

## WE NEED TREES

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At the turn of this century approximately 80 per cent of Sri Lanka was covered by forest. The consolidation of British Colonial rule over the Island and the advent of plantation agriculture resulted in widespread de-forestation. Extensive chena (slash and burn) cultivation, extraction of timber, agricultural settlement schemes and increasing demands for fuel wood by a rapidly increasing population began to take a heavy toll on our forests. Today, Sri Lanka's forest cover is believed to be as low as 22 per cent of the land area. Inadequate public awareness of the need for environmental conservation is a matter for grave concern. The Ecology & Conservation Program has produced a short video film designed for use in environmental education programmes. Critical comments and suggestions with a view towards improving this film are encouraged from participants.