



**Meeting of HE the President of Sri Lanka with
HE the Executive Director of Green Climate Fund**

President House, Kandy

6th April 2018

Ambassador Howard Bamsay, Executive Director of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) visited Sri Lanka from 5-6 April, 2016.

The GCF is a multilateral funding institution set up for climate financing to support the efforts of developing countries to respond to the challenge of climate change. GCF helps developing countries to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to climate change. GCF was established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the 16th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP16) in 2010. When the Paris Agreement was reached in 2015, GCF was given an important role in serving the agreement and supporting the goal of keeping climate change well below 2 degrees Celsius.

Green Climate Fund has provided funding to improve integrated water management within the Dry Zone of Sri Lanka in order to strengthen resilience of smallholder farmers in the face of rising temperatures and extreme weather events attributed to Climate Change. This project attempts to address severe hardship caused by climate change impacts on poor farmers across Sri Lanka that impact on agriculture in the dry zone. This investment builds on baseline governmental investment in rural water management, so that around 77,500 people in smallholder households will benefit directly with 1,179,800 indirect benefits of the project. The project is co-financed with the Government of Sri Lanka providing USD 14 million and the GCF providing USD 38.1 million.

Ambassador Bamsay was accompanied by a high-level delegation of experts to evaluate climate impacts affecting Sri Lanka's catchment watershed areas of the central highlands and the Knuckles Mountains in order to develop sustainable landscape management interventions. Prevailing adverse effects of climate change and potential opportunities were discussed for building resilience among the most vulnerable communities, areas and sectors to climate change impacts.

Ambassador Bamsay met H E the President of Sri Lanka, Maithripala Sirisena during his visit in President House, Kandy. This visit was coordinated by the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment.