The ATBC-APC Sri Lanka will create a platform to bring together researchers, conservation practitioners and business professionals through scientific discourse to address critical conservation issues facing the Asia-Pacific region. This encompasses activities that focus on knowledge gaps and facilitate information sharing, to ensure trade-offs between the environment and industry, to develop public-private partnerships in a sustainable manner, initiate innovative conservation financing and strengthen nature-culture linkages to reduce environmental crime.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

**Dr. Sejal Worah**  
Programme Director | WWF India  
A reputed conservation manager and researcher exploring the interfaces among natural resource governance, economic development and conservation, across 20 Asia-Pacific and African countries.

**Prof. C.M. Maddumabandara**  
Professor Emeritus | University of Peradeniya  
A researcher on environment, land policy and water resource management. He is primarily responsible for development of the concept of “Tank Cascade Systems” - a globally important agricultural heritage in Sri Lanka.

**PLENARY SPEAKERS**

**Prof. Savitri Gunatilleke**  
Professor Emeritus  
University of Peradeniya  
Pioneering forest ecologist in Sri Lanka. Recipient of UNESCO’s Sultan Qaboos Prize for environmental preservation, and an honorary fellow of the ATBC.

**Prof. Vojtech Novotny**  
Professor  
Czech Academy of Sciences  
Community and evolutionary ecologist studying regional patterns of tropical insects, plant-animal interactions and biodiversity conservation. Recipient of the Marsh Award for Insect Conservation and an elected member of Academia Europaea.

**Prof. Peter Ashton**  
Professor Emeritus  
Harvard University  
Pioneering forest ecologist in the Asian Tropics and recipient of many prestigious awards, including the Japan Prize.

**Prof. Edward L. Webb**  
Associate Professor  
National University of Singapore  
Plant ecologist and conservation biologist, researching on biodiversity interactions and their impacts towards managing protected landscapes, in selected sites across the Himalayas through to Polynesia.

**Prof. Madhu Verma**  
Professor  
Indian Institute of Forest Management  
Environmental economist valuing climate change impacts, developing markets for ecosystem services, green accounting & policy analysis. She is an expert committee member of the IPBES.

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