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ART GOLD SRI LANKA PROGRAMME

**MINISTRY OF LOCAL
GOVERNMENT AND
PROVINCIAL COUNCILS**

in collaboration with
UNDP, UNV, UNICEF, WFP

April 2008

PRESENTATION

Considering the extremely adverse circumstances - the devastating effects from the Tsunami of 2004 and the recently again intensifying conflict in the North and the East – Sri Lanka is doing remarkable well in a number of areas such as the provision of education and health services. In spite of overall development achievements, disaggregated data reveals wide gaps in the reduction of income poverty and attainment of human development between regions and districts as well as between urban centers and rural areas. The Government has acknowledged these development disparities within its recently developed Ten Year Horizon Development Framework for 2006-2016, the national development plan for Sri Lanka.

As per the MDG Country Report of 2005, 23 percent of Sri Lankans live below the national poverty line. The Southern Province is not the most deprived in Sri Lanka but the population living below the official poverty line is still high: Galle 26 percent, Matara 27 percent and Hambantota 32 percent. The only district showing a positive trend since 1990 is Galle, whereas the percentages in the other two districts remained more or less stable over the past fifteen years.

AGSL has been initiated in the aftermath of the Tsunami not only to support the immediate recovery phase but also to facilitate a sustainable longer-term development by reinforcing the ability of local actors to plan and manage territorial development open to international

opportunities. Within the Southern Province – one of the severest hit areas on the island - AGSL supports the creation of an enabling framework facilitating a multitude of actors to jointly work towards achieving the MDGs through an area-based approach to governance and development. Participants include donor countries, United Nations agencies, Governments at national, regional and local level, cities, decentralized cooperation actors, associations, universities, private sector organizations and non-governmental organizations.

The need to strengthen the local authorities' capacity in planning and coordination of development activities was identified as an immediate priority. AGSL supports the deconcentrated and the devolved local government structures and intends to enhance the coordination between both systems. It works towards strengthening the capacity of Local Governments in strategic, participatory and needs based development planning and the strengthening of existing coordination bodies. Through strategic interventions and partnerships AGSL also helps to improve the actual service delivery to the population.

AGSL works within the United Nations Development Assistant Framework for Sri Lanka and forms an integral part of the overall UNDP governance strategy and programmes. AGSL will expand to Uva (neighboring province in the north) in 2008.



OVERVIEW

DURATION

AGSL was initiated through a Preparatory Assistance Phase in 2006. The main phase of AGSL was initiated in October 2007 and is planned for a minimum duration of two years.

OPERATION AND COORDINATION STRUCTURES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

National Institution: The main AGSL counterpart at the national level and chair of the National Coordination Committee (NCC) is the Ministry for Local Government and Provincial Councils.

National Coordination Committee (NCC): is chaired by the Ministry for Local Government and Provincial Councils and comprised of representatives of the External Resource Department (ERD) and the National Planning Department (NPD) and Local Authorities. Ministries such as Tourism, Education and Health are invited as temporary members for the implementation of specific initiatives. The NCC guarantees that all AGSL initiatives are carried out in accordance with the Government's policies and strategies to promote local governance, decentralization and development; it supports the Working Groups, promotes projects at the national level and calls upon international partners.

The Chief Technical Advisor (CTA): is in charge, in coordination with the NCC, of the operational management of the Programme. He also assumes the role of Executive Secretary to the NCC. The International Area Manager (AM): is the head of the AGSL Area office in the Southern Province. Under the overall guidance of the CTA, the AM is responsible for the provision of technical, coordination and managerial support to all activities of the Programme at the provincial level.

OPERATIONAL AND COORDINATION STRUCTURES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

AGSL operates through its Working Groups at the provincial and district levels. The Southern Province Working Group (SPWG) works under the guidance of the NCC and bases its decisions on the information received from the three Local Working Groups (LWGs) at district level. The SPWG delivers strategic development initiatives for an equitable and sustainable development of the Province based on the participatory action plans developed at the local level.

Under the guidance of the Provincial Government and with the active participation of all international, national and local actors involved, it promotes and fosters different strategic actions in the priority areas of the Programme. The SPWG, in close collaboration with the NCC and the LWGs, coordinates the development of initiatives and actions, and ensures their compliancy and complementarity with national and regional development policies and strategies. The LWGs ensure at the local level the participation and coordination between all actors involved and implements concrete development activities in cooperation with relevant national and international partners.

COOPERATION PARTNERS

UN Agencies: UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, ILO

Bilateral donors: Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)

Decentralized Partners: The following Spanish decentralized partners of AGSL are its major donors: the Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity (FAMSI); the Catalan Fund for Development Cooperation; from Spain: the Local Extremaduran Fund for Development Cooperation (FELCODE); the Galician Fund for Cooperation and Solidarity, the Municipality of Huelva and the Higher School for Tourism and Hotel Management from Galicia. And from Italy: the Veneto Region, the Region of Como (Associazione Comasca) and the Municipality of Foligno.

Others: Specific cooperation was established with the Universities of Cordoba, Bologna and Geneva, the Higher School for Tourism and Hotel Management from Galicia, and with the Asia Foundation and Paz y Desarrollo (International NGO).

FINANCEMENT

AGSL Preparatory Assistance Phase: USD 718.000

AGSL budget 2008: 1.630.00 USD

RESULTS IN THE SOUTHERN PROVINCE

The Southern Province covers an area of 5,543 sq km (about 8.45 percent of the total area of Sri Lanka) and has about two million inhabitants. The Southern Province has three Administrative Districts: Galle, Matara, and Hambantota.

The Provincial Working Group is chaired by the Chief Secretary of the Province and comprised of high level representatives from the government, the civil society and the private sector. Three local district Working Groups ensure a smooth implementation of activities and coordination of all stakeholders at local level.

The AGSL first year Action Plan is a direct outcome from the participatory planning exercise conducted by the AGSL Local Working Groups in all three districts of the Southern Province.

AGSL HAS ESTABLISHED 9 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTERS (CDCs) IN THE TSUNAMI EFFECTED AREAS OF THE SP. THESE CENTERS ARE MEANWHILE HANDED OVER TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, WHO ADMINISTER AND MAINTAIN THE CDCs. THE ACTIVITIES ARE MANAGED BY AN UMBRELLA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (CDO) COMPRISED BY THE MAJORITY OF CBOs, NGOs, ASSOCIATIONS, TEMPLES ETC. FROM THE LOCAL TERRITORY. THESE CDC HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED BY THE INITIAL AGSL PARTNERS – THE FUNDS OF ANDALUSIA, CATALONIA, EXTREMADURA, GALICIA AND THE REGION OF VENETO.

THESE CDCs PROVIDED A SPACE FOR THE TSUNAMI STRUCK LOCAL POPULATION TO MANAGE AND PLAN THEIR FUTURE COMMUNITIES TOGETHER WITH THEIR LOCAL AUTHORITIES. AGSL, THROUGH THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF ITS PARTNERS, IS SUPPORTING THE FIRST YEAR'S ACTIVITIES MANAGED BY THE CDOs OF EACH CENTER. THE CDO ARE ORGANIZING ALL ACTIVITIES IN COOPERATION WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES E.G. ORGANIZATION OF MOBILE HEALTH CLINICS, DEVELOPMENT PLANNING DAYS, CULTURAL EVENTS, SAMURDHI MEETINGS, AWARENESS RAISING PROGRAMMES, ECONOMIC INITIATIVES, ETC. THE CDCs ARE ORGANIZED WITHIN A NETWORK OF PROVINCIAL COMMUNITY CENTERS GEARED AT ESTABLISHING INTER-COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND FOSTERING CULTURAL EXCHANGE.



A COMPREHENSIVE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IS CURRENTLY UNDER PREPARATION WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE FONS CATALAN. LOCAL AUTHORITIES FROM CATALONIA AND SL WILL ENGAGE DIRECTLY TO EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE AND WORK TOWARDS AN IMPROVEMENT OF THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THEIR POPULATIONS.

GOVERNANCE

AGSL's interventions concentrate on Capacity Development for Local Authorities and on improving the efficiency of the local land registry offices - one of the main sources of income for the local authorities. The capacity building programme is based on a survey that revealed a high need for a structured, targeted and continuous capacity building effort benefiting the local authorities. The modernizations of Land Registrar Offices in the Southern Province helps to ensure timelier revenue transfer to the local authorities. AGSL furthermore supports the finalization of the Community Service Center in Athuraliya, Matara district. This center will, in line with the government policy, host several key social services under one roof in order to increase accessibility and efficiency of service provision.

EDUCATION

AGSL supports a multi layered intervention including: the establishment of five model preschool facilities; training of preschool teachers and the establishment of an early childhood resource center for quality control and advocacy. The overall objective is to support the development of well organized and regulated early child hood development sector in the Southern Province.

AGSL also address the need to further the dissemination of basic IT knowledge in rural areas. In the SP the rate of computer literacy is only 10%. Several communities have prioritized Information Technology Centers, occasionally combined with libraries and cultural centers. AGSL supports the local authorities in establishing and operating three model IT centers.

- Establishment of five model pre-schools: Gonapinuwala, Hakmana, Bengamuwa, Sooriyawewa , Katuwana
- Facilitation of preschool teacher training and curriculum development
- Establishment of a provincial Early Child Hood Resource Center
- Establishment of three Information Technology Centers: Pasgoda , Aturaliya and Okewela



HEALTH AND SANITATION

AGSL with its partners from Como (Associazione Comasca) strives to set up a pre-hospital emergency health care system in the Galle district. This intervention constitutes only the second pilot project of its kind in Sri Lanka.

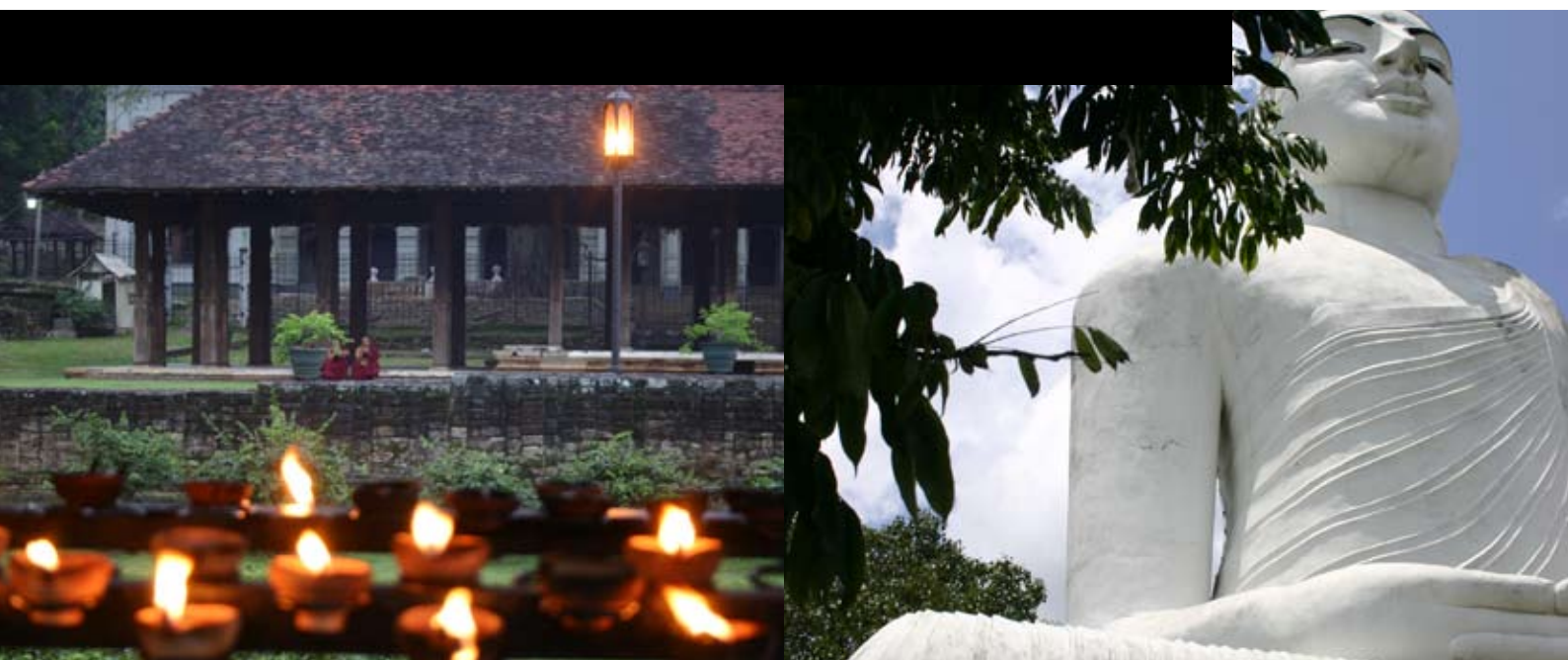
Other interventions include the improvement of the sanitary situation through the provision of toilets to the poorest segments of society and the improvement of the nutritional status through the introduction of home gardens. This pilot activity is implemented in Neluwa, the Division counting with one of the worst nutritional status all over the island. AGSL furthermore improves access to social services by improving small scale social infrastructure, e.g. the establishment of a resource center for disabled persons in SP that will foster coordination of various initiatives, advance policy and advocacy for this sector of the society.

- Establishment of a Provincial Resource Center for Disabled persons
- Goonapeenuwala - Rehabilitation of an elderly day care center
- Neluwa - Home gardening systems through mothers clubs
- Establishment of the Pre-hospital Health Emergency System in Galle district
- Mulatiyana – establishment of an Ayurvedic Dispensary and extension of mobile clinic services
- Goonapeenuwala - Waiting room for the maternity health care center
- Sanitary toilets for the poorest members of society in all three districts
- Lunugamwehera - Construction of public toilets

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL LEGACY

In order to keep their rich cultural heritage people need a physical space to gather and cultivate their traditions. Extensive territories in the hinterland of the Southern Province do not have any public space available for cultural activities. Several communities have prioritized the construction and/or rehabilitation of Cultural Centers and programs of cultural exchange and stimulation.

About 287 archaeological sites exist in the Southern Province. AGSL helps to preserve and value this important cultural heritage by supporting the creation and publishing of a book on the 'Archeological Heritage of the Southern Province' - the first of its kind. In the process of developing the book AGSL together with its partners engages in a broad based public discussion on the archeological (cultural) heritage in the province in order





CULTURAL HERITAGE AND TOURISM. LOCAL AUTHORITIES, SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES AND THE CIVIL SOCIETY HAVE EMBARKED ON A INTER-SECTORAL PROCESS TO RE-EVALUATE THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE SOUTHERN PROVINCE. THIS PROCESS CONSISTS OF MANIFOLD ACTIVITIES, E.G. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS, WORK SHOPS, COMPETITIONS, SCHOOL BASED EVENTS, PARTNERSHIPS, ETC. AND WILL FINALLY RESULT IN THE PRODUCTION OF THE FIRST BOOK ON THE ARCHEOLOGICAL HERITAGE OF THE SOUTHERN PROVINCE. AS SPIN OFF PRODUCTIONS SMALL BOOKLETS WILL BE PRODUCED FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES IN SCHOOLS AND COMPETITIONS BETWEEN PUPILS WILL ALLOW TO RAISE THE AWARENESS ON THE TERRITORIES CULTURAL HERITAGE ALREADY AT EARLY STAGES.

CULTURE AND TOURIST EXPERTS WILL DISCUSS HOW BEST TO CAPITALIZE ON THE RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HOW TO INITIATE CULTURAL BASED TOURISM ACTIVITIES IN THE SP. THESE ACTIVITIES WILL BE SUPPORTED BY A NUMBER OF DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION PARTNERS SUCH AS THE UNIVERSITY OF CORDOBA (DEPARTMENT FOR ARCHEOLOGY) THAT IS ABOUT TO ESTABLISH A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE RUHUNA UNIVERSITY. SEVERAL OTHER DECENTRALIZED PARTNERS FROM ANDALUCÍA HAVE ALREADY DECLARED THEIR INTEREST IN SUPPORTING COMMUNITY BASED TOURISM INITIATIVES THAT LINK THE CULTURAL HERITAGE WITH THE NATURAL ATTRACTION OF THE SP.

to stimulate a process re-evaluation of its cultural heritage. The book will be distributed in schools and other relevant institutions and will constitute an important contribution for safeguarding the cultural legacy of the SP.

Another intervention is geared at establishing signboards leading the interested public to important archeological sites in the SP. Tourist brochures will be produced that capture the most important archeological sites for disposal in hotels and other tourist places. The latter interventions will not only help to safeguard the archeological heritage of the SP but also help to brand the SP as a territory rich with cultural heritage in addition to the current image of 'sun and sea'. This activity is carried out in cooperation with the Tourist Board and the Archeological Department.

- Book on the Archeological Heritage of the SP
- Initiatives capitalize upon the cultural heritage for tourist promotion
- Cooperation between Archeological departments of the University of Cordoba and the RUHUNA University
- Establishment of three Cultural Centers in Neluwa, Mulatiyana Suriyaya.

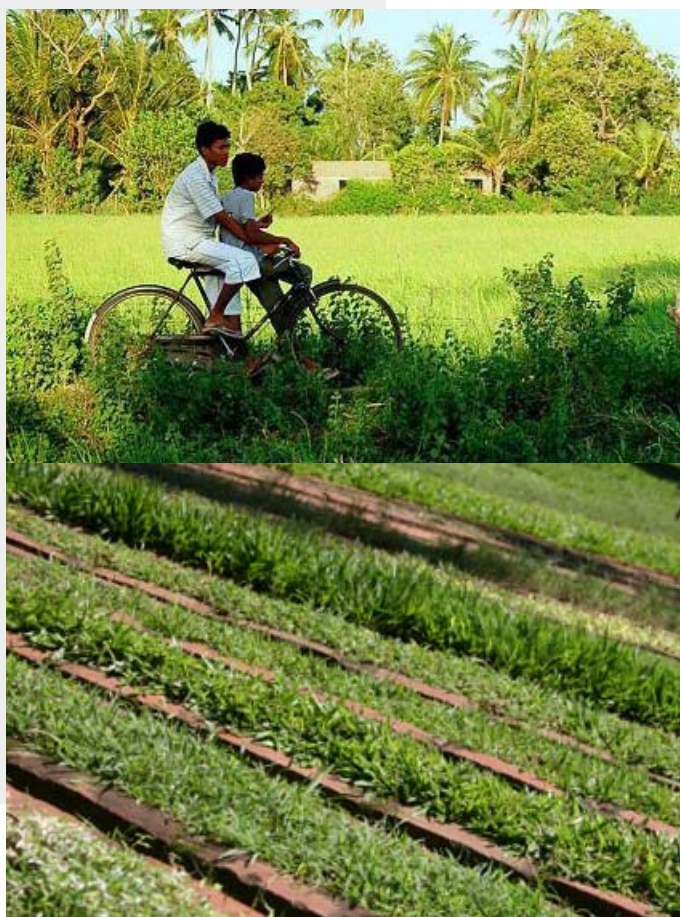
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Local Working Groups have identified two initiatives in the waste management sector to be addressed by AGSL. The first initiative supports the already ongoing waste management facility of Habaraduwa in Galle district. The Pradeshia Sabwa of Habaraduwa includes Unawatuna, a tourist area famous for its beaches and night life. The project will help to ensure that the facilities can provide a sustainable solution to the pressing need for improved waste management in the area. The second initiative is geared at supporting the Hikkaduwa Urban Council in managing the every increasing waste problem in their area through the establishment of a concrete compost bin production unit.

- Waste Management Facility - Habaraduwa
- Waste Reduction Hikkaduwa - Compost bin production/awareness raising/ market linkages
- Biomass Renewable Energy Project
- Neluwa - Environmental Awareness and Tree planting Initiatives with school children

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES USE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY.

IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2007 A STUDY ON THE POTENTIALS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE SP WAS CARRIED OUT BY AGSL THROUGH COOPERATION WITH UNIVERSITY OF BOLGNA, ITALY. THE STUDY IDENTIFIED THE SMALL SCALE BIOMASS GASIFYING PROJECTS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ELECTRICITY (30 TO 60 KW) AS THE MOST PROMISING WAY TO FURTHER ENGAGE IN THIS SECTOR OUT OF FOLLOWING REASONS: i) THE ENERGY CRISIS THE COUNTRY COULD FACE IN THE NEAR FUTURE, ii) THE FACT THAT ABOUT 20% OF THE POPULATION IS NOT YET CONNECTED TO THE GRID, iii) THE POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL SIDE EFFECTS OF BIOMASS PRODUCED ELECTRICITY (CO₂ NEUTRAL), iv) THE AVAILABILITY OF GLIRICIDEA (THE PROPOSED PLANT FOR FEEDING THE GASIFYER), v) ITS COMPLIANCE WITH THE TARGETS AND STRATEGIES FORMULATED WITHIN THE KYOTO PROTOCOL AND THE CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM, vi) THE COMPLIANCE WITH GOVERNMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY FOR THE ENERGY SECTOR, AND vii) NUMEROUS POSITIVE SOCIAL SIDE EFFECTS (E.G. POSSIBILITIES FOR IRRIGATION, INCREASE OF PLANT COVERAGE OF SOIL, COUNTERS ERADICATION, SOIL FERTILIZING EFFECTS, CATTLE FODDER, ETC.). AGSL PLANS TO IMPLEMENT A PILOT PROJECT IN HAMBANTOTA AND TO ESTABLISH PARTNERSHIPS WITH EUROPEAN RESEARCH ENTITIES TO FURTHER STIMULATE THE RESEARCH ON THIS TOPIC IN SL.





LED. STARTING FROM THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MARKET PLACE - ANGUNUKOLAPALLESSA PRADESIHIYA SABWA – A COMPREHENSIVE INITIATIVE TO STIMULATE THE LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION IS INITIATED. IT INCLUDES THE ACADEMIA - RUHUNA UNIVERSITY – WHO UNDERTAKES A STUDY ON WAYS TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERRITORY. AGSL PLAYS THE ROLE OF A FACILITATOR MAKES THE UNIVERSITY (AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT), THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, THE TRADERS AND THE POPULATION WORKING TOWARDS STIMULATING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR REGION. THE MARKET PLACE FACILITIES WERE FUNDED BY THE MUNICIPALITY OF FOLIGNO, WHICH WILL FURTHERMORE SUPPORT THIS DEVELOPMENT WITH TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND ITS EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF LOCAL ECONOMIC

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Through its LED component, AGSL aims at reinforcing the competitive economic potential of the SP through capacity building, skill development and the organization of a comprehensive service system for provincial economic development and sustainable job creation.

AGSL institutionalizes its economic development efforts through the establishment of a Local Economic Development Agency (LEDA) in Matara, a legally registered independent multi stakeholder institution for promoting local economic development. LEDAs are promoted as instruments or mechanisms of AGSL in line with the creation of a Guarantee Fund (GF) and are creating an “entrepreneurial environment” in the Southern Province.



The construction of a new Market Place in the Angunukolapallessa Pradesihiya Sabawa in Hambantota has already been initiated during the PA phase as a partnership with the Municipality of Foligno, Italy. Angunukolapallessa is playing a crucial role in the economic development in the Southern Province by producing and supplying considerable amount of agricultural products to the provincial market.

Tourism is one of the most important industries with potential of growth island wide and is the dominating industry in the South: about 40% of the workforce in the Southern Province is engaged in the Hotel and Tourism Sector. In order to successfully compete with other popular tourist destinations in South Asia the only key to success lies in improving the quality of tourism products through increased quality of service and innovation of products. AGSL initiated a partnership between the Higher Institute of Hotel Management of Galicia, Spain, and the newly established Hotel Management School in Kogale, Galle. This partnership focuses on improving the capacity of teachers operating the school and provide institutional support for the set up and operating of this new school in Kogala.

AGSL will further build on these initial interventions and evaluate the potentials of the SP to develop a sustainable community based tourism sector that emphasizes unutilized potentials such as cultural tourism and thematic tourism activities (e.g. tea, cinnamon, curd, bio diversity, national parks, etc.).

- LEDA – Establishment of a Local Economic Development Agency/ Business Development Services/Territorial development
- Guarantee Fund in cooperation with the banking sector
- Angunukolapallessa Market Place – Construction/Economic Assessment/further economic stimulation through partnerships and LED initiatives
- Hotel Management School Kogalle – Partnership with Galicia / improved services in tourism sector
- Various studies and assessments on community based tourism initiatives with decentralized partners from Spain and Italy



RESULTS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

The objectives to be reached by AGSL at the national level are two fold: first, provide guidance and channel support from the national level to the initiatives carried out at province level, and second, strengthen the capacities of national stakeholders in the programming and management of local development so that international cooperation resources may be organically channelled into the provinces and other local government entities.

PROGRAMME COORDINATION

The Project Board is the group responsible for making consensus based management decisions for AGSL. It consists of an Executive Group and an Operational Group. The Executive Group's core members are the Deputy Resident Representative (P) UNDP, Deputy Resident Representative (O) UNDP and the Secretary of the Ministry for Provincial Councils and Local Government. An Operational Committee, the National Coordination Committee, forms integral part of the Project Board. It is responsible for policy decisions, support to the Provincial and Local Working Groups, promotion of project activities at national level and the outreach to international partners. At the provincial level the Southern Provincial Working Group (SPWG) selects and guides all activities and interventions and will assure the needed coordination with the members of the different Local Working Groups (LWGs). Activities for planning and management of local development and the implementation of complex services takes place at the intermediate level (Province), while the more capillary and participatory processes as well as service delivery takes place at the local level. Local representatives of the devolved and the decentralized system comprise the Local Working Groups (LWGs) which are established in all three districts. The Working Groups are comprised by representatives from the Municipal Councils, Urban Councils and Pradeshiya Sabahs; District Secretaries and Divisional Secretaries, the civil society and the private sector. LWGs are not limited in number and will be established in accordance with the needs of the programme. Both, the SPWG and the LWGs have a technical core team comprised of in total 12 Government Officers working full time with AGSL – about five officers in the SPWG and two to three in each LWG.

AGSL foresees the implementation of various national level activities based on successful experiences. Initiatives such as e.g. the establishment of the Pre-hospital Emergency System, the Early Child Hood interventions and the LEDA establishment shall be supported by national level events aiming at disseminating best practices and exchanging experience with other provinces.



RESULTS AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

The Promotion of Decentralized Cooperation

- Four Training and Capacity Building Missions by COMO to build the capacity of medical and paramedical staff regarding the establishment of the Pre Hospital Emergency System in Galle
- Two missions of the Centre for Higher Hotel Management, Galicia/Spain, to support the institutional set up and operations of the Hotel Management School in Galle, Kogala
- Participation of two SPWG members in the Seminar on Sustainable Tourism organised by the Centre for Higher Hotel Management, Galicia/Spain and AECID.
- Mission of the Municipality of Foligno, Italy, to support the LED activities in the SP with a special focus on the Angunukolapelessa area (foreseen).
- Mission of LED experts from Andalucía to evaluate possibilities of cooperation in the field of community based tourism, economic cooperation, capacity building of LEDA staff, economic planning, etc (2008).
- Technical mission of decentralised partners to support the development of an inclusive early child hood strategy/regulatory framework, the establishment of the early child hood resource centre and the capacity building of pre school teachers (2008).
- Technical mission of decentralised partners participate in a seminar on 'policies for disabled persons' and to evaluate possibilities of cooperation (2008).
- Mission of the Archaeological Department of the University in Cordoba, Spain, to evaluate possibilities for cooperation with the Archaeological Department of the Ruhuna University and support to the ongoing Archaeological activities (2008).
- Technical mission from Italy to evaluate possibilities of supporting the national and provincial reforms on integration of mentally handicapped persons (2008).
- Southern Province Authorities participate in international event; Second meeting of the Global Association of Regions in Morocco.
- Mayor of Matara participates in the WACAP meeting in Athens.
- Cooperation with Spanish NGOs in fields like gender (Paz y Desarrollo) and tourism (AIDA)
- SPWG and NCC visit to Spain (Andalucía and Catalonia) to study innovative experiences in territorial management and organization of social service delivery



ILS LEDA

Two missions of an ISLEDA specialist for preparation and launching of the LED component were carried out. The LEDA is to be established in June 2008 and will consequently be inserted in the ISLEDA network.

IDEASS.

A mission of the ART IDEASS Programme was carried out for promotion of the international innovations for the benefit of national institutions and local stakeholders. Concrete interest was expressed in the Leptospirosis Kit, Mother Kangaroo methodology and the water filter. Representatives of the health sector in Sri Lanka will participate in the Symposium on Integrated Health Systems organised by the IDEASS Programme and the Tuscany Region in October 2008.

UNIVERSITAS.

A partnership agreement has been signed with the RUHUNA University. An International mission of the UNIVERSITAS programme coordinator to initiate the international components is foreseen to take place early 2008.



S R I L A N K A

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THE ART INITIATIVE

ART is an international co-operation initiative that brings together programmes and activities of several United Nations Agencies: UNDP, ILO, UNIFEM, UNESCO, UNITAR, UNHCR, UNOPS, WHO and others. It promotes a new type of multilateralism in which the United Nations system works with governments to promote the active participation of local communities and social actors from all countries. ART shares the Millennium Development Goals.

At present, ART GOLD Programmes are underway in Albania, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Lebanon, Morocco, Serbia, Sri Lanka and Uruguay. Other initiatives are being planned in Bolivia, Indonesia, Kosovo, Macedonia and Mozambique. Thematic ART networks also carry out activities in Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

The ART Initiative is supported by the governments of Belgium, France, Italy and Spain. The governments of other donor countries such as Canada, Japan, Monaco, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, as well as the European Commission, contribute to various ART country programmes. More than 400 regional and local governments, and their associations, such as CPMR, FOGAR, NRG4SD, REVES, ANCI, the Spanish Confederation of local and regional Cooperation Funds, collaborate with the ART Initiative at the international level and in countries.

