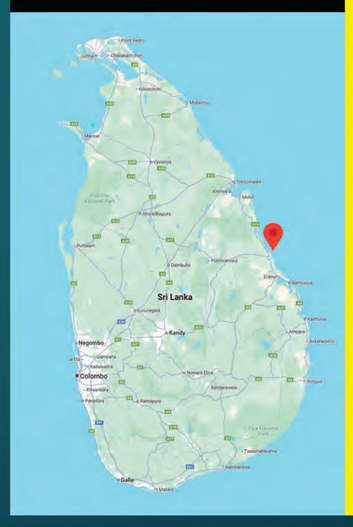
Department of Wildlife Conservation | No. 811-A, Jayanthipura Road, Battaramulla | Email - dg@dwc.gov.lk | www.dwc.gov.lk

UK International Development
Partnership | Progress | Prosperity

A MANAGEMENT REVIEW OF KAYANKERNI MARINE SANCTUARY

Batticaloa District of the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka

What does it protect?

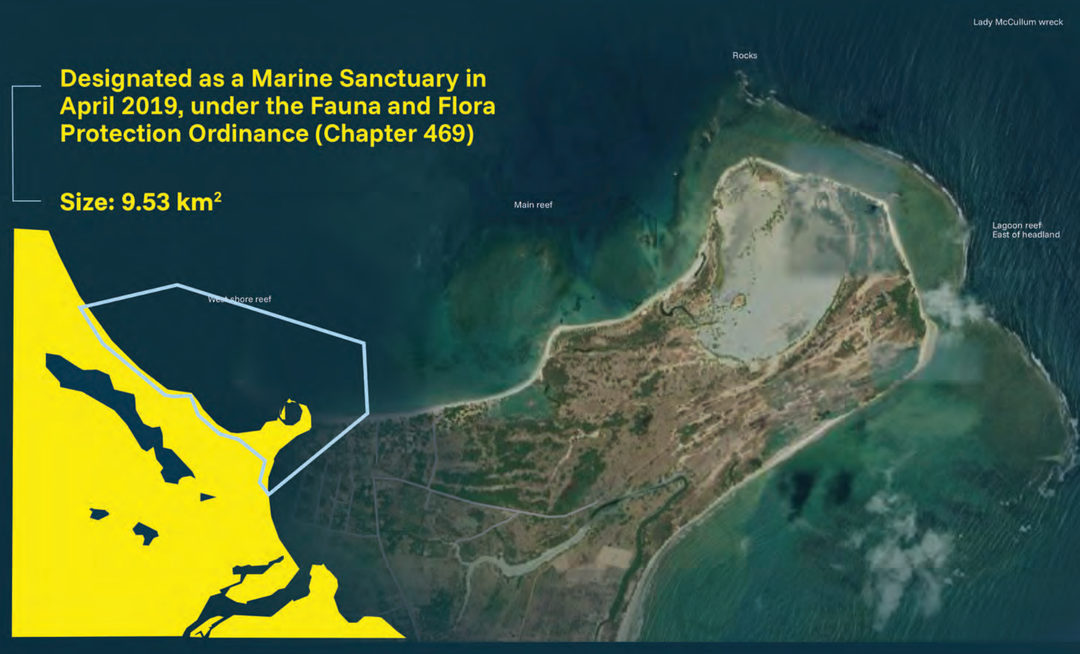


Kayankerni Marine Sanctuary is situated near the village of Kayankerni, in the Batticaloa District, Eastern Province. It protects diverse marine ecosystems, including coral reefs, seagrass meadows, mangroves and the associated biodiversity. The coral reefs are split into three coral areas, fringing reef around the headland at Elephant Point, a patch reef 2km from the shoreline and a smaller fringing reef north of Elephant Point. Over 50 species of hard coral have been identified at Kayankerni which support over 200 species of reef fish, as well as other important species such as sea stars, nudibranchs and anemones. Five species of seagrass have also been recorded.

This Marine Sanctuary is also important for tourism and recreation in the local area, as well as supporting local fisheries.

Designated as a Marine Sanctuary in April 2019, under the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance (Chapter 469)

Size: 9.53 km²



Review of Protected Area Management Effectiveness

Once a protected area has been designated, it is important to understand how well it is being managed. Various methods can be used to evaluate management effectiveness. One of the most common methods used is the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT-4). This involves answering 38 questions based around five management themes:

PLANNING
Assessment of protected area legislation, design and planning.

INPUTS
Assessment of resources: staff, budget, equipment, and facilities.

PROCESS
Assessment of the way in which management is conducted.

OUTPUTS
Assessment of the implementation of management actions; delivery of products / services.

OUTCOMES
Assessment of the outcomes and the extent to which they achieved the protected areas objectives.

What we did

The Ocean Country Partnership Programme and Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) assessed the management of Kayankerni Marine Sanctuary by reviewing available evidence and engaging with 28 local stakeholders through meetings and a workshop facilitated by Blue Resources Trust on 29 January 2024. We have identified what is working well and key actions that could help to improve management.

Stakeholders

Sectors involved in the review:

Government

NGOs | Local Fishers | Local Tourism

Identified threats

- Illegal fishing
- Climate change
- Tourism
- Pollution
- Coastal development
- Invasive algae

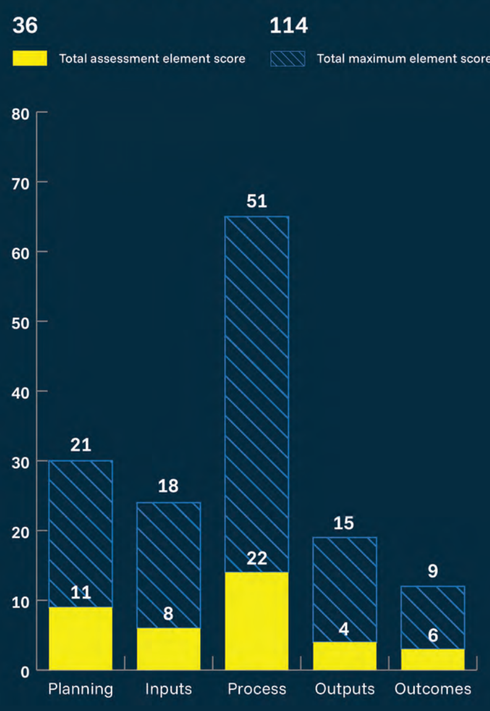
Key successes

1. The Marine Sanctuary is legally established under the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance.
2. The coral reef and its associated biodiversity are in good condition.
3. Community support for the Marine Sanctuary is positive, with many wanting to be more formally involved in ensuring effective management of the Sanctuary.
4. There is an active monitoring and research programme in place to collect data on the biodiversity in the Marine Sanctuary as well as the social and economic benefits it provides to the community.
5. The Department of Wildlife Conservation works with NGOs to support the management and monitoring of the Marine Sanctuary.

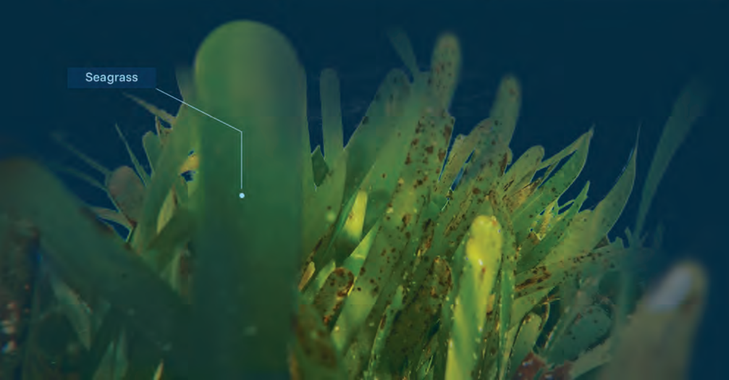
Key actions to improve management

- Develop a SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound) Management Plan with opportunity for stakeholder input that identifies key management actions for the next 5 years.
- Ensure management (existing broader measures and protected area specific) are implemented and enforced. i.e. enforce ban on illegal fishing methods.
- Assign DWC rangers to the Marine Sanctuary.
- Set up working groups with local stakeholders to identify how they can be involved and support the management of the Marine Sanctuary and remain informed of decisions and progress.
- Undertake monitoring on extent and condition of mangroves, to provide a greater understanding of the condition of this habitat.

METT score per management element



Habitat / Species	Condition	Trend
Coral reef	Good	Stable
Seagrass	Fair	Stable
Reef fishes	Good	Stable
Mangroves	Fair	Stable



Next Steps

The Department of Wildlife Conservation will use the results of this evaluation to determine priorities for the future.