

FOUNDATION FOR ENVIRONMENT CLIMATE AND TECHNOLOGY

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2017

SUMMARY

Highlights: We had an eventful and fruitful year at FECT in 2017 – one that probably comes to be regarded as a positive turning point in our 18-year informal history – as we overcame some challenges. The administration has become professionalized, projects have been completed and new directions established. Staffing has strengthened in numbers, skillsets and teamwork. IT systems are being gradually improved and the IRI data library installed on FECT servers are being made functional. Significant publications have been generated. New instrumentation was installed at Nawalapitiya, Passekudah and Matale in Sri Lanka and Maathoda in the Maldives. We completed a major project on drought and its output shall make an impact. We are pivoting to a new project on Climate and Tea with Dilmah Conservation.

Publications and Dissemination: There were adequate publications although there could have been more journal articles. We put together two substantive conference proceedings in relation to water resources in Sri Lanka and Maldives.

Projects and Proposals: We had a challenging portfolio of projects that we executed mostly to the satisfaction of our sponsors, collaborators, and stakeholders. The El Nino Ready Nations (ENRN) project was completed satisfactorily and we have been engaged on its follow up by the University of Colorado's Center for Capacity Building for the La Nina Ready Nations Project. We successfully completed one major 3-year project under PEER program of the US National Academy of Sciences. We have been engaged by USAID-Sri Lanka and Maldives. We developed 8 concept notes, EOI and pre-proposal and two of these were supported and two are in review. We are starting off on a new collaboration with Dilmah Conservation on Climate and Tea.

Instruments: We installed and maintaining automated web-enabled environmental observations systems for weather, soil moisture and air pollution in Sri Lanka and Maldives. We were finally able to set up the International Research Institute for Climate and Society/ Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory (IRI/LDEO) data library in both our offices. Our staff are becoming proficient in its use. This is the first such installation in Asia.

Websites: Our websites have become richer and more streamlined. We maintained operational climate services for Sri Lanka and Maldives, generating content, disseminating regularly, responding to queries, and enabling researchers both within and without of the region. The ICT infrastructure is maintained well. Our library holdings are catalogued, and our supporters ensure access to research content in journals.

Administration: Our administration has improved substantially with various achievements such as providing internal documentation, better knowledge management and web-based management. The internal documentation included on guidance, rules and procedures to be followed. We improved knowledge management through better filing systems, library catalogues, internal blogs and wiki pages. We used online kanban boards and project management software. Digital archiving remains a weakness along with Disaster Risk Management. Physical security threats are being better addressed now. By the end of the year, we had substantially addressed our staffing shortfalls.

Strategic Review: We have had four staff brainstorming = review meetings with the contribution of a few eminent researchers. These reviews led us to identify critical areas for improvement 1) Digital Archiving, 2) Disaster Risk Management for IT, 3) Ensuring legal and regulatory compliance, 4) Identity staffing needs in Communication, Visual Communication, IT, Legal, Research and Project Management, 5) Improved Project Monitoring, Data Management and Performance Management and 6) Better securing our Physical Infrastructure, 7) Obtaining recognition for Charitable Activities, through registration with the Ministry of Social Services and 8) setting up a sister organization.

Collectively, we have developed an organizational structure for the different work themes at FECT and a

strategic plan. We have released a 15th Anniversary retrospective, a staff handbook and an outline of our charitable activities. We are developing a management guidebook. We shall disseminate our findings through books, journals and other media.

Operational Services: We continued to disseminate our weekly and monthly climate reports for Sri Lanka and Maldives. Our website gave a running update on the current seasonal climate conditions. Data were continuously being obtained through our instruments and assimilated for climate analysis through the Data Library.

Social and Educational Service Projects: We have completed an advanced website for a local women's welfare group with the support of staff and at our cost. We have supported the development of a successful training proposal for a regional news magazine. We helped conduct environmental programs for middle schools in Alawatugoda, Rambukela and Maathoda.

Challenges and Response: The challenges that we faced this year was heavy turnover of staff to the end of last year – which led to some knowledge and experience gaps – actions of a disgruntled ex-staffer, political volatility and issues with access to data. We slowed down substantially while catching up with our staffing needs – increasing from 5 to 13.

- We are addressing the turnover through recruitment, better engagement with staff, some in-person training, documenting standard operating procedures and working better knowledge management.
- Four months after walking out of our offices, an ex-staffer belatedly complained of unfair dismissal to the authorities. We have countered these claims. This has led us to improve our regulatory, legal and financial procedures and compliance.
- In the Maldives there were unsettled political conditions and paralysis in some administrative procedures. Still we have been able to manage these as well. In Sri Lanka, we are yet to take advantage of the stability.
- We are managing data acquisition in a few ways. This includes setting up our instrumentation and setting up alliances to overcome exorbitant data pricing and other impediments to data acquisition.

There are still physical and IT related risks which we have started to better manage.

Memoriam: We remember Ms. Yuganthi Indrachapa who worked at FECT as a committed geographer in 2013 contributing to GIS and compiling the Pinga Oya Symposium proceedings after graduating from the University of Peradeniya. The roads in Sri Lanka are far from safe – few understand how objectively bad it is.

Coda: The need for improved climate risk management, understanding of climate (change at least) and better disaster risk management means is being recognized as more important than ever. Nature reinforces this from time to time. Having built up our capacities, we can be more ambitious in helping vulnerable people around the Indian Ocean meet these threats as best in the coming year.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Publications and Conferences:

- Proceedings of the Pinga Oya Symposium with supplementary material.
- Proceedings of workshop on climate and water held with the Maldives National University, 2015.
- We contributed two chapters to the Book on El Nino Ready Nations compiled by Mickey Glantz, Center for Capacity Building at the University of Colorado.

Projects:

- PEER-Drought, PEER-Hazards, ENRN and RAWI-Wind Projects continued.
- Our work on the PEER Drought project and PEER Hazards project picked up this year.

Proposals:

- P.H.D. Kusumawathie, P. Wickramagamage, A proposal on Climate and Dengue was submitted to the Sri Lanka National Science Foundation. Is being interminably reviewed.
- Irfan Cader, L. Zubair, et al., proposal to the US State Department AEIF grant on Investigative Journalism in Tamil was developed for Newsview and was granted
- Lareef Zubair and P. Wickramagamage had put together a proposal that addresses climate in

the hill country and the impacts on Tea was granted by Dilmah Conservation.

Operational Work:

- Disseminated our weekly, monthly and annual climate assessments for Sri Lanka and Maldives by email and via social media.
- Weather observations were continued in Digana and Akurana.
- Automatic weather station (AWS) was installed in Southern Maldives in collaboration with SIRC
- A Davis AWS was installed in Nawalapitiya in collaboration with Dilmah Conservation
- Undertook Troubleshooting of AWS in Asupiniella in collaboration with LTL.
- Soil moisture instruments installed at the Maldives Meteorological Service.
- Automated climate report generation on Maldives and Comoros continued.
- Continued dissemination of drought monitoring for Sri Lanka and Maldives.

Charitable Activities and Educational Programs

- As service, we set up and funded a tri-lingual website for Akurana Womens Welfare Association
- Contributed to Environment Day programs for middle school children in schools close to our office
- Contributed to Educational programs at the Maathoda School in GaafuDaalu Atoll in Maldives.

Staff and Training:

- 5 Interns were provided the opportunity to obtain exposure.
- 5 staff members carried over from last year and seven others joined in during the year.
- Some in-service training was provided.

Communication and Websites: There was substantial development of blogs, and twitter accounts for Sri Lanka, Maldives and not as much for Chagos and Comoros. More of our websites are compliant to standards now.

Institutional Documents

A 15th Anniversary Review, a Review of our Charitable Activities, Sinhala and Tamil flyers, and the Annual Progress reports for 2016 were prepared.

Collaboration: We continued collaborations with partners and colleagues locally and internationally.

- Small Island Research Center, Maathoda.
- Akurana Womens Welfare Association
- Akurana Pradeshiya Sabha. (Local Government) and Akurana Divisional Secretariat
- Engaged with Kundasale Pradeshiya Sabhawa
- Environment Committee of the Public Utilities Commission.

Administration and IT:

- Our accounting systems, audits and company reporting were reviewed well.
- Inventories of books, files, journals and reports were made more accessible.
- Our IT systems have kept up to the demands of additional staff and have been upgraded.
- We are working on cloud based accessibility to information resources.
- We have verified that our administration is compliant with all the labour, financial and company law

EXTENDED SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Communication Material

- FECT – 15th Anniversary Compilation
- FECT – Summary of Charitable Activities
- Various FECT Flyers

Peer Reviewed Journal Publications and Book Chapters

- None

Books & Book Chapters

- Zubair, L., and P. Wickramagamage (Editors), *Proceedings of the Pinga Oya Symposium*, Foundation for Environment, Climate and Technology, Kandy.

Technical Reports

- Lokuhetti, R., Najimuddin, N., and Zubair, L. (2016). *The Climate over Sri Lanka up to the Yala of 2016*. FECT Technical Report 2016-07. Foundation for Environment, Climate and Technology, Digana.
- Manusha Lakmali, (2016) *Industrial Training Executive Summary*, Supervisor, Zubair, L. FECT Technical Report 2016-08. Foundation for Environment, Climate and Technology, Digana.
- Rathnayake, Udara., Zubair, L., Wickramagamage, P. *System Dynamic Model for Water Scarcity in Maldives*, FECT Technical Report 2016-09, Foundation for Environment, Climate and Technology, Digana, December 2016.
- Lokuhetti, R., Zubair, L. (2017). *Annual Climate Sri Lanka -2016*, FECT Technical Report 2016-10. (20 Pages) Foundation for Environment, Climate and Technology, Digana.
- Zubair, L., Lokuhetti, R. Visvanathan, J. Zahid, Michael, B. (2016). *Climate Monitoring and Prediction for Maldives*, FECT Technical Report 2016-11, Foundation for Environment Climate and Technology, Kandy
- Wijerathne, K. and L. Zubair (2017). *Survey of Water Use and Water Budgeting in Greater Malé Maldives (Villingili, Hulhumale & Hulhule)*. FECT Technical Report 2017-01 Foundation for Environment, Climate and Technology, (Pages 25)
- Najimuddin, N, L. Zubair. (2017). *Analysis of Historical Flooding Incidence in Akurana*. FECT Technical Report 2017-02. Foundation for Environment, Climate and Technology, Digana.
- Wickramagamage, P. (2017): *Water Resources of the Republic of Maldives*. FECT Technical Report 2017-03, (Pages 44) Foundation for Environment, Climate and Technology, Digana.
- Nawarathna Badra., Zubair Lareef., Malge Chalani, (2017): *Comparison of Satellite Rainfall Estimates and Station Observations*. FECT Technical Report 2017-04, Foundation for Environment, Climate and Technology, Digana.
- Lokuhetti, R., Najimuddin, N., and Zubair, L. (2017). *The Climate over Sri Lanka up to the Maha of 2016/17*. FECT Technical Report 2017-05. Foundation for Environment, Climate and Technology, Digana
- Lokuhetti, R., Najimuddin, N., C. Malge and Zubair, L. (2017). *The Climate over Sri Lanka up to the Yala of 2017*. FECT Technical Report 2017-06. Foundation for Environment, Climate and Technology, Digana
- Lareef Zubair, (2017) *Climate Change Assessment in Sri Lanka using Quality Evaluated Surface Temperature Data*, Columbia University Water Center, New York, USA, FECT Technical Report 2017-07, (Pages 30) Foundation for Environment, Climate and Technology, Digana Village.
- Lokuhetti, R., Zubair, L., Visvanathan, J., Nijamdeen, A. (2017). *Orographic Rains Induced by a Cyclonic Storm in the Bay of Bengal triggered the Floods in Southwestern Sri Lanka in May 2017*. FECT Technical Report 2017-08. (7 Pages) Foundation for Environment, Climate and Technology, Digana.
- Weerasinghe, A.K, Zubair, L. (2017) *Farmer & River basin Management, Policy Perspectives on Adapting to Climate Variability & Climate Change in North Western Sri Lanka*. FECT Technical Report 2017-09 Foundation for Environment, Climate and Technology, Digana Village.
- Lareef Zubair, Nishan Ahmed, Majeeda Mohamed, Zahid, (2017): *Climate Drives the Seasonal and Regional Variation in Dengue Incidence in the Maldives*, FECT Technical Report 2017-11, (Pages 15) Foundation for Environment, Climate and Technology, Digana

Conference Abstracts

- Lokuhetti, R., Zubair, L., Visvanathan, J., M., Nijamdeen, A. (2017). *Drought Monitoring for Sri Lanka: Spatial Extent and Temporal Evolution during the 2016-17 Drought*. International Roundtable on the Impact of Extreme Natural Events: Science and Technology for mitigation IRENE 2017. (pp.29). Sri Lanka: South Eastern University.
- Nijamdeen, A., Zubair, L., Dharmadasa, M., Najimuddin, N., P. and Malge, C. (2017). *Seasonal Impact of Climate on Tea Production in Sri Lanka*. International Roundtable on the Impact of Extreme Natural Events: Science and Technology for mitigation IRENE 2017. (pp.25). Sri Lanka: South Eastern University.
- Lokuhetti, R., Zubair, L., Visvanathan, J., M., Nijamdeen, A. (2017) *Cyclonic Storm Roanu and the Orographic Rainfall Mechanism triggered the Landslide in Aranayaka in May 2016*. International Roundtable on the Impact of Extreme Natural Events: Science and Technology for mitigation IRENE 2017. (pp 52). Sri Lanka: South Eastern University.

Discussions / Meetings

- January 2017 - A Review Meeting for FECT staff and Collaborators was held at the Digana Resort in Rajawella to Brainstorm on past and on-going projects, common issues, review work to fix problems and improve work and working conditions, to identify priorities and to draft a strategic plan for 2017
- January 2017- Lareef Zubair, Janan Visvanathan visited Maldives and had meetings with Non-government partners, private sector participants and USAID officials. 24th - 25th of January 2017.
- January 2017- Prof. P. Wickramagamage, Dr. P.H.D. Kusumawathie participated in a meeting on Dengue at the National Science Foundation on 24th January 2017.
- March 2017-Janan Visvanathan, Ashara Nijamdeen and Duleeka Wadugodapitiya participated in a meeting with the Akurana Womens Welfare Association (AWWA) on setting up a tri-lingual website for AWWA by FECT at Akurana on 31st March 2017
- April 2017- A Review Meeting for FECT staff and Collaborators was held at Akurana to update on-going project activities, review work, to identify priorities, and to orient new staff on 12th April 2017.
- April- Lareef Zubair participated in two meetings at Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka(PUCSL) on 5th and 24th of April 2017.
- May- Lareef Zubair participated in a meeting of the PUCSL on 22nd May 2017.
- June- Ashara Nijamdeen, Asansa Abeywardana Tuan Hadgie and Janan Visvanathan participated in the Environment Day program organized by the Alawathugoda Pradeshiya Sabhawa on 5th June at Alawathugoda National School.
- July- FECT staff and Collaborators had a meeting on past and on-going projects with Peer Grant Manager, Dalal Najib and USAID's Jason Porter on 6th July at FECT office Akurana.
- July- Lareef Zubair, Ashara Nijamdeen visited Maldives and had meetings with Nongovernment partners, private sector participants and USAID officials on 8th to 12th of July 2017.
- July- a Review Meeting for FECT staff and Collaborators was held at FECT office Akurana to update on-going project activities and review work on 21st of July 2017.
- August 11- Lareef Zubair, Madura Dharmadasa and Ashara Nijamdeen visited the CRT (Coconut, Rubber, Tea) Trade Fair, Sri Lankan Plantation industry's premium trade fair held at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) on 11th August 2017.
- August 26- Lareef Zubair, Madura Dharmadasa, Nushrath Najimuddin and Janan Visvanathan participated at the FOSID 2017 – (Faculty of Science Industry Day) held at the Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya, on September 26th August 2017.
- September 11- a Review Meeting for FECT staff and Collaborators was held at the Mahaweli Authority Conference room to Brainstorm on past and on-going projects, common issues, improve work and working conditions, to identify priorities and to draft a strategic plan.
- October 26- Ashara Nijamdeen, Asansa Abeywardana and Tuan Hadgie conducted an awareness program on Dengue and Solid waste management at the Rambukkella Muslim School organized by the Akurana Pradeshiya Sabhawa.
- October 28- Prof. P. Wickramagamage - Consultative Council on Climate Change, Launch meeting of the Dilmah Climate Change and Adaptation Observatory, Queensberry Estate, Nawalapitiya.
- November- a Review Meeting for FECT staff and Collaborators was held at the Old Trinitians Sports Club to orient new staff, review work to fix problems and improve work and working conditions, to identify priorities and to draft a strategic plan on 27th November 2017.
- December- Maldives Visit - Lareef Zubair, visited Maldives and had meetings with Maldives National University, Health Protection Agency, Marine Research Centre and Nongovernment partners, private sector participants, Renewable Energy Maldives and LaMER on 9th to 11th of December 2017.

Feature Articles

- July 20, 2016: Zubair, Is the air pollution analysis for the Sampur Coal Plant credible? (Financial Times) and (Sri Lanka Guardian, Ground Views)

Media Citations

- January 25, 2017: Sri Lanka Is Suffering Its Worst Drought in 40 Years. By Dominique Mosbergen (Huff Post 01/25/2017 https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/sri-lankadrought_us_5885bcb4e4b0e3a7356a1160)

Presentations

- Key Note Address to the Faculty of Science's Annual Research Sessions by L. Zubair at South Eastern University elicited media coverage in a Tamil Newspaper.
- Public lecture by L. Zubair on Weather and Climate and Natural Hazards in Sri Lanka: Implications for Disaster Risk Management at The Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka.

Grants Ongoing

- **ASIRI: Remote Sensing of Atmospheric Waves and Instabilities (RAWI)**. This examines the ocean-atmosphere linkages over the tropical Indian Ocean region. Project conducted by the Office of Naval Research, administered by University of Notre Dame (L. Zubair, Co-PI 2014- 2017).
- **PEER Cycle 3: Developing Monitoring Tools for Managing Drought Risk and addressing the Riddle of Increased Drought Tendency amidst the Wetter Climate Change Projections for Sri Lanka and Maldives** from the US National Academy of Sciences (PI - L. Zubair, Mizna Mohamed, 2014-2017).
- **PEER Cycle 4: Can drought, flood and landslide hazard be skillfully assessed at fine spatial resolution from combining constrained streams of observed, remotely sensed and model predicted data in Sri Lanka and Maldives?** from the US National Academy of Sciences (PI – P. Wickramagamage, L. Zubair, Zahid, 2015 –2018).
- **ENRN: El Nino Ready Nations, from the Center for Capacity Building, University of Colorado, Dr. Mickey Glantz (PI), sponsored by USAID.) Completed.**

Grant Reporting

- 3 Quarterly Reports and Annual Technical Report were submitted to Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research Science, on *Developing Monitoring Tools for Managing Drought Risk and addressing the Riddle of Increased Drought Tendency amidst the Wetter Climate Change Projections for Sri Lanka and Maldives*. This project formally closed in December.
- 3 Quarterly Reports and Annual Technical Report were submitted to Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research Science, on *Can drought and flood hazard be skillfully assessed at fine spatial resolution from combining constrained streams of observed, remotely sensed and model predicted data in Sri Lanka and the Maldives?*.

Proposals, Concept notes and Expression of Interest

- January 2017 – pre-proposal to **Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER)** cycle 6 Program entitled, *Impact Assessment for Mitigation of Air Pollution from Electricity Generation, Transport Systems and Foreign Sources on Climate, Environment and Human Health in Sri Lanka* Principal Investigator: Eng. Manjula Siriwardhene, Dr. Lareef Zubair
- July 2017 - FECT contributed to the project proposal by News view, Akurana, titled *Upgrading Tamil Investigative Journalism in Central Sri Lanka* to the **US State Department Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund** 2017. Principal investigator: Mr. Irfan Cader
- April 2017 - *Predicting Dengue Risk from Environmental, Entomological, and Societal Information in Kandy and Colombo* to the **Climate Change Thematic Program** of the National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka. Principal Investigators: Dr, Kusumawathie, Prof. Wickramagamage.
- August 2017 – *A Proposed Program of Research on Weather/Climate, Environment in Tea Ecosystems in Sri Lanka* to the **Dilmah Conservation**, Sri Lanka. Principal Investigator: Dr. Lareef Zubair.
- December- *STEM Education and Capacity Building for Resources and Risk Management in Remote Outposts capitalizing on PEER projects on water, drought and hazards: Gaafu Dhaalu Atoll in Southern Maldives* Principal Investigator: Lareef Zubair, Prof. Wickramagamage, **PEER supplementary proposal**

Training & Staff

- Himash Ariyaratne, Charuni Jayasekera, and Tharuka Rankothge completed internships, 1-4 months and left along with Jonathan Frank
- Tuan Hadgie, F. Shakira, Nushrath Najimudeen, Asansa Abewardene, Rasika Abeysinghe, Priyan Liyanage and Shifna Rameez joined the staff
- Rimza Zacky, Janan Vishwanathan, Ruchira Lokuhetti, Ashara Nijamdeen carried on from 2016.
- Internship opportunities were provided to students from South-Eastern University, University of Ruhuna, University of Peradeniya, ESoft, and The National Institute of Business Management.

Operational Services

- ***Climate Services for Sri Lanka:*** We continued to provide Climate Services for the Mahaweli Authority and Maldives. Archives of advisory reports are available at: <http://fectsl.blogspot.com/>; Weekly expert input for Hydro-meteorological Assessment for Mahaweli Authority is made available via <http://fectsl.blogspot.com>; <http://www.climate.lk/> and <http://fectsl.wordpress.com/>
- ***Climate Services for Maldives:*** Collaboration with the Maldivian Meteorological Services
 - Monthly Hydro-meteorological Advisory services to Maldives. via <http://fectmv.blogspot.com> and <http://www.tropicalclimate.org/maldives>
- ***Climate Services for the Comoros:*** <http://www.tropicalclimate.org/comoros/> provides updated information for the Comoros.

Dissemination/ Lectures

- Public lecture by L. Zubair on Weather and Climate and Natural Hazards in Sri Lanka: Implications for Disaster Risk Management at The Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka on 17th July 2017.

Brochures/Flyers

- Translated the two-page brochure to Sinhala and Tamil languages

Sri Lanka Websites : Websites, Blogs, Social Media and Mailing Lists :

- We updated our website: <http://www.climate.lk>
- www.tropicalclimate.org was made serviceable.
- www.recoverlanka.net and www.geolanka.net are not being maintained any longer and their contents shall be recovered in the future.

Project Websites and Blogs:

Our projects each have a webpage which is accessible via www.climate.lk or www.tropicalclimate.org . In addition, we maintained blogs for the following projects at

- MDP: <https://mdpsl.wordpress.com/>(5 posts, 249 views, 174 visitors)
- AgMIP project: <https://agmipsl.wordpress.com/>(38 posts, 4059 views, 1956 visitors)
- PEER: <https://peersl.wordpress.com/>(43 posts, 4276 views, 2315 visitors)

Blogs:

- Blogs on Sri Lankan climate at: <http://srilankaclimate.wordpress.com> and <http://fectlk.blogspot.com>(10 000+ views).
- <http://fectsl.blogspot.com> is archived at www.kottu.org, a blog aggregator.
- <http://fectsl.wordpress.com> has been updated regularly (14 posts, 5434 views, 839 visitors)

Twitter:

- Our 3 Sri Lanka related twitter accounts have been somewhat active. We have now rebranded @fectwms as @climatelk and is now our principal outlet for weather and climate information. The visual presentation of these sites has been redone.
 - <https://twitter.com/fectlk>(130 tweets, 31 followers)
 - <https://twitter.com/fectwms>(42 tweets, 8 followers) now <https://twitter.com/climatelk>

Facebook:

The visual presentation has been improved. However, we have not been active except for automatic postings <https://www.facebook.com/FECTSL>(54 posts and 22 likes)

Mailing Lists:

Our mailing system has been maintained and we are sending our weekly climate newsletter

Subscription: Link is now listed at

<http://www.climate.lk/subscribe.html> Alternative short link: <http://eepurl.com/bPlixn> (58 subscribers, 50+ campaigns)

Websites, Social Media and Mailing Lists for Maldives

We have maintained websites, social media and mailing lists for Maldives. Subscriptions for Maldives is included in <http://www.climate.lk/subscribe.html>

Websites: <http://www.tropicalclimate.org/maldives>

Blogs:

<http://fectsl.blogspot.com> and fectmv.blogspot.com are being regularly updated.

<https://maldivesclimate.wordpress.com/> (1 post, 22 views, 9 visitors)

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/fectmv> (65 posts and 53 followers)

Facebook:

<http://facebook.com/fectmv> (344 posts and 216 likes)

Mailing List:

Subscription: <http://www.climate.lk/subscribe.html>

Alternative short link: <http://eepurl.com/bPkohP> (89 subscribers, 32 campaigns)

Comoros - Websites, Social Media and Mailing Lists

We had set up websites, blog and twitter account for Comoros and translated our flyer into French as well. Our main partner Hairu Fisheries in Comoros pulled out in large measure and as result we were stymied. We hope to work with Comorian partners.

Websites: <http://www.tropicalclimate.org/comoros>

Blog: <http://fectcomoros.blogspot.com>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/fectkm> (0 tweet, 1 follower)

Chagos - Website, Social Media and Mailing Lists

We have also set up a website and social media accounts for our work in Chagos. In the coming years, we shall make contact with Chagossians and those interested.

Website: <http://tropicalclimate.org/chagos/>

Blog: <http://chagosclimate.wordpress.com>

Weather and Soil Moisture Instruments:

We operated two automated weather stations (AWS) and made data available online. Weather data at our offices is taken every half an hour and uploaded automatically to the Internet for public access.

- For Digana: http://tropicalclimate.org/digana_weather
- For Akurana: <http://tropicalclimate.org/akuranaweather/>
 - Soil Moisture and Temperature Measurement Instruments from Davis Instruments at 4 depths along with transmission and automated data-logging were installed and are now operational.
 - A Davis AWS was installed in Nawalapitiya Sri Lanka in collaboration with Dilmah Conservation
 - Undertook Troubleshooting of Automated Weather Station in Asupiniella in collaboration with LTL.
- For Southern Maldives: AWS operated by LaMER at Small Island Research Centre, Southern Maldives
 - Soil Moisture and Temperature Measurement Instruments at 4 depths along with transmission and automated data-logging were provided for the Maldives.

Administration and IT:

Financial management at Peoples Bank, Hatton National Bank and Commercial Bank has been ordinary. Our auditors, Anzari and Co. have once again certified our accounts to be up to standard and our Annual Reports has been submitted to the Registrar of Companies by Ralapanawe Associates, Colombo.

- Our libraries have been catalogued and are available digitally.
- Our paper holdings have been organized into a filing system to a large extent.
- These catalogues and other information are being made available via a staff internal website.

- Computer systems were maintained and upgraded to keep up with the additional staff. We have set up better communication systems for remote interaction between our offices.
- FECT is registered in Comoros, Sri Lanka and New York.
- Our application to register FECT in Maldives is pending at the Ministry of Home Affairs for three years

Collaboration:

We had productive collaborations with personnel attached to the Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka (MASL), Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, University of Peradeniya (UOP), , Akurana Pradeshiya Sabhawa, Akurana Divisional Secretary, Akurana Womens Welfare Association, Anti Malaria Campaign, Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL), / Newsview.

In Maldives, we had productive collaborations with Maldives National University, Male' Water and Sewerage Company of Maldives, Maldives Meteorological Services, Health Protection Agency of Maldives, Renewable Energy Maldives, Land and Marine Environmental Resource Group Pvt Ltd. Lareef Zubair discussed about projects in person with USAID personnel Nihani Riza (USAID-Colombo & Maldives) and followed up with email and phone communication.

Lareef Zubair and Janan Vishwanathan met with USAID team visiting Maldives - (Mission Director), Nihani Riza and Margot Welk (Environment Specialist) at the Maldives Meteorological Society, Maldives 24th and 25th of January 2017.

Internationally, we collaborated with NASA Goddard Space Flight Centre, Goddard Institute for Space Science, Columbia University, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, University of Colorado, Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis (IUPUI), International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), State University of New York (Albany), New York University, Nansen Environmental Research Centre (India), and the University of Notre Dame.

Acknowledgements:

We are thankful to Mr. S.R.K. Aruppola, Director Headworks (MASL), Deputy Directors, Eng. Jayasuriya and Hilal for much support in Digana Village. Eng. Thilaka Samarathunga, Director, Water Management Secretariat and their staff has sustained support at the Mahaweli Authority. We thank Mr. Ranjith Senevirathne and the staff of the HAO&M Maintenance Unit of the MASL for their support.

Our affiliate scientists, P.H.D. Kusumawathie, P. Wickramagamage, Neil Devadasan, Vidhura Ralapanawe, Ajith Gunaratne, Nalin Wickramanayake, Herath Manthirillake, Madhura Weerasekera and Manjula Siriwardhana continued to support us in numerous ways. Our alumni too have helped us from time to time. Raashid Zubair has been advising on managing our video content.

We acknowledge the support of Dr. Kanthi Perera, Dr. Sachith Abeysundara, Prof. W.B. Daundesequera (Faculty of Science), Eng. Badra Nawarathna (MASL),

In Maldives, we thank Dr. Shazla Mohamed (Dean/Science Faculty, MNU), Dr. Mizna Mohamed (MNU lecturer), Shaadiya (MNU lecturer), Somnath (IT / GIS lecturer-MNU), Dr. Naseer (MNU), Mr. Waheed (DG-MMS), Zahid (DDG -MMS), Muaz (Engineer - MMS) and Wahid (DG-MMS), Aslam (Director - LaMER), Hussein (Scientist – LaMER), Dr. Shiham Adam (Director Marine Research Center), Ms. Hudha Ahmed (Renewable Energy Maldives), Mohamed Musthafa (Director, Ministry of Environment), Majeeda Mohamed (Ministry of Environment), Nishan Ahmed (Ministry of Health), Shafi (Director General, Maldives Land Survey Authority), Yazeed (Environmental Protection Authority).

We thank Michael Bell, Benno Blumenthal and Remi Cousins of the IRI for their support in numerous ways. We thank Randall Koster of NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and Susan Bauer of Goddard Institute for Space Science. At Columbia University, we thank Profs. Adam Sobel, Upmanu Lall, Dr. Bradfield Lyon for supporting us in various ways. We thank Shaky Sherpas for his support with our various works. We thank Prof. Meagan Mauter of Carnegie Mellon University.

Dalal Najib, Daniel Placht, and Kelly Robbins of National Academy of Sciences, who has been supporting us with the PEER project. The USAID officials Jason Rodriguez, Nihani Riza Andrew Sissons and Margot Welk.

We are thankful to Dr. Mickey Glantz of the University of Colorado, USA, for involving us in his Project on El Nino Ready Nations. We are grateful for the interactions with Harindra J. Fernando of University of Notre Dame.