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## **ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS**



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MANAGEMENT OF THE LATE QUATERNARY SUCCESSIONS IN THE  
SOUTHWEST AND SOUTH COASTS OF SRI LANKA

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There series of Late Quaternary successions indicate that changes in relative sea level have occurred along the shelf and coast of Sri Lanka, viz; (a) Evidence such as submerged channels of some larger rivers, well-marked troughs and terraces covered with coralline algae, limestone and calcareous sandstone at different levels and sunken forests on the continental shelf indicate that they have been formed following the marine transgression since last Glacial Phase, (b)  $^{14}\text{C}$  dates from geologic samples (buried corals, emerged coral reef patches and shell deposits) of recent work on the southwest and south coasts indicate that the relative sea-level has been higher than the present level in the mid-Holocene. These coral and shell deposits stretch for 250m to several kilometres towards the interior from the present shore. It is suggested that the fossil corals have been thrived in bays or lagoons as isolated reef patches. (c) A well-developed reef lagoon with inner reef coral patches in the nearshore zone, in front of Hikkaduwa on the southwestern coast has developed from living corals, coral rocks and other marine materials. At present, the inland buried corals and nearshore corals are being utilized for lime burning and for tourist industry. Water holes, marshes and mangrove swamps cover the area where the buried corals have been quarried. As a result, the people in this densely populated area face a number of socio-economic problems. A knowledge of the inter-relationship between ecological, economic and sociological aspects is essential for effective conservation, exploitation and management of these Late Quaternary successions.