

A Savana Forest into a Rubber plantation Story of Land Grabbing in We-Eliya

Once it was a Savana Forest. It gave new grass due to the forest fires time to time, providing ideal habitat for the elephant population. Those who serve “Kuda Kataragama Shrine” in Soragune, cultivated some lands for their living. They had no conflicts with the elephants.

Today it is denuded and become a Rubber plantation owned by few elites, politicians and companies. Electric fences are being erected putting people and elephants in one side and saving the Rubber plantations.

Soragune Shrine has sold the lands to few companies. Over 1000 hectares has been cleared in less than 2 weeks without following any regulations.

Regulations required to do an EIA for clearing of more than one hectare of forest and converting them to other uses. But, no EIA has been conducted. Central Environmental Authority was silent on the destruction. Commissioner of Buddhist Affairs was also silent.



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