

# Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

## Draft National Environmental Policy

### Request for Public Views and Comments

The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources has prepared a Draft National Environmental Policy for Sri Lanka through an intensive consultation process where relevant government officials, academics, environmental experts, NGOs, the private sector and provincial-level authorities have been involved.

Prior to finalizing the policy, the Ministry would like to obtain comments, observations and suggestions for improvement from the general public and all those interested.

The general public is hereby invited to send in any comments and observations on the draft policy to Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources, 'Sampathpaya', 82, Rajamalwatta Road, Battaramulla on or before 23rd September, 2002. Interested individuals, civil society groups, NGOs, etc are also welcome to send in your submissions.

## National Environmental Policy

### Preamble

In the past, the necessary guidance towards environmental management was provided by sector-based policies, strategies and plans. The National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) also provided direction to stakeholders concerned in taking care of the environmental aspects of the development activities in the country. However, environment and natural resources management is complex, involving social, economic, ecological considerations all of which have political significance. The Constitution of Sri Lanka identifies "The duty of every person in Sri Lanka to protect nature and conserve its riches" Chapter VI, Art. 28 (f). To support this fundamental duty, the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) now recognises the need for an explicit National Environmental Policy (NEP) to guide decision-makers towards a more sustainable development pathway. Hence, the need for an explicit Environmental Policy that would provide a clear direction and guidance in environmental management activities to all stakeholders concerned was considered a prerequisite.

The NEP is the first step towards reorientation of environment and natural resources management in Sri Lanka. It is realized that the solution to Sri Lanka's environmental and natural resources related challenges lies within a wider concept of sustainable management, and the policy stresses this point.

The policy acknowledges that priority in developing management systems that prevent further damage to the environment is the key to sustainable development. Once achieved, it will be necessary to address mitigation measures of past damage. Achievement of these needs requires an effective institutional framework supported by an educated and informed public, with the knowledge and incentives to adapt their behaviours to protect the environment. The policy aims to enable citizens to make a significant contribution to the quality of their life through sustainable resource management and protection of the environment. This will be particularly so for groups currently disadvantaged through adoption of procedures and systems of social inclusion in decision-making. Social well-being requires progress in reconciling economic development with sustainable use, protection and improvement of the environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

The policy consists of a vision, objectives, principles, policy statements and strategies.

### Vision

***"To achieve a healthy and pleasant environment sustaining nature for the well-being of the people and the economy"***

### Objectives

***"Protection and conservation of the integrity of the nation's environment and natural resources through ecologically sustainable development, with due recognition of the contribution of natural resources to economic development and to the quality of life"***

## Policy Principles

Decisions that involve the use, have impact on, or affect the status of natural resources and the environment will apply the following principles:

- Environmental and Natural Resource Management will apply an ecosystems approach.
- Natural resources will be managed so that it will be ecologically as well as socially sustainable.
- Partnerships will be promoted among central, sectoral, provincial, local, NGO, civil society and private sector agencies to encompass the needs of ecological integrity with economic vitality and social development.
- Environmental management will be devolved in concordance with constitutional provisions.
- The precautionary principle will duly apply to situations where the consequences of decisions are uncertain.
- Adequate attention will be paid towards ensuring environmental justice in all situations.
- Safe-minimum-standards will apply to essential environmental life-support functions and services in line with the requirements of ecologically sustainable development.
- In order to maximize environmental performance, management systems will be continuously revised so that they adapt to changing circumstances and realities.
- The benefits arising from the wise use of Sri Lanka's natural resources and the costs of their management will be shared equitably so as to benefit all segments of society.
- Polluter-pays principle will be applied to the benefit of industries and society.
- The extent of substitution of man-made capital for natural capital will be defined and will not exceed critical limits.

## National Environmental Policy Statements

**The National Environmental Policy Statements are:**

- 1.1 Achieving Effective Environmental Governance
  - 1.1.1. Environmental management will embrace the principles of good governance through participatory, transparent, predictable and accountable decision-making at all levels.
  - 1.1.2. A comprehensive National Environmental Management Framework (NEMF) will be defined and operationalized specifying the roles, rights, responsibilities, and reporting requirements for all agencies, including central environmental agencies, sectoral agencies, provincial and local agencies and related groups.
  - 1.1.3. Environmental arbitration and mediation mechanisms will be used as alternate means of effective environmental conflict-resolution.
  - 1.1.4. The status and effectiveness of environmental management will be publicly reported at the central, provincial and local levels.
  - 1.1.5. The environment and natural resource law and associated practices will be strengthened to increase the effectiveness of achieving efficient and sustainable management of natural resources and environmental protection.
  - 1.1.6. Procedures for the management of the environment and natural resources will encourage public-private sector partnerships.
  - 1.1.7. Natural resource and environmental management will use all policy tools, including economic instruments that provide incentives while minimizing compliance costs to achieve environmental outcomes that would benefit society and the economy.
  - 1.1.8. A comprehensive and reliable information system on the environment and natural resources, with due recognition to its intellectual rights, especially by indigenous people, will be established and made accessible to enable informed and sound decisions to be made on the protection and sustainable management of natural resources.
  - 1.1.9. The Government will ensure that environmental justice is practiced.
  - 1.1.10. Environmental awareness & education at all levels of the formal and informal education system will be provided to facilitate active participation in environmental and natural-resource management decision-making and to promote environmentally responsible behaviour.

- 1.1.11. A professional cadre of environmental staff will be continuously developed to strengthen the technical and managerial capacity for environmental and natural-resource decision-making at all levels including sector agencies, provincial, local administration, private sector and non-government bodies.
- 1.1.12. Sri Lanka's international & national commitments will be reflected in its management of the environment and natural resources.

## 1.2. Effecting Supportive Environmental Behaviours

- 1.2.1. Land resources will be managed sustainably to maintain and enhance their quality, productivity and life-supporting capacity to protect their ability to support a variety of land-use options.
- 1.2.2. The quality and quantity of surface water, ground water, coastal waters will be managed to balance the current and future needs of ecological systems, communities, agriculture, fisheries, industry and hydroelectric generation.
- 1.2.3. An integrated approach will be used to manage coastal and marine resources to ensure sustainability while protecting ecosystems such as coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangroves, fish stocks, etc, from human induced activities.
- 1.2.4. Quality of air resources will be maintained in areas that currently enjoy clean air and improved in places where air quality has already deteriorated.
- 1.2.5. Resources will be managed to protect and maintain their aesthetic, cultural and landscape values.
- 1.2.6. Management of biodiversity and living resources will recognize the value of living species while enabling their sustainable use and conserving natural habitats.
- 1.2.7. Cleaner production principles will be used to promote efficiency in the use of the environment and natural resources.
- 1.2.8. The impacts on, and risks to, environmental quality and public health will be reduced to levels that are socially acceptable by managing waste streams. This will be supported by the prevention of harmful effects of hazardous substances and through the clean-up of existing contaminated sites.
- 1.2.9. Sri Lanka will adopt a precautionary approach towards the use and release of GMOs into its environment in keeping with its international commitments, e.g., in terms of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.
- 1.2.10. The risks of climate change will be managed by implementing adaptive strategies that minimize the impact of climate change on both the people, and the economy of Sri Lanka.
- 1.2.11. The adverse environmental effects of producing and utilization of energy, including the power sector, will be incorporated into decision-making, while recognizing the needs for public health and the economy. The adverse environmental effects arising from all modes of transport services will be minimized, to protect public health.

## National Environmental Strategy

### Environmental Strategies for Implementing the NEP

#### 2.1. Achieving Effective Environmental Governance

##### 2.1.1. Adopt the Principles of Good Governance within all Environmental Management

***“Environmental management will embrace the principles of good governance through participatory, transparent, predictable and accountable decision-making at all levels”***

The GOSL will accomplish this by:

- (i) Developing legislation that requires appropriate and effective participation of stakeholders in all levels of decision-making.
- (ii) Defining public decision-making procedures relating to natural resources and environmental management.
- (iii) The evaluation of environmental programs, with results reported to the public.
- (iv) Requiring all sector agencies to assess and report against environmental objectives.
- (v) The development and application of legislation for natural resource and environmental management to provide certainty over roles, rights, obligations and relationships.

#### 2.1.2. Designing a Consensus Based NEMF

***“A comprehensive NEMF will be established, specifying the roles, rights, responsibilities, and reporting requirements for all agencies including central environmental agencies, sectoral agencies, provincial and local agencies and related groups”***

The GOSL will accomplish this by:

- (i) Developing model NEMF for the national, local, provincial levels including both sector and line agencies. The framework will define the roles, rights/obligations, responsibilities, and relationships between the myriad of stakeholders in environmental management including the public, private and the community. The framework will also detail the processes to be applied and requirements of these processes relating to approvals, compliance, consultation and reporting.
- (ii) Recognizing that the incorporation of sound environmental management principles into the national planning process across all sectors and at all levels is a key need.
- (iii) Undertaking a comprehensive public consultation on the proposed models and incorporate relevant concerns.
- (iv) Developing and implementing capacity-building programs to all stakeholders to support the introduction of the NEMF.
- (v) Undertake legislative reform to legitimize the NEMF (revised Environment Act) and the processes necessary to operationalize this (possible Natural Resource Management Act).
- (vi) Implementing the NEMF throughout Sri Lanka and monitor its effectiveness.

#### 2.1.3. Implementing Alternative Conflict Resolution Mechanisms

***“Environmental arbitration and mediation mechanisms will be used as a means of effective environmental conflict resolution.”***

The GOSL will accomplish this by:

- (i) Developing alternative conflict mechanisms built around mediation and arbitration.
- (ii) Training NGO and Government officials in the application of these techniques.
- (iii) Legitimizing the techniques by including them in natural resource and environmental legislative frameworks.
- (iv) Implementing a public awareness campaign on the right to access alternative conflict-resolution processes.

#### 2.1.4. Develop Public Reporting of Environmental Management Performance.

***“The status and effectiveness of environmental management will be publicly reported at the central, provincial and local levels”***

The GOSL will accomplish this by:

- (i) Developing environmental indicators and indices that clearly reflect the current trends and status of the environment and natural resources, through a process of consensus-building.
- (ii) Developing and incorporating for each sector agency, provincial authority and local authority environmental performance standards.
- (iii) A comprehensive set of environmental indicators such as atmospheric and aquatic toxin levels will be developed and continuously monitored so as to make available an objective record of environmental quality on a continuing basis
- (iv) Preparing a State of the Environment Report every two years.
- (v) Developing a set of Natural Resource Accounts every five years.

#### 2.1.5. Implementing an Effective Clear Legislative and Institutional Framework

***“The environment and natural resource law and associated practices will be strengthened to increase the effectiveness of achieving efficient and sustainable management of natural resources and environmental protection”***

The GOSL will accomplish this by:

- (i) An ongoing program of legislative reform to clarify the mandate of agencies and the jurisdiction over natural resources
- (ii) Development of a comprehensive statement of the overall NEMF for Sri Lanka that includes the roles, rights and responsibilities of sector, central, provincial and local agencies in natural resource planning, and environmental management, as the basis for drafting a revised Environment and Natural Resources Act.
- (iii) Establish an environmental watchdog unit within the Ministry Environment Division to ascertain the performance of all agencies in their environmental responsibilities.

2.1.6. Develop and Apply Public-Private Partnerships in the Management of Natural Resources and the Environment

***“Procedures for the management of the environment and natural resources will encourage public-private sector partnerships”***

The GOSL will accomplish this by:

- (i) The development of an environment partnership between the Environment Division, M/E&NR and Chambers of Commerce on appropriate environment management systems and their promotion
- (ii) The development of inclusive planning systems that provide effective opportunities for the participation of industry representatives
- (iii) The development of industry demonstration pilot programs
- (iv) The development and recording of best business practices programs

2.1.7. Applying More Effective Policy Tools

***“Natural resource and environmental management will use a wider range of policy tools, including economic instruments, that provide incentives while minimizing compliance costs to achieve environmental outcomes that would benefit society and the economy”***

To accomplish this, the GOSL will:

- (i) Develop a policy dialogue program that explores the potential to increase the efficiency of resource use that reduces demand for natural resources and decreases the cost of management systems
- (ii) Complete a review of the opportunity to apply market-based instruments as a means of increasing environmental outcomes while reducing the cost of compliance
- (iii) Strengthen the role and effectiveness of Committees on Environmental Policy and Management (CEPOMs) in developing policy priorities and through capacity-building to undertake policy analysis
- (iv) Systematize environmental policy analysis within the Ministry in charge of Environment, and provide policy dialogue forums amongst Government and stakeholder groups in society
- (v) Explore and implement strategies to generate finances for environmental conservation from environmental resource use
- (vi) Rationalize sustained budgetary allocations for environmental conservation, based on contributions of the environment and natural resources to the economy.

2.1.8. Build an Accessible and Reliable Environmental Information System

***“A comprehensive and reliable information system on the environment and natural resources, with due recognition to its intellectual rights, especially by indigenous people, will be established and made accessible to enable informed and sound decisions to be made on the protection and sustainable management of natural resources”***

The GOSL will accomplish this by:

- (i) Designing and implementing an integrated resource information system by the Ministry in charge of Environment
- (ii) Establishing environmental performance indicator programs and the collection of data to support the information system

- (iii) Integrating environmental research priorities with the national environmental management plan
- (iv) Facilitating strategic environmental assessment procedures at the provincial and sector levels
- (v) Develop and distribute an Environmental Newsletter to the partners in the network and stakeholders within the NEMF
- (vi) Legislative reforms that mandate Government agencies to report environmental outcomes as part of annual reporting process

#### 2.1.9. Promote Environmental Justice

***“The Government as a whole, and through its instrumentalities, will ensure that environmental justice is practiced”***

The GOSL will accomplish this by:

- (i) Development of an environmental justice policy, strategy, & regulatory interventions to ensure that environmental costs and benefits are shared proportionately
- (ii) Carrying out necessary studies, assessments to ensure and monitor the status of environmental justice
- (iii) Ensuring that the highly disadvantaged groups, especially women & children, will not bear an inappropriate burden of environmental costs or enjoy an inappropriate amount of benefits
- (iv) Will work closely with NGOs, communities, and the public in harnessing environmental justice at all times

#### 2.1.10. Promote Environmental Awareness and Education

***“Environmental awareness & education at all levels of the formal and informal education system will be provided to facilitate active participation in environmental and natural resource management decision-making and to promote environmentally responsible behaviour”***

The GOSL will accomplish this by:

- (i) Development of an environmental education and awareness program to be delivered through school programs, through electronic and non-electronic media to provide a wider coverage
- (ii) Establish an environmental education task force / co-ordinating group to develop materials and implementation strategies
- (iii) Develop informal education programs for environmental management
- (iv) Develop material for training of trainers for NGO environmental education programs
- (v) Develop partnerships with the private sector to promote environmental education, including the state-owned media organizations
- (vi) Develop strategies for targeting stakeholders, including decision-makers and politicians, for education programs through an educational research and evaluation program

#### 2.1.11. Develop Human Resource Capacity to Implement and Operate the Environmental Management System

***“A professional cadre of environmental staff will be continuously developed to strengthen the technical and managerial capacity for environmental and natural resource decision-making at all levels including sector agencies, provincial, local administration, private sector and non-government bodies”***

The GOSL will accomplish this by:

- (i) Establishment of a Public Sector Environmental Services Cadre
- (ii) Development of in-service training curriculum in natural resource and environmental management to be provided to all public sector servants and to be recognized as the equivalent of a credit in a graduate program
- (iii) The provision of action learning programs for community members and provincial and local level staff to create greater awareness and to develop the capacity for establishing the NEMF
- (iv) Provide technical support to the watershed catchment management groups to increase their capacity to be involved and implement effective strategies

- (v) Recognizing the need to broad-base sound environmental management principles throughout Sri Lanka. The relevant provisions of the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) Act will be used to provide training for environmental officers at district-level, devolving such powers as are necessary and appropriate to facilitate the enforcement of sound environmental practice in all parts of the country.

#### 2.1.12. Apply International Commitments to the Management of Sri Lanka's Environment

***“Sri Lanka’s international & national commitments will be reflected in its management of the environment and natural resources”***

The GOSL will achieve this by:

- (i) Developing procedures for undertaking policy and applying the agreed-to standards within the international commitments.
- (ii) Implementing training and awareness programs on the conditions of international commitments
- (iii) Maintaining an active participation within international forums in order to obtain its fullest benefits to the country
- (iv) Develop and implement policies, regulations and institutional mechanisms required for effective implementation of such commitments

## 2.2 Effecting Supportive Environmental Behaviours

The aim of environmental management is to encourage appropriate resource use behaviours. Previous management systems have adopted a purely technical approach to environmental management. The NEP targets those that interact with resources and the environment or, more specifically, the behaviour of those that interact with natural resources and the environment. This part of the strategy recognizes that already a number of behaviours exist that threaten or place at risk the integrity of the environment.

Previous environment management responses have tended to be poorly developed in their understanding of the reasons for these behaviours and the systems of processes that may be imposed to change them. Consequently, singular approaches to environmental management have occurred. The implementation of the strategies summarized below will adopt a portfolio-approach to changing behaviours. This recognizes that single one-off actions are as inappropriate as command and control edicts, both of which proved ineffective in the past. Planned, targeted behavior-change programs will form the basis of the strategies outlined below, where the behaviour-change required may include the management agency itself as much as the stakeholder. Further explanation of behaviour-change policy, strategies and activities is provided below.

### 2.2.1. Managing Land Resources

***“Land resources will be managed sustainably to maintain and enhance their quality, productivity and life-supporting capacity to protect their ability to support a variety of land-use options”***

To accomplish this, the GOSL will:

- (i) Develop and promote land-use systems that protect soil from erosion through the
  - (a) Provision of incentives/awareness to change land use on steep slopes where inappropriate and intensive cultivation is practiced, through pilot demonstration of sustainable land use applications.
  - (b) Promotion and extension of alternate land-use practices will be through catchment community group networks supported by resource management facilitators who will work and support catchment and community groups.
  - (c) Evaluation of afforestation or agroforestry systems within critical watersheds.
  - (d) Establishment of secure long term tenure for dry land chena farmers along with secondary agroforestry and community forestry pilot programs
- (ii) Restore previously degraded land through the provision of incentives for the adoption of appropriate land-use systems with an emphasis on land diversification in the upland plantation sector.

- (iii) Provide legislative protection for areas of significant landscape value through development of:
  - (a) Provincial level landscape databases.
  - (b) Legislative reform that recognizes landscape values in zonation and planning.
- (iv) Improve land administration procedures to remove uncertainty over land ownership and impediments on land use including:
  - (a) Development of a land resource management policy statement by 2003.
  - (b) Legislative reform to include the provision of non-use option on private, public/state land and scenic places.
  - (c) Developing a support system for secure land property rights that includes usufruct rights over State land.
  - (d) Prepare provisions for the alienation and management of State land.
- (v) Ensuring that land-use decisions are made by the people (market) and not centrally planned, so long as the effects of land-use are considered sustainable:
  - (a) Development of indicators of land-use effects to be applied in land use management.
  - (b) Ensuring that wetlands of significance are protected.
  - (c) Develop provisions for the establishment and use of effective wildlife migration corridors.
  - (d) That extraction of minerals is subject to the principles of the precautionary principle.
- (vi) In view of the widespread use of pesticides in agriculture in Sri Lanka, especially in vegetable cultivation, the levels of agrochemicals in market vegetables will be regularly monitored so that appropriate practices could be introduced as necessary.
- (vii) Develop a sound land resource database as part of the national land cadastre for planning and monitoring purposes:
  - (a) Identification of land resource parameters required for monitoring and planning purposes by the Ministry in charge of Environment.
  - (b) Electronic capture of data via satellite imagery and land survey systems.
  - (c) Providing HRD programs for agency staff, real estate personnel, and legal advisors on the use of the database.
- (viii) Develop protocols and necessary legislative support for adoption of urban and industrial land zonation to protect urban and productive land from environmental externalities.
- (ix) Develop an urban land environment policy and strategy for implementation.
- (x) A collaborative program will be developed with agencies responsible for natural disaster mitigation and preparedness to address environmental causes and effects of natural disasters.
- (xi) Develop a communication strategy to prepare for natural disasters emanating from environmental causes in collaboration with relevant technical agencies on disaster management.

#### 2.2.2. Managing Water Resources

***“The quality and quantity of surface water, ground water, coastal waters will be managed to balance the current and future needs of ecological systems, communities, agriculture, fisheries, industry and hydroelectric generation”***

To accomplish this, the GOSL will:

- (i) Manage the risks to water supply and quality through the integration of land-use and natural resource management within critical catchment zones using community catchment groups
- (ii) Adequate protection of all major watersheds will be provided with the services of community catchment groups.

- (iii) Ensure that surface freshwater quality is suitable for community needs including drinking, swimming, fishing
- (iv) Ensure that coastal waters are of such quality to enable the sustained use of fishery resources for human consumption
- (v) Prevent degradation of the quality and flow of waters considered to be of national importance
- (vi) Ensure that the in-stream value of water relating to ecological functionality and aquatic biodiversity is protected through gazetting of such waterways and the activities that place them at risk
- (vii) Protect ground-water aquifers through the control of land-use and waste disposal within recharge zones
- (viii) Reduce water wastage through the provision of incentives for the maintenance of water distribution systems for urban, industrial and irrigation systems including the recycling of waste-water wherever possible
- (ix) Promotion of small scale water harvesting methods will be encouraged
- (x) Classification of waterways according to their quality and the implementation of information systems that notify the public of the water quality, contamination sources, and the regulation of pollution levels.
- (xi) Integration of river basin management plans into a broader management program, which includes coastal zone, wherever appropriate.

### 2.2.3. Managing Coastal and Marine Resources

***“An integrated approach will be applied in the management of coastal and marine resources to ensure sustainability while protecting key ecosystems such as coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangroves, fish stocks, etc. from-human induced activities”***

To accomplish this, the GOSL will:

- (i) Protect and manage coastal habitats to ensure sustainable fishery development and biodiversity protection.
- (ii) Promote policies, legislation and management practices for the protection and development of marine and coastal environment at national and local levels such as subsidies, fishing permits/quotas, taxes, prohibition of destructive fishing methods and mining activities.
- (iii) Control collection and exploitation of aquarium fishes and invertebrates, and impose regulations on vessels and fishing activities.
- (iv) Implement best management practices, such as establishment of marine protected areas, fisheries management, shoreline planning and zoning, local law enforcement, eco-friendly enterprises and effective waste-management systems.
- (v) Incorporate community-based methods for coastal and marine resource assessment and monitoring so that communities are part of the coastal management process and become educated and motivated to contribute to coastal management.
- (vi) Enhance public participation in coastal management and foster environmental literacy, ethics and advocacy through social mobilization.
- (vii) Adapt new pollution management at national, provincial and local levels that would require broad changes in sewage and waste management, agricultural practices, mining, construction and transportation, for controlling the input of pollutants to coastal and marine waters.
- (viii) Develop “Codes of Practice” for environmentally sensitive coastal tourism development.
- (ix) Increase regional co-operation in transboundary issues such as deep-sea fishery, protection of migratory species and shared eco-systems.

### 2.2.4. Managing Air Resources

***“Quality of air resources will be maintained in areas that currently enjoy clean air and improved in places where air quality has already deteriorated”***

To accomplish this, the GOSL will:

- (i) Develop policy and planning tools for the management of air quality by 2005

- (ii) Establish the protocols for air quality monitoring and implement air quality monitoring databases as part of the WHO Global Environmental Monitoring System and contributing to the Environmental Performance Indicator Program
- (iii) Reforms will be instituted to reduce toxic emissions by introducing cleaner fuel into the market and also through tighter controls on vehicle exhaust; these reforms will be implemented through a process of continuous monitoring both of atmospheric pollutants such as lead, CO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, particulates and ozone, and of absorbed toxin levels and health parameters in target groups of people most exposed to such pollution.
  - (a) Vehicle testing using private sector contractors
  - (b) Improved fuel quality
  - (c) Develop economic policy instruments for maintaining improved air quality
  - (d) Investigate the potential for conversion of public transport systems to clean fuels and low emission systems before 2005
- (iv) Promote the use of environmental certification systems to reduce the contribution of emissions from the industrial sector.
- (v) Promote a three-year public funded research program on air quality investigations to identify emission sources and the range of contaminants including workplace emissions.
- (vi) Develop audit procedures for permits for the discharge of toxic air pollutants, including the development of compliance monitoring and emission testing guidelines for provincial agencies.
- (vii) Undertake an investigation on indicators of ecosystem stress and options to protect these ecosystems from air pollution.

#### 2.2.5. Protecting Aesthetic & Cultural Values

***“Resources will be managed to protect and maintain their aesthetic, cultural and landscape values”***

The GOSL will accomplish this by:

- (i) Developing a register of significant landscapes and landscape features at the provincial level.
- (ii) Through joint planning exercises involving the tourism and recreation sectors.
- (iii) Promotion of landscape perception research.

#### 2.2.6. Conserving Biodiversity and Living Resources

***“Management of biodiversity and living resources will recognize the value of living species while enabling their sustainable use and conserving natural habitats and their associated biodiversity”***

To accomplish this, the GOSL will:

- (i) Update the current biodiversity framework for action into the ratified Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan (BCAP) with a specified investment and action program
  - (a) By supporting the Biodiversity Secretariat to complete a wide-ranging consultative process
  - (b) The development of specific actionable programs
  - (c) The implementation of priority programs
- (ii) Undertake a review of the need to strengthen the current conservation and protected area systems
  - (a) Review options for linking the residual fragments of wet zone forests
  - (b) Develop legislative frameworks for the private sector provision of conservation activities through the application of conservation covenants, easements, nature concessions
  - (c) Complete a wildlife migration route planning exercise and develop legislation to protect these essential habitats including a program of habitat restoration

- (d) Assess the options and potential of allocating priority to critical coastal habitats for conservation and wildlife management purposes
  - (e) Complete a review of coastal and marine resources to develop a coastal and marine conservation strategy.
- (iii) Review mechanisms for seeking international financial resource transfers as a means of developing a sustainable source of financing of conservation implementation programs.
  - (iv) Develop benefits-sharing mechanisms and incorporate into legislation or regulations.
  - (v) Develop effective mechanisms for managing and evaluating the risk of invasive and genetically modified species through the development of an environmental risk assessment procedure.
  - (vi) Implement an ex-situ conservation strategy that includes genetic stocks, taxonomic investigation and collections.
  - (vii) Strengthen the regulatory framework for the harvest of natural resources and organisms.
  - (viii) Provide adequate protection to all endangered species and their habitats.

#### 2.2.7. Promotion of Life Cycle and Cleaner Production

***“Cleaner production principles will be used to promote efficiency of the use of environment and natural resources”***

The GOSL will accomplish this by:

- (i) Working with industry to define resource-use and resource-use efficiency opportunities
- (ii) Developing capacity to develop and implement cleaner production technologies
- (iii) Review options to develop incentives for life cycle planning in industry
- (iv) Establish a cleaner production development fund
- (v) A prime requirement of sound environmental management is the recycling of all reusable materials. The principle that recycling practices should be encouraged will be reinforced through awareness building programmes and tariff reform proposals on widely used non-recyclable materials such as polythene.

#### 2.2.8. Managing Waste, Hazardous Substances and Contaminated Sites

***“The impacts on, and risks to, environmental quality and public health will be reduced to levels that are socially acceptable by managing waste streams. This will be supported by the prevention of the harmful effects of hazardous substances and through the clean-up of existing contaminated sites”***

To accomplish this, the GOSL will:

- (i) Implement a National Solid Waste Management Strategy
- (ii) Develop a polluter-pays principle and regulatory frameworks for major industry groups
- (iii) Develop and apply of industrial zoning to locate industry away from high risk sites
- (iv) Develop life cycle principles to reduce and recycle waste and linking these to business certification systems such as ISO 14001 and “The Next Step”
- (v) Support sector agencies, introduce cleaner production through the development and promotion of technology, improved industry practices that target new industrial development
- (vi) Develop long range plans for landfill sites and appropriate standards for their design, operation and management
- (vii) Undertake a program for the identification and assessment of contaminated sites in Sri Lanka
- (viii) Develop the liability framework for contamination, both past and future

- (ix) Given that the control of diseases, especially water and vector-borne diseases, is dependent on sound environmental management, the environment sector will build closer links with the health care delivery sector in order to offer services across a common platform in the future
- (x) Review the potential to reduce the use of hazardous substances through the application of alternate technology or management practices
- (xi) Evaluate the effectiveness of pollution control activities in collaboration with CEA, Marine Pollution Prevention Authority (MPPA) and any other specialized agency responsible for pollution prevention, control and mitigation activities.

#### 2.2.9. Managing the Risk to Biosafety

***“Sri Lanka will adopt a precautionary approach towards the use and release of GMOs into its environment in keeping with its international commitments, e.g., in terms of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety”***

To accomplish this, the GOSL will:

- (i) Develop best practices guide for biosecurity
- (ii) Draft a Biosafety Protection Act
- (iii) Develop a code of ethics for research on bio-prospecting and biotechnology
- (iv) Develop national standards for bio-safety in all aspects of GMOs
- (v) Establish an expert panel with specified terms of reference and legislative support for assessing environmental risks of proposed biological importation
- (vi) Develop and implement a national strategy for the management of known invasive species
- (vii) The adoption of international environmental standards by industry and agriculture in the interests of the occupational health of the workforce will be promoted in consultation with the health care sector.

#### 2.2.10. Reducing the Risk of Climate Change

***“The risks of climate change will be managed by implementing adaptive strategies that minimize the impact of climate change on both the people, and the economy, of Sri Lanka”***

To accomplish this, the GOSL will:

- (i) Review the effect of climate change on Sri Lanka through the development of impact scenarios and response strategies
  - (a) For sea level change
  - (b) For changing water resource availability including storm and drought frequency on agricultural production and the economy as a whole
  - (c) For disaster response
- (ii) Develop policy scenarios for the use of the Clean Development Mechanism and its application for Sri Lanka
- (iii) Evaluate the needs to enter into future potential trading systems for carbon reduction including the necessity for clear and secure property rights or entitlements to land and carbon
- (iv) Develop an information database through the Ministry in charge of Environment

#### 2.2.11. Managing the Effects of the Transport and Energy Sectors

***“The adverse environmental effects of producing and utilization of energy, including the power sector, will be incorporated into decision-making while recognizing the needs for public health and the economy. The adverse environmental effects arising from all modes of transport services will be minimized to protect public health”***

To accomplish this, the GOSL will:

- (i) Develop agreed protocols and procedures for assessing the effects of proposed energy and transport development upon the environment
  - (a) Develop a standard assessment of environmental costs
  - (b) The adoption of cost benefit and social impact assessment framework to assess alternative development strategies
- (ii) Bearing in mind that almost half the population of Sri Lanka relies on wood as its primary fuel, and given that there is almost no commercial production of firewood, the sustainability of this practice is called into question. What is more, the health hazard posed by indoor particulates in homes burning biomass needs to be assessed especially in view of the widespread nature of this practice. The issue of efficient and economical delivery of cleaner energy to the rural population of Sri Lanka is a cornerstone of poverty alleviation and addressed at a trans-sectoral level.
- (iii) Develop a strategy for investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy technology
- (iv) Prepare a national ballast and oil spill contingency plan
- (v) Assess market and policy failures that constrain the adoption of new technology and environmental friendly energy sources
- (vi) Develop a transport pricing policy that includes the real cost of environmental effects
- (vii) Assess the linkages between road transport and air quality with recommended responses
- (viii) Review options to reduce the impact of public transport on the environment
- (ix) Determine the environmental effects of roads on water quality and noise
- (x) Implement a vehicle emissions reduction strategy.

For any additional information and queries, please contact :-

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