

## **CHAPTER 4 PROJECTS, PROGRAMS AND RELATED MEASURES**

### **4.1 Projects and Programs**

For forest and protected area management in Southern Area, eight projects and programs have been formulated. They are outlined below. Profiles of proposed project/programs are found in Project Report.

#### **(1) Multiple-use Forest Management**

Conservation forests have been identified from forest reserves in the wet zone based on biodiversity surveys. Remaining forest reserves (multiple-use forest) are for sustainable wood production as well as non-wood forest products (NWFPs) for local communities. Management plans for these forests need to be formulated to lift up logging moratorium and start sustainable wood production. This project will survey forest resource inventory and establish proper implementation mechanism with local communities.

#### **(2) Eco-tourism Development in Wet Zone Conservation Forests**

Non-consumptive use of conservation forests should be promoted to generate income for local villagers. Kanneliya, Dadiyagala and Nakiyadeniya (KDN) Forest Complex, the second largest lowland tropical evergreen forest is an ideal place for eco-tourism from Colombo and Galle. Infrastructure for tourism activities including roads, bridges and bungalows will be built or renovated based on management plans for these forests. Advertisement to tourists as well as additional accommodation in adjacent villages will also be promoted by CTB and private agencies.

#### **(3) National Park Infrastructure/Habitat Improvement**

National Parks in Southern Area are important for tourism activities, catchment protection of large reservoirs and conservation of several unique wildlife species. As management plans for Yala, Uda Walawe, Bundala and Lunugamwehera National Parks will be completed by the end of 1996, implementation of these plans are in urgent needs. Activities of the project include infrastructure development such as roads, trails and concrete pillars on boundaries, habitat enrichment, tank and water hole renovation, and awareness programs to adjacent communities. Participation of local villagers in park management will be pursued by training them as tour guides and in other related works.

(4) **Integrated Watershed Management**

Planning of ancient tank renovation with promotion of participatory forestry/ conservation farming is important in the upland SEDZ where water is most scarce. This project coordinates on-going relevant projects concerning participatory forestry, tank renovation, and conservation farming in the context of watershed management. Capacity building of local communities particularly for maintenance of renovated tanks will be emphasized in the project.

(5) **Multiple Use Development on Protected Areas**

Over-grazing by cattle and buffalo causes serious land degradation in the Uda Walawe, the Lunugamwehera and the Bundala National Parks. In order to mitigate the problem, legal actions for land management as well as practical support must be provided to farmers in the vicinity of the National Parks. This project will admit limited grazing on the National Parks as multiple use of protected areas and introduce alternative packages to farmers to reduce pressure on the National Parks.

(6) **Cooperative Planting (Taungya) Promotion**

Cooperative planting in Taungya scheme has been operative in Moneragala district. Taungya is effective to reforest the land with relatively low cost after trees are harvested. However, Taungya can only temporarily stabilize chena farmers. In this project, Taungya is planned on the long-term basis in order to provide long-term benefit to farmers by selecting available land.

(7) **Commercial Forestry Promotion**

As the limitation of government abilities for establishing forest plantation has been recognized, forest plantation by the private sector is proposed. In Moneragala district where land is available with relatively reasonable climatic conditions for tree growth, land can be leased to the private sector for forest plantation. Technical assistance by FD as well as other incentives will be provided to the private sector.

(8) **Wood-based Industry Improvement Program**

Along with the depletion of forest resources, wood price has been raised significantly. Higher price of wood creates more demand on materials, thus efficiency of material use in wood-based industries needs to be improved. However, existing wood-based industries do not have adequate technical level. This project reviews existing conditions of the

industries and provides technical and financial assistance. Development of wood-based industries can create additional incentives to farmers to produce trees.

#### 4.2 Related Measures

##### (1) System for conservation areas (protected areas and buffer zones)

Conservation in protected areas requires sustainable resource management in buffer zones. At present, conservation efforts among different agencies are not well coordinated due to the limited jurisdictions and territories. Conservation measures taken by government agencies are beyond their jurisdictions: e.g. health camp by FD at local communities in the wet zone and measures against over-grazing in protected areas by DWLC. In order to introduce holistic approach to facilitate government agencies and local communities toward community-based resource management, a new system for the entire conservation area including both protected areas and buffer zones is necessary. This conservation area system can be composed of core zones (conservation forests, National Parks and forest reserves), and their buffer zones including the villages surrounding core zones as transition areas. The objective of creating the conservation area system is to promote environmentally friendly enterprise development to generate income without excessive exploitation of natural resources in buffer zones, and biodiversity conservation in core zones. The existing definition of buffer zones - one mile wide belt surrounding protected areas according to the Fauna and Flora Act is not realistic. The conservation area system would enable to provide local people settled in buffer zones with special incentives for supporting conservation.

##### (2) Expansion/redemarcation of protected areas/forest reserves

In the light of shortage of land and the spread of settlements, expansion of protected areas should be advocated with caution. Excessively large protected areas without sufficient management to protect would allow destructive activities such as illicit felling and over-grazing. Size of protected areas should be optimized. In order to optimize the protected area system, redemarcation is needed in forest reserves particularly in Ratnapura district as well as along the Uda Walawe National Park west boundary. Political decision and commitment based on a relevant study are essential.

However, approximately 100,000 ha of natural dense forests are not zoned as either protected areas nor forest reserves. These forests are mainly found in Moneragala and Ampara districts. Management policies for these forests should be presented.

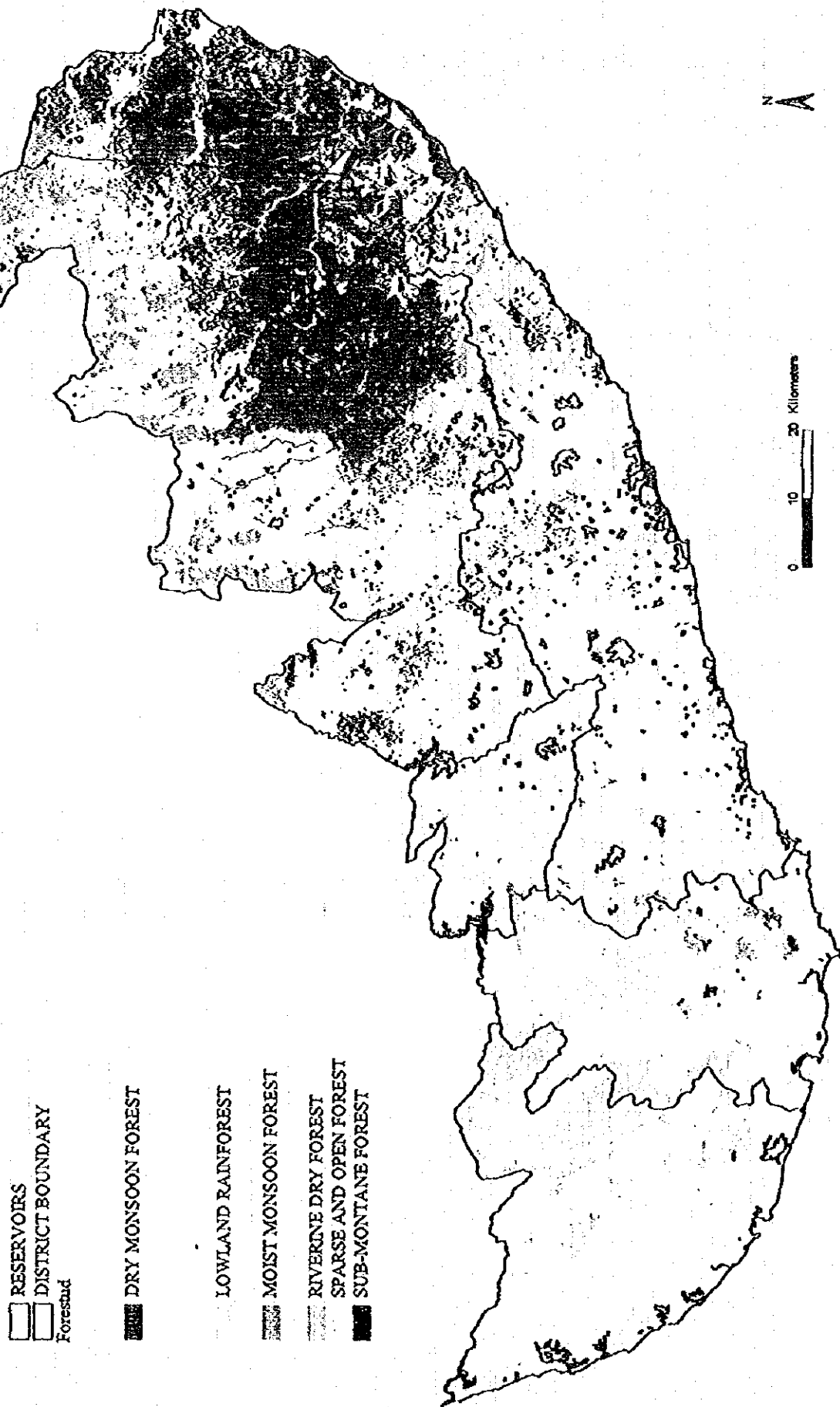
### (3) Introduction of multiple-use of protected areas

As both national forest and wildlife conservation policies strongly suggest the multiple-use of forest and protected areas, it should be introduced to provide basic needs for local people so that the Government can more efficiently control natural resources with local participation. Proper management, planning and monitoring are necessary to avoid excessive consumption of natural resources. Management plans for conservation forests in the wet zone were already completed, and those for National Parks will be completed by the end of 1996. Multiple-use includes non-consumptive use such as tourism and consumptive uses such as controlled and limited timber collection, and cattle grazing. Implementation of multiple-use of protected areas needs a careful planning. Ideas are already proposed in management plans for conservation forests; however, methodologies to monitor the area with local participation is not yet established.

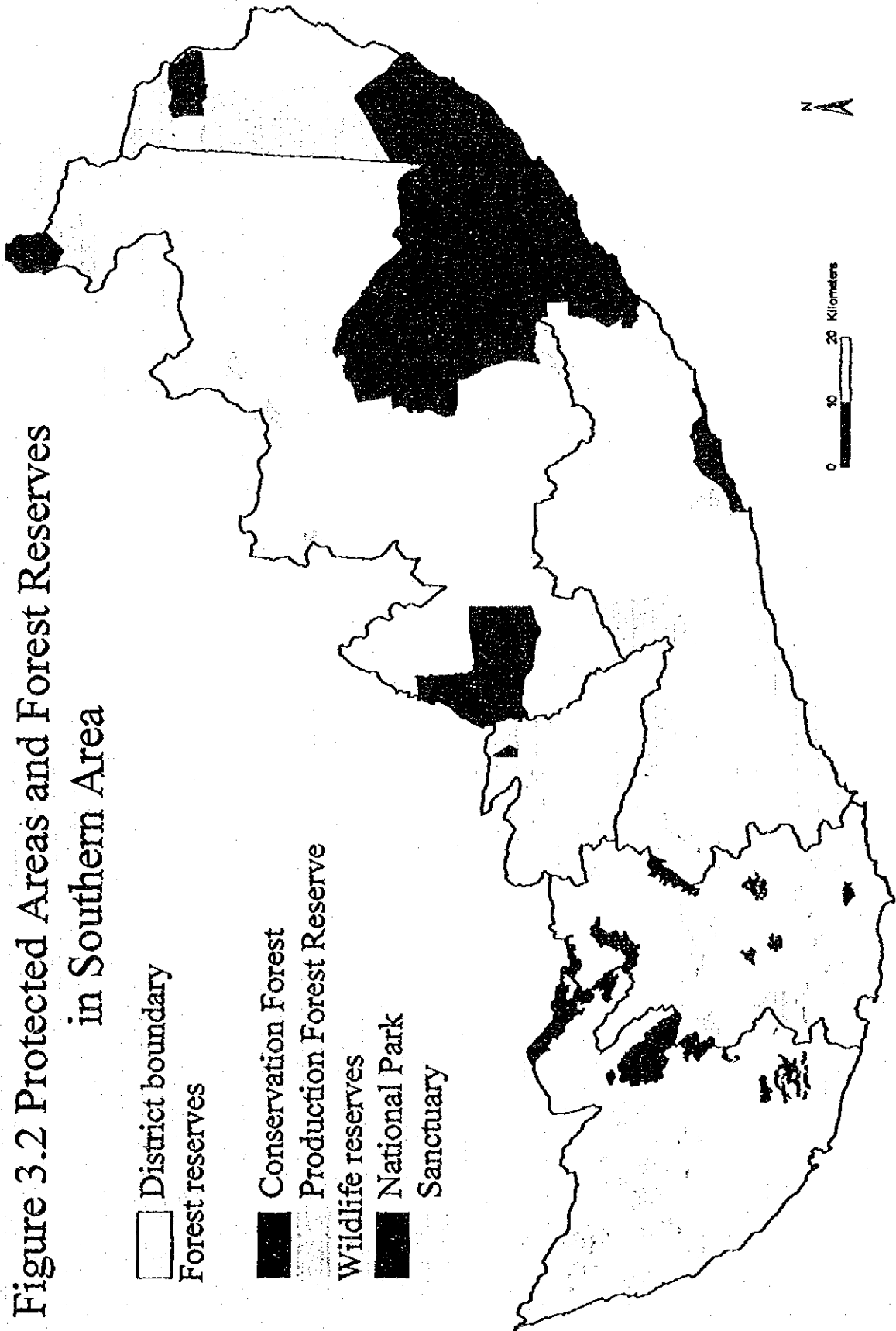
### (4) Stabilization of land tenure by long term lease

In order to promote sustainable resource use, sense of ownership for land is necessary. Long term land lease can create incentive to maintain the land and protect environment. Two kinds of land lease schemes are important in forest and protected area management: land lease to encroachers in protected areas, and land lease to chena farmers. It is difficult to move the encroachers already settled in protected areas for a long time. Land lease can be given to such encroachers under conditions of introducing conservation farming. Forest reserves in Ratnapura are already heavily encroached. The land lease to chena farmers can stabilize land use and help reduce soil erosion. Farmers and protective woodlots in the Participatory Forest Project and conservation farming in the SCOR project to provide land and tree tenure with technical packages to chena farmers are yielding some results.

Figure 3.1 Natural Forest Cover in Southern Area



**Figure 3.2 Protected Areas and Forest Reserves  
in Southern Area**













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