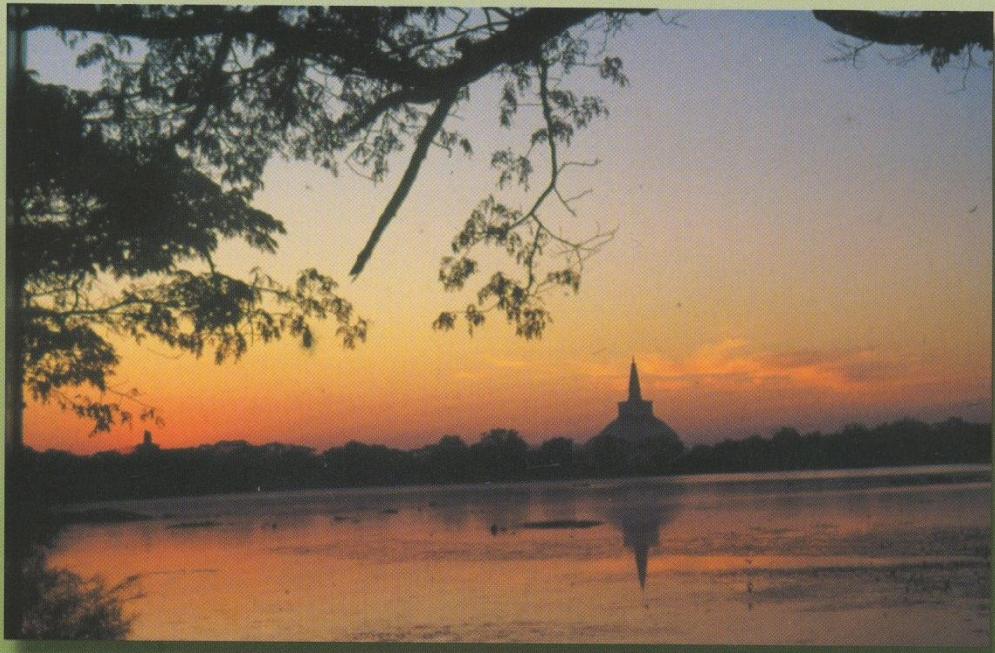




## **Sri Lanka's Middle Path to Sustainable Development in the 21st Century**



### **National Report of Sri Lanka**

**to the  
World Summit on Sustainable Development**

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
August 2002**

# **Sri Lanka's Middle Path to Sustainable Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

**National Report of Sri Lanka to the World Summit on Sustainable Development  
26 August to 4 September 2002, Johannesburg, South Africa**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS DIVISION  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**August 2002**

## **Sri Lanka's Middle Path to Sustainable Development in the 21st Century**

**National report of Sri Lanka to the World Summit on Sustainable Development,  
26 August to 4 September 2002, Johannesburg, South Africa**

2002 Edition

**Copyright :**

© Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

**ISBN 955-9120-11-5**

**Printed by :**

Gunaratne Offset Limited, Colombo.

**Published by :**

Environmental Economics and Global Affairs Division  
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

**Funded by :**

United Nations Development Programme, Earth Council, Food and Agricultural Organisation and the World Bank - Environment Action one Project.

**Cover Page :**

An evening setting from Anuradhapura, the seat of the ancient hydraulic civilization (3rd BC to 8th Century AD), depicting an ancient irrigation reservoir against the silhouette of a "dagaba" which signifies the symbiotic relationship among the three key elements of Sustainable Development, viz, economic progress, socio cultural diversity and environment.

## **MUCH WAITED FOR VISION DOCUMENT OF THE**

### **GOVERNMENT**

THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA HAS RELEASED THE VISION DOCUMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. THE DOCUMENT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO GUIDE THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE POLICIES AND ACTIONS TOWARD A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

The Vision Document highlights the need for a sustainable development model that prioritizes environmental protection, social equity, and economic growth. It emphasizes the importance of sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and green infrastructure. The document also stresses the need for a just transition, ensuring that marginalized communities benefit from sustainable development without being left behind.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS COMMITTED TO WORK WITH ALL SECTORS OF SOCIETY TO IMPLEMENT THE VISION DOCUMENT. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO PROMISED TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS, INCLUDING RENEWABLE ENERGY, WATERSHED MANAGEMENT, AND FOREST RESTORATION. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO PROMISED TO WORK WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO ENCOURAGE INNOVATION AND INVESTMENT IN SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIES.

## **Vision for Sustainable Development**

*"To become an advanced, prosperous, equitable, peaceful, healthy, and environmentally stable nation by following the traditional Sri Lankan way — the middle path."*

The Vision Document outlines several key goals for the future of Sri Lanka. These include:

• Promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development.

• Protecting and conserving natural resources, including forests, water bodies, and marine ecosystems.

• Encouraging the use of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power.

• Promoting a just transition for marginalized communities, ensuring they benefit from sustainable development without being left behind.

## SRI LANKA NATIONAL REPORT WRITING TEAM

### Editors

Professor Mohan Munasinghe, Chairman, Munasinghe Institute for Development (MIND)  
Dr. B. M. S. Batagoda, Director, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

### Lead Authors

Mr. Thosapala Hewage, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources  
Mr. H. M. Bandaratillake, Conservator General of Forests, Forest Department  
Professor Priyantha Wijetunga, Professor of Electrical Engineering, University of Moratuwa  
Professor Laxman Jayatilake, Dean, Engineering, University of Ruhuna  
Professor Marcus Karunanayake, Dean, Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayawardanepura  
Professor Dhammadika Wanasinghe, Senior Lecturer, University of Sri Jayawardanepura

### Authors

Dr. A.T.P.L. Abeykoon, Mr. D. M. Ariyaratne, Dr. Nihal Atapattu, Mr. Upali Athukorala, Ms. L.P. Batuwitage, Mr. C. Chandrakumara, Mr. C. M. M. Chandrasekera, Prof. Indralal De Silva, Mr. Asoka De Silva, Mr. Uchita De Soyza, Dr. Prinath Dias, Mr. Sarath Fernando, Mr. Gamini Gamage, Mr. Henry Gamage, Mr. Asoka Gunawardana, Prof. Samantha Hettiarachchi, Mr. Thilak Hewawasam, Ms. Manel Jayamanne, Mr. Anura Jayathilake, Prof. W. D. Laxman, Ms. M.A. Kumaradasa, Mr. P. Maddugoda, Dr. G.K. Manuweera, Mr. D.P. Munaweera, Prof. Athula Perera, Mr. Ranasinghe Perera, Dr. Janaka Ratnasiri, Mr. H.L.A. Ranjith, Mr. Ranjith Ratnayake, Dr. R. H. S. Samaratunga, Mr. Gamini Senanayake, Mr. Asitha Seneviratne, Prof. Percy Silva, Mr. Nimal Siripala, Mr. Janak Sugathadasa, Dr. M.U.A. Tennakoon, Mr. Sarath Wickramasinghe, Prof. Anoja Wickramasinghe, and Mr. Harsha Wickramasinghe.

### Co-ordinator

Mr. J. Alwis

### Editorial Review Team

Ms. S. Munasinghe, Ms. Y. Deraniyagala, Mr. U. Sapukotana, Dr. Don Jayaweera,  
Ms. J. M. D. D. J. De Alwis, Ms. Nishanthi De Silva

### Stenographer

Ms. Chandima Jayakody

### Cover page

Mr. G. Malaviarachchi

### Photo Credits

Ceylon Tourist Board  
Ministry of Hindu Religious Affairs  
Mr. K. A. I. D. Silva  
Mr. Ajith Gunawardane  
Mr. Saranga Deva de Alwis

### Type Setting

Ajith Kumara Jayamanne

# CONTENTS

	Page No.
Message from H. E. the President .....	1
Message from the Honourable Prime Minister .....	1
Foreword by the Honourable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources .....	1
Preface .....	2
Acknowledgements .....	2
Contents .....	2
Summary .....	2
1 INTRODUCTION .....	11
1.1 Sri Lanka Background .....	11
1.2 Sustainable Development Vision .....	12
2. KEEPING THE COMMITMENTS TO AGENDA 21 AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS .....	14
2.1 The Rio Declaration, Forest Principles and International Treaties .....	15
2.2. Socio-economic Dimensions .....	21
2.3 Management and Protection of the Environment .....	33
2.4 Role of Major Groups .....	44
2.5 Means of Implementation .....	53
3. THE MIDDLE PATH TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SRI LANKA .....	66
3.1 Path to Social and Economic Development .....	67
3.2 Path to Environmental Management and Protection .....	70
3.3 Path to Integration and Participation by Major Groups .....	75
3.4 Path to Implementation .....	76
3.5 Path to International Commitments .....	78
4. THE WAY AHEAD – IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES .....	80
4.1 Poverty .....	80
4.2 Environmental Degradation .....	83
4.3 Peace, Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation .....	84

**BOXES**

Box 1.1 :	Introduction to Sustainable Development .....	13
Box 2.1 :	Cost of Civil Conflict.....	32
Box 2.2 :	Best Practices: Environmentally Friendly Practices .....	44
Box 2.3 :	Best Practices: Committees on Environment Policy Management .....	45
Box 2.4 :	Best Practice for Partnership: Air Resources Management Centre (Air Mac) .....	46
Box 2.5 :	Lesson Learned in Public Participation in Decision Making: Upper Kothmale Hydro Power Project.....	46
Box 2.6 :	Best Practices of Participation: Shared Control of Natural Resources (SCOR) Project .....	47
Box 2.7 :	Public Private Partnership.....	52

**FIGURES**

Figure 1.1 :	Sectoral Contribution to GDP.....	12
Figure 2.1 :	Infant and Maternal Mortality Rates in Sri Lanka .....	25
Figure 2.2 :	Population Growth .....	27
Figure 2.3 :	Ambient Air Quality at Fort (City of Colombo) .....	34
Figure 2.4 :	Depletion of Forest Cover (Dense forest cover) .....	35
Figure 2.5 :	Proportion of Endemic Flowering Plants Species in Different Climatic Zones ...	39

**TABLES**

Table 2.1 :	Implementation of Rio Principles in Sri Lanka .....	14
Table 2.2 :	Vision 2010:Direction of the Economy .....	25
Table 2.3 :	Economic Infrastructure: The Forerunner to Development.....	26
Table 2.4 :	Consumption Poverty Levels by Sector-1995/1996 .....	27
Table 2.5 :	Trends in Literacy and School Enrolment .....	48
Table 2.6 :	Economically Active Scientists and Engineers by Sex .....	52

**Environmental Economics and Global Affair Division**

**Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources**

**Sampathpaya,82, Rajamalwatte Road, Battaramualla,**

**SRI LANKA.**

**Tel: 94-1-887452, E-mail : airmac@slt.net.lk, envelon@slt.net.lk**