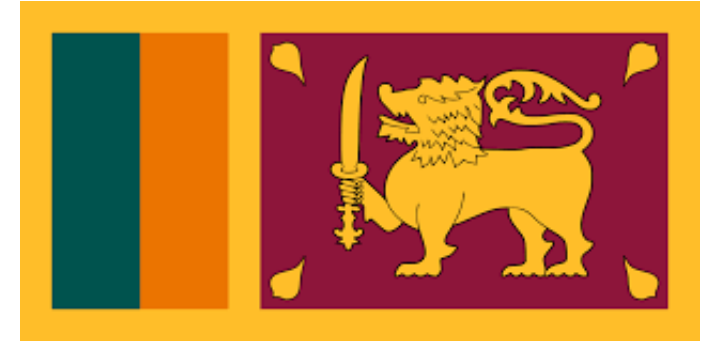


Sri Lanka's experience with the PVS Aquatic mission in 2025



Regional Workshop for WOA H Focal Points for Aquatic Animals

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7 – 9 July 2026 | Tokyo, Japan

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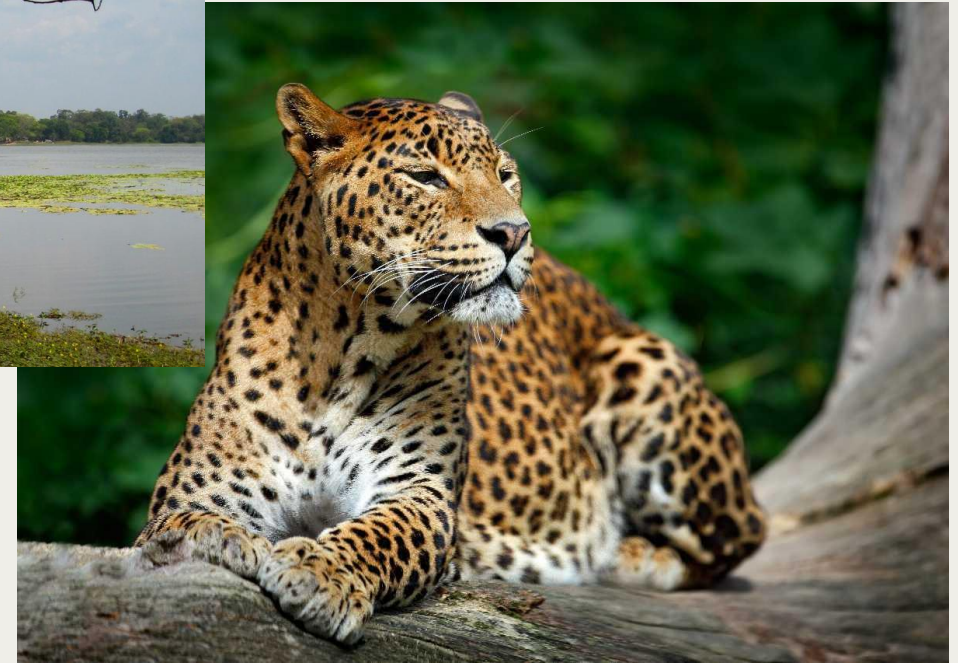


Sri Lanka a brief



- Sri Lanka is an island nation in South Asia, located in the Indian Ocean
- About 30 km off the south - eastern coast of India
- Covering approximately 65,610 km²
- Sri Lanka process diverse landscapes, including coastal plains, central highlands and tropical rainforests
- The climate is tropical monsoon, with a south-west monsoon (May–September) and a north-east monsoon (December–February)
- The country has 1,600 km of coastline with bays, lagoons & marshy lands are excellent for strong fisheries and aquaculture sector
- Sri Lanka is well known for its ancient water civilization
 - Over 1,400 man-made tanks are actively stocked and used for aquaculture and culture-based fisheries (CBF)
 - 103 distinct natural river basins- 16 rivers over 100 Km

Sri Lanka a brief cont.





Aquaculture sector

Sri Lankan aquaculture sector consist of

- **Shrimp culture** - *Penaeus monodon* / *Penaeus vannamei* 35.05 USD million -2025
- **Ornamental fish culture** - 22.61 USD million - 2025
 - Sri Lanka is recognized globally as a supplier of high-quality ornamental fish to over 125 countries in 2023
 - Sri Lanka was the 5th largest exporter of ornamental fish globally
- **Reservoir fisheries** - **102,000 MT (2025)** - High domestic demand
- **Freshwater prawn** – 8.5 USD million -2025
- **Commercial growing of Indo - Pacific swam crab** USD 16 million to 22 million
- **Aquatic plant culture** - 0.21 USD million -2025
- **Mari culture of Asian sea bass** - 6.5 million to USD 7.5 million

Nearly 30 000 people were employed in aquaculture, with women making up 6% of this workforce





Organization of AAHS

- Activities related to Aquatic Animal Health Services (AAHS) are divided between several ministries and government agencies

- **Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation**

- **Department of Animal production & health**

- A Competent Authority by *Animal Disease Act 1992*
 - Responsible for managing live aquatic animals, quarantine, biosecurity, disease diagnosis, epidemio-surveillance programmes, Veterinary Health certificates - imports & exports
- **Veterinary Research Institute (VRI)**
 - Central Veterinary Investigation Center (CVIC)- **National Lab**
 - WOA H focal point – Aquatic Animal Diseases
- **Animal Health Division**
 - 25 functional Veterinary Investigation Centers (VICs)- **Regional labs**
- **Provincials DAP&H set up - 9 Provinces**
 - Over 337 Divisional Veterinary Offices operate across the island





Organization of AAHS cont.

- **Ministry of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources (MFAOR)**

- **Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DFAR)**

- Manages and regulates marine fisheries in Sri Lanka. It promotes sustainable fishing, supports fishing communities, conserves marine resources and overseas fish processing and export

- **National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA)**

- Scientific research & provide service for the development and sustainable utilization of living & non living aquatic resources
- Diagnostic services

- **National Aquaculture Development Authority (NAQDA)**

- A “regulatory body”- issues licenses for aquaculture production
- Provide technical support to fish farmers in terms of zootechnics
- Diagnostic services





Organization of AAHS cont.



செயல்பாட்டு அமைச்சு
சுகாதார அமைச்சு
Ministry of Health

Ministry of Fisheries & Ocean Resources (MFAOR) and the Ministry of Health (MoH) are responsible for food safety

- MFAOR is responsible for ensuring the food safety of seafood products intended for export
- MoH is responsible for the food safety of seafood consumed locally





PVS Aquatic Mission In Sri Lanka

- Request by WOAHA Delegate (The Chief Veterinary Officer at DAPH / DG)
- An assessment of the performance of the Aquatic Animal Health Services
- Team of four independent WOAHA-certified PVS evaluators
- Using the WOAHA PVS (Performance of Veterinary Services) method from February 05th to February 18th, 2025
- Specialized tool featuring 47 critical competencies to evaluate a country's national aquatic infrastructure

Assessors Team	
Team leader:	Dr. Marc Le Groumellec
Technical expert (aquatic):	Dr. Edmund Peller Dr. Ronello Abila
Observer:	Dr. Mario Ignacio Algüerno

Contact point in Sri Lanka:	WOAHA Delegate (Former DG)
Team leader (Sri Lanka)	Dr. Dulip Kasagala (CVIC/VRI)



PVS Aquatic Mission cont.

- **Core Objectives of the Mission**
 - Evaluating Biosecurity Frameworks
 - Enhancing Safe International Trade
 - Strengthening One Health Systems
 - Identifying Governance Gaps



PVS Aquatic Mission cont.

- The WOAHA PVS Team explored various sites and institutions across both urban and rural areas of Sri Lanka engaging with
 - Government representatives DAP&H/ MFAOR/NARA/NAQDA/MOH
 - Veterinarians and aquatic animal health professionals from both public and private sectors
 - Laboratory personnel- VRI/CADDR/VIC's
 - Veterinary educators – Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Sciences
 - Para- professionals – Uni. Ruhuna/Animal husbandry schools
 - Veterinary council
 - Border control staff – Animal quarantine units at Airports
 - Aquaculture producers- Ornamental fish/ shrimp/ Food fish
 - Aquaculture and seafood exporters' associations
 - Companies involved in veterinary drugs, nutritional additives, probiotics and feed, along with other relevant stakeholders



Timetable of the mission

Sites & facilities visited

Geographical coverage

6/9 Provinces

23 Cities/Towns

Province	Cities visited
Central Province	Kandy
	Gatambe
	Karandagolla
North Western Province	Puttalam
	Marawila
	Kurunegala
	Giriulla
	Dankotuwa
	Pannala
	Nainamadama
	Chilaw
Western Province	Colombo
	Handapangoda
	Katunayake
	Negombo
	Padukka
	Dehiwala
	Mattakkuliya
North Central Province	Plonnaruwa
Eastern Province	Trincomalee
Southern Province	Matara
	Lunugamwehera
Hambantota	





Events





Events cont.





Events cont.





Challenges



- Multi-agency governance :
 - Regulatory mechanisms are split between departments like the DAP&H, DFAR & NAQDA leading to administrative friction
- Limited pool of aquatic veterinarians
- The arrangement of the time table of the mission
 - Aquatic Animal Health Services (AAHS) of Sri Lanka are scattered among several ministries, different government agencies and many private sector entrepreneurs
 - Aquaculture sites, facilities & private sector personal are widely spread through out the country mostly in remote areas
 - Therefore two weeks period for PVS aquatic is merely too short to get proper vision
 - Limited some of the visits due to time constrain
- Some agencies were reluctant to disclose their facilities to a foreign team
 - Many of them unaware of WOAHA & it's activities
 - Private sector mistrust



Impacts

- PVS Aquatic Mission in Sri Lanka acts as a diagnostic catalyst
 - It drives long-term structural, economic and operational shifts across the country's aquaculture industry
 - Modernizing governance frameworks
 - Unlocking high-value export markets - Enhanced market credibility
 - Bridging institutional silos -The mission enforces an integrated operational protocol
 - Early disease detection networks
- The aquaculture sector (Government AAHS / Private) of Sri Lanka well aware of WOAHA & its activities
- Decisions has been made to recruit veterinarians to NARA & NAQDA
- Upgrading national reference laboratories
 - Lab accreditation (ISO/IEC 17025:2017) of CVIC /VRI. Start from Megalocytiviruses
- Expanding specialized workforces
 - Veterinarians/ Research assistant are recruited to Aquatic Animal health sector





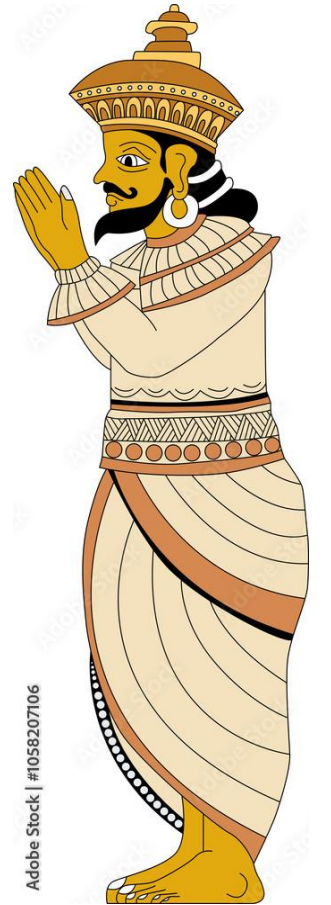
- Impacts cont.**
- The service minute for Animal Production & health services of Sri Lanka will be amended in future (Ministry Level)
 - Adapt promotional pathway for veterinarians involved in AAH of DAP&H
 - The facilities of private laboratories are going to be used for routine diagnosis under supervision of competent authority
 - Solution fragmented laboratory networks
 - Resolve testing bottlenecks





Acknowledgement

- World Organization of Animal Health
- DAP&H Staff, MFAOR staff & MOH staff
- The Private sector entrepreneurs involved in aquaculture sector
- Farmers & exporters organizations



Thank you

