



## PROFESSOR DEVAKA K WEERAKOON



*Devaka Weerakoon graduated from University of Colombo in 1985 with a major in Zoology. He joined the Department of Zoology, University of Colombo as a probationary lecturer in 1986. He received a Fulbright Scholarship in 1988 to study in USA where he has completed his MSc. and PhD. at Illinois State University. In 1995 he returned to University of Colombo and worked as a conservation biologist at the University of Colombo for the past three decades and currently he holds the post of Senior Professor.*

*His main research interest is conservation of threatened species, especially Asian Elephants in Sri Lanka and ecology of wetlands. He serves as a technical advisor on fauna for the Red Listing programme of Sri Lanka from 1996 to date. He is also a technical advisor to the Ministry of Environment on conservation of threatened species in Sri Lanka. He has worked as a biodiversity consultant to Ministry of Environment, Department of Wildlife Conservation and several other government departments of Sri Lanka. Prof. Weerakoon has also served as a consultant on Biodiversity to IUCN Asian Regional office as well as IUCN Sri Lanka and a member of the IUCN Asian Elephant Specialist Group. He serves in many national committees to advice the national government on strategies for biodiversity conservation in Sri Lanka.*