‘Killing’ has not stopped in Wilpattu National Park!

By Saliva Kumara Gunasekara

There is a serious threat to the existence of the Wilpattu National Park as a new road is being constructed from Puttalam to Mannar, thus fragmenting the habitat of the flora and fauna.

Meanwhile, another new road from Puttalam to Mannar, passing through Wilpattu National Park, is causing concern.

Not allowed

A large area of the park has been allowed for construction. A military officer is allowed to enter the area. The wildlife officers are concerned for the sake of the environment.

Wilpattu is one of the largest and most populated parks in Sri Lanka. However, there are no signs of any construction plans or any environmental impact assessments. The park is also divided into two areas, each with its own security mechanisms.

For any development work within a park, permission from the park authorities is required. This road was approved by the Wilpattu National Park Board, which has jurisdiction over the park.

Eco system

There are about 45 villages and 35 small towns in the park that will be affected by this road. The wildlife officers have been monitoring the development work, but there is no official notification from the park authorities.

During the war

The LTTE started building the road during the war. The LTTE was known for its tactics of using the natural landscape as a battlefield. They have constructed roads and pathways that are now used by the security forces.

The security forces have been using the roads for their own purposes, and there is no official permission from the park authorities. The park is under the control of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, which has jurisdiction over the park.

The transient road has been opened to the public.