Corals and marine species threatened at Hikkaduwa

By Tharaka Gunawardhane
and Manjula Fernando

Hikkaduwa, known around the world for its marine coral gardens and marine beaches is being threatened by the expansion of tourism. This was highlighted at a meeting of marine biologists and conservationists at an event organized by the Ministry of Transport, Environment and Local Government.

Monetary pollution in the area is considered a threat to the marine and coral environment. The Minister of Transport, Environment and Local Government, speaking at the event, said that the clear water of the area is the only place in the world where sea turtles can be seen.

Commercialisation

Pollution due to the commercialization of this part of the island is threatening the death of the marine life in the area. The Minister of Transport, Environment and Local Government said that the government has decided to declare the area a conservation area.

"The government has declared the area as a conservation area," the Minister said, adding that the government will provide funds for the conservation of the marine life in the area.

The Minister said that tourism-related activities will be regulated and controlled in order to protect the marine life in the area.

Hikkaduwa has become a popular tourist destination in recent years, and the Minister said that the government will take steps to ensure that the area remains a pristine natural habitat.

Monitoring

The Minister said that the government will establish a monitoring system to ensure that the marine life in the area is not adversely affected by tourism.

The Minister said that the government will also provide funds for research on the marine life in the area.

The Minister said that the government will also establish a committee to monitor the area and ensure that tourism-related activities do not harm the marine life in the area.