



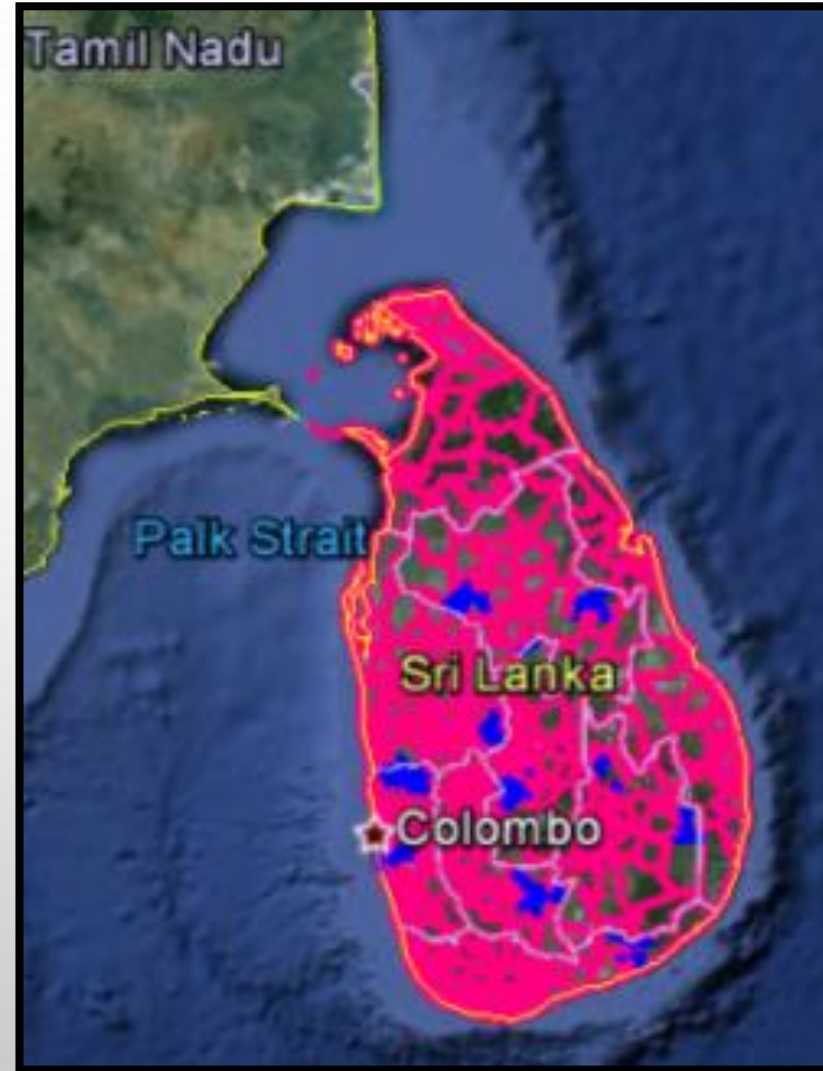
# **Effective Land Administration” in Land Related Conflict Situations**

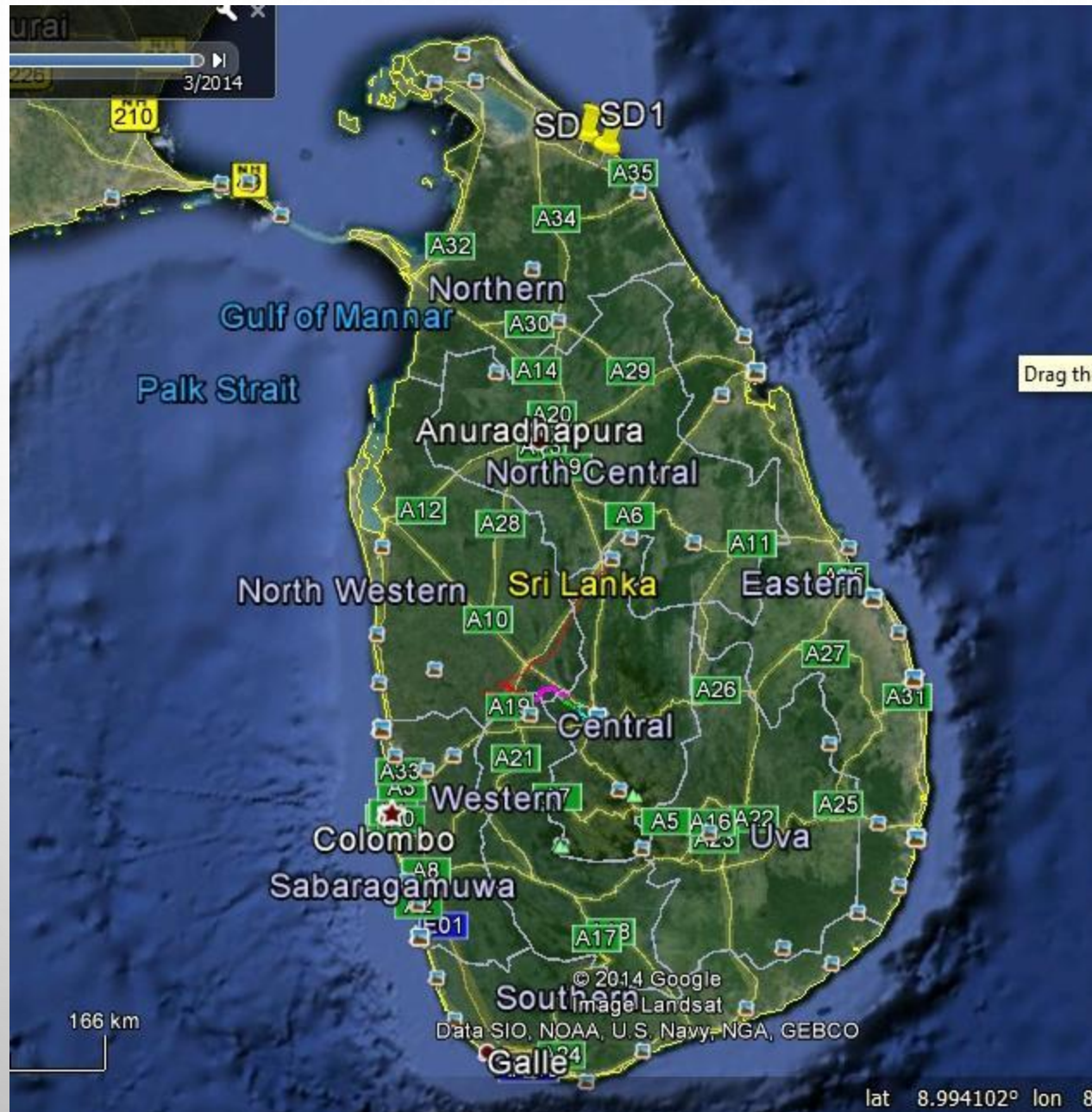


**28 September 2018  
Deqing, Zhejiang Province China**

**Palitha Udayakantha  
Surveyor General , Sri Lanka  
Member of Expert Group in Land Administration**

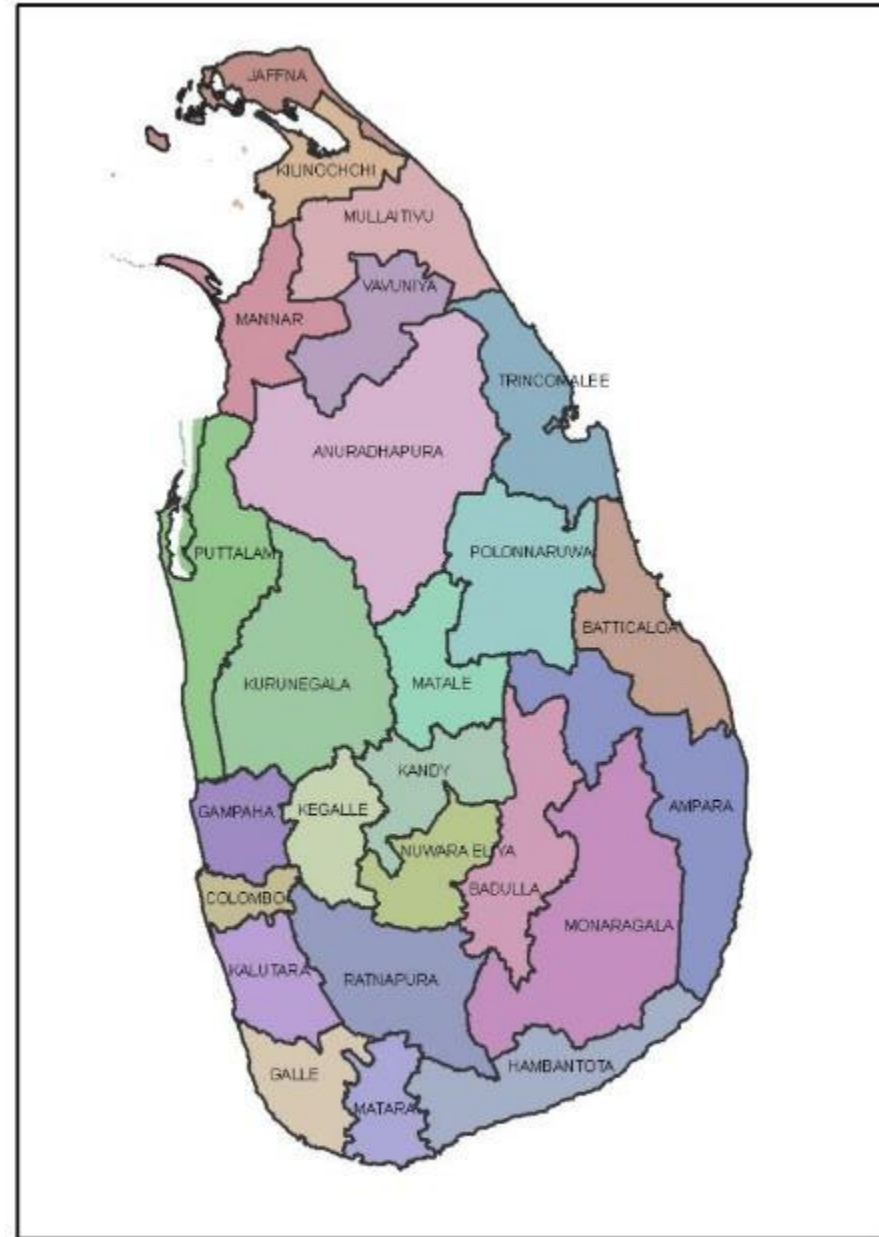
# Sri Lanka





# SRI LANKA

- TOTAL AREA 65,610 SQ KM.
- POPULATION 20 MILLION
- STATE OWNED LAND – 72 %
- PRIVATE LANDS – 28%
- ESTIMATED LAND PARCELS – 12 MILLION



# **CONFLICT IN NORTH AND EAST 1983 TO 2009**

- **Some people have been chased away by militants**
- **Others were settled in some of those lands**
- **Significant displacements / IDP**
  - **Some moved to other areas / Refugee camps**
  - **Some went abroad as refugees / mainly India, Europe**

# CONFLICT OF 30 YEARS / NO BOUNDARIES / TERRAIN CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY

- **DOCUMENTS DESTROYED LAND REGISTRY / OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**
- **STATE LANDS / STATE ALIENATED LANDS PERMITS/ GRANTS / LEASES / UNAUTHORIZED OCCUPATION**
- **PRIVATE LANDS**
- **GENERALLY BOUNDARIES WERE MARKED BY WELL MAINTAINED FENCES / EASY TO IDENTIFY / COMMUNITY WITH THE HELP OF GOVERNMENT OFFICES SETTLED THEMSELVES**
- **LANDSCAPE CHANGED BY ACTIVITIES / SOME BOUNDARIES NOT EASILY IDENTIFIED IN SOME CASES**
- **SURVEY PLANS WHICH DOES NOT HAVE GRID REFERENCE DID NOT HELP AT THIS SITUATION**

# CHANGES TO LAW WAS MADE TO ALLOW RE SETTLEMENT

- GOVERNMENT CHANGED THE PRESCRIPTION LAW
- 10 YEAR UNDISTURBED / UNINTERRUPTED OCCUPATION – ENTITLED TO POCESSARY TITLE
- THIS WAS CHANGED FOR THE AFFECTED AREAS – MADE NOT VALID AFTER 1983
- RECONCILIATION BOARDS APPOINTED FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION AT VILLAGE LEVEL
- RECONCILIATION PROCESS BEGAN

# SYSTEMATIC RE SETTLEMENT PLAN ACTIVATED

- POLICIES FORMULATED FOR RE SETTLEMENT / SPECIAL AGENCY ESTABLISHED
- SPECIAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION MECHANISM - MEDIATION BOARD CAME IN
- VILLAGE BY VILLAGE SETTLEMENTS
- WIDEST POSSIBLE PUBLIC AWARENESS TO AVOID LEFT BEHINDS
- HELP PROVIDED TO FIND LOST DOCUMENTS
- WHERE NECESSARY OWNERSHIP VERIFIED BY COPIES IN OTHER OFFICERS / LEDGERS /  
DUPLICATES OF DOCUMENTS
- SETTLERS IDENTIFIED THEIR BOUNDARIES AND SETTLED THEMSELVES IN MAJORITY OF CASES  
WITH GUIDANCE OF VILLAGE LEVEL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS



# SOLVING PROBLEMS IN PRIVATE LANDS

- AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS CARRIED OUT / COLLECTED POSSIBLE DOCUMENTARY/ OTHER EVIDENCES OF OWNERSHIP
- OFFICES / SENIOR VILLAGERS WERE MEDIATORS IN PROBLEM SOLVING.
- IF CANNOT BE SOLVED IN FIRST ROUND PASSED TO A HIGHER LEVEL
- LOCAL KNOWLEDGE HELPED A LOT
- IN CERTAIN AREAS COMPLETE RE SETTLEMENTS WERE DONE WITH THE AGREEMENT OF ALL AFFECTED





# Spatial Data Infrastructure

# Geo Sri Lanka

Survey Department of Sri Lanka

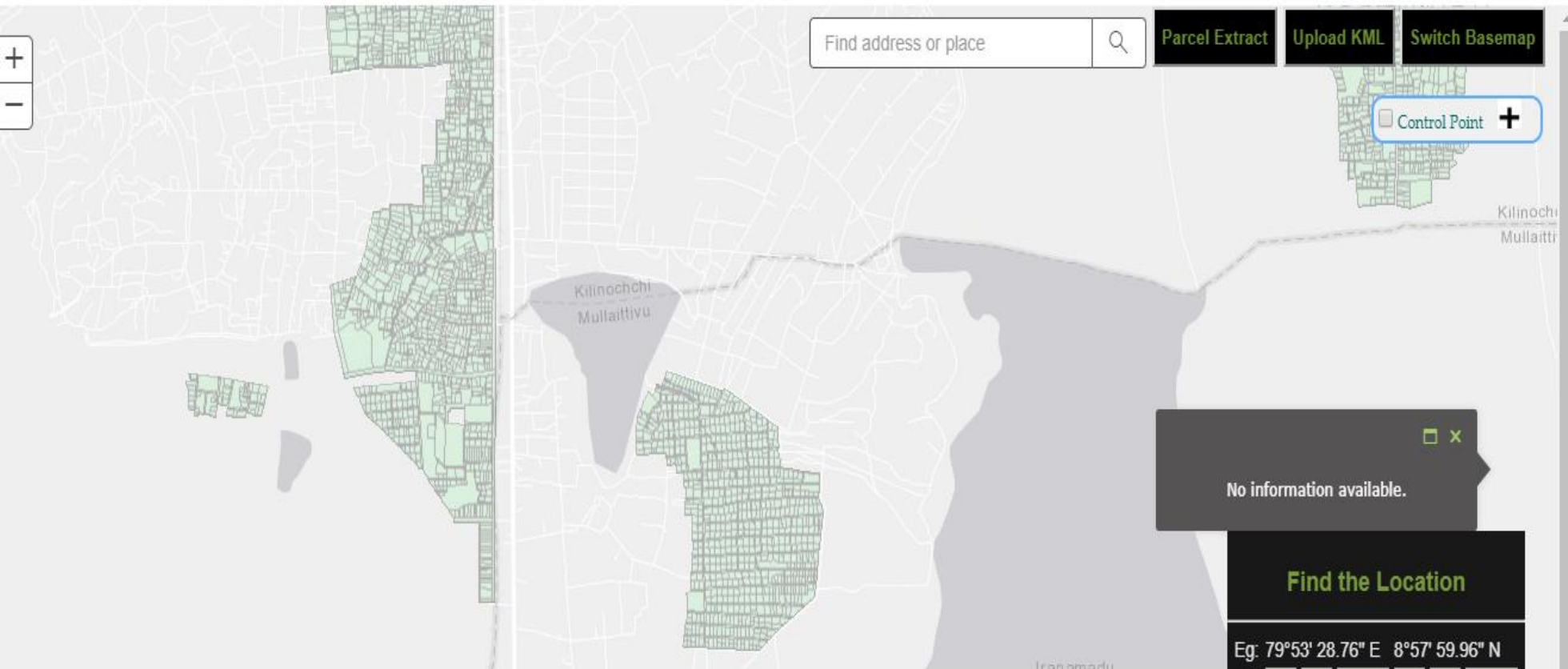
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# MOST OF THE ISSUES HAVE BEEN SORTED OUT

- PARTICIPATORY APPROACH WAS EFFECTIVE ABOVE ALL
- NOT MANY WENT FOR LITIGATION
- LEGAL REMEDIES TOOK LONG TIME AND HAS LITTLE EFFECTS
- GOVERNMENT PROVIDED ALTERNATIVE LANDS FOR THOSE WHOM THE ORIGINAL LAND CANNOT BE GIVEN DUE TO SOME REASON
- SAFEGUARDING FOREST WILDLIFE RESERVES WAS ALSO GIVEN PREFERENCE
- IT WAS TAKEN AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RE ARRANGE LAND USE PATTERNS IN SOME CASES



UNIQUE SOLUTIONS ARE TO BE FOUND CONSIDERING EVERY ASPECT OF THE ISSUE AS  
EACH SITUATION IS UNIQUE

UNHCR / UN HABITAT HELPED A LOT IN THESE ACTIVITIES

**THANK YOU**