



## Cleaner Seabed's for Sri Lanka (Phase 1)

### **Objective: Remove seabed litter stranded in the Western Province of Sri Lanka**

According to a recent survey conducted by National Aquatic Research Agency (NARA), 80% of the seabed in the Western Province of Sri Lanka has been deemed polluted. With over 25% of Sri Lanka's population living in close proximity of the coast of the island, much of the household and industrial waste leads its way to the ocean. Less than 15% of the waste and litter which enters the sea floats while the remaining sinks to the bottom of the sea. The initial resting place for much of the plastic and other marine litter is the Euphotic level (upto 200m depth) where debris and litter accumulate within natural reefs, seagrass meadows, shipwrecks, corals and sandy seabed. Due to the accumulation, many of the marine species natural habitats have been threatened due to the loss of habitat space, increase of the acidic level of the water, dispersion of microplastic and microfiber, and consumption of plastic and other waste mistakenly.

Recent survey conducted by The Pearl Protectors indicate that most of the underwater pollution is seen trapped within the reefs and buoyantly floating on the sandy seabed. Waste age varies from 3 weeks to multiple years while the survey also revealed that the majority of the underwater marine litter within the Western Province of Sri Lanka contains plastic bags, ghost/stranded fishing nets/wire, food wrapping/sachets, PET bottles, discarded apparel and tin cans. Additionally, surgical masks, yogurt cups, plastic straws, lunch sheets and gunny bags were also surveyed stranded as marine litter.

As efforts are underway to enhance waste management strategies in Sri Lanka while regulating certain single use plastic items by the Central Environment Authority (CEA) such as sachets, plastic straws, cotton buds, etc. Greater importance can be shifted towards removing marine litter from the seabed and reefs of Sri Lanka. As the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the cleanup efforts, The Pearl Protectors initiated the 'Cleaner Seabed's for Sri Lanka' volunteer dive cleaning expedition towards removing an estimated 300kg of underwater marine litter from the Western province of Sri Lanka.

Volunteers of The Pearl Protectors who have received PADI certification will engage in the cleaning efforts near Palagala reef which according to the survey conducted by The Pearl Protectors has been deemed to contain larger portion of underwater marine litter. The 1<sup>st</sup> phase will consist of three cleanups efforts with the addition of acquiring cleaning equipment and creating awareness on the damage. The duration of the 1<sup>st</sup> phase will be tied together to be conducted prior to the south west monsoons where the sea will be unfavorable for diving.

Participating volunteer divers will receive special briefing and training on guidelines and best practices on collecting underwater marine litter. The litter collection guidelines will follow international standards while maintaining all safety precautions.

Collected marine litter will be weighed, audited, segregated and be handed over to both recycling waste collectors and incineration waste collectors.

Project Initiated by: The Pearl Protectors

Project Duration: Within 2 months (3 days)

Project Location: Palagala Reef

Project Impact Goal:

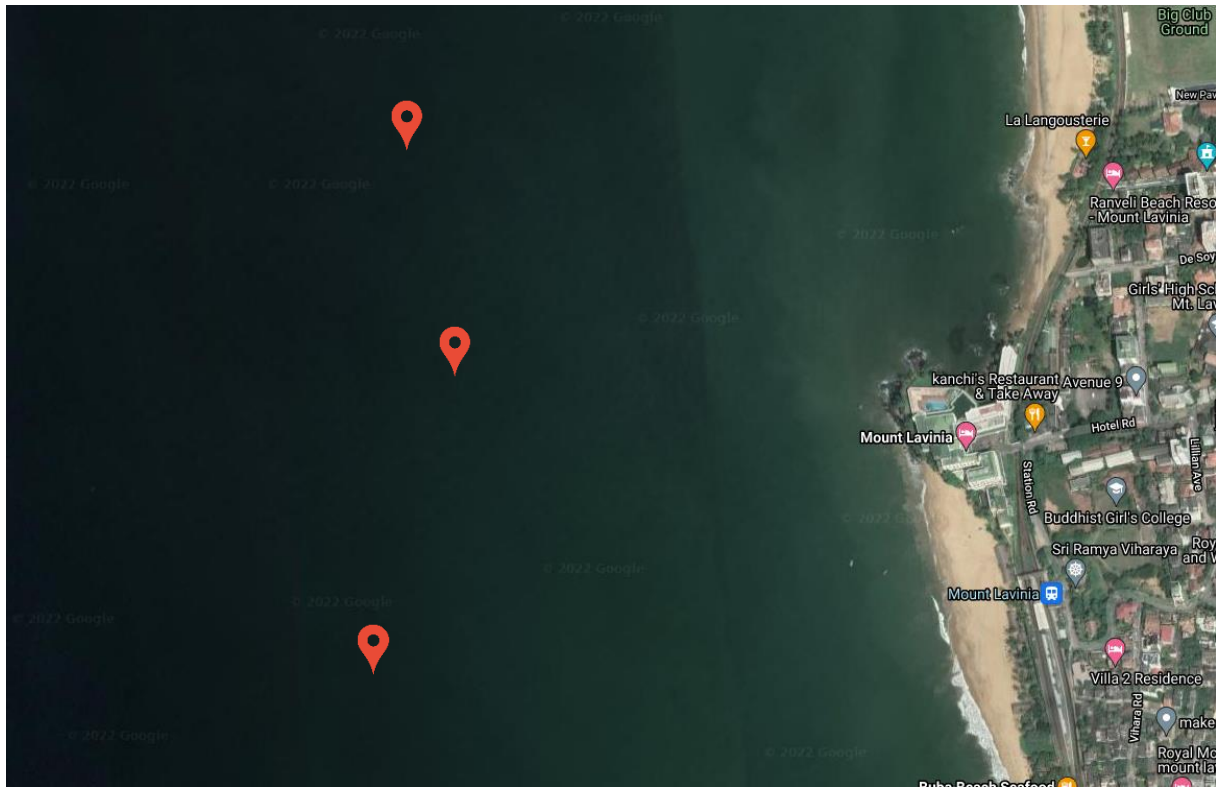
- Collection of an estimated 300kg of plastic, metal, glass, apparel & fishing gear
- Remove underwater marine litter from the Palagala reef
- Auditing and segregation of collected waste
- Conduct social awareness on plastic and marine pollution
- Submit final project report to support in strengthening regulation and policy against single use plastic

Volunteer Participating Criteria: PADI Openwater divers and above certified divers. Maximum of 14 divers and minimum of 6 divers per cleaning session

Cleaning Depth: 9m to 14m

Prospective Partner Organizations: Island Scuba Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka Environment Police, Cleantech (PVT) Ltd

## Location Map



(Location based on survey conducted on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022)

## Survey Results:



## Dive Budget

The Pearl Protectors intends to partner with Island Scuba Sri Lanka to achieve the goals of removing marine litter. The Pearl Protectors will make allocations of Rs 80,000 for 14 divers per dive day. During the dive day, divers will receive the opportunity to dive at 2 separate locations for a duration of 40 minutes in order to remove underwater marine waste. All volunteer divers will receive diving equipment, two oxygen tanks, waste collecting bags, gloves, refreshments and a thorough briefing prior to the dives. Collected waste will be audited, separated, segregated and handed over to Cleantech (PVT) Ltd.

## Partner Organization Benefits

- Partnership visibility on the organization website [www.pearlprotectors.org](http://www.pearlprotectors.org)
- Partnership visibility through all social media platforms which includes Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, TikTok
- Publication of partnership on print media through articles and press release
- Visibility through underwater banner
- Mention of partnership during volunteer briefings
- Mention of partnership on all volunteer callouts
- Publication of partnership on t-shirt
- Publication of partnership on project report
- Mention of partner organization on awareness video

## Project Budget

Description	Package Total
Underwater Cleanup	Rs 240,000.00
Equipment/Resources	Rs 82,000.00
Awareness	Rs 143,000.00
Project Coordination/Miscellaneous/Overhead	Rs 135,000.00
<b>Total with Overhead</b>	<b>Rs 600,000.00</b>

### Exclusive Patron – Funding (LKR 600,000)

- Patron mention on the organization website [www.pearlprotectors.org](http://www.pearlprotectors.org)
- Patron visibility through all social media platforms which includes Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, TikTok
- Publication of Patron on print media through articles and press release
- Visibility through underwater banner
- Mention of Patron during volunteer briefings
- Mention of Patron on all volunteer callouts
- Publication of Patron on t-shirt
- Publication of Patron on project report
- Patron mention on virtual awareness campaigns
- Mention of Patron organization on awareness video
- Display of company logo banner/flags at the launch point of the dive

### Expedition Patron – Funding (LKR 300,000)

- Patron mention on the organization website [www.pearlprotectors.org](http://www.pearlprotectors.org)
- Patron visibility through all social media platforms which includes Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, TikTok
- Publication of Patron on print media through articles and press release
- Mention of Patron during volunteer briefings
- Mention of Patron on all volunteer callouts
- Publication of Patron on project report
- Patron mention on virtual awareness campaigns
- Mention of Patron organization on awareness video

Patrons are kindly requested to provide funding upfront of the expedition

Funding and donations can be directed to:

**Account Name:** The Pearl Protectors  
**Account Number:** 109261005455  
**Bank Name:** Sampath Bank PLC  
**Branch Name:** Maharagama Super – 092

Please email us at [wave@pearlprotectors.org](mailto:wave@pearlprotectors.org) to receive more information or to share the logo/receipt.