# SRI LANKA ECOTOURISM FOUNDATION >>



## FREDERICK DE SILVA GURUSINGHE >>



# SHORT BIOGRAPHY >>

Mr. F.De.S. Gurusinghe is the founder President of Sri Lanka Ecotourism Foundation (SLEF), the pioneer ecotourism organisation in Sri Lanka, since its inception in 1998 to the date. He is an Economic (Hon) graduate and M.Phil Post-Graduate Degree holder of University of Ceylon, Sri Lanka. He started his career as a Teacher in high schools in Sri Lanka and later became a lecturer in University affiliated higher education institutions. Since 1980, he has been actively engaged in Sri Lanka tourism industry. He is the pioneer in promoting ecotourism in Sri Lanka and the driving force behind the Community Based Ecotourism Programmes. He is presently working as a part-time tourism/ecotourism Consultant for public and private sector organisations in Sri Lanka in addition to his routing work of the Sri Lanka Ecotourism Foundation.

'The Mission of SLEF is to use
ecotourism as a tool to
conserve the environment,
assure maximum economic
benefits to the host
community, preserve age-old
cultural heritage, provide indepth information about Sri
Lanka and to satisfy the needs
of both national and
international ecotourists
visiting the genuine eco sites
in the island. "

### ABOUT THE SRI LANKA ECOTOURISM FOUNDATION >>

Sri Lanka Ecotourism Foundation (SLEF) is the pioneer ecotourism organisation in Sri Lanka. Founded in 1999, it worked hand in hand with governmental institutions to position Sri Lanka as an ecotourism destination in South Asia. SLEF also lobbied to develop national ecotourism policies and guidelines, which were adopted in May 2003. SLEF initiated databases on Ecotourism in Sri Lanka and pioneered in the development of a Community Based Ecotourism Enterprises (CBEs), and has made arrangements to conduct Ecotourism Research Programmes and training programmes on related themes.

### **ABOUT SRI LANKA >>**

Sri Lanka is an Island located off the south-eastern shores of India. Sri Lanka is known as 'Pearl of the Indian Ocean'. Sri Lanka was under colonial rule for more than 450 years and the British called it 'Ceylon' The extant of the country is 65610 SQ.KMS and the population is approximately 19 Million. Sri Lanka is a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural society with a Sri Lanka has a genial climate and weather pattern.

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