of a super Highway connecting Katunayake international air port and Puttlam with the funding assistance from UAE the worth of 500 Million USD
• Shopping arcades, restaurants, etc.
• Public parks and landscaped areas

Infrastructures of this gigantic scale point to the need for one success factor or ingredient- the presence and use of “available” land. In other words, the eventuality for land grabbing is at its greatest. Land must be made available and acquired, even at all cost to manage the risk of “unavailability”, or else the tourism-related businesses will have already failed even while they have not started operations. The Kalpitiya communities’ ownership and control of their land and their access to land, which is their prime resource for survival and meaningful life, are threatened and actually being threatened already.

While this tourism development strategy espoused by so-called “development leaders” can provide economic opportunities in return, unfortunately, it will and is already contradicting the purpose for which it was originally intended-poverty reduction and quality life for the residents and other projected “beneficiaries”.

Take for example the following projections and implications:

1.1 On local employment

The SLTB claims that the KITRP will generate at least 15,000 jobs directly and a further 22,500 jobs indirectly, though it has to be noted that details or the basis for these projections have not been made publicly available. In fact, the Guidelines for Investors claim that it will generate 50,000 indirect jobs.4

It is important to note, however, that the resorts being planned are essentially upscale properties targeting the higher end of the global and regional tourist traffic. Minimum requirements for frontline service staff would be an O level, with competency in English and an aptitude for service.

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3 At Thillaiyadi, Mohothuwaran, Kirimundal, Poosan Kuda (Uchchimunei Section-4), Rodhapadu (Uchchimunei Section-3), Uchchimunai, Bathalangunduwa and Palliaywate.
However, findings of the 2006 survey by the Department of Census and Statistics show that 11.3% of children between the ages 6-14 did not attend school in Kalpitiya DS Division and that the percentage of population that passed G.C.E. (O/L) and G.C.E. (A/L) & higher in Kalpitiya were a mere 9.5% and 3.7%, respectively.\(^5\) It is also pertinent to also note the findings of a 2006 School Census, which indicate that a mere 1437 out of 160123 in the entire Puttalam district were studying in an English medium school.\(^6\) At the end of the year 2008, the total number of people who completed their education and the levels are GCE O/L 4275; GCE A/L 1487; Graduates[Arts, Science, Commerce and others] 100.

Selection and recruitment of human resources are usually done simultaneous with the infrastructure installation. With the above current profile of the available educational skills of the Kalpitiya, even of the Puttalam communities, opportunities for local employment are, therefore, not realizable. And, even if indeed a substantial number of local residents get to be employed in any of the tourism-related establishments or operations, labor problems, as ILO studies show, come to the fore. ILO points to a litany of problems: low pay; part-time, casual and insecure employment; long working hours; exploitation and even abuse, especially of migrant workers, women and children etc.

### 1.2 Carrying Capacity Concerns

The significant addition of physical infrastructure and related construction activities as well as of population from the projected incoming guests and visitors and the workforce requirements have significant implications on the ecosystem fragility and freshwater availability.

#### 1.2.1 Fragility of the Ecosystem

Sri Lanka is ranks 38th among 187 countries with biological diversity potential. (Source: [http://rainforests.mongabay.com/03highest_biodiversity.htm](http://rainforests.mongabay.com/03highest_biodiversity.htm)). The Puttalam lagoon, along with the Dutch Bay and the Portugal bay, forms the largest brackish water body in Sri Lanka with a total water surface of approximately 32,700 ha, and plays host to the following species:

- 233 species of birds, 64 mammals, 32 fish, several corals, reptiles, insects and crustaceans, as well as 47 species of beach and sand dune plants, 20 salt marsh plants, 18 species of mangrove, 10 sea-grasses, 15 tropical thorn forest plants and 13 dry mixed forest species.\(^7\)
  <http://www.dailynews.lk/2010/02/12/news50.asp>

- Of these, according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), some 20 species of mammals, 23 species of birds and a further 7 species of fish are nationally threatened with several of the species found in the lagoon and endemic to Sri Lanka;\(^8\)

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\(^5\) Socio Economic Indicators For Selected 119 Divisional Secretary’s Divisions, Department of Census and Statistics, October 2006. Page 1, Summary Information. P. 31-32 (Table 3.4).


\(^7\) Sri Lanka: Dry Zone Urban Water and Sanitation Project (DZUWSP), Supplementary Appendix L/Puttalam, Initial Environmental Examination: Puttalam (Draft) March 2008, Government of Sri Lanka Asian Development Bank, Technical Assistance Project Number: 4853-SRI. Page 20. This document cites a 2004 study undertaken by the Central Environment Agency, Sri Lanka, of the Puttalam Lagoon in support of these figures.

\(^8\) Ibid. page 20
• Bar Reef Marine sanctuary, located northwest of Kalpitiya, is “one of the most biologically diverse coral reefs in Sri Lanka,” parts of the reef extend to within 3 Km off the coast;
• Around 35 Km north of the Puttlam lagoon is the Wilpattu National Park, which is home to a variety of wildlife, including large mammals, and other types of fauna.

Furthermore, a 2008 research into the state of coastal resources in Puttlam emphasized that for over two decades mangroves and salt marshes had steadily decreased, owing to a range of reasons including shrimp farming, unsustainable fishing practices, population pressure and resettlement of displaced persons on environmentally fragile areas.\(^9\)

### 1.2.2 Scarcity of Freshwater

According to the guidelines issued to investors, provision must be made for a minimum of 1000 liters of hygienic water at “internationally accepted quality” per guest per day.\(^11\) Assuming a guest presence of 7000 (over 6030 lodging units this is already a conservative estimate), this amounts to 35 million liters of water per day.

Kalpitiya, however, is Sri Lanka’s Arid Zone, a region that is characterized by low precipitation and receives the least amount of rain in the country. A November 2008 report of the Asian Development Bank notes that water resources, whether in the form of rivers or groundwater, in the dry zone are scarce and aquifers are “fragile and at risk; the situation is deteriorating as uncontrolled extraction intensifies”.\(^12\) The report also notes that “increasing over extraction of groundwater, resulting from population and development pressures, and the use of water resources for multiple competing uses has led to fast depletion of the aquifer and salinity intrusion.”\(^13\)

Foreseeing a serious shortage of water, the Master Plan envisaged an unspecified number of desalination plants across the Islands. The Master Plan listed desalination plants in Baththalangunduwa, Palliyawatte, and in more than one section of Uchchimunei (including a mini-desalination plant in one section) and Mutwal, which are three of the Kalpitiya islands.

Inflow into desalination plants can suck in significant quantities of marine life, especially smaller organisms and species which can either go right through downstream with high mortality rates or get trapped between or against various physical barriers and filters. The biggest effluent, by volume, from desalination plants is brine discharge—the highly concentrated part of the inflow that is not converted into fresh water.

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\(^9\) IUCN, Page 19.
\(^12\) See Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors (733 Sri Lanka), Project Number: 37381 November 2008, Proposed Loan and Asian Development Fund Grant Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka: Dry Zone Urban Water and Sanitation Project, Asian Development Bank. Pages 2-4
\(^13\) Ibid. Page 3
The brine discharge will not only have a very high salt concentration—nearly twice as that of input sea-water—but is also often at much higher temperatures, which will undoubtedly have a significant impact on a fragile marine eco-system\textsuperscript{14} such as off the coast of Kalpitiya. In addition, the effluent may include residues of coagulants, anti-scaling and cleaning agents, heavy metals etc. all of which will also have a significant impact on the marine environment.\textsuperscript{15}

The loss of biodiversity and ecosystem preservation is precisely a matter with practical economic and social consequences for large numbers of people around the world including the Kalpitiya residents and their everyday lives. Abuse, wastage and loss of land and coastal /water resources are inevitable with the tourism development strategy/plan. It is an impossible, then, that poverty reduction and quality life can ever happen for Kalpitiya where the “tourism development exercise” has been envisioned.

1.3 Cultural diversity and possible impacts on reconciliation and ethnic harmony in the country.

Table 1: Population distribution by ethnicity and religion

\begin{tabular}{|l|l|l|}
\hline
Ethnicity & Religion & \\
\hline
Sinhalese & 27,176 & Buddhist & 4,178 \\
Muslims & 25,440 & Catholics & 30,635 \\
Tamil & 12,339 & Muslims & 25,440 \\
Burgher & 12 & Hindus & 4,656 \\
Total & 64,908 & Total & 64,908 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

Source: Socio, economic data Kalpitiya DS Division, 2009

Kalpitiya is a multi-ethnic, multi religious community where ethnic harmony has existed substantially for generations. Even during the war time, no ethnic or religious-based disputes ever occurred. The Uchchimune isle has a mix of Sinhala and Tamil cultures also.

This is the beauty of the communities as most of the people are Sinhalese by ethnicity though their mother tongue is Tamil. For a country like Sri Lanka in a post-war context, it is important to promote the ethnic harmony among communities where all people can communicate, organize and work together for reconciliation. Kalpitiya can be a good example of this to the whole country.

Table 2: Population distribution by age groups by 2008

\begin{tabular}{|l|l|l|l|}
\hline
Age Group[Years] & Female & Male & \\
\hline
0-5 & 5,684 & 5,279 & 17 \\
6-18 & 9,131 & 8,576 & 28 \\
19-69 & 16,290 & 15,852 & 49 \\
Over 60 & 2,157 & 19,239 & 6 \\
Total & 33,262 & 31,646 & 64,908 [100\%] \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

Source: Socio-Economic data, Kalpitiya DS division, 2009


It is equally important to note that the population of Kalpitiya is very young, with 45% in the age category of below 18 [0-5 and 6-18 age groups]. The youth are the hope of the future generations. This demographic picture is very encouraging as the new generations could be the engine of the future of the country and they are not corrupted as the current elder generation.

This brings another concern about the issue of tourism and the future of the communities vis-a-vis the youth. The social fiber will be in danger from businesses associated with the tourism sector. Drug addiction, blue boys, prostitution, casino and many more social hazards are directly linked with the tourism businesses as what happened in many other places in Sri Lanka Hikkaduwa, Unawatuna and Negombo areas. The affected group of those businesses is the younger generation which tends to get entangled easily with such sensitive matters.

Above all these, apparently there has been a lack of transparency regarding project evaluations as well as limited community involvement in decision-making.

The study of the Asian level land grabbing has been carried out in 10 Asian countries with the coordination of Pesticide Action Network, Asia and the Pacific, of which the National Fisheries Solidarity Movement [NAFSO] is a member.

NAFSO, which implements a fisheries development program in Kalpitiya, vehemently opposes this tourism development strategy and plan for the above critical context, among others. Guided by a human rights based framework and ecosystem approach to fisheries governance, NAFSO strongly contends that:

- The tourism project is adversely affecting the livelihoods of the people and will surely have a negative impact on their social and cultural realities as well.
- Already, the project has caused some land alienation resulting in considerable restrictions on people’s access to sea, fishing and other land-based activities
- Entire communities face an imminent threat of displacement which appears to be under way.
- The process is suffering from a comprehensive absence of precise and timely information for communities. Non-transparency, non-accountability and non-responsiveness on the part of the government and the consequent lack of people’s participation is a matter of grave concern.
- While a study of the environmental impact of the project has been (EIA) has been done, no such study on its socio-cultural and economic impact has been conducted. Even the EIA report was not available in the public domain in a timely fashion.
- In anticipation of large-scale private sector investment, a detailed Investors Guideline has been prepared. However, corresponding regulatory mechanisms are yet to be properly put in place.
There is a groundswell of resentment and resistance against the project. However, resistance has been weak so far due to lack of information, coordination and apprehensions of reprisal by the state.

To bring home and strengthen its points for contention, NAFSO initiated an exploratory study from December 2012 to March 2013. The research attempts to provide a detailed description of the implications of a tourism development program that has actually started and with widely destructive potential on the environmental landscape of such a small area as the Kalpitiya peninsula. The end does not justify the means and this research report intends to prove this, in order to create ripples and waves of support against a potentially irreversible internal disaster again.

The report is divided into four main sections. Chapter 1 provides the backstop and context for the study. Chapter 2 describes the research design and process to be undertaken. Results and discussion start with Chapter 3 where descriptions of the history and patterns of ownership of land by the residents and how they survive and live with this life-giving asset and resource are presented. Chapter 4 describes the design and trend of land grabbing that has happened and continues to happen. Chapter 5 makes an analysis of the impact and implications of loss of ownership and control of land by the Kalpitiya people and their and access to it, anchored on the human rights based framework and principles and guidelines of sustainable fisheries governance. Chapter 6 explains the resulting actions and recommendations of the Kalpitiya residents and communities with the issue of land grabbing and water resource grabbing as well.
CHAPTER 2

DESIGN OF THE STUDY

2.1 Overall Objective

The study seeks to address the issues of Land Grabbing and its socio-cultural, economic, environmental, and political implications on Kalpitiya island communities.

2.2 Specific Objectives

Concretely, the study shall attempt to:

1. To describe the current level of ownership and control of the Kalpitiya island communities over the land, sea, lagoon and natural resources;
2. To describe the circumstances and manner that the land is being grabbed from Kalpitiya island communities and organize them for finding solution;
3. To identify the impacts of land grabbing on the Kalpitiya island communities;
4. To elaborate the ongoing resistance and organization of the Kalpitiya island communities against land grabbing; and,
5. To submit possible solutions to the relevant authorities which have emerged from the study.

2.3 The Final Result Envisioned

In the end, the study is pursuing a two-fold significance. First, it seeks to create in-depth awareness among island inhabitants on the social disadvantages which have been forced upon them as a result of looting of their lands and even water resources. Second, the study is hoped to guide the island inhabitants in critically evaluating their spontaneous reactions and direct their agitations into meaningful and organized ‘Peoples Actions Groups’.

2.4 The Methodology

Three data gathering methods shall be employed for the study. Secondary data and document review shall be done to initially establish the facts surrounding the issue/s. Focus group discussions and Key informant interviews shall provide a process of sharing the meaning the respondents give to their experience and events that have been unknowingly brought upon them. These will also allow them to share what they most remember and matters most to them. Lastly, Participant Observation shall validate the facts and the sharing. Through all of these, the most remembered events, the insights into the implications as well as the extent to which violation of human rights and sustainable fisheries will figure in the sharing and facts can be determined. The analysis will proceed from these development frameworks.
The following table shows the grouping of the variables and data vis-a-vis the methodology:

Table 3: Method Matrix

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<th>Key Informant Interviews (KII)</th>
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</tr>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impacts [SO#3]</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resistance [SO#4]</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.5 **The Study Areas**

The study shall cover the following fishery/fishing locations in the Kalpitiya divisional secretariat of Puttim district: Dutch bay, Uchchimune, Mutwal, Sinnamunnakkarei, Rodapaduwa, and Illuppanthive Islands in Anawasala, Pertyakudirippu, Sinnakudirippu, Mandalakudawa and Vannimundel ‘Grama Officer’s division.

**Figure1:** Map of Kalpitiya Tourism Zone in Kalpitiya peninsula in a map of Sri Lanka
There are also fourteen isles where data will be collected. These isles, which have been marked for lease to private companies for the construction of Tourist Hotels and claimed/ acquired by a gazette notification by the government, are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of isles and extent of land</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01. Velle 1</td>
<td>1.55 ha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02. Velle 2</td>
<td>18.80 ha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03. Velle 3</td>
<td>13.70 ha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04. Illuppanthive</td>
<td>76.88 ha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05. Periya Arichchali</td>
<td>45.60 ha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06. Sinna Arichchali</td>
<td>16.82 ha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07. Iramathive</td>
<td>101.52 ha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08. Sinna Iramathive</td>
<td>2.22 ha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09. Iramathive West</td>
<td>4.53 ha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Kaarathive</td>
<td>4.53 ha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Palliyawatta</td>
<td>60.89 ha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Uchchimune*</td>
<td>449.30 ha.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total acreage: 1672.00 ha.

Uchchimunei* = Sinnamunnakkarei + Boatwadiya + Rodapaduwa

### 2.6 Time Frame

Field visits shall be done sequentially to allow room for data processing, since next field visit will also validate and/or strengthen information. Accuracy and completeness of data are of prime importance for the issue at hand.
Table 4: Time Frame of the Field Study work carried out at Kalpitiya islands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visit Date</th>
<th>Places Visited</th>
<th>Investigation Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 and 16 December</td>
<td>Mutwal Sännamunakkare and Rodapaduwa Uchchimune and Illuppanthive</td>
<td>1st Team* 2nd Team** 3rd Team***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 January 2013</td>
<td>Mutwal Sännamunakkare Uchchimune</td>
<td>1st Team 2nd Team 3rd Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 February 2013</td>
<td>Kalpitiya Mainland with the participation of people from 4 islands.</td>
<td>Full investigation team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 February 2013</td>
<td>Dutch Bay Grama Officer Mutwal School Kalpitiya Divisional Secretary</td>
<td>Sr. Deepa Fernando J. Pañthmanathan Asangika Mihirani Melani Manel Perera Dinesh Suranjan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-15 March 2013</td>
<td>Mutwal Sännamunakkare Uchchimune</td>
<td>1st Team 2nd Team 3rd Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 March 2013</td>
<td>Meeting with Parish Priest of Kalpitiya Meeting Sr. Emard Marie, HFC, Kalpitiya</td>
<td>Sr. Deepa Fernando Melani Manel Perera Asangika Mihirani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March, 2013 Informal</td>
<td>Kandakuliya Temple Kalpitiya Catholic church Kalpitiya Mosque Arab School, Kalpitiya Kuringnampitiya Holy Family Convent, Anawasala meeting with coop chair persons, Mutwal</td>
<td>J. Pathmanathan Dinesh Suranjan, Roshanthi Fernando</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.7 Composition of the Investigation Teams

1\textsuperscript{st} Team*: Mutwal

Mr. Francis Raajan, Sr. Deepa Fernando, Mr. Herman Kumara, Mr. J. Pathmanadan, and Mr. Loyel Peiris

2\textsuperscript{nd} Team**: Sinnamunnakkarei and Rodapaduwa

Mr. Nalaka Rosairo, Ms. Asangika Mihirani

3\textsuperscript{rd} Team***: Uchchimune and Illupanthive

Ms. Subashini Kamalanathan, Ms. Melani Manel Perera and Mr. Sylvester Fernando

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Field study visits were carried out in five stages, with the data gathering for the succeeding stage building up from the previous one while at the same time assuring authenticity of data obtained. Fact-finding & validation meetings were further conducted among the affected people and other key informants. Special field visits were likewise organized to meet fisheries people in the isles of Mutwal, Sinnamunnakkarei, Rodapaduwa, Uchchimune and Illupanthive.
CHAPTER 3:
WHO OWNS THE LANDS?

3.1 Views of the island communities

There are two lenses to examining “Ownership”. There is legal ownership, “recognized foremost by society, and hence the rights that come with ownership are specified and protected by the legal system” and there is psychological ownership “recognized foremost by the individual who holds this feeling and manifests the felt rights associated with [it]. Furthermore, psychological ownership can exist in the absence of legal ownership.” (The State of Psychological Ownership: Integrating and Extending a Century of Research, Jon Pierce, et al, 2002). For the Kalpitiya people, their claim of ownership for their lands/resources evolved from socio-cultural practices. In this context, the passing down from ancestors - of ancestral homes, of Catholicism, of fishery practices - came out of the study.

Sampath Pushpakumara – Mutwal isle

“We have been living in this isle for generations and we are not prepared to give up our rights even if we were given money in exchange of lands.”

Asanka Cruz – Fisherman, Sinnamunnakkarei isle

“We have been living in our lands for the last 70-80 years. Now our people are frightened for the news that our lands are being acquired for tourism industry. If our lands are acquired we will be deprived of everything including our livelihood. We are frightened of that. The government might not help us. The officials want us to produce ‘deeds’ for lands if we need any assistance from them. But so far no one has come to pressure us.”

Marian Appuhamy, Rajesh Kureira – Uchchimune isle

“Even our parents were born here. We are born bred and employed here. We are living free of trouble and no one can chase us out of our village. We shall not go. They cannot move us out of our village.”
Anton Suresh, Anthony Shelton, Madhurani Almeida, Evigin Thuram– Uchchimune isle

“Our people have been living in this isle from the time of our great grand fathers. We also have born and bred in Uchchimune isle and our livelihood is based here. Everybody in our village belong to one religion. We have no social disputes. We have been living free in this fishery life. The lagoon and sea are our resources our cottages by the lagoon and ocean have made it easier for us to carry out fishing. Although we don’t have much comfort here we are living free.”

The ancestors of all of the inhabitants have migrated from the main land such as Negombo, Chilaw and Kalpitiya. Kinship contacts with their great grand parents’ descendants are still maintained.

Attached to ownership is control- control over the lands, control over fishing, control over the use of these. This brings about, then, a sense of security,” identity and individualism, each of which is important because it represents freedom of self-determination their lives. Feelings of ownership lead the individual to make personal sacrifices, which, in turn, generates even stronger feelings of ownership”. The depth of psychological ownership the inhabitants have for Kalpitiya is likened to this, as they voiced out point-blank:

Warnakulasooriya Austin – Rodapaduwa isle

“Where are we going to live after our lands are occupied by foreigners? We don’t like to forgo our lands for tourism. Even if we were given money we wouldn’t exchange our lands.”

Soosai Dias, Franklin Tavarera, Selvaraj Dias, Madona Dias, Anthonyamma Fernando – Uchchimune isle

“We have been living in this village for many years. We are not prepared to give up fishing as it is our only sustenance. If anyone try to remove us forcefully we will come forward to take action on behalf of our people.”

“We are aware of what goes on in other isles around here. Therefore we stay alert about our isle. If there is going to be injustice on us we are ready to take action. We will seek assistance from those who are capable to give us support in such situations.”

Jesurani Kurera, Soosai Leenus Dias – Uchchimune isle

“We don’t have a place to go if we have to give up fishing job and our cottage houses. For generations we have been living here and employed in fishing. We don’t know any other job but fishing. If there is going to be a threat on our livelihood we will come forward against those stooges under any circumstances.”
The island inhabitants further concretized expressed self-determination in the following shared views with the study team:

Shanthi Niluka Fernando – Sinnamunakkarei,
“We do not have deeds to lands on which we live. Don’t introduce tourism here. Our children will be corrupted.”

Ranjith Cruz- Sinnamunakkarei,
“We don’t want tourism. Our present lifestyle is ok for us. If our authorities are interested to take care of us let us have a school for our children. And give us a better housing project. We don’t want tourism projects.”

Ramani Fernando- Sinnamunakkarei
“By now they have shut down the school at Keerimundal. We don’t want tourism here. It is good if we have good roads and electricity.”
3.2 Basic Facilities available for island communities

3.2.1 Water and Housing

Mutwal, Keerimundal, and certain parts of Uchchimunei islands have ground water which can be used for drinking and washing. The water, which is clean and could be collected within 3-4 feet depth, is with less salinity and can be used for daily consumption. This is another all the more reason for these isles’ inhabitants to remain where they are. In other areas people are having hard time with water supply as 20 liters of can of water cost Rs.100.

Photo 07: Credit to Melani Manel Perera

The islanders know what is best for them and what to demand from the government, to wit: regular fuel supply fishing isles for boats fitted with outboard engines, electricity, proper roads, reasonable health service, healthy housing. In essence, these are basic human rights to development. Actually, in Mutwal, Uchchimunei, Sinnamunnakkarei and Rodapaduwa isles, only very few houses are built with cement and bricks which were donated by the Samurdhi Bank for widows under the “Diriya Piyase” scheme in 2009. Majority of the houses are made of cement block walls and cadjan roof and had plank walls. Few householders have solar power lighting and three households have generators.

Fig. 07: Surface water well in Illuppanthive (Photo Credit to Melani Manel Perera)

Fig. 08: A family come for watering at Uchchimune

Fig. 09: Collect water from surface water well at Uchchimune isle

Fig. 07: Credit to Melani Manel Perera

Fig. 10: Illuppanthive people have joined the dialogue (Photo Credit to Melani Manel)

Fig. 11: Mutwal people sharing their views

Fig. 12: Uchchimune people joined for the survey

Fig. No.10 credit to Melani Manel Perera
People in Illuppantive isle shared with the research team that it had been the tradition for many other fishermen from other parts of the country to come there for fishing during the harvest season. Now that advantage is deprived to the fisheries community by the “grand tourism project”. Their sense of security has been affected with their detachment. This is a clear example of the future plan to dislodge the fisheries people and occupy their lands for the tourist project. Per information from the residents, 850 families from Uchchimune isle alone had to leave and are now temporarily settled in Negombo, Chilaw, Kalpitiya, and Karukkupone, etc. But they are hopefully waiting to return to Uchchimune isle. These families had to leave their original living place as a result of civil war. Yet, now that the civil war is over, they remain displaced as a result of their land’s acquisition.

3.2.2 Education Facilities for the isles in study area

There are 120 schooling children in Uchchimunei isle and 45 schooling children in Iluppantheve isle. There are also only primary schools in Mutwal isle. There is not schooling for above primary. If parents want to educate children up to secondary or tertiary levels, either they have to be transported daily by boat or the children must board in Kalpitiya or in Negombo. This experiences and transport system have discouraged parents to send children for school. Therefore, it has become a common fact that many children give up schooling after primary education. Expectedly, the dropout rate is very high among children in island communities.

The research team noticed that even primary schooling age children are working with the parents. The team observed the pattern of education in the four isles.

3.2.2.1 Mutwal isle

Mutwal has a school where children can be educated up to grade eight. If they need education beyond grade eight they have to travel by boat to Kalpitiya. There are 85 schooling children in Mutwal isle. It has become a normal fact that the children of this island go to school up to grade eight only.

In Mutwal isle, there is a family with 6 children who had no birth certificates. There are 50 such children in Mutwal, Uchchimunei and Keerimundal islands with no birth certificate. The birth certificate is a requirement for enrolment in school. Hence, all these 50 children cannot enter schools as they have no birth certificates.

The research team paid special attention to this situation and attempted to get their birth certificates as a side business of the research. Sr. Deepa Fernando [HF] has paid special attention in this social issue and attended to provide birth certificates to those children while working with the Grama officers closely.

3.2.2.2 Uchchimunei isle

There is a school with minimum facilities which educate children up to grade five. There are 120 children and 70 teenagers in the islands. Parents said the present principle of the school is doing his best to improve the quality of the education. However, principle is using only Sinhala language. This is an issue for the most of the island children as they speak Tamil only. At the same time the first term test was not held in the year 2013. All these are weak areas of
education in Uchchimunei isle. Amidst all these weaknesses Uchchimunei isle parents are unable to educate their children beyond grade five. They are unable to board children in place where there are better schooling facilities. They should send their children to Kalpitiya main land for better education facilities which those families cannot afford them.

3.2.2.3 Sinnamunnakkarei isle

There are 15 children in the isle. They receive education in Uchchimunei, which is the neighbouring village. They have no way of schooling after grade five as Uchchimunei also have education facilities up to grade 5. However, some of the parents have taken some positive steps to educate their children with the help of their relatives whom are living in either Kalpitiya or Negombo areas.

3.2.2.4 Illuppanthive isle-

There isn’t a school here. Parents have boarded their children in Kalpitiya where some of them have got relations.

3.3 Catholic church and relationship with island communities

The descendants of old generation in Keerimundal have land deeds but the new generation as settlers do not have deeds or transfer letters. Descendants say deeds were kept in the custody of the Bishop of Colombo as the area once belonged to Colombo diocese before 1940s. People have handed over their deeds to the Catholic church through Rev. Fr. Buhural. These are some indicators of the attachment of the people with the Catholic church.

The catholic church has been attached with the islanders even before 18th century. The Keerimundal church situated at the corner of Mutwal island keep a list of the names of catholic priests who have served here. It is also a proof of witness that the islets have been inhabited by fishermen for centuries. (Annex 2: List of names of the Catholic Priests who served at Keerimundal church)

The church Bell is also a witness of the past. It is indicated that it was manufactured 1862. In Mutwal some land lords have owned some block of lands. It is reported that 200 fisheries families too were given lands in 1991. [Annex 3: The letter dated 20 August 1991, which was issued by Kalpitiya DS office allocating lands to the settlers at Penapitugama, Mutwal under the land distribution scheme of the Land distribution [Special Action] Act No. 43 of 1979.] The block of lands are located in Mutwal and Keerimundal isles.

Fig 13: The Church bell manufactured in 1862 at Keerimundal catholic church
The present situation is that the fisheries people in Uchchimunei isle are ordered to vacate the island by the Grama officer. When church in the isle was informed about the order, they pursued for more details. Then the answer was that “It was an order from the DS.” It has come to light that a company is going to start hotel construction in Uchchimunei isle after completing their present hotel construction at Illuppanthive islet. The present fisheries settlers in Uchchimunei isle do not have any legal document in hand to prove their ownership. For a long time people have been agitating for “deeds” for their lands, but it has been repeatedly turned down.[See Annex 6: Petition signed by Uchchimunei Holy Cross Fisheries Society demanding land ownership in the island]

While psychological ownership was easily established in Kalpitiya, legal ownership continue to be a challenge. The research team was able to understand that the isles’ fisheries communities entirely depend for their sustenance and livelihood on their traditional fishing practices in the isle-based sea and lagoon. It has been a common practice among fisheries people that they never think of holding any official document for land rights.

Further, it was proved that the inhabitants of these isles have been living there for many generations down from their ancestors. Yet, they do not have official land documents such as “deeds” or any other form of authorized or official document to prove their legal rights to their inherited lands.

It is an exception that the inhabitants of Nonathottam [Penapitugama] and Sembukkuliya in the isle of Mutwal have received official documents from Kalpitiya divisional secretariat, for a 2 rood land block for each family last 20 August 1991, in a land registering program carried out under the 1979 No. 43, Land Donation Program [Special Action].[Annex 3]. In the same land distribution scheme, on the same date, there was a land distribution carried out for the Uchchimunei and Keerimunda fishing communities.

It is also important matter to record here that when the present President was the Minister of Fisheries in the year 2000, a housing scheme called “Diyawara Gammana” [Housing scheme for fisheries communities] was launched in Mutwal Island. This was called Mutwal Diyawara Gammanaya at Mutwal. Part of the scheme was the granting of titles after the land distribution Act [Special Action] no.43 of 1979.

Premila Fernando – Sinnamunnakkarei isle

“I have been living here for the last thirty years. If our living areas are opened up for tourism as they have planned our children will get corrupted. We here our parish priest in Kalpitiya has negotiated with the Hon. Minister Basil Rajapaksa, to obtain deeds for our lands.”

3.4 Number of people affected with the land issues in study area

Another form of legal ownership is the registration as voters. It was revealed in the survey that most of the inhabitants of the isles have to go to their ancestry places for voting in elections. Fisheries settlers in Uchchimune isle told that their names were included in the Keerimundal electoral list. Surprisingly, though, their names have been removed from the Voter’s List as of 2012.

An unfortunate reality that was discovered was that returning internally war-displaced people previously residing in Kalpitiya, now had no more lands to come back to. To return to one’s previous
residence was one indication of ownership, according to them. Thus, to come home to a “missing” land, was a big setback to these people who were trying to rebuild their lives after war. It was found out that he “missing” or “lost” lands were part of those for the tourism plan. Present settlers in Illuppantive isle informed the research team that more than 200 settlers left the isle during the civil war. The other affected displaced people are as follows:

- from Mutwal isle: 35 Muslim families and 85 Sinhala families
- from Uchchimunei isle: 850 fisher families
- from Sinnamunnakkarei isle: 25 families of 100 people
- from Keerimundal isle: 25 families
- from Rodapaaduwa isle: 30 families
- from Bottuwaadi isle: 05 families
- from Uchchimune and Sinnamunnakkarei isles: 150 families (permanent residents)
- from Illuppantive isle: 40 families

Whatever the form of ownership, then, it was clear for the fishers-inhabitants, that the isles were home and life.

Fig. 5: Sea Erosion at Keerimundal

Fig. 06: Illegally laying stones along the sea coast at Mutwal by hotel investor,
Rev. Sr. Jacintha Fernando, who has been working in the Holy Family Convent attached to Kuringnampitiya church for many years and closely associates with the island communities, captures the sentiments of the Kalpitiya people in her views on Kalpitiya tourism zone and the effects, shared as follows:

Box.No.1: Rev. Sr. Jacintha Fernando, [H.F], Kuringnampitiya

“There is no any freedom or any consolation to the villagers as the land has been acquired by the tourism industry. Those people are living in fear with what would happen to their livelihoods in the future. Those people solely depend on the fisheries activities and they do not have any other source of income. If the communities lose the only livelihood which is fishery, people will starve and die. There is no any other alternative to survive for those people. They are frustrated and no any hope for future. As the communities are also fed up and do not ready to take any action against the present situation, the people whom they expect to assist them are not happy also as people are lethargic.

However, as a congregation which is working closely with the communities, we are attempting to take possible welfare and remedial actions in collaboration with the government agencies and religious organizations as a religious group.

My view on the current situation is that the responsibility lies with the government authorities and all other concerned groups to ensure the freedom to the oppressed island communities. If the government agencies and the hoteliers essentially expect to use the land and water, it is their responsibility not to dislodge the communities and not to disturb their livelihoods. At the same time, it is the responsibility of the government to provide the infrastructure facilities and the land rights to the inhabitants in the islands. Our emphasis is that the government should not take any action to dislodge those communities from the
CHAPTER 4:

PATTERNS AND DESIGNS OF LAND GRABBING

4.1 Patterns of water/ Sea grabbing in Kalpitiya Islands

Resource grabbing in general broadly refers to appropriation of natural resources, including land and water, and the control of their associated uses and benefits, with or without the transfer of ownership, usually from poor and marginalized to powerful actors. Land grabbing is ultimately ‘control grabbing’, or capturing the power to control land and other associated resources such as water, and how they are used, in order to corner the benefits (Mehta, L.; Veldwisch, G.J. and Franco, J. 2012. Introduction to the Special Issue: Water grabbing? Focus on the (re)appropriation of finite water resources. Water Alternatives 5(2): 193-207).

The study was able to identify how land grabbing has and is happening in Kalpitiya. In the previous chapter, notations were made on the following:

4.2. Pattern of Land grabbing

4.2.a. Grabbing from seizing opportunities – in the study, war presented an opportunity for the government to grab and utilize lands used in the absence of the families who migrated to other country locations. These families have become internally displaced twice, then. First, due to the war situation, and secondly, from the land grabbing as they returned home to a non-existent property.

Dinesh Suranjan- General Secretary, All Ceylon Fisher Folk Trade Union, Uchchimune

Box. No.2 : Dinesh Suranjan Fernando, General Secretary, All Ceylon Fisher folk trade Union,

“One year back Grama Niladhari (Village agent of the Government) and two other persons came here and surveyed the land. When we stared questioning them, they went without completing the work. They said “We ought to have surveyed all the islands.” Grama Niladhari commented “We could have come in the night and have our job done without telling these people.”

When the deputy economic development minister Hon. Luxman Yapa held a meeting in 2012, he also suggested that fisheries people ought to be given a piece of land block for the use of fisher community.
4.2.b Grabbing by removing from the government registries

Other occurrences were shared with the study team. When the team visited Penapitugama in Mutwal isle, they were told that family residents received documents for their lands under the Land Donation Scheme [Special Action] of 1979. Said documents were misplaced, unfortunately, when the families abandoned their homes and properties during the civil war and evacuated to safer areas. When they returned, nothing was left in their homes.

The families continued with their observations on their landless situation. Upon settling back in Mutwal, they found out that strangely the land ownership in Mutwal isle has changed. Out of 715.14 ha. Of its total land area, 50% was now owned by three individuals. One Mr. Neel de Silva claimed 310 ha. and the balance was claimed by a Mr. Iqubal Hassan and a Mr. M. Marikkar.

People’s Tribunals, which are community-based, participative justice mechanisms where experts on social development, gender experts, trade union leaders, religious leaders, scholars serve as panel of jurors, are being promoted by the Praja Abhilashi Network, a group of fisher folk people's organizations, trade unions, women organizations, plantation workers organizations, slum dwellers, agricultural organizations in existence since 2005. A People’s Tribunal was held last 30th January 2012, where Mrs. Saleema Kahn of Kalpitiya, as a witness, reported the following:

“My mother-in-law gave a land to my husband. My husband transferred the same land to my name. So, the legal ownership is with me. We do not know who had come to grab our land. The land grabbers had approached the Electricity Board for electricity to the land. I requested from Electricity Board not to supply electricity as the land belonged to me. However, they have proved their ownership with a surveyor’s plan of the land and the approval letter from the DS, Kalpitiya, and thus obtained the electricity supply. I was able to file a case based on the information I collected from the Electricity Board. The court has recognized the utilization of the land by Saleema and had ordered the company to pay compensation to the damages to Mrs. Saleema Kahn. However, they themselves do not have the deeds for the land.”

4.3 Grabbing of Beach Seine points

Another scheme discovered by the isle inhabitants involved government procedures. One hundred and sixty fishermen (160) from Mutwal isle are working as fishery laborers under the beach seine net (Maadela) fishing owners. There are twelve such beach seine net fishing owners in Mutwal island. Beach seine net owners have established financial capacities.

It is a fact that Mutwal isle’s beach seine net fishing contribute largely for the country’s fish supply. Following are the beach seine operating points in Mutwal isle:

02. Iranaikkulam. 08. Pethanamulla.
03. Widaththalmunai 09. Nawaladi.
04. Kovil Kuda. 10. Wellamanal
05. Kakkeiyadi 11. Mutwal
06. Kattatiyadi
Each year beach seine owners must obtain fishing permits from both DS’s office and Fisheries Department. The DS office issue land rights permit while the Fisheries Department issue the fishing rights permit. In the year 2011, the DS’s office had issued land rights permit but the Fisheries Department had refused to issue fishing rights permit. Then in the year 2012, the DS’s office had also refused to issue land rights permit. When the fishermen inquired the reasons from DS’s office, they were told that per orders from the Fisheries Department they were not allowed to issue fishing permits.

4.3.1 Beach Seine Operation and related issues in Mutwal island beach seine points

Table 5: The Names and the Present Operational Status of Beach Seines at Mutwal Island Community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Name of the Owner</th>
<th>Number of Beach Seine</th>
<th>Name Included in the Gazette</th>
<th>Issue of Permits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>J. M. T. Susantha Jayamanne</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>U. Ajith Prasanna Fernando</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Anura Pushpakumara</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>P. A. Neel Susantha</td>
<td>112A</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Kennedy Jayamanne</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>W. Joseph Gamini</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>M. Sylvester Fernando</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Sunil Leitan Canecious</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>Vineefreda Fonseka</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>S. M. Ali Sabri</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Paul Leitan</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Edward Stanly</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Basil Rodrigo [Present owner is Hassan Gate Company]</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It was observed that there are 7 beach seine net owners in Uchchimune isle, 1 beach seine net owners in Boatwadiya, 2 Roodapaaduwa isle and 1 beach seine net owners in Keerimundal isle.

4.3.2 Beach Seine Operation and related issues in Uchchimune, Keerimundal and Roda-paduwa islands

Table 6: The Names and the Present Operational Status of Beach Seines at Uchchimune, Rodapaduwa, Boatwadiya & Keerimundal Islands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Name of the Owner</th>
<th>Number of Beach Seine</th>
<th>Permit</th>
<th>Beach Seine Point</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>M. H. Mohommed [Ohodu]</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Sinnammunnakkare [Keerimundal]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Jude Sebastian Almeida</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Keerimundal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>S. Velayudam</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Rodapaduwa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>A. Rajendram</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Boatwadiya</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Leslie Leitan</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Uchchimune</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Vincent Paul Leitan</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Uchchimune</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>Ranjith Leitan</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Uchchimune</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Michael Leitan</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Uchchimune</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>Alexander Fernando</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Uchchimune</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sylvester Fernando</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Uchchimune</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Preeman Dias</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Uchchimune</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If one were a beach seine operator familiar with the process and ease of obtaining permits for quite some time already, this sudden policy change could be construed as a strategy for frustrating and disheartening the fishers to the point of driving them away from fishing itself. This is a natural line of thinking and analysis on their part for which they could not be blamed given the fact that they were not consulted nor informed of the tourism development plan in the first place.

4.4 Forces behind the Land Grabbing in Kalpitiya Islands

On closer look, these pockets of land grabs are actually enveloped in deeper deals involving various interested groups and employing multiple stages of preparing, negotiating, contracting and operationalizing none other than the Kalpitiya Integrated Tourism Development Project/Plan.

Land grabbing has actually been described as a "new form of colonialism that has intensified in the last four years, initially in response to the 2007 to 2008 increase in food prices" ([http://www.scidev.net/en/agriculture-and-environment/news/water-grabbing-occuring-at-alarming-rates-.html](http://www.scidev.net/en/agriculture-and-environment/news/water-grabbing-occuring-at-alarming-rates-.html)). In Kalpitiya, however, the land grabbing process had its early beginnings in year 2002, even before the tsunami disaster, but proceeding at a faster pace since 2010 after the end of the war.

Tourism has been identified as a major driver for economic growth and job creation. The government believes that, in this way, tourism will contribute to peace building and development. Up until now, tourism’s growth has been hampered by the conflict, as well as the 2004 tsunami (Fernando.et.al,2011). Task Force for Rebuilding the Nation [TAFREN] which consisted of personalities of main business elites of the country, was created after the tsunami of 2004. All the plans for rebuilding of highways, harbours, infrastructure, town building, water supply, education, health and tourism as main area of concern were prepared by the TAFREN. And their main goal was to develop coastal tourism industry in which proposed 15 tourism development zones around the coast in the country. The declared tourism development zones are: Wadduwa, Beruwala and Bentota[Kalutara district], Hikkaduwa, Galle, Unawatuna, Koggala,[Galle district], Matara[Matara district], Tangalle, Hambantota, Yala, [Hambantota district] Arugambay[Ampara district], Pasikudah, Nilaweli[Batticaloa district] and Kalpitiya[Puttalam district].

Thus, presented below are another series of seemingly isolated incidences and pictures, which lead to one expansive and ambitious strategy –on tourism development:

1. Mr. S.K.S.M Asseez of Mutwal testified in the Peoples’ Tribunal, which inquired into the matter of snatching of the lands of the fishing islanders, that:

   “There are about 136.5 hectares of land legally owned by our people for the last 100 years. It is being snatched and now what we have is only 6-9 hectares. Out of that I own 1.36 hectares. As a result we have totally lost our income. There are 12 families who will be dislodged. The houses and business places of ours have lost. Government has occupied the lands and sold them for various projects. We will not be even compensated.”

He presented a gazette notification in 2008 in which lands were acquired by the Tourist Board. [Annex 5: The Proposed to Acquisition of Lands by the Ceylon Tourist Board, under Gazette...
Notification Number 1509/10 of 08 August 2007 along with the List of Landowner’s Names, Amount of Land appropriated, the Location of the land).

4.4.1 On military-occupied lands

![Image](image.png)

**Fig. 17:** Land own by Navy-Uchchimune Island

The photos above are of public notices placed by the Navy. At the first stage of land grabbing, they have tactfully used the name of “Navy”. The public notices displayed that the land was acquired by the Army for defense purposes. With this the occupants were obliged to leave the land. In such situation, the people do not question and complain as they know that the national security is prime importance. Even legally, no other law is important than national security. When there was no objection from the fishermen, the phase two of the plan proceeded – the vesting in the land to the resort or hotel owners whose identities are not known to them. Hence, the residents cannot be blamed into thinking that the next time they will see the land under a registered company’s name and that the fishermen will have no one to deal with except the company employees.
4.4.2 Lands acquired by private companies

Fig. 18: Bay Watch Eco Resort Mutwal

Fig.19: Sakura Tours Company Mutwal

Fig. 20: Mutwal isle
Those are name boards displaying the ownership of private companies.

The notice boards put out have displayed the names of government institutes who have been involved with the land acquisition. These are the: Board of Investment, Sri Lanka Tourist Board, Urban Development Authority. The Ministry of Defense has authorized the acquisition of land and handed over to private enterprises. The display boards put out on the island by the company have the information the nature of the project and the names of government’s institutions which have authorized the project.

Fig.21 Lands own by Private Companies Mutwal

Fig. 22 Sand bunds built by Dutch Bay Resort Private company at Mutwal
The first tourism project was launched by “Kalpitiya Dutch Bay Tourist Resort” in Mutwal islet in 2009. During the survey the people who own the lands grabbed by the project operators, showed their legal ownership documents to substantiate their claim. The amount of engagement of investors on tourism development projects in Kalpitiya Integrated Tourism Promotion Zone and Kalpitiya peninsula is one of the research area of us. You can see those in the annex. 4: Present tourism development projects: Existing Resorts and Resorts Proposed or Under Development in Kalpitiya: An Inventory.

4.4.3 Land acquired by tourism authorities in Mutwal

The takeover of lands in Kalpitiya island has been legalized by the Land Acquisition act no 09 of 1950 and Tourism development act No. 14 of 1968. The lands were taken into possession through Gazette Notification No. 1506/18 on 1st of August 2007, 1509/10 of 8 August 2007 and by the Gazette Notification no 1549/7 on 13th of May 2008. Now the legal authority of those lands is vested in the Tourism board.

Even the notices put up by government authorities show their adamant nature when dealing with the poor people. According to the notice, trespassing is prohibited. They have no concern about the poor fishermen who are used to walking across the island from one side to the other side for fishing. On the other hand, drying their nets and fish are done on land.
4.4.4. Private Businessmen’s display boards in Mutwal

**Fig. 25** Barbed wire fence blocked the beach seine point—Mutwal

**Fig. 26** Display boards banned access to sea—Mutwal

**Fig. 27** Barbed wires blocked access to sea—Uchchimune

**Fig. 28** Built-up display boards covering Mangrove forest at Mutwal

**Fig. 29** : Land appropriation through covering the natural forest

In the North and East, many people vacated their houses during the civil war. When the war was over people could reclaim their properties. But earlier in 2007 and 2008, lands in Kalpitiya islands were vested by the government in some business people who naturally claimed their ownership. Now the business people from Colombo, Chilaw and Puttlam produced documents to claim their ownership to lands.

The government authority and the business company owners talk about legal rights to lands. But no one can deny the fact that these isles have been used by the fisheries community for generations. It was during the civil war which lasted for 30 years that some of the fishermen moved out of the isles for safety of their lives. One time a large number of fisheries people who were settled at Baththalangunduwa isle were massacred by the LTTE. From there onward until 2009, people were scared to go back.

How the business owners were able to obtain legal documents is a simple logical question in the minds of the Kalpitiya residents. Business persons have been known to have connections and the financial strength to be able to pursue their business interests. Only the poor fishermen who have been living there for generations have no way of proving their rights. It was customary for Sri Lankans to transfer ownership from father to son without documents specially in many parts of the country even today as it is a customary law.

Customary Law is usually collective, but it also frequently recognizes individual rights. Customary law can be understood as rules that a society develops over time that are usually passed from
generation to generation by word of mouth. Analysis of current practice of customary law has shown that it is consistent with the definition of governance - it establishes who has decision making power and responsibility to implement decisions, and who are held accountable and how. A small number of countries recognize that local communities and indigenous people apply their customary laws within their territories. There is increasing support for the idea that rights originating in customary law should be recognized. Several countries have done that.

4.5 Legality of acquisition of lands in Kalpitiya islands for Kalpitiya Tourism Promotion Zone

The present situation of Kalpitiya islets reminds us of the ruthless acts of British Colonialism in 18th century in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). When the Sinhalese kingdom was defeated in 1815, the British governor declared that Ceylon as part of Great Britain; hence, the English King became the king of Sri Lanka. For centuries it was customary in Ceylon that the land were owned by the king. People of the country utilized the lands in the name of the king which were called Crown Lands. Nobody needed any document to prove the land ownership. Generation to generation land utilization was passing from father to son and so on. But the British saw only the land ownership and expelled the villagers form the lands and vested those lands and sold it to British planters to open commercial cultivation. History is repeating itself in Kalpitiya.

Many fisheries families inhabited Kalpitiya islets for generation without document to prove their rights for lands, because that was not needed. For centuries the only utilization of those lands were for the activities involved with the fishing. The kith and kin of fisheries community had no question about the land. For them, it was the sea and lagoon which provided their harvest. Psychological ownership, as pointed out in the previous chapter, accounted for this current context.

As the time passed by, the land hunters emerged to set up private businesses etc, for they have seen that free lands can be grabbed for a song. Now the land is vested and the Tourism Board has declared the region of Kalpitiya islets “A Tourism Promotion Zone”. Seventeen (17) tourist hotels projects have been approved, which is an indication of indifference to possible implications particularly on the fisheries families living in the islets.

Last 13 May, 2010, the “Sustainable Tourism Project of Sri Lanka” [P113709] was approved, with 18 million USD from the World Bank for the Sri Lankan tourism promotion program. Out of which, 8.1 million USD have been allocated to develop tourism in Kalpitiya and seven other tourism zones. Of the seven zones, Kalpitiya is the largest with 4000 acres of its land targeted for the project.

It must be emphasized here that when financing agreements were signed for the project P 113709, the local authority has agreed to minimize the adverse effects of land utilization on indigenous people while coordinating with them to settle any disputes arising out of new project,[Source: Sri Lanka Sustainable Tourism Development Authority, Social Management Frame Work, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, Ministry of Tourism, Sri Lanka, 12 July 2009.]. This was a mandatory condition.

None of these mandatory conditions have been followed.

Mr. A.M.A. Azeez of Mutwal isle says, “Our lands were vested by Gazette notification by the Tourism Board even without informing us. The government has looted our lands and tried to put up tourism zones. The tourism plan is already uprooting large number of coconut trees. They have planned a
20 feet wide road right across my land. It was already gazetted. Here nothing is done in a civilized manner. Every action is a grabbing.”

This turn of events can be perceived as a case where injustice and violation of human rights of fishermen have become legal. Therefore those international monetary institutions such as World Bank who provide funds should be at least lay down conditions to the government to protect indigenous people and their livelihood when implementing new development projects. They must be compensated properly when they are affected by new development projects.

4.6 Stakeholders and people’s participation process in tourism development project

No one has informed the islet fishing community about the tourism project and vesting their lands for tourism purpose. The stake holders of the Sustainable Tourism Project have been behaving adamantly and have assigned the Grama officer to inform the fisheries community that they must vacate the islands. On the other hand, the fisheries communities have continuously expressed their intent not to vacate the islets. They have not placed their trust and confidence on the promising offers of the government officers to allocate lands in Kalpitiya for the fisheries settlements. The fact that they were not promptly and properly informed was simple and enough reason for the seeds of mistrust to be planted and develop. The fisheries community is well aware that there are no free lands or crown lands in Kalpitiya. They guess the land fisheries settlements may be allocated in “Wilpattu reservation” which the fisher people don’t want.

Dilani Maheshwarie- Sinnamunnakkarei

“So far no one has informed us about the tourism project. I think if tourism too developed here we will be benefitted. Roads will be developed. Electricity will be supplied. We must be given a land in case if the authorities want us to vacate this isle. This is injustice for them to acquire our lands which we own for generations. We are also aware that the lands in Uchchimunei and Keerimundal are vested by the government and sold to tourism companies. So far nobody has come here to order us to vacate the island. But, group of unidentified people came here to survey our land.

Here in order to prove our ownership we do not have any document other than our names in the voters list and family register book of the church. Our people are disorganized. Not a single government officer has come here to find grievances. When we have to get things done we go to Kalpitiya main land.”

Mary Fernando- Sinnamunnakkarei

“Don’t give our lands to tourism projects. We are not aware of this vesting of our lands. Nobody informed us on this matter.”

John Nikulas- Uchchimunei

“We don’t want any of those infrastructure facilities offered by them in exchange of tourism. We understand the final outcome. We are being dislodged. We don’t want our livelihood disturbed by tourism. We are satisfied with our present employment. We need freedom to carry on and a solution to our land problem.”
Actually, the government of Sri Lanka has agreed with the World Bank to improve the efficiency levels of government authorities in the Sustainable Tourism project. The amount of 8.4 million USD was allocated for the care of indigenous communities so that their social life will not be disturbed. Indigenous people participation and transparency of the project activities are some of the conditions included in the agreements.

If the agreement had been followed as is, the first attention would have been to settle the rising problems of indigenous community through direct mediation of local government which is called “provincial council”. The Provincial Council also has its own tourism ministry as well as minor administrative bodies such as DS office and “Pradesheeya Sabha”. The Pradesheeya Sabha is the grass root level people’s representation in the country. The members are elected by the people. The ministry of tourism has set up a sub office called Kalpitiya tourism project office in the region.

But, so far none of these bodies/mechanisms have taken any effort to look in to the problems of fisheries communities in isles. The government has been amiss in this responsibility as signatory to the agreement on development loans from the international financial institutions.

4.7 Vesting of Lands in Kalpitiya is a Human Rights Violation

According to the statistics of the fisheries census carried out in 1993 there were 12,947 fisherman employed in Puttalam lagoon. Their annual contribution to national economy was Rs. 455,292,000 or US$ 8,755,615. (Research done by NARESA/NARA/ SIDA,1997). Yet this calculation is only based on market value of fish. But the silent services and benefits such as self-employment, provision of cheap source of protein supply benefits for female and children, social security, etc. have not been taken into consideration. (Samarakoon, J. – Self-identity of small scale fishermen, their contribution to economy, employment, land utilization and nourishment).

On the whole, the land grabbing strikes at the Civil and Political Rights of Sri Lankans, their rights to development. So-called development projects as the tourism projects do not simply involve calculating the financial gains and the amount of foreign exchange earnings. Financial losses from social rights violations, cultural destruction, environmental destruction and long term political and economic disadvantages must be accounted for in an honest-to-goodness development paradigm. How the project benefits are achieved, how much of the gains are distributed and utilized, and how much the lives and conditions of the poor and marginalized, who are the final intended beneficiaries or rightful claimants to the development results of the project, have improved are costs to be accounted for. These must be made transparent to them.

Ewlin Fernando, Anthony Dias – Sinnamunnakkarei

“Tourism may improve our lifestyle. But our children will be spoiled due to tourist hotels. As we do not possess any document to prove our ownership for these lands we have to accept government order. But we need a place to continue with our job.”

It is a violation of human rights to take over our lands, water resources, lagoons and landing points. Environment pollution causing bad effects on our livelihood is too a violation of human rights. All these suppression is on us, the low income group.
CHAPTER 5:

IMPLICATIONS AND IMPACT OF LAND GRABBING

The fact-finding mission revealed, firstly, that the Kalpitiya fishers/people were not informed nor consulted about the tourism projects. There has not been a proper dialogue between and among the communities prior the implementation. Secondly, the fisheries communities were not aware of the adverse effects of tourism.

But even then, given that there was proper and prompt information dissemination and communication done, many evidences would point to the myriads of negative effects and a host of bothersome implications that would justify the Kalpitiya people’s attitudes towards the tourism project and their consequent decisions. A few of those interviewed stated:

“It is good to have electricity to our isles, yet after providing electricity what out come next? We are to be dislodged. We don’t want such development.” Said Dinesh Suranjan, General Secretary, All Ceylon Fisher Folk trade union, Uchchimunei.

Box. No.03: Rev. Bendiwewa Diyasena Thero (Buddhist Monk), Chief incumbent of Sri Samudrasanna Buddhist Temple at Kandakuliya, Kalpitiya, had this to say:

“One of the main features in the development of tourism in Kalpitiya is the Dolphin view tours in the sea. The government authorities have mentioned that they will give opportunity to the fishermen to use their boats on Dolphin watching tours. But it is a fact, in year 2013 February itself hundreds of Dolphins died in Kalpitiya sea. When the Dolphin population has demolished what are they going to show in the sea? Will the tourists come here to watch Dolphins? Will the fishermen make any money by employing their boats to transport tourists? This is only a myth of the government. This project will not generate any economical benefit to the area or the fishermen. This will not enhance the economy or livelihood of the islanders.”
Mrs. Deepika Fernando- Sinnamunnakkarei

“We don’t have documents to prove our land ownership. Yet, we live here, we work here, we sell our catchment to ice boat or we take it to Kalpitiya main land and sell it there. When we have ample catchment, part of it is dried. What are we going to do if we are dislodged from here? This is the work only we know. Our people are disorganized. SEDEC and Kalpitiya parish priest visit us and advice us to defend ourselves.”

Even the UN Committee on Food Security (CFS) High Level Panel of Experts on Food and Nutrition, in its report on global land grabbing in July 2011, indicated that a direct proportional relationship between large-scale land investments and quality of life improvement for the poor is not possible in many cases. (HLPE, 2011). This means that big investments and land deals do not necessarily result in its intended big benefits.

5.1 Impact of Land Grabbing on fishery production

Tables 7 and 8 show the importance of the fishing industry in Kalpitiya. It can be said that should the fishers be displaced and/or the fishing waters of Kalpitiya be made less productive from the environmental effects of the infrastructure activities alone, a higher level of negative result is a decrease in the country’s income at all levels from the local to the national. A decrease in the country’s income could lead to a long line of more negative impacts such as reduced budgets and poor delivery of services, to name a few. The opposite of the intended results of high-end tourism, hence, happens instead.

Production of Fisheries Communities at Kalpitiya Islands

Table 7: Mutwal fisherman’s contribution to national economy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Average Quantity daily [Kg]</th>
<th>Quantity Monthly [Kg]</th>
<th>Value Monthly [Rs. Million]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Fish</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Prawns</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Crabs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea crabs</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>8,250</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mud crabs</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>7,350</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Sea cucumber</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Cuttle fish</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Coconut</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>1( Once in three months)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Survey of NAFSO February, 2013

Mutwal islet alone has significant quantities of daily catch, with 4000 kg just for the fish catch. Keerimundal, Sinnamunnakkarei and Uchchimunei island small-scale fishermen, utilizing around 6000 liters of Kerosene and other oils per day, produce a combined catch of 5000 Kg. fish and other varieties of aquatic fauna. Sea cucumber and conch harvest are 300-400 pieces per day for the three same islets. A large conch is sold Rs. 1200 and small ones are sold at Rs. 800 each. The fishermen limit the harvesting of small conches due to conservation and resource sustainability concerns. Catching of lobster is likewise banned in the months of February, September and October. Cuttlefish harvest and coconut cultivation
provide additional sources of income for the Mutwal islet inhabitants. It must be noted that Mutwal islet is where three tourism features are being established already.

**Table 8:** Uchchimune, Keerimudal and Sinnamunnakkare fishermen’s contribution to national economy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Quantity Daily [Kg]</th>
<th>Quantity Monthly [Kg]</th>
<th>Value [Rs, Million]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Fish</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Prawn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Crabs</td>
<td>Sea crabs 500</td>
<td>Sea crabs 15,000-25,000</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mud crabs 40-50</td>
<td>Mud crabs 1,200</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Sea Cucumber</td>
<td>300-400 [Pieces]</td>
<td>8,000-10,000 [Pieces]</td>
<td>12-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Sea Conch</td>
<td>300 [Number]</td>
<td>4,000 [Number]</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Survey of NAFSO February, 2013

5.1.1 Dry fish production in islands

Kalpitiya dry fish is well known seafood in the country. When people buy dry fish, the Kalpitiya dry fish gets leading attention in the market. During the season from April to October, around 500-600 Kg of dry fish is produced in Keerimundal up to Uchchimunei range. The total dry fish production in islets per year is around 250-400 Metric tons. This is not only an income for the island communities but also strength to the national economy. The dry fish production in the islands helps reduce the millions of annual foreign exchange which are needed just to import fish products from foreign countries.

Dry Fish Productions in Kalpitiya Islands

**Fig.14:** Dry fish production at Mutwal

**Fig.15:** Dry fish production at Keerimundal

**Fig.16:** Dry fish production at Rodapaduwa
5.2 On farmer’s and fishermen’s livelihood due to vesting of lands

The Fishermen in Kalpitiya isles already facing problems due to boulder laying along the sea beach by hotel builders. In certain places in Mutwal island, the beach seine fishing (Drag net/ma-del) has come to a halt due to boulder laying. There are 50 to 60 fisheries workers employed on each beach seine fishing group. These fishing laborers have now become unemployed.

In certain places hotel owners have blocked existing anchoring point to be used. The disturbances to theppam anchoring point in Mutwal, FRP small boat anchoring point at Anawasala are some of the examples. Now fishermen have to go to courts asking for a verdict. The Anawasala fishing community has already asked for legal action. Some peoples’ action groups are helping the fishermen to file cases against the hotel builders.

Fig. 30: Disturbances to Beach seine operations to the beach seine own by Anura Pushpakumara by Hasan Gaate company at Mutwal

5.3 On resource access, utilization and management of the fishermen

Fig. 31: Built-up barbed wire fences covering the beach seine points at Mutwal
For centuries fishermen had been utilizing their fisheries resources without a disturbance. Today they have become refugees in their own fishing grounds. The barbed wire fences erected along the coastal line by Bay Watch Eco Hotel by Hasan Gaate company have prevented them from entering the coastal belt for fishing. Mr. Anura Pushpakumara who is affected by such actions, said that as a result of loss of his beach seine point from this restriction, about 30 families have likewise lost their daily income.

Mr. Kennedy Jayamanna, who is also beach seine owner, revealed that a hotel company is trying their best to move him out of his beach seine point. Further, he said, they are even trying to buy off the beach seine point from him.

*Fig 31.a*  Mr. Kennedy Jayamanne
beach Seine Owner who lost his Beach Seine point at Mutwal island.
Mrs. Roshanthi Fernando, a member and a representative of Keerimundal Holy Cross fisheries cooperative society, said she and other mothers in the village fish in mangroves of the isle for small fish, shrimp and crab, which were their dietary supplementary of the family. In the present situation, the hotel building companies have put up barbed wire fences, prohibiting them from entering the mangroves.

5.4 Impact on the fisheries workers, villagers and women's employment and production process workers involved in trade

Box No.04: Mr. Human Fernando, who is the president of Anawasala fishermen's cooperative society, mentioned that members of their cooperative are currently fishing at Iluppanthive isle, and are now under pressure from the hotel investors to give up fishing there. Furthermore, Mr. Fernando states:

“The Iluppanthive island has been leased out already. Immediately after we learned that the land is being leased, we organized a meeting with the owners of the island. At the same meeting, the island owners revealed their willingness to allow fishermen to continue fishing in the islands though they own the land. There is an ongoing court case now, however. Their promises are of no importance now as they have broken them already. There were 125 fishermen who operated in the island of Iluppanthive but at present it has been reduced to only 40.

The people in Iluppanthive island cut down their kerosene expenses because the island is situated close to the sea and the running length to the sea from the land is cut down when they stay at the mid of the way to the sea. This is a big relief for the fishermen as the fuel price is unbearable for small scale fishermen today. If the people remove from the island, there will be high fuel cost which cannot be borne by the communities. This is a big loss for the communities and added burden for them. Around 10-15% of them abandoned the fishing industry as this is unbearable to them. But the fisheries cooperative society is also not ready to give up the work and lose the land. Some of the fishermen expressed their frustration and revealed that they have not gone to the sea more than 10 weeks, meaning after the Christmas season.

We want to continue with people on their agitations to ensure their rights with the assistance of religious organizations, political parties, civil society organizations.”

Mrs. Roshanthi Fernando a member and a representative of Keerimundal Holy Cross fisheries cooperative society, said she and other mothers in the village fish in mangroves of the isle for small fish, shrimp and crab, which were their dietary supplementary of the family. In the present situation, the hotel building companies have put up barbed wire fences, prohibiting them from entering the mangroves.

Box No.05: A.R.M. Musammil, Secretary, the Traders Association, Bazzar Street, Kalpitiya:
“From the surface there we can see a development. However, is this real development? We need to think about the cultural destruction too. Are these job opportunities for the Kalpitiya people or outsiders? Someday, island communities will have to abandon their lands. We cannot see any development of people from the proposed development program. However, the so called development is a disturbance to livelihoods of the people. Those tourism development work will be a disturbance to national and regional fish market too. This will eventually affect adversely the national economy too. Those development goals are not aimed at Kalpitiya people and to fulfill their requirements. People are not knowledgeable of the development plans. We will intervene as trade association to find solution through mobilizing people. The most important matter is that the people should form their own organization to overcome the issues coming up.”
Other workers have much to lose and nothing to gain should they be displaced from Kalpitiya. These include the fisheries post-harvest workers specially the women who engage in fish processing and other members of the indigenous community who are involved in the fish industry value chain process. Since Kalpitiya is a fishing community, the inhabitants derive income and sustenance from fishing. The tourism business would offer employment opportunities, as has been promoted. However, the business would require a different set of knowledge and skills set for employment. High-end tourism is what has been planned for Kalpitiya and finding a place for cultural or even “creative industry” tourism is very remote. The villagers have been into fishing traditionally and would, hence, be inadequately competent to match the human resource requirements of the businesses. The possibilities for their youth are nonexistent as while they are young, sadly, they are not skilled for immediate hiring.

The fishes of course are the immediate sources of sustenance of the communities. Food and nutrition security is obtained from intake of the fishes, which are good sources of protein. Depriving the communities of this right is a contradiction to the Millennium Development Goal to eliminate hunger. For the people of Kalpitiya who feel betrayed by their own Government who is their duty-bearer, this might even be thought of as a way of “disposing” them through hunger and poverty in order to “clear” the way for the Tourism Master Plan.

5.4.1 Mutwal island

One of the most affected groups in the Kalpitiya Tourism Zone is Mutwal isle. These people have not been given freedom to do any fishing operation [Small boat, Theppam, Beach seine] in any place to fish as they wish [Sea, Lagoon, Beach, Mangrove forest] and to catch any fish as people wish. What is happening today is that they have and are being made to give up their traditional fishing grounds and leave them for tourism. It is not only affecting food sovereignty of the people, but also forcing them to abandon the land they have inherited from their fathers and forefathers.

5.5 Impact on the food sovereignty of the islanders if fishing production is reduced

At the Forum for Food Sovereignty in Sélingué, Mali, 27 February 2007, about 500 delegates from more than 80 countries adopted the "Declaration of Nyéléni”, which says in part:

“Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It puts those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the demands of markets and corporations. It defends the interests and inclusion of the next generation. It offers a strategy to resist and dismantle the current corporate trade and food regime, and directions for food, farming, pastoral and fisheries systems determined by local producers. Food sovereignty prioritizes local and national economies and markets and empowers peasant and family farmer-driven agriculture, artisanal fishing, pastoralist-led grazing, and food production, distribution and consumption based on environmental, social and economic sustainability. Food sovereignty promotes transparent trade that guarantees just income to all peoples and the rights of consumers to control their
food and nutrition. It ensures that the rights to use and manage our lands, territories, waters, seeds, livestock and biodiversity are in the hands of those of us who produce food. Food sovereignty implies new social relations free of oppression and inequality between men and women, peoples, racial groups, social classes and generations.”

5.5.1 Food sovereignty issues on Sinnamunnakkarei and Rodapuduwa residents:

Ninety-nine (99%) of the inhabitants here depend entirely on fishing. Only two families have a side income from grocery shop. Few families have small vegetable plots for home consumption. Most of the householders had at least five coconut-bearing trees. These fishermen sell their products as fresh fish and when the catch is ample, part of it is processed as dry fish. Almost every fisherman is fish in the lagoon for prawns and crabs.

5.5.2 Food sovereignty issues on Uchchimunei

There are 375 Sinhala and Tamil families in Uchchimune and Sinnamunnakkarei isles. They are all catholic. Every adult in the isle is fishing for a living. These families have been fishermen for generations. Of the 375, about 250 are boat owners. Men go fishing while the females help on fishing-related work. They are a one united social block in which they know peaceful co-existence.

They comment on the present situation as follows:
“The ever increasing fuel price is a big problem for us. Every day, in every fishing trip we must earn at least Rs. 5,000/- to cover our expenses. Some days we earn Rs. 10,000/- but in some days earning is less than 5,000/-. If we buy fuel from Kalpitiya, the purchase trip will cost us Rs. 3,000/-. If we can sell our fish at a reasonable price we are happy.”

5.5.3 Food sovereignty issues on Mutwal

One of the most affected groups in the Kalpitiya Tourism Zone is Mutwal isle. These people do not have freedom to do any fishing operation [Small boat, Theppam, Beach seine] in any place to fish as they wish [Sea, Lagoon, Beach, Mangrove forest] and to catch any fish as people wish will be disturbed. What is happening today is to give up their traditional fishing grounds leaving them for tourism. It is not only affect food sovereignty of the people, but also the threat to abandon the land they inherited from their fathers and fore fathers.

5.6 Impact on the environment

5.6.1 Environmental effects identified from the study carried out by the National Fisheries Solidarity Movement are discussed below:

Kalpitiya isles region is one of Sri Lanka’s specific natural environmental resources. With the introduction of large scale tourism industry, serious damage is done to the environment with or without the knowledge of authorities concerned. The coral reef and natural sand dunes are already destroyed while further destruction is taking place.
The fresh water resource in the isles, the sea water and the lagoon water by now are highly polluted by the hotel builders. In addition, this pollution will continue in the future with worse conditions if the tourism project is continued. For example, non-degradable garbage such as plastic bottles, packaging materials and other similar waste materials will hold water to breed mosquitoes. In the tropical regions mosquitoes are a menace. They are the transporters of many diseases from individual to individual.

The leisure boat rides in the tourism project plan can cause soil erosion in the lagoon environment. Certain construction work taking place along the coastal belt is also harmful to the beauty in the sea beach and visibility is obscured. Places like sea beaches in the country is a common property hence every citizen has a right to approach sea beaches. The privacy demands of hotel owners, unfortunately, will prevent general public to access them.

The dangers of global warming continue to increase and the Kalpitiya isles also subject to this global problem. Sea erosion is heavy in Keerimundal isle already. The settlers and the settlements in Keerimundal isle have been washed away and some of the people had to vacate the island. The Karativu isle which is beyond the Battalamgunduwa isle is now totally submerged under the sea. Due to the climate changes the unexpectedly high volume of rain being experienced in Sri Lanka has increased the water level in lagoon causing part of the isles to submerge and soil erosion. The region is also experiencing gale storms from time to time as a result of global climate changes. There had been recent occasions that many fishing boats which were in landing points had been washed off. In April 2012, twenty houses in Sinnamunnakkarei were heavily damaged by a cyclone. The sand dunes in Uchchimunei isle have been carried off to Dutch bay and deposited there.

The Dutch bay and Uchchimune Grama Officer areas in the Kalpitiya isles are rich mangroves. Most of the isles are natural habitats for coastal shrubs, coastal grass and coastal creepers. Natural sand bounds also add beauty to the environment. This had been a natural environment which was unchanged for centuries. But the introduction of tourism project construction companies are changing natural environment into industrial setup. The mangroves are being transformed into natural streams and sand bounds are made into grounds. There is already an environmental assessment reports made by Sun hotels and resorts Pvt. And Let’s Travel Pvt. Ltd for Sun Resorts project at Wellai island and Kalpitiya Dutch Bay Hotel Resort Project at Mutwal islands on the environmental impacts due to tourism projects.

5.6.2 The environmental study report in relation to Kalpitiya Wellai island Hotel project has the following assessment:

(a) Fish breeding grounds and coastal grass can be destroyed with the progress of constructions. When the project has completed the destruction will continue. Leisure boat running will result in the erosion of land and depletion of fish resources. If the number of leisure crafts are increased special permit must be issued.

(b) A serious problem of tourism industry is that it has a large quantity of waste material. Starting from plastic materials such as bottles, metal cans, discarded clothes, shoes etc., these will
continue to disrupt fishing. And disposal of waste water which could be heavily mixed with harmful chemicals will destroy aquatic life in the ocean and in the lagoon. Soil erosion is going to be another big problem here. Hotel builders are laying boulders along the coastal belt to save their hotel from the sea erosion. When tourist hotels were built in the coastal belt of Negombo, hotel builders laid sand boulders along the beach. The result was heavy sea erosion on the immediate south part of the fisheries villages of the Negombo beach. Presently money is pumped by central government and local government to stop sea erosion.

5.6.3 The Sri Lanka Nature Group study of impact of land grabbing on environment

The Sri Lanka Nature Group which has done a study on the environmental impacts of Kalpitiya tourism project reports many aspects of the environmental destructions from the tourism promotion activities. Removal of mangroves, changes on natural streams, water drain system, land filling, etc. might definitely bring destruction to the aquatic environment in Kalpitiya. Lagoon environment which is essential to the, growth, breed and sustainability of prawns, crabs, and other crustaceans will be disturbed and as a result the harvest will be reduced in the future. In turn, such situation will create economic and social problems within the fisheries community.

Construction of large hotels, race course, golf courses, use of large vessels, large scale construction work and tourism related activities will alter the climate and environmental conditions in Kalpitiya. Kalpitiya is a place which comes in the semi-arid area in Sri Lanka and it has its own natural setup. If change of this set up definitely will create adverse climate and weather conditions in return. These changes will adversely affect even the population living in surrounding area.

The business concept of Kalpitiya tourism project was originally to attract tourists to the natural and exceptional environmental conditions prevailing there. Now that the project implementation has been handed over to private hotel builders who have no concern over the environment, the natural vegetation
and geography of the location are being destroyed. In the end, the business purpose of the project, too, is “destroyed” and lost.

Take for example the nature park concept proposed. Kalpitiya tourism project concept was to attract tourist to enjoy water, sandbars, coral reef sanctuary, sea mammals such as dolphins and whales other aquatic life natural vegetation etc. the sustainability of those natural attraction depends on how you combine with the nature. The nature park concept itself is to preserve nature for everybody including animals. Instead of a nature park now they introduce city hotel concept which include massive concrete structures, heavily urbanized features, artificial landscaping and all that metropolitan life. These inversely indicate disruption and destruction of nature. Use of high power boat engines and using them in large numbers and very often will highly disturb the fish breeding grounds, even fishermen will not be able to lay nets as a result.

Fishing operation co-exist with nature. Definitely, the future fish harvest will be reduced and many fishermen will lose their livelihood. Concentration of a large number of tourist hotels and allied industries along the coastal belt will cause discharge of large volume of chemicals to the sea and lagoon. The continuous discharge of chemicals mixed water will poison the water for animals. Fish will be destroyed with their eggs.

Thoradiya – Mutwal road, which was constructed to make access to tourism project area, has generated flood problems in Thilladiya, Setawadiya Mosalwatta and Thoradiya villages. The road builders have filled the lagoon bypass to build the road and only at the deepest point they have built a bridge. This has prevented the rain water from quickly running down to lagoon. As a result, the new road stands like a bund across the lagoon, making it difficult for small scale fishermen to move their crafts for fishing. They have to sail via deep point, hence, (where the bridge and)where it is a dangerous voyage for a small craft. The small craft fishermen of Kudawa, Setawadiya, Thilladiya and Nawalldy villages are affected with this problem. There are about 380 fishermen in these villages are affected with this.

Kalpitiya area air is already polluted by the poisonous gas emissions from Norochcholai coal power electricity generating plant. Will there be a tourism attraction to such polluted area? Once tourists come to know about these things they will stop going there. What will happen to the large amount of money pumped in to the project?
It is a fact that the global warming up is a threat to sea level islands all over the world. In such a situation will there be a long term benefit on the investment in Kalpitiya isles? They are also isles at sea level. With the construction of large number of hotels and infra structure facilities such as golf course, race course, cricket grounds, landscaping, and the hotel consumption including for washing and cleaning, swimming pools etc. a large volume of water is needed daily. Within this semi arid dry zone area portable water is scares. Hence, to meet the water requirement hotel project will have to draw water from Kala Oya. If such a large volume of water is drawn from Kala Oya the vegetation and animal habitations around will be badly affected from water shortage.

The forest department had been conserving the mangrove environment with the support of fishermen and other interested parties. Mainly fishermen were educated and convinced on the value of Mangroves to the environment and the sustainability of fish resources. Now what has happened is that the tourism industry has taken over the environment with mangroves and destroyed them for construction purposes. What would be the reaction of fishing communities? They will also no longer think of the importance of Mangroves as important part to the aquatic environment.

With the implementation of this large scale tourism project, the land around Puttlam lagoon have been cleared for various constructions connected to tourism project. Mangroves are being cleared in large scale. The negative impact will be felt by fishermen very soon, because without mangroves, the breeding of crustaceans such as prawns and crabs will be largely reduced. This situation is not only an environmental problem and it will be a caused to dislodge the fisheries community too. [Source: Present situation and trends of Lang Grabbing in Sri Lanka by Sri Lanka Nature Forum. July 2012].

The list of environmental effects and right to development violations is endless; it is like a domino effect. Until finally, the entire fisheries community have suffered in the hands of tourism. The tourism business companies who have come to Sri Lanka to collect dollars have no concern about the environment or about the plight of poor fishermen and fishing communities.

Traumatic experiences include material losses, uprooting, deprivations, uncertainty over the future, disruption of community and social support networks. These affect people’s behavior and lead to psychosocial disfunctioning. From a human development perspective, what would be the future of the Kalpitiya people if this happens? Shall we allow another “tsunami”, another “war” to happen? What can the Kalpitiya people do, then, as rightful claimholders and intended ultimate beneficiaries of the country’s development programs and goals? If they are not around anymore to benefit from human development, what can be said, then, of the government that has left them to the dogs? Who is to be held accountable?
CHAPTER 6:
RESULTING ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Let us listen to the people’s voice.

“The way they are doing is illegal. They never communicated with the fisheries community over this matter. We became aware of the present situation through media.”

Mariya Jasitha – Uchchimune isle
“We cannot leave our village. If someone threaten to remove us from this village we are prepared to fight back.”

The fisheries community in Uchchimunei isle firmly said that their islet is needed for them to carry on with their livelihood. In addition they want fisheries authorities to provide them necessary protection and their facilities for fishing. Their living conditions need to be seen from their own perspective in the spirit of true consultation and people’s participation and be improved by being assisted on their expressed needs and not that of the tourism investors.

6.2 The different organizational mediations against Land Grabbing

The government organizations working on the tourism project so far have not met with most of the islanders to discuss the matters related to tourism project. Therefore, the islanders are not aware of the any step taken by the authorities concerned. The Samurdhi bank, though, has been working closely with the fisheries community and has donated few houses to fisheries families.

Non-government initiatives have been and are being continued in support of the Kalpitiya people in their struggles. The islanders said the NGO- SEDEC has been working to obtain legal land rights for fisheries people. The priests of the Catholic church at Kalpitiya and the diocese have been working at different levels to represent these helpless people in 14 islands. They said that although their meditation so far has been in vain, they will continue to agitate jointly with people.

Box. No.06: Rev. Fr. Michael Canecious Fernando, Parish Priest, Kalpitiya Parish
Mr. J. Pathmananthan, a research team member met Rev. Fr. Michael Canecious Fernando, the parish priest Kalpitiya as one of the Key Informant. We wanted to get his views on how the Kalpitiya tourism promotion zone and related land grabbing would affect the dwellers in Kalpitiya and with the emphasis of island communities. Fr. Michael did not want to comment on the issue with our team member. However, after listening to all the points related to the research, Fr. Michael had told to Pathmananthan,
“We need to find solutions to all these issues. Also we need to pray to the Lord.”
In the year 2007, the Holy Cross Fisheries Society at Uchchimunei had taken some steps to get the land deeds for the island communities. They have submitted a petition with the signatures of islanders demanding to get the legal land rights for the island dwellers. [Annex 6: petition signed by the islanders lead by Holy Cross Fisheries Cooperative Society.]

Also, in August 2012 the Uchchimunei island community discussed with the DS, Kalpitiya to take necessary steps to register them in the same island and settle them there. On 16th March 2013, Mr. Susantha Punchinilame, the deputy economic development minister had met the fisher representatives of island communities. The aim of the meeting was to identify the issues faced by the communities due to the Kalpitiya tourism project and to introduce the development program. Also, the deputy minister had sought assistance from the Kalpitiya parish priest Rev. Fr. Michael Canecious Fernando to educate people and gather alternative proposals to remedy the issues faced by the fisher communities. At present, the Kalpitiya parish priest is taking some steps to educate island communities on the Kalpitiya tourism promotion zone.

Niroshan Sanjeewa- Sinnamunnakkarei

“We jointly work with our parish priest. We have to stay here if we want to continue with our livelihood. None of the government officers come here to find out about our problems. We only receive a voting card during the election period.” “One year back some officers came to survey the land. We asked why? Their reply was that they want to supply electricity and protect the land from sea erosion with putting rock. The Navy does not allow us to use “Surukku Net”[Ring Nets]; other than that there is no specific problems from them”.

6.3 The fisheries society activities in Kalpitiya islets

The fisheries community in Mutwal isle does not have a fisheries committee. It has become a handicap for them to represent their rights. They also do not have a fisheries co-operative union for outboard motor operators[small FRP boats] or a “theppam fishermen” union.

However, Mr. Bernard Costa, an experienced fisherman explained how the theppam fishermen, around 30 of them, lost their livelihood due to loss of the anchorage point.

“The Holy Cross fisheries co-operative union” of Uchchimunei has members including from Keerimundal, Rodapaduwa and Dutch bay. Mr. Sebastian Dias the president of the “Holy Cross fisheries co-operative union” has actively participated in the dialogue over land issue. There are also women union, children union, youth associates in Uchchimunei and Sinnamunnakkarei isles. Ms. Roshanthi Fernando is and active among women folk in the Holy Cross fisheries coop’s women wing was a key informant at Keerimundal, Sinnamunnakkarei communities.

The SEDEC has assisted to form and amalgamate fisheries union by covering 1 Keerimundal, 1 Sinnamunnakkarei, 3 Uchchimunei and 1 Boatwadiya unions into one. As these fisheries unions are unregistered, their representation is not accepted by government officers.
6.4 People’s reaction and organizing against land grabbing

The islanders have not demonstrated so far their disagreements over the tourism project in a collective manner. They have been organizing themselves to open up a debate with the DS and Tourist Board.

Island people had approached the minister of fisheries, Dr. Rajitha Senaratne, on February 2011 when he visited Sinnagunduwa fishing community, one of the islands in Kalpitiya, and had requested his assistance to overcome the difficulties they face due to tourism industry. However, the minister had told the people not to disturb the tourism development as the fishing communities at Unwatuna, Hikaduwa and Negombo have become millionaires because of tourism development. He had mentioned not to be misled and instigated with allegations against tourism by individuals and organizations.

In March 2011, the people had invited to Rt. Rev. Bp. Valence Dewrsiritha Mendis, the Bishop of Chilaw diocese to the Mutwal island to present the difficulties they faced due to tourism industry. The Bishop had assured that he will not allow anyone to chase away the people from their lands. He had advised the people to seek possible avenues also to have co-existence of tourism and fisheries in the same land.

In 2008 peoples’ organizations also presented a vesting attempt in Mutwal - Penapitugama. The authorities had to abandon the lands survey project there. Under the present situation people have to be better organized to take decisions on the matters related to dislodging them.

The people's alertness is being proved in their united participation in NAFSO-conducted activities:

- Demonstration in 6 September 2011 in Colombo, supported by "Peoples Aspiration" and "Peoples’ Alliance for Right to Lands" [Figures: 41, 42, 43]
- "Peoples Tribunal" in 30 January 2012, organized by the "Praja Abhilashi network"
- People’s demonstrations in 15 October 2012 held on Colombo demanding to protect their rights for lands
- Public demonstration at Kalpitiya in 21 November 2012 and meeting held in Kandakuliya where seriousness of peoples' intentions were observed. In the demonstration, island communities were engaged to sign post cards and to post them to President demanding to reconsider the decision to lease out Kalpitiya islands for tourism projects. [Figures: 47,48,49]
- Island communities and civil society organizations submitted a petition to Kalpitiya divisional secretary demanding stop land grabbing and other adverse social impacts due to tourism project, [Figure 50]
- Media journalists who were attended media briefing and arranged a visit to islands on tourism [Fig.51]
Peoples’ organizations attempted to launch a protest move on 28 November 2012 against the grabbing of their lands but was prevented on the request of the parish priest of Kalpitiya. The Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) had organized a legal clinic to assist Puttlam district people to take legal action against land grabbing. This was held on March 2013 which was attended by 2 island community members together with J. Pathmanathan and Dinesh Suranjan of the research team. As a follow up action, the TISL had organized a field work at Uchchimunei island which was disturbed by some groups at the point.

In 2013, as a result of the understanding of the seriousness of the land grabbing at Kalpitiya islands, the Kalpitiya parish priest took it upon himself to educate the communities. They were informed of the tourism plan of Kalpitiya tourism zone, followed by discussions on finding alternatives to the existing issues among the island communities.

Although there was a plan to launch a campaign against land grabbing with the leadership of Bishop of Chilaw, there was no such plan to spread the campaign with the participation of wider society. This was confirmed by the research team who met the parish priest as a part of the research work and to find ways and means to launch a collaborative action.

Sr. Deepa Fernando, Melani Manel Perera and Asangika Mihirani had discussed with the parish priest and learned with deep sadness that there was very limited space for any collaborative action. At the same time, in a number of discussions held between parish priest and research team members of J.Pathmanathan and Dinesh Suranjan they learned of the parish priest’s reservation with other civil society engagements against the land grabbing issues in the island communities.

However, it is up to the communities to decide their strategies how to move forward as an organized group.
Ms. Roshanthi Fernando, Women’s Wing,
Holy Cross Fisheries Cooperative Society, Uchchimunei

Anthony Shelton - Uchchimune
“We must be united as one group against the injustice taking place. Last time when the fuel cost was increased, we all jointly demonstrated our discontent. If we are subjected to suppression, we must be united and go forward for actions.”

Mrs. Evegin Fernando - Uchchimune
“We are not prepared to leave our village for any reason. Where can we go? Fishing cannot be done being settled in interior lands. We are not prepared to accept their so called offer.”
“The only trade we know is fishing and we need our settlements to continue with our livelihood. Some people might be influenced for money or materials offered by them. But we are not prepared to accept alternative places. If authorities try to remove us by force from Uchchimune we will take action to stop them at Keerimundal, long before they come to Uchchimune. We cannot forgo our future and the future of our children by being tempted for their offers.”

Niroshan Kurera, Manjula Croos - Uchchimune
“We have no other alternative life. We cannot give up our livelihood. We are attached to our fishery and fishing needs this isle. Therefore we are bonded our lives with the isle.”
Mr. Emilias Dias, Sahayamary, Pholin Fernando.-Uchchimunei  
“Why should we leave our village? However much they threaten us we are prepared to save our isle for our children. We need your support and guidance in case if they try to suppress us.”

Nilmini Fernando- Rodapaduwa  
“NAFSO has come forward on behalf of us and have studied in depth the nature of this problem. They have made us realize the seriousness of this problem. I think we must join with NAFSO to launch our protest to authorities concern and save our settlements and livelihoods.”

6.5 The target areas of peoples' agitations

Some of the people are hopeful about the tourist industry. But people are experiencing the oppressive way it is being implemented. They now realized need of organization and the importance of being organized to overcome such actions. The Island population had been isolated and concentrated on their livelihood. But now they are realizing they cannot go on same style at the face of threats on coming into their lives. But they are hesitate to participate in public demonstrations through fear that they will be subjected to government suppression.

‘They believe that they have taken steps in their capacity to stop suppression even at a risk for their lives. They have taken joint action with Kalpitiya Parish priest. They have had many rounds of discussions with Kalpitiya DS, Kalpitiya and Puttlam GA. They have submitted a petition to GA signed by 300 inhabitants of Islands requesting legal rights for their lands.

Asanka Croos - Fisher craft technician - Sinnamunnakkarei  
“We have signed petitions, yet no further action plans. Our village folk are setting up a fisheries women's union. We hope SEDEC will come forward to help us.”
6.6 The experiences gained out of people’s reactions movements, by the people have following suggestions as future planes.

i. There must be a continuous process to inform written to the government institutions concerned with this matter.

ii. A group organization is needed to visit Uchchimunei, Rodapaduwa, Keerimundal, Sinnamunnakkarei, Boatwadi, Illuppaathive and Mutwal isles and make people aware of the latest situation.

iii. Collect ten number groups and talk to them to mobilize for collective actions.

iv. To participate in the peoples' union meeting at Keerimundal, Uchchimune, Sinnamunnakkarei and Mutwal and make them aware of latest developments in respect to rights of Islanders.

v. Assistance from knowledgeable people to strengthen the peoples organizations.

vi. People of main land Kalpitiya also should be made aware of the plight of island settlers.

vii. Authorities concerning have been building and argument based on not having voting rights, as a reject point for land rights. Hence people’s organizations need to take urgent actions on future steps.

viii. Uchchimunei people have decided to meet every Thursday and pray together as an action point against land grabbing.

![Fig. 44: Rev. Sr. Deepa Fernando is facilitating a meeting at Uchchimune](image1)

![Fig. 45: Melani, Asangika & team are discussing with Mutwal community.](image2)

![Fig. 46: A dialogue between Francis and Uchchimune community.](image3)
Fig. 47: We won’t allow to grab our Land

Fishers, Farmers, Labourers, and Women in all Sectors together with Religious Leaders are Marching Against Land Grabbing in Kalpitiya on 21st November, 2012 commemorating World Fisheries Day

Fig. 50: Fisher Leaders Hand Over a Petition to Kalpitiya Divisional Secretary at the end of the March organized against Land Grabbing on 21st November, 2012.

Fig. 51: Media Journalists attended field visit and Media briefing at Kalpitiya Land issues

Fig. 52: Rev. Bandiwewe Diyasena therro address the media team
Box No.08: Moulavi Janab Ibadulla, the chief of Kalpitiya Mosque

“If the tourism industry continues as it happens today, it will be cause to break down the income and economy of the people in the area. The disturbances to the survival of the people and also their professional activities, will cause the people to become poorer. Although the tourism industry is labeled as a development, there is no any development at all. The younger generation may tend to corrupted. Those will cause to social abuses in the area. We have been involving the social issues since 1982 and will continue further. This is because, although there is a limited number of people adversely affect with the present situation, this will become an issue for majority in the area near future. We need to discuss these issues with the government to protect our rights which are already lost. At the same time we need to retain our rights which are still existing.”
CHAPTER 7

CONCLUSION

Fishing for life is what the people of Kalpitiya islands have been doing, from the time of their ancestors down to their present descendants, till now and as passionately as they can. Fishing is not only a provider of employment and economic benefits for them. It is equally a family and community bonding experience, a proof of (responsible) freedom, an opportunity and grace to use their talents and develop their potentials, an expression of love, an artistic expression of an economic skill, a partaking of Jesus’ works, just to cite a few that they have contributed in the study and are still strongly and honestly expressing. Their sense of ownership and control take root and stem from these perspectives. Fishing has evolved into a human right for them. And the government has neglected its duty to protect their human rights in favour of its tourism development strategy and plan.

So-called “rational-thinking leaders” would argue with the “soft” contentions of the Kalpitiya people, probably pointing out that economic development through tourism development is the driver to Kalpitiya and the county’s total human development. They could even add that Kalpitiya is just a small “sacrifice” for a bigger and greater catch. If this is their arguing point, what then is the reason for existence of the Declarations on Human Rights and other human life-protection instruments? If every “small” sacrifice was made, how many would these “small sacrifices” add up to? Where does the line between accountability and development end?

While this Investigative Report may not be supported with statistical analysis, as it employed qualitative methodology, the documentations – pictures, the respondents’ observations and insights, the assessment reports - speak more than and beyond the numbers. There are clear violations of the Kalpitiya peoples’ human rights, to wit:

1. Socio-cultural
2. Economic
3. Civil
4. Political And Environmental

The congruence between human rights and development is very significant here in the case of Kalpitiya. And this is just Kalpitiya – all other areas targeted for tourism development have not been studied here. “Economic growth is a means, not the goal, of development. It can also be instrumental for the realization of human rights. However, economic growth must be achieved in a manner consistent with human rights principles.” (http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FAQen.pdf, accessed May 5, 2013)

Land grabbing and its actual and emerging effects and implications have been the trigger for the people’s increased awareness and brewing “rights citizenship building” in Kalpitiya. The
land and water resources are precious to the Kalpitiya people and they are sustainably preserving while deriving sustenance from them, a clear balancing act which shows their intent to be responsible fishers and consumers. The tourism development plan, on the other hand, obviously lacked the participatory and transparency processes and procedures prior to the approval and operation of the businesses and the overwhelming infrastructure building activities. Almost all the sites have already been environmentally abused. These are clear indicators of the irresponsibility of the government and law enforcement agencies, the abuse of the business investors and the negligence of funding institutions.

Is it not proper then, that the Kalpitiya people be supported in this rights-claiming and rights-defending struggle of theirs which they have been doing for more than five years already? Shouldn’t they be commended for their activeness and not passivity, their compassion and not aggression, their goal for life and not destruction, illness, despair and death?

“Human rights are universal legal guarantees protecting individuals and groups against actions and omissions that interfere with fundamental freedoms, entitlements and human dignity. Human rights law obliges Governments (principally) and other duty-bearers to do certain things and prevents them from doing others. Human rights are also indivisible and interdependent. The principle of their indivisibility recognizes that no human right is inherently inferior to any other. Economic, social and cultural rights must be respected, protected and realized on an equal footing with civil and political rights. The principle of their interdependence recognizes the difficulty (and, in many cases, the impossibility) of realizing any one human right in isolation.”


What roles can all stakeholders – from the individual, to the family, to the community, up to the national and international levels – in small and big ways, take up to demand for accountability, to demand for transparency, to demand for inclusive growth, to demand even simply for a dignified and humane life? Below are just some of the possibilities directed to the stakeholders, open for “grabbing” the just and participative way: As the island communities expected, we all demand to,

- Stop the ongoing so called development activities at Kalpitiya tourism zone immediately and assess the damage caused by the investors and hotel developers,
- Appoint a commission, which could be focused the attention on socio, economic, cultural and environmental issues in the Kalpitiya tourism zone and eventually lead to address them.
- Focus attention and begin a national debate on issues faced by people of Kalpitiya and many other development programs by media, scholars, human right groups and trade union movements and political parties in order to find amicable solution and achieve principals of sustainable development.
- Launch organizational and education campaign to learn adverse effects of such development projects and to resist them in order to follow them the holistic development principals.
- CSO’s to begin a strong national campaign on ongoing national development programs to stick to sustainable development principals.
References:

1. Samarakoon, J., Identity, Economic status, Land use and contributions to the food sovereignty of small scale fishermen., October 2012.
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11. Kumara, Herman ESCR issues of fishing communities and land issues pertaining to tourism related development, National Fisheries Solidarity Movement, [NAFSO], Sri Lanka, presentation at ESCR network work shop held in South Africa, June 2012.
12. Samarakoon, J., Importance of Coastal Small Scale Fisheries (CSSF) and Coastal Tourism in the Sri Lankan Economy
15. A South Asian workshop on women’s rights to land and other land-based resources, Women’s Media Collective, Colombo and Action Aid International.
19. Campaign for People’s Solutions to Food Crisis, July 2008.
20. Existing Resorts and Resorts Proposed or Under Development in Kalpitiya: An Inventory
21. Miththapala, S., An environmental and fisheries profile of the Puttalam lagoon system, IUCN Sri Lanka Country office,
22. **Kumara, H., Trapped between the fence and the deep Sea” - Luxury Tourism Development and Displacement in Sri Lanka, PPP for the work shop, Negombo.**


41. [http://142.4.27.83/English/news.php?id=10566](http://142.4.27.83/English/news.php?id=10566)


47. [http://womenandenvironmentasia.wordpress.com/2012/12/](http://womenandenvironmentasia.wordpress.com/2012/12/)


52. An appraisal of challenges in the sustainable management of the micro-tidal barrier built estuaries and lagoons in Sri Lanka, Mangrove for Future Program/ IUCN publication,
ANNEXES

Annex 1: The Gazette notification number 1549/7 of 13 May 2008 stating the allocation of Kalpitiya islands for tourism promotion.
Annex 2: List of Names of Catholic Priests served at Keerimunda Catholic church

1. 1703 Rev. Joseph Meneses
2. 1706 Rev. Francis Jesu
3. 1710-12 Rev. Manuel Mirando,
4. 1714 Rev. Francisku de Jesu
5. 1715 Rev. Joseph Vaz [Junior]
6. 1719 Rev. Joseph Meneses
7. 1722 Rev. Bashilio Bareco
8. 1723 Rev. Juwan de Sa
9. 1728-31 Rev. Ignatio de Meskita
10. 1744-5 Rev. Kusthidios Andradi
12. 1750 Rev. Kusthidios Andradi
13. 1757 Rev. Lobadu Alberkerk
14. 1757 Rev. Juwan de Siriwera
15. 1766 Rev. Rafael Don Anjos
16. 1768 Rev. Rodrigo Duwarthe
17. 1779 Rev. Gabriel Pawweko
18. 1783 Rev. Francisco Pasquel
19. 1786 Rev. Juwan Mandonsa
20. 1817-18 Rev. Francisku Xavier
21. 1819-23 Rev. Konstansio Gomez
22. 1824 Rev. Ignatio Pinto
23. 1825 Rev. Konstasio Gomez
24. 1826 Rev. Salvador Piyadado
25. 1827 Rev. Peduru Alex Sandrino
26. 1828-31 Rev. Konstansio Gomez
27. 1832 Rev. Antonio Men Donzo
28. 1833 Rev. Kaitano Diyez
29. 1834 Rev. Kaitano Do Rozario
30. 1835 Rev. Jose Perera
31. 1836 Rev. Flariano Maskarengnges
32. 1837 Rev. Peduru Kaitano
33. 1838 Rev. Juwakeem Albreto
34. 1839 Rev. Mathayo Kaithano
35. 1840-3 Rev. Peduru de Norongngo
36. 1844 Rev. Francisku de Diaz
37. 1845 Rev. Peduru de Norongngo
38. 1846 Rev. Peduru Philippe
39. 1847 Rev. Nicholes Kasmeru

Source: Souvenir of Centenary of Keerimundal Church
Annex. 4: Present tourism development projects

Existing Resorts and Resorts Proposed or Under Development in Kalpitiya: An Inventory

Resorts already operational

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Resort</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Dancing Dolphins</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 Cabanas and 1 open pavilion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Taniya Nature Resort</td>
<td>Kurindipitiya</td>
<td>4 acres</td>
<td>14 Rooms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Lagoon Lodge</td>
<td>On sand spit connecting the mainland to Dutch Bay Island</td>
<td>5 acres</td>
<td>Cottage with 3 bedrooms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Sethawadiya Dolphin View Eco Lodge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 large cabanas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Turtle Point Lodge And Diving Camp</td>
<td>Kandakuliya</td>
<td>2 acres</td>
<td>3 bed room cottage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Divyaa Lagoon</td>
<td>Kandakuliya/ (Kalpitiya Lagoon)</td>
<td></td>
<td>21 Units (Villas and Suites)</td>
<td>Divyaa resort Grant Communications (PVT) LTD No :32/1, Caste Street Colombo -08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>(Makara) Dolphin Beach Resort</td>
<td>Elanthadiya</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tents-1 and 2 roomed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Ruwala Resort</td>
<td>Thihaliya</td>
<td>9 acres</td>
<td>2 Chalets and 2 Cabanas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>Palagama Beach Resort</td>
<td>Alankuda</td>
<td></td>
<td>10 Cabanas and 2 Villas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Resort</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Size</td>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Khomba House</td>
<td>Alankuda</td>
<td>6 acres</td>
<td>House with 2 bedroom</td>
<td>10 people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Udekki</td>
<td>Alankuda</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 private villas and 1 5-bedroom villa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Bar Reef Resort</td>
<td>Alankuda</td>
<td></td>
<td>7 large Cabanas and 2 bed-room Villas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Dinuda Resort</td>
<td>Pudukuduruedippu, Sethawadi</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 rooms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Diyamba Beach Resort</td>
<td>Kanthankkuliya Road</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Bay Watch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10 Tents</td>
<td>40 pax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Lagoon House</td>
<td>Dutch Bay</td>
<td>1 acre</td>
<td>2 bedroom house</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Resorts proposed or being developed**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resort</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West Paradise</td>
<td>Dutch Bay</td>
<td>115 acres</td>
<td>200 Chalet sand Villas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ananya Kalpitiya Retreat</td>
<td></td>
<td>28 acres</td>
<td>30 Chalet Boutique Hotel</td>
<td>Ananya Kalpitiya Retreat (Pvt.) Ltd., 22 1/1, Bagatale Road, Colombo 3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay watch Eco Resort</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>38 room Chalets and Villa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutch Bay resorts</td>
<td>Mutwal</td>
<td>80 – chalets 130 villas Eco</td>
<td>Promoted by Swarna Dweep, Bahrain based investment fund. (<a href="http://www.swarnadweep.com">www.swarnadweep.com</a>) Suite 1904, Al Moayyed Tower</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resort</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Size</td>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Additional Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kingdom of Baharain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Lanka Holdings(Pvt) Ltd</td>
<td></td>
<td>50 Rooms</td>
<td>Promoter is a subsidiary of Consolidated Marine Engineers Ltd. (<a href="http://www.cmesl.com">www.cmesl.com</a>) 1001, Kew Road, Colombo 02, Sri Lanka.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M S A Sham Sudeen Development &amp; Reality (Pvt.) Ltd</td>
<td></td>
<td>14 Chalets (boutique hotel)</td>
<td>M S A Sham Sudeen Development &amp; Reality (Pvt.) Ltd, 9 College Avenue, Mount Lavinia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Mandeep Singh (London)</td>
<td></td>
<td>RS 230 Million</td>
<td>20 Room Hotel Project</td>
<td>See <a href="http://company-director-check.co.uk/director/908145018">http://company-director-check.co.uk/director/908145018</a> for more info. on promoter.  No 7, Charles Hared Court 2, Somerville Avenue London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpha Tours (Private) Limited</td>
<td></td>
<td>RS: 750 Million</td>
<td>52 Room resort (Nadum odai)</td>
<td>Alpha Tours (Private) Limited, No :49/16, Island Building, Galle Road, Colombo 03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Roses, Germany</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.5 USD million</td>
<td>6 room hotel</td>
<td>Mr. Thomas Roses IM Bushweg 3 27239, Twistringwen Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Resort Investment</td>
<td>Vellai I, II, III 3.7</td>
<td>150 water bungalows (1.2 billion)</td>
<td>Maldives, SL and Switzerland JV Office op 1 Hotel Galadari</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resort</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Size</td>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Additional Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lanka Private</td>
<td>million SLR</td>
<td>SLR)</td>
<td>64, Lotus Road, Colombo 01.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qube Lanka Leisure Properties</td>
<td>Illupantivu (16.82 million SLR)</td>
<td>200 beach villas Environmen tally Friendly Tourism Project</td>
<td>Qube Corporation, India. (<a href="http://qubecorp.com">http://qubecorp.com</a>) No: 327 Union Place Colombo 02</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage Reserves (Pvt.) Limited,</td>
<td>10 room resort Eco-Tourism accommodation units</td>
<td>A franchise of a non-profit company/NGO: Living Heritage Trust (<a href="http://livingheritage.org">http://livingheritage.org</a>), [1, Horton Place, Colombo 07]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Havicus Villas Kalpitiya Lagoon</td>
<td>26 Luxury Villas</td>
<td>A part of the Belgian real-estate Havicus group.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenfield Development Pvt. Ltd.</td>
<td>Rs.4.2 billion</td>
<td>120 rooms, 150 cabanas and 60 villas with a mini golf course. An eco friendly seven star luxury resort in Kalpitiya</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divyaa resort Grant Communications (PVT) LTD</td>
<td>(RS 90 Million)</td>
<td>ECE Cabana Resort 6 ECC Cabana</td>
<td>No :32/1, Caste Street Colombo -08</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Agro Property Developers(Pvt.) Ltd</td>
<td>Eco-friendly 8 Chalets</td>
<td>No.10,1/1, 8th Lane, Colombo 03 Sri Lanka</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Annex 5:** The proposed to acquisition lands by Ceylon Tourist Board, under the Gazette notification of Number 1509/10 of 08 August 2007.

The List of land owner’s names, Amount of Land appropriated, the village of the land situated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Name of the Land Owner</th>
<th>Amount of Land to be acquisitioned</th>
<th>Village/Venue of the land</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Land Reform Commission</td>
<td>2.523 ha [6 acres 375 perches]</td>
<td>Anawasala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Not known</td>
<td>0.936 ha [2 acres 1 rood 10.07 perches]</td>
<td>Dutch Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Senul Abdeen, Hospital Road, Kalpitiya</td>
<td>0.508[1 acre 1 rood 0.85 perches]</td>
<td>Thilladiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>0.452 ha [1 acre 18.71 perches]</td>
<td>Thilladiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Parish Priest, St.Mary’s Church, Kalpitiya</td>
<td>0.155 ha[1 rood 21.28 perches]</td>
<td>Thilladiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>0.255 ha [2 rood 20.82 perches]</td>
<td>Vayal Thottam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>U.L.M. Hurulla, Sinnakudirippuwa, Kalpitiya</td>
<td>0.074 ha[perches 29.25]</td>
<td>Thilladiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>0.164 ha [1 rood 24.84 perches]</td>
<td>Thilladiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>S. Nawfil, Sinnakudirippuwa, Kalpitiya</td>
<td>0.065 ha[perches 25.69]</td>
<td>Thilladiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>0.148 ha [1 rood 18.51 perches]</td>
<td>Thilladiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>H.M. Navas, Periya Kudirippu, Kalpitiya</td>
<td>0.25 ha[2 rood 19.24 perches]</td>
<td>Thilladiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>0.243 ha [2 rood 16.07 perches]</td>
<td>Thilladiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>S. Rauf, Periya Kudirippuwa, Kalpitiya</td>
<td>0.284 ha[2 rood 32.28 perches]</td>
<td>Thilladiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>0.0203 ha[2 rood 00.26 perches]</td>
<td>Thilladiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Aseez, Periya Kudirippuwa, Kalpitiya</td>
<td>0.287 ha[2 rood 33.47 perches]</td>
<td>Thilladiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>0.327 ha[3 rood 09.28 perches]</td>
<td>Thilladiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>H.M.Aisha Umma, J.Jemila Umma, Periya Kudirippu, Kalpitiya</td>
<td>0.942 ha[2 acre 1 rood 12.44 perches]</td>
<td>Thilladiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>0.981 ha [2 acre 1 rood 27.86 perches]</td>
<td>Thilladiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>Sarojini Pushpam, Periya K</td>
<td>0.443 ha[1 acre 15.15]</td>
<td>Thilladiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Name of the Land Owner</td>
<td>Amount of Land to be acquisitioned</td>
<td>Village/Venue of the land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>udirippu, Kalpitiya</td>
<td>0.625 ha[1 acre 2 rood 07.11 perches]</td>
<td>Thilladiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>H.G.N.Samarasinghe, Periya Kudirippu, Kalpitiya.</td>
<td>0.304 ha[3 rood 00.19 perches]</td>
<td>Thilladiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Shaul Hameed, Sinna Kudiriippuwa, Kalpitiya</td>
<td>0.736 ha[1 acre 3 rood 10.99 perches]</td>
<td>Thilladiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>Not known</td>
<td>0.633 ha[1 acre 2 rood 10.27 perches]</td>
<td>Thilladiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>S.M.Ibus, Sinna Kudiriippuwa, Kalpitiya.</td>
<td>0.943 ha[2 acre 1 rood 12.84 perches]</td>
<td>Thilladiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>Not known</td>
<td>1.930 ha[4 acre 3 rood 03.07 perches]</td>
<td>Thilladiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>S.Nawas, Sinna Kudiriippuwa, Kalpitiya.</td>
<td>0.078 ha[30.84 perches]</td>
<td>Thilladiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.</td>
<td>S.Anees, Sinna Kudiriippuwa, Kalpitiya.</td>
<td>0.047 ha[perches 18.58]</td>
<td>Thilladiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.</td>
<td>R.M.Fazeel, Sinna Kudiriippuwa, Kalpitiya.</td>
<td>0.009 ha[0.3.56 perches]</td>
<td>Thilladiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.</td>
<td>A.Marikkar, Sinna Kudiriippuwa, Kalpitiya.</td>
<td>0.122 ha[1 rood 0.823 perches]</td>
<td>Thilladiya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33.</td>
<td>Not known</td>
<td>0.074 ha[29.26 perches]</td>
<td>Dutch bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34.</td>
<td>S. Mahroof, Sinna Kudiriippuwa, Kalpitiya.</td>
<td>0.182 ha[1 rood 3.95 perches]</td>
<td>Dutch bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.</td>
<td>S.Marikkar, Sinn Kudiriippuwa, Kalpitiya.</td>
<td>0.199 ha[1 rood 38.68 perches]</td>
<td>Dutch bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.</td>
<td>S. Fareeth, Sinna Kudiriippuwa, Kalpitiya.</td>
<td>0.199 ha[1 rood 38.68 perches]</td>
<td>Dutch bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37.</td>
<td>Hassan, Sinna Kudiriippuwa, Kalpitiya</td>
<td>0.087 ha[34.39 perches]</td>
<td>Dutch bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38.</td>
<td>Not known</td>
<td>33.93 ha[83 acre 3 rood 14.86 perches]</td>
<td>Kandakuliya</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annex 6 : Petition signed by 206 of Uchchimune islanders lead by Holy Cross Fisheries Cooperative Society