CLIMATE IMPACT

SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka is **highly vulnerable** to climate change.

Being a tropical island in the Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka has consistently been placed among the top ten countries at risk of extreme weather events by the Global Climate Risk Index.

The pace of climate change outstrips Sri Lanka's readiness to respond to its effects which are already severely affecting the country's poorer regions.

1-1.5 °C temperature rise estimated by 2050

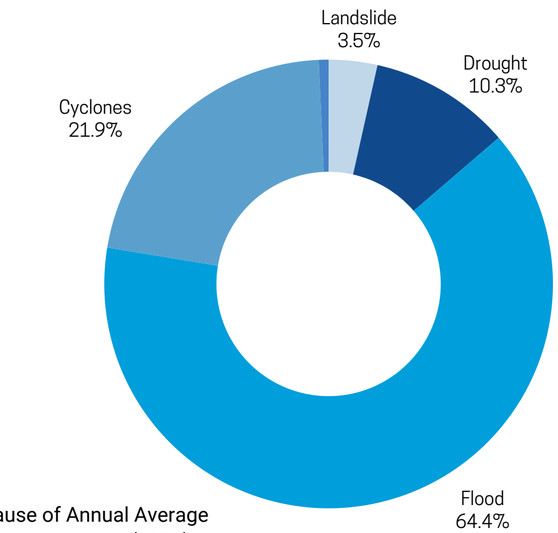
Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is a serious challenge for Sri Lanka, with an estimated 17 percent of the population experiencing moderate acute food insecurity in March 2023.

Climate change threatens to worsen this situation by affecting food and water availability and reducing agricultural output, including essential staples like rice.

Threatened Biodiversity

Sri Lanka is one of 36 biodiversity hotspots in the world, with a wealth of endemic species. The country continues to face serious environmental challenges, such as deforestation of its lowland rainforests and degradation of its urban and coastal wetlands. These threats pose a risk to the ecological balance and the well-being of the people and wildlife of Sri Lanka.



Cause of Annual Average Disaster Losses (2020)

750,000

Sri Lankans on average affected by natural disasters per year, between 2011-2020

104 /185

Climate Vulnerability Ranking

$313 million

average annual disaster losses related to housing, infrastructure, agriculture and relief

81.2%

of population lack adaptive capacity to disasters

19 million

Sri Lankans live in locations set to become moderate or severe climate hotspots by 2050

6 in 10 Sri Lankans are multi-dimensionally vulnerable

Extreme Weather Events

In the past 30 years, floods have affected more than 10 million people in Sri Lanka.

Drought is a major challenge for livelihoods and food security affecting nearly 8 million people between 2008-2018.

Sea level rise and average temperature changes have increased the frequency of storm surges causing saline intrusion and inundating lands along Sri Lanka's coastal belt.

Without adaptative action, the projected increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme precipitation events may put lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure at risk through their link with riverine flooding, flash floods, and landslides.

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Sri Lanka's Climate Commitments

14.5%
emission reduction target by 2030

Carbon **neutrality** by 2050

- No new coal power plants
- Prohibition of single-use plastics by 2023
- Increase forest cover to 32% by 2030

Leadership and Diplomacy

- Leading the Commonwealth Blue Charter Action Group on Mangrove Ecosystems and Livelihoods
- Spearheaded the UN declaration of the 1st of March as World Sea Grass Day
- Host of 5th Asia-Pacific Environment Forum
- Colombo Declaration on Sustainable Nitrogen Management

UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT FOR CLIMATE ACTION IN SRI LANKA

ENERGY TRANSITION

- Promoting **greener transport choices** through a fuel economy labelling scheme that includes electric vehicles.
- Supporting the adoption of **green technologies** and **renewable energy** within sectors such as transport, MSMEs, and local authorities.
- Mainstreaming **e-mobility** by promoting affordable advanced technologies, digital solutions and policy intervention.

SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT

- Providing rural communities with access to **safe drinking water**.
- Upgrading **water management infrastructure,** water-saving technologies and irrigation systems.
- Utilizing data for better water accounting, governance and productivity in **agriculture**.
- Facilitating **efficient use of water** in paddy irrigation through crop diversification and sustainable practices.
- Tackling **plastic pollution** in through support of the Plastic Free Rivers and Seas initiative.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION

- Enhancing **agricultural resilience** through sustainable farming practices and dissemination of timely and accessible agro-meteorological information.
- Promoting climate resilient **fishing vessels** and strengthening self-sufficient inland fisheries.
- Empowering **children and youth** by integrating climate-smart programmes into school curricula.
- Creating **green job opportunities** that align economic growth with climate action.
- Building **sustainable infrastructure**, including eco-friendly construction and ecosystem restoration.
- Advancing innovative **climate finance** solutions and investment mechanisms.

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

- Strengthening **community resilience** by raising risk awareness and facilitating livelihood diversification.
- Ensuring **life-saving services** during and after disasters, including sexual and reproductive health and addressing gender-based violence.
- Aiding **loss and damage assessment** to better understand and address immediate and long-term climate risks.
- Enabling **national actors** to better prepare for and respond to emergencies.
- Supporting governmental initiatives to develop policies and programmes for **climate mobility**.

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