

**THE FOREST ORDINANCE NO. 16 OF 1907 IN SRI LANKA
AND ITS IMPACT TOWARDS ECONOMIC GROWTH: A
COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS WITH BRAZIL**

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the impact of the Forest Ordinance No. 16 of 1907 on forest conservation and economic development in Sri Lanka, conducting a comparative analysis with Brazil's Forest Code and Finland's Forest Act to provide a broader perspective on forest management strategies. Employing a qualitative and doctrinal research methodology and relying on primary and secondary sources such as legal documents, historical records, and academic literature, the research evaluates the historical significance and long-term effects of the Forest Ordinance No. 16 of 1907 on forest cover, biodiversity, and ecosystem services in Sri Lanka. Comparative analyses reveal diverse forest management approaches: Brazil, with its vast Amazon rainforest, faces challenges in balancing forest conservation with economic activities like agriculture and logging, while Finland emphasizes sustainable forest management practices, biodiversity conservation, stakeholder participation, and innovative technologies. The findings suggest that effective forest conservation laws, supported by robust enforcement and community involvement, can contribute to sustainable economic development, though challenges such as illegal logging and socio-economic disparities need to be addressed. The study provides insights for policymakers and forest managers to enhance forest governance and promote sustainable practices in Sri Lanka and beyond.

Keywords - Forest Conservation, Economic Development, Sustainable Management, Policy Insights