

Commemoration of International Mountain Day

Mountain is a very important resource because it is very fascinating land mass, high biodiversity, as well as it gives cultural values and ecosystem services.

25% of the terrestrial biodiversity in the world and 50% biodiversity hotspots are represented by the mountain. 15% of the world population live in the mountain areas. Endemic species are very high as well as species diversity & habitat diversity are very high in mountains. Various communities, cultures and environmental knowledge can be found.

Mountain biodiversity is very specific because different climatic zones can be seen in the mountain regions. Different topography has made different ecosystems.

50% of the world population are receiving their clean water, clear power energy, & food from the mountain.

Then Mountains provide better background for the economic, economical crops and sustainable eco-tourism.

At present the mountain regions are highly affected by over exploitation, Climate change, Land degradation, and natural disasters. As a result of this, not only human but other living organisms.

December 11th of every year is named as world mountain day. This was nominated in 2002 by the United nation organization. From year 2003, this day has commemorated by the CBD party countries. In parallel to this program, a program was conducted in Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation in 05th of December 2019 to aware people on **important to maintain** threats faced to by mountains. This is organized by the Biodiversity Secretariat.

Under the Theme in year 2019 is “mountain matter for youth”, International mountain day was commemorated at the Kabaragala Kelabokka Vipulananda Maha vidyalaya on 10th of December 2019.



Mountain day program in 2019 was addressed by Matale District secretary at the Vipulananda maha Vidyalaya Kabaragala, Kelabokka.

Ministry of Environment & Wild life resource was organized this event with collaboration of district secretariats⁷ of Matale and Kandy and community organizations at the Kabaragala Kelabokka mountain. Tree planting program, awareness, & drama related to mountain day were conducted. Hence fist team of the environmental pioners was established in the Vipulananda Maha vidyalaya.



Tree planting, awareness program, Mountain day Drama, badge for environmental pioneers

In parallel to this program, field study training about identification of fauna and flora species in Knuckles, Kelabokka area was done for school children.



Field study- Fauna & Flora identification training program

Other programmes such as Raththota trail, bicycle trail, and para glide, hiking from Vipulananda College to 360 view point were conducted parallel to this event.



Hiking to the 360 view point Kaboragala, Kelabokka

School children from Matale & Kandy districts, girl guides & scouts, Youth organizations, Matale & Kandy district Government & NGO's officers, foreigners were participated to this event.