

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Environmental Sustainability and Disaster Resilience

The Challenge

Sri Lanka is a country that has a wealth of natural resources and unique biodiversity. As in any country context, economic development unfortunately does not always exist in equal proportion with effective environmental sensitivities and disaster risk procedures in place. In order to preserve the country's natural environment, putting in place systems that are capable of dealing with these environmental and disaster issues is highly important. This is what UNDP's Environment Sustainability and Disaster Resilience (ESDR) Programme is well-positioned to support, having built strong and trusted partnerships with key national institutions over the years through its ongoing projects in these areas of focus.

Our Focus

UNDP's ESDR Programme works with the government agencies to carry out projects that deal with promoting environmental sustainability, renewable energy, climate resilience and managing risks posed by disasters.

The Programme supports the Government to meet their international obligations, such as abiding by three Rio conventions, and strengthening the policies and institutions that are in place to ensure environmental sustainability and disaster resilience. The Programme also helps promote partnerships, improve networks with stakeholders, and share knowledge on how best to tackle issues pertaining to the environment and disasters, and support efforts made to achieve sustainable and environmentally sensitive development.



Promoting sustainable biomass energy production and modern bioenergy technologies in Sri Lanka by encouraging the use of locally source fuel wood derived through sustainable practices

Contributing to UN's Work in Sri Lanka

The ESDR Programme closely relates to the fourth outcome of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF): "Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction." The Programme focuses on reducing the negative impacts that development projects being carried out could have on the environment and on the climate of the country and on improving disaster resilience.

UNDP Country Programme 2013-17

Focus Areas of the
Environmental Sustainability and Disaster Resilience Programme

Policy and Planning Support

(support for development of policies, strategies, methodologies, tools to integrate sustainable development and disaster resilient principles)

Eco-system Based Natural Resource Management

(mechanisms and practices promoting sustainable use of natural resources, biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation)

Low Emission, Climate Resilient Development

(climate change mitigation, energy efficiency, renewable energy)

Disaster Risk Reduction

(early warning, coordination, preparedness and response to natural disasters; public-private community initiatives for eco-system-based DRR)

*UNDP is the UN's global development network,
advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge,
experience and resources to help empower lives and build resilient nations.
UNDP in Sri Lanka works with the Government and all its partners to support the
country achieve equitable and sustainable human development.*

Our Work

• Strategic Support to Operationalizing the Road Map towards a Safer Sri Lanka

This project aims to build capacity and create an environment where those involved are fully able to handle disaster emergencies effectively and carry out ways to reduce the high risk of disasters. After the December 2004 tsunami, UNDP supported a number of key developments which strengthened the institutional capacity of Disaster Risk Management in Sri Lanka.

• Strengthening Capacity to Control the Introduction and Spread of Alien Invasive Species in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's biodiversity is being threatened by the introduction and spread of alien invasive species into the environment. This project takes many steps to combat the negative aspects of this phenomenon. One of the main objectives will be to develop a legal environment where there are policies that can help effectively control the threats posed by alien invasive species.

• Sri Lanka Community Forestry Programme

The goal of this project is to raise awareness that forests are crucial not only to the well-being of the environment, but also to those communities and their economy that rely on the natural resources provided by these forests. Through this, the project aims to reduce forest degradation and deforestation in order to combat poverty, especially in the former conflict-affected areas.

• Hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) Phase-out Management

Sri Lanka is a signatory to the Montreal Protocol that calls for the phasing-out of substances that are harmful to the ozone layer, also known as Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS). As a signatory, there are certain harmful substances that have to be eliminated and for which alternatives need to be found in different sectors in the country. This project is one in a series which identifies certain harmful gases and then proceed to eliminate it from use.

• Ensuring Global Environmental Concerns and Best Practices Mainstreamed in the Post-conflict Rapid Development Process of Sri Lanka through Improved Information Management

The primary objective is to improve environment sustainability and sharing of information about the risks posed by disasters in Sri Lanka and also develop a system to collect new information. The project will improve access to and the use of information. It will also aim to improve planning and decision-making as a result of the improved access to information.

• Every Drop Matters:

This project is being carried out with a global partner, Coca Cola Pvt Ltd, to reach its main objective of conserving the Kelani river basin. The project works with the factories that are situated along the river basin in order to prevent them from discharging toxic waste

products into the river and instead use appropriate methods of waste removal. Awareness programmes are also being carried out to educate the public on water pollution and what can be done to prevent these negative externalities.



Building community resilience to disasters through preparedness and training

NEW COUNTRY PROGRAMME 2013-2017

In 2013, UNDP in Sri Lanka started a new chapter in its strong partnership with the Government of Sri Lanka. The new UNDP five year Country Programme 2013-2017 focuses on two main areas: Governance for Empowerment and Social Inclusion and Environmental Sustainability and Disaster Resilience. The Country Programme is developed within the overall framework of the Mahinda Chinthana and the 2013-2017 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which provides the over-arching framework for UN's work in Sri Lanka over the next five years.

For more information

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