

Designing a visitors' eco-trail for nature conservation in Horton Plains National Park, Sri Lanka

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Horton Plains located in the Highlands of Sri Lanka at an altitude of 2000 m above sea level, accommodates a world-wide unique tropical savanna-cum-cloud forest vegetation representing a rare, but fragile ecosystem of a great and abundant biodiversity that offers a great tourist attraction as well. Nature conservation is mandatory for preserving the uniqueness of Horton Plains' tropical ecosystem as mass visitation of Horton Plains National Park is not conflict-free causing garbage and noise pollution to the biotic Park life. It is suggested to design a visitors' eco-trail for a half-day nature walk through Horton Plains National Park instructing the visitors on several illustrated charts at selected Park sites about the characteristics of the unique ecosystem, including its climatic, edaphic, botanical and faunistic components. Additionally, a comprehensive eco-trail folder to the park visitors shall strengthen the public consciousness for nature conservation in general and for Horton Plains National Park in particular.

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