



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT  
SRI LANKA

WORLD

# SEAGRASS DAY 2026

1 March 2025, Kalpitiya Coastal Environmental Center Sri Lanka

## Seagrasses Enrich Ocean Biodiversity and Fisheries



World Seagrass Day 1st March 2026 will be celebrated under the theme, “Seagrasses Enrich Ocean Biodiversity and Fisheries,” highlighting the vital role seagrass ecosystems play in supporting marine life and sustaining fisheries. This year’s theme emphasizes the importance of protecting and restoring seagrass habitats to enhance ocean biodiversity, strengthen food security, and promote sustainable livelihoods for coastal communities. By encouraging collective action and environmental stewardship, the program aims to secure a thriving and resilient marine future for generations to come.

### Background

Seagrasses are marine flowering plants found along the coastlines of 159 countries, from the tropics to the Arctic. Globally, about 72 species have been identified, making seagrass meadows one of the most widespread coastal ecosystems on the Earth. However, since 1980, nearly 110 km<sup>2</sup> of seagrass has been lost each year globally due to human activities such as illegal fishing practices, coastal development, pollution, destructive fishing gear, boat traffic, such as illegal fishing practices, coastal development, pollution, aquaculture wastes, and climate change impacts.

In recognition of the ecological significance of seagrasses and their role in addressing climate change, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on May 23, 2022, declaring March 1st as World Seagrass Day, submitted by Sri Lanka and co-sponsored by 24 countries. This initiative highlights the importance of seagrasses in supporting marine biodiversity, fisheries, and climate resilience while advancing international commitments, including the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

Ministry of Environment celebrated the 1st world seagrass day with the support of all relevant stakeholders and international participants. Sri Lanka nationally celebrated the 2nd and 3rd world seagrass days with the themes as Blue for blooming: vitalising seagrass resilience for livelihoods and Grooming Youth - Blooming Seagrass

In Sri Lanka, 15 true seagrass species have been recorded, mainly distributed along the northwestern coastline from Pualam Lagoon to the Jaffna Peninsula. These ecosystems provide critical habitats for mammals, reptiles, fish and invertebrates serving as the primary food source for endangered species such as the dugong and green turtle. In Sri Lanka, seagrass beds, particularly in Puttalam Lagoon had significantly declined, including damage caused by the Ditwah 2025 disaster, directly affecting marine ecosystems and small-scale fishing communities. Protecting and restoring seagrass ecosystems are therefore both an environmental responsibility and an economic necessity.



## OBJECTIVES

Build Capacities among fisher communities on ecological and economic importance of seagrass ecosystem

Raise awareness among the general public including Youth and school children

Highlight impacts of Ditwah 2025 on livelihoods and marine ecosystems

Promote community participation in conservation and restoration of Seagrass ecosystem

Strengthen collaboration between fishers communities, government and non-government agencies

Enhance disaster preparedness and coastal resilience



## Programme Details



**Date:** March 1, 2026(Sunday) from 9:00 am – 12.15 pm



**Venue:** Kalpitiya Coastal Environmental Center, Kudawa, Kalpitiya



**Language:** Sinhala

## Programmes Planned

- Seagrass Reporting Programme
- A Presentation on Seagrass Ecosystems and the Hidden Underwater World
- Drama performance on Seagrass and Fisheries Livelihoods by Aquatic Resources Explore's Society, The Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries, Faculty of Livestock Fisheries & Nutrition, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka
- One-minute video challenge by kids
- Presentation on Seagrass and Sustainable Fish Harvest

## Target Audience

- Fisher Communities
- Lagoon and Coastal Youth
- School children
- Environment officials and Policymakers
- Community leaders and Local authorities
- Marine conservation stakeholders



Get More Information

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