Efforts to save Leopards by **Cinnamon Hotels** and Resorts



Project Leopard, launched by Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts three years ago to assist local dairy farmers' livelihoods whilst preserving the leopard, saw the completion of its 50th project recent-

the leopard, saw the completion of its 50th project recently.

The original idea - the simple methodology of providing steel pens to cattle farmers - conceived by late. Dr. Ravi Samarasinghe, was adopted by Cinnamon Nature Trails and expanded with the support of the John Keells Foundation, in order to protect young cattle from leopards that live outside the periphery of Yala National Park. In return, the project gave the farmers who strive hard to make a pittance from their herds, the courage to restrain from reacting to the occasional leopard attacks. occasional leopard attacks thereby protecting one of Sri Lanka's most endangered

thereby protecting one of Sri Lanka's most endangered species.

"It's a win-win situation. This project is such a unique effort that brings relief to a segment of society that strives hard to make ends meet. On the other hand, through Project Leopard, we unite our guests, safari partners and our staff with villagers and together help protect Yala's star attraction - its Leopards" said Mr. Chiral Jayatilake, Head of Eco Tourism and Special Projects of Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts.

The 50th pen was given out to Lionel living off Kirinda, Yala, preceded over by Mr. Sunimal Senanayake, Sector Head for Sri Lanka & Maldives Resorts on the 19th of August 2014. Also in attendance were Mr. Dileephudadeniya, Head of Brand Marketing for Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts,

DileepMudadeniya, Head of Brand Marketing for Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts, Mr. Roshan de Silva, General Manager of Cinnamon Wild Yala, along with Chitral. Together, they handed over the 50thpen to the farmer and later hosted themost recent twelve recipients for refresh.

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twelve recipients for refreshments at the resort.
Speaking at the occasion,
Mr. Senanayakeaverred that
the next step to the project
would be to empower all cattle
pen recipients with entrepreneurship skills through a
series of workshops.
"Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts
believes in showcasingour
stewardship towards the environment and its species that

ronment and its species that draws so much attention to

this amazing island. Project Leopard helps us achieve both in a simple but efficient manner by engaging in livelihood assistance and conservation at the grass root levels. We hope to complete distributing 65 pens by the end of this year which will help save more leopards while we address the basic needs to uplift the lives of dairy farmers in the neigh-bourhood."

Also present at the momen-Also present at the momentous occasion was young Sanjiv Fernando, who spent a month at Yalainterning with Cinnamon Nature Trials on this project last year. Upon his return to his University in USA, he applied for an interuniversity grant based on sustainable projects and Project Leopard was placed first among hundred applicants, thus winning the 'Davis Project for Peace Award'. Sanjiv returned to Sri Lanka with this funding and together Project for Peace Award'.
Sanjiv returned to Sri Lanka
with this funding and together
with Cinnamon Nature Trails
team at Yala, began distributing more pens to needy farmers. Over the years, project
leopard has been also funded
by the John Keells
Foundation, Jonathan &
Angela Scott and Jon
Maccormack of USA, Paul
Goldstein of UK and Land
Rover in Sri Lanka. Visitors to
Cinnamon Wild Yala can also
participate by visiting a dairy
farm with the naturalist team
based at the hotel and contributing towards more pens
which are needed by farmers
in the vicinity.

Sri Lanka is gathering
momentum as a unique
nature based destination and
in this context, Cinnamon
Hotels & Resorts are keen to
position the destination as

Hotels & Resorts are keen to position the destination as being among the top five wildlife travel locations in the world. The keystone species that are powering the island in this journey are the Sri in this journey are the Sri Lankan Elephant, Leopard, Sloth Bear, Blue Whale and Sperm Whale. As such, Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts are presently conducting extensive research on leopextensive research on leop-ards at Yala and elephants based around the annual gath-ering of Minneriya. Blue whale ID's are being devel-oped by Cinnamon Nature Toolle returnlish while the Trails naturalists while the team's passion on marine mammals has helped ID 66 Blue whales to-date.

සිනමන් හොටෙල්ස් දිවියන් සුරැකීමේ පුයත්නයක



දේශීය කිරි ගොවන්ගේ පතු සම්පත රැක ගැනීම සඳහා උපකාර කරන අතරම, දිව සම්පතද සුරැකීම සඳහා මීට වසර 3 කට පෙර සිනමන් හොටෙල් ඇන්ඩ් රිසෝට්ස් විසින් අරඹන ලද "පුාපේක්ට් ලෙපර්ඩ්" වැඩ සටහනේ 50 වන වැහපෘතිය පසුගියදා සම්පූර්ණ කළේය.

ගවයන් ඇති කරන ගොවීන්ට යකඩ වැටවල් පුදානය කිරීමේ මූලික සංකල්පය ආචාර්ය රවී සමරසිංහගේ වන අතර "සිනමන් නේචර් ටේල්ස්" ඊට අනුගත වෙමින් යාල වනෝදහනය අවට වෙසෙන ගව සම්පත දිවියන්ගෙන් සුරැකීමේ අරමුණින් යුතුව "ජෝන් කීල්ස් පදනමේ" සහායද ඇතිව චය වැඩි දුරටත් වහප්ත කරන ලදී. ගව පාලනයෙන් ඉතා සුළු ආදායමක් උපයා ගැනීම සඳහා දැඩි වෙහෙසක් දරන ගොවීන් ගේ පශු සම්පත විටින් විට සිදුවන දිවි පුහාරවලින් රැක ගැනීමට අවස්ථාව චම වහපෘතියෙන් සැලසෙන අතරම ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ ශ්‍රීමයෙන් වඳවීගෙන යන සතුන් අතර සිටින දිවියන් රැක ගැනීමටද මග පෑදෙනු ඇත.

"මෙය හැම පාර්ශ්වයකටම වාසිදායකයි. මෙම වනාපෘතිය මගින් අවසානයේ යමක් උපයාගන්න දැඩි වෙහෙසක් දරා කටයුතු කරන සමාජයේ චක් කොටසකට මහත් සහනයක් ලැබෙනවා. අනික් අතට "පොජෙක්ට් ලෙපර්ඩ්" තුළින් අප අපේ අමුත්තන්, සෆාරි සහකරුවන් සහ කාර්ය මණ්ඩලය ගම්වැසියන් සමග චකට චක්කොට යාල වනෝදනනයේ පුධානම ආකර්ෂණය වන දිවියන් සුරැකීම සඳහා සහාය දීමට මග පාදනවා." මේ පිළිබඳව තම අදහස් දක්වමින් සිනමන් හොටෙල්ස් ඇන්ඩ් රිසෝට්ස් හි පාරිසරික සංචාර සහ විශේෂ වනපෘති පුධානී චිතුාල් ජයතිලක මහතා සඳහන් කළේය.