

# **EXAMINING WHY RAIDS CONDUCTED BY WILDLIFE FIELD OFFICERS AND SUBSEQUENT COURT CASES FAIL, WHILE EXPLORING SOLUTIONS**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The Department of Wildlife Conservation is the only main state institution tasked with safeguarding and conserving the biological diversity of Sri Lanka. The main objective of the Wildlife Conservation Department is to conserve the wildlife heritage and maintain them through sustainable development for the future generation. The main task and responsibility of the Wildlife Conservation Department is the long-term preservation of endemic animal and plant species. The Wildlife Policy and the Flora and Fauna Protection Ordinance provide the legal provisions for this task. The minister of Wildlife is empowered to declare wildlife sanctuaries while officials appointed under the relevant Act including the Wildlife Conservation Director General are vested with management powers. Officials of the Wildlife Department are empowered to execute the Wildlife Policy and the Flora and Fauna Protection Ordinance. Accordingly, this Act has been amended since the late 19th century, (during the years 1891, 1893, 1894, 1902, 1905, 1906, 1909, 1937, 1942, 1944, 1945, 1945, 1964, 1970, 1993 and 2009). At the present, this Act has been strengthened to safeguard the wildlife heritage to the fullest extent. This proposal will chiefly examine why raids conducted by Wildlife field officers and subsequent court cases filed have failed while exploring possible solutions to rectify this issue. For this research proposal, the Minneriya National Park and the Polonnaruwa forest range located in the Polonnaruwa Assistant Directorial Zone have been used as service stations. The recent raids conducted within these two service stations as well as the subsequent court cases which were successfully / unsuccessfully concluded, have been analysed.

**KEY WORDS:** Wildlife Heritage, Wildlife Policy, Flora and Fauna Protection Ordinance