National REDD+ Investment Framework and Action Plan (NRIFAP)

REDD+

SRI LANKA

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Citation

National REDD+ Investment Framework and Action Plan, 2017
Sri Lanka UN-REDD Programme

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List of acronyms

AD	-	Activity Data
AFOLU	-	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use
ARF	-	Academic and Research Forum
BUR	-	Biennial Update Report
CBD	-	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBNA	-	Capacity Building Needs Assessment
CBO	-	Community-Based Organisation
CBR+	-	Community Based REDD+
CCS	-	Climate Change Secretariat
CEA	-	Central Environmental Authority
CO2	-	Carbon Dioxide
COP	-	Conference of Parties
CSO	-	Civil Society Organisation
CSR	-	Corporate Social Responsibility
D&D	-	Deforestation and forest degradation
DA	-	Department of Agriculture
DBA	-	Department of Buddhist Affairs
DWC	-	Department of Wildlife Conservation
EIA	-	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIRR	-	Economic Internal Rate of Return
FAO	-	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FD	-	Forest Department
FIGISD	-	Forest Inventory and Geographical Information Systems Division
FPIC	-	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
FRL	-	Forest Reference Level
GEF	-	Global Environment Facility
GHG	-	Greenhouse Gas
GHG-I	-	Greenhouse Gas Inventory

GPS	-	Global Positioning System
GoSL	-	Government of Sri Lanka
GRMs	-	Grievance Redress Mechanisms
IP	-	Indigenous People
IPCC	-	International Panel on Climate Change
IUCN	-	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JEDB	-	Janatha Estates Development Board
LCCS	-	Land Cover Classification System
LRC	-	Land Reform Commission
LULUC	-	Land-Use Land-Use Chage
LUP	-	Land Use Planning
LUPPD	-	Land Use Policy Planning Department
MASL	-	Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka
MCA	-	Multi Criteria Analysis
MMDE	-	Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment
MoL	-	Ministry of Lands
MoPI	-	Ministry of Planation Industries
MRV	-	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
NBD	-	National Budget Department
NBSAP	-	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCBs	-	Non-Carbon Benefits
NDCs	-	Nationally Determined Contributions
NFI	-	National Forest Inventory
NFMS	-	National Forest Monitoring System
NPPD	-	National Physical Planning Department
NRIFAP	-	National REDD+ Investment Framework and Action Plan
NTFPs	-	Non-Timber Forest Products

PAMs	-	Policies and Measures
PMU	-	Programme Management Unit
PLRs	-	Policies, Laws and Regulations
PS	-	Private Sector
RACB	-	REDD+ Advisory and Coordination Board
REDD+	-	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and forest conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
RPC	-	Regional Plantation Company
SAD	-	State Account Department
SD	-	Survey Department
SFM	-	Sustainable Forest Management
SDGs	-	Sustainable Development Goals
SEA	-	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SIS	-	Safeguards Information System
SLCFAN	-	Sri Lanka Climate and Forest Action Network
SLMS	-	Satellite Land Monitoring System
SLSPCs	-	Sri Lanka State Plantation Companies
SoI	-	Summary of Information
TFs	-	Task Forces
TF NP&S	-	Task Force on National Policies and Strategies
TOD	-	Treasury Operations Department
TS	-	Technical Secretariat
TWGs	-	Technical Working Groups
UNESCO	-	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN-REDD Programme	-	The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
UNFCCC	-	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Summary

The Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) is committed to achieving a sustainable development pathway that delivers broad based economic growth while also contributing to the global fight against climate change. As part of this approach, and with support from the UN-REDD Programme[1] the GoSL has been working, since 2012, to build capacity for and develop a comprehensive approach to reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from the country's forests as well as increasing their capacity for GHG absorption. This approach will form part of Sri Lanka's efforts under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris Agreement. Specifically it will allow Sri Lanka to participate in a results based financing mechanism under the UNFCCC, which is designed to support the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, as well as support to the role of conservation of forests, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in those countries – this mechanism is commonly referred to as REDD+.

The current National REDD+ Investment Framework and Action Plan (NRIFAP), a five year USD 99 million investment framework financed from both domestic and international sources, represents the culmination of this readiness phase and provides a summary of both the work already achieved in Sri Lanka and what actions will be taken in the future. It sets out a clear vision for REDD+ in Sri Lanka (see Box 1) and will act as the central guidance document for the GoSL, who will lead its implementation through the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment (MMDE), as well as other stakeholders, as the country moves towards implementing actions on REDD+. The approach taken while targeting potential results based payments for GHG emission reductions under the UNFCCC is also focused on the short and long term benefits to communities

Box 1 | Sri Lanka's Vision for REDD+

"Forests and beyond; sustaining life and livelihoods in a greener Sri Lanka"

Sri Lanka will harness the transformational potential of REDD+ to ensure improved land management practices that protect, maintain and enhance ecological functions and social benefits, while sustaining current economic growth.

1. The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries was launched in 2008 and builds on the convening capacity and technical expertise of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

within Sri Lanka, supporting community livelihoods and access to the environmental services provided by forests as well as helping to ensure the long-term conservation of Sri Lanka's exceptional forest biodiversity.

The approach detailed within the NRIFAP is fully in line with key national strategies including Sri Lanka Next - a Blue-Green Era, as well as the commitments of the country made within its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the UNFCCC as well as domestic policy such as the Forest Policy. This includes achievement of critical targets such as the increase in national forest cover to 32%.

The NRIFAP identifies 13 Policies and Measures (PAMs) within three key policy areas that will be implemented to help achieve Sri Lanka's vision for REDD+ (see Table 1). These PAMs developed through an extensive process of stake/rights-holder consultation and expert analysis represent the key measures to deliver emission reductions and removals as well as helping to strengthen forest management more broadly within Sri Lanka. Many are based on the scaling up of key government actions while others represent new areas of development.

Photography: Hiranya Sudasinghe

Table 1 | Policies and Measures to be implemented through the NRIFAP

Policy Area 1: Forest, Wildlife and Watershed

POLICY AND MEASURE (PAM)	 **PAM 1:** Improve forest law enforcement and monitoring	 **PAM 2:** Scale-up of forest boundary survey, demarcation and declaration	 **PAM 3:** Restore degraded forests and wildlife ecosystems
IMPLEMENTING AGENT	Forest Department / Department of Wildlife Conservation	Forest Department / Department of Wildlife Conservation	Forest Department / Department of Wildlife Conservation
GOAL	A 36% reduction in annual forest loss (currently 8,000 ha)	A total of approximately 160,000 ha of new forests to be placed under appropriate protection and sustainable management regimes, including protected areas.	A total of approximately 40,000 ha of degraded forests to be restored, through assisted natural regeneration and reforestation (32,000 ha in the Dry Zone and 8,000 ha in the Wet Zone), plus 5,000 ha of wildlife habitat

 **PAM 4:** Strengthen sustainable forest management (natural forests)	 **PAM 5:** Strengthen sustainable management of forest plantations	 **PAM 6:** Strengthen protection of watersheds
Forest Department / Department of Wildlife Conservation	Forest Department	Forest Department
To create enabling conditions for sustainable forest management to increase forest biomass and biodiversity, while enhancing collaborative management opportunities with local communities and meeting local demand for forest products	A total of 2,500 ha of sustainably managed forest plantations established to enhance forest carbon stocks and to reduce pressure on natural forests	To create enabling conditions for forest restoration and enhancement to increase biomass and restore and maintain critical ecological functions, regulating the quality and volume of water and reducing natural disaster risks

Policy Area 2: Land Use Planning

			
PAM 7: Support inclusion of Strategic Environmental Assessment under Land Use Planning (LUP)	**PAM 8:** Strengthen Environmental Impact Assessment process	**PAM 9:** Improve land productivity and rehabilitation practices	**PAM 10:** Improve the tree cover of non-forested lands (home gardens, urban centre, public lands and settlements)
National Physical Planning Department	Central Environment Authority	Department of Agriculture	Department of Agriculture
A 5% reduction in annual forest loss (currently 8,000 ha) through better coordination and sectoral alignment in land use planning	To create an enabling condition for a more thorough and stringent environmental and social appraisal process in order to reduce conversion pressure	A 5% reduction in annual forest loss (currently 8,000 ha) through increasing land productivity to reduce conversion pressure	To create an enabling condition for forest protection by increasing supply of timber and fuelwood in order to reduce pressure on natural forests

Policy Area 3: Other Forested Lands

	PAM 11: Strengthen protection of other non-state forested lands[2]	PAM 12: Strengthen local supply chain for fuelwood demand	PAM 13: Develop agroforestry models for addressing forest degradation
POLICY AND MEASURE			
IMPLEMENTING AGENT	Ministry of Lands	Ministry of Plantation Industries	Forest Department
GOAL	To create an enabling condition to increase forested areas under protection	To create an enabling condition for forest protection by increasing supply of timber and fuelwood to reduce pressure on natural forests	To create an enabling condition for making the existing agro-forestry schemes financially more viable for the schemes' participants in order to reduce pressure on natural forests

2. Vihara Devalagam, Janataha Estate Development Board (JEDB), Sri Lanka State Plantations Cooperation (SLSPC), Regional Plantation Companies (RPCs) & Land Reform Commission (LRC)

Photography: Hiranya Sudasinghe

The NRIFAP also provides information on how Sri Lanka will engage with the REDD+ mechanisms under the UNFCCC through the management of four technical elements namely:

- *A National REDD+ Strategy and/or Action Plan* – which provides information on what a country will do on REDD+ and how it will implement REDD+ - in Sri Lanka this is fulfilled by the NRIFAP with information provided on how the implementation of the investment framework will be managed (Section D)
- *A National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)* – which provides the capacity to monitor land use change, and to link with a national forest inventory to provide information on emissions from the forest sector. The initial structure of this is already in place with information publically available through its geoportal at http://www.nfms.lk/portal/. Information on the NFMS is provided in (Section D)
- *A Forest Reference Level (FRL)* – which is an assessment of trends in land use change over time and emissions from land cover change and acts as a baseline against which a country's performance in reducing emissions or increasing removals of GHG will be assessed. The initial version of which has been submitted by Sri Lanka in January 2017 (removal -70,000 tCO2eq and emission 4,596,000 tCO2eq). Information on the FRL is provided in (Section B)
- *A Safeguards Information System (SIS)* – which provides information on how REDD+ safeguards are being addressed and respected. Information on the SIS is provided in (Section D)

The NRIFAP is structured to provide information on REDD+ and the REDD+ development process in Sri Lanka (Section A), the vision of REDD+ in Sri Lanka (Section B), what policies and measures will be implemented to achieve emission reductions and removals (Section C), how elements will be coordinated (Section D) and cross cutting issues (Section D). From Section C to D detailed costing of activities are also provided. A summary of the costing for key areas is provided in table 2.

Photography: Hiranya Sudasinghe

TABLE 2 | NATIONAL REDD+ INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK AND ACTION PLAN

COMPONENTS	Total Cost (USD)	Annual Costs (USD)				
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
IMPLEMENTATION OF REDD+ POLICIES AND MEASURES (PAMs)	75,593,019	12,185,728	15,964,018	15,934,935	15,803,218	15,705,118
NRIFAP COORDINATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING OF KEY INSTITUTIONS	7,968,606	2,143,123	1,620,602	1,464,753	1,296,520	1,443,608
SAFEGUARDS AND SAFEGUARDS INFORMATION SYSTEM	1,949,748	361,688	345,121	446,787	345,121	451,031
NATIONAL FOREST MONITORING SYSTEM AND FOREST REFERENCE LEVEL	9,174,424	2,313,312	2,479,161	2,287,804	1,221,444	872,704
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN NRIFAP IMPLEMENTATION	1,999,990	419,096	395,223	395,223	435,011	355,436
COMMUNICATION AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT	1,241,667	285,000	206,667	263,333	206,667	280,000
GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISMS	1,300,067	155,333	379,733	285,000	255,000	225,000
TOTAL	99,227,521	17,863,280	21,390,526	21,077,836	19,562,981	19,332,897

Photography: Hiranya Sudasinghe

A

Introduction and REDD+ development in Sri Lanka

The National REDD+ Investment Framework and Action Plan (NRIFAP) is a five-year strategy (2018 – 2022) developed by the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) with the support of the Sri Lanka UN-REDD National Programme[3]. It has been developed during a 4-year REDD+ readiness process, which assessed the feasibility and role of REDD+ in Sri Lanka's forest management and land-use systems as well as the country's broader development process. The country is now at an advanced stage of REDD+ readiness, and have the key technical elements of REDD+ as laid out in the Warsaw Framework (i.e., UNFCCC Decisions 9 - 15/CP.19) in place. The current document is one of those elements with the NRIFAP acting as Sri Lanka's National REDD+ Strategy and/or Action Plan. The document lays out the actions that will be done to deliver emission reductions – identified as 13 Policies and Measures (PAMs) – the mechanisms to coordinate their implementation and the approaches taken and systems to maintain the other three technical elements of REDD+: a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS); a Forest Reference Level (FRL) and a Safeguards Information System (SIS). It also provides information on a number of cross cutting issues including stakeholder engagement, communications and capacity building.

3. For more information on the UN-REDD National Programme in Sri Lanka, please visit http://www.redd.lk/web/index.php?lang=en

A.1.
International context to REDD+

1. The Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector is responsible for just under a quarter of anthropogenic Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions while forestry alone accounts for nearly 12%[4]. This source of emissions is second only to the global energy sector and higher than the transport sector. Thus while emissions reductions will be needed across sectors, addressing emissions from the forestry sector is crucial in helping to mitigate climate change.

2. The need to address emissions from the forestry sector has led to the development of a results based financing mechanism under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This has been included within the Paris Agreement[5] and aims to support the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and promote the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries. It is most commonly referred to by its acronym REDD+.

3. The REDD+ mechanism identifies five major activities for which results-based payments may be claimed:

   a. Reducing emissions from deforestation;

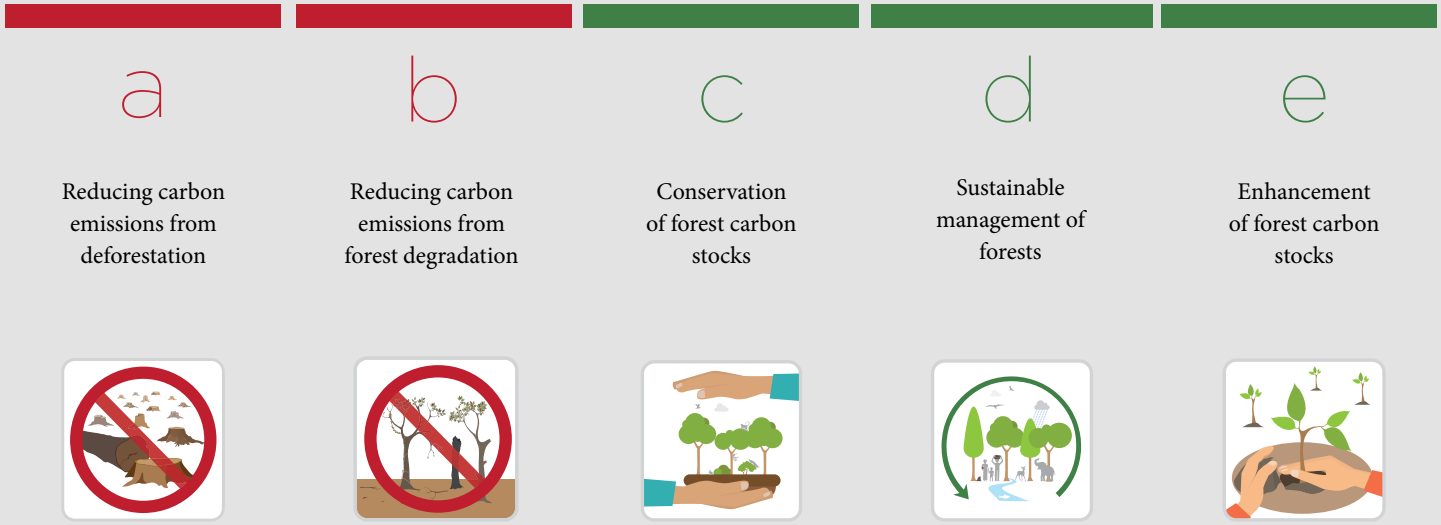
   b. Reducing emissions from forest degradation;

   c. Conservation of forest carbon stocks;

   d. Sustainable management of forests;

   e. Enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

4. Climate Change 2014: Mitigation of Climate Change, IPCC Working Group III
5. Agreement signed at COP21 of the UNFCCC in Paris



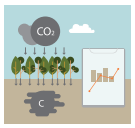
4. During the UNFCCC negotiations, countries collectively agreed on the importance of having an iterative, flexible and learning-by-doing approach to REDD+ implementation. The Cancun Agreements (paragraph 73 of decision 1/CP.16) indicate that REDD+ should be "implemented in phases, beginning with the development of national strategies and/or action plans, policies and measures, and capacity-building, followed by the implementation of national policies and measures and national strategies and/or action plans that could involve further capacity-building, technology development and transfer and results-based demonstration activities, and evolving into results-based actions that should be fully measured, reported and verified". REDD+ in Sri Lanka is following this phased approach and is currently reaching the end of the readiness phase, with the initiation of the NRIFAP representing the beginning of the implementation phase.

5. The Warsaw Framework[6] for REDD+ adopted in 2013 provides the overall guidance for REDD+ countries. The framework sets out five types of information to be provided through the UNFCCC's Lima REDD+ Information Hub:
   - Link to the national strategy and/or action plan;
   - Assessed forest reference (emission) level expressed in tonnes carbon dioxyde (CO_2) equivalent per year with a link to the final report of the technical assessment;
   - Summary of information on how Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected;
   - Report results of REDD+ implementation (in tonnes CO_2) through the Biennial Update Report (BUR), in a REDD+ technical annex, which will also include information on NFMS;
   - Quantity of results for which payments were received expressed in tonnes CO_2eq/year, and the entity paying for results.

6. It also noted that these five information streams can be achieved through the development of four key technical elements:

- A National REDD+ Strategy and/or Action Plan – to provide information on what a country will do on REDD+ and how it will implement REDD+.

- A NFMS – to monitor land use change, and link with a national forest inventory to provide information on emissions from the forestry sector.



- A FRL – which is an assessment of trends in land use change over time and emissions from land cover change and acts as a baseline against which a country's performance in reducing emissions or increasing removals of GHG will be assessed.

- A SIS - to provide information on how REDD+ safeguards are being addressed and respected.

6. COP 19, November 2013 in Warsaw, Poland, adopted the 7 decisions of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+

A.2.
REDD+ progress in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has set up the four elements for REDD+ and is now ready for implementation

7. To operationalise the information streams and technical elements, Sri Lanka has developed the four elements, requested under the Cancun Agreements (paragraph 71 of decision 1/CP.16).
   - A national strategy and action plan – *National REDD+ Investment Framework and Action Plan (NRIFAP)*
   - A national forest reference level in accordance with national circumstances (section B3)
   - A robust and transparent national forest monitoring system (section D2)
   - A system for providing information on how the safeguards referred to in Appendix I to this decision are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of REDD+ activities (section D2)

8. *National Forest Reference Emission Level/Forest Reference Level (FRL)* - Sri Lanka's FRL has been-prepared at the national scale with an initial focus on deforestation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks based on above-ground and below-ground biomass. The reference period for the FRL is based on forest and land use change analysis between 2000 and 2010 and International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Tier 1 default emission factors. The GoSL has submitted its FRL to the UNFCCC in January 2017.

9. *National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)* - Sri Lanka's NFMS for REDD+ consists of three major components: (a) a Satellite Land Monitoring System (SLMS) (b) a National Forest Inventory (NFI); and (c) a Greenhouse Gas Inventory. The NFMS geo-portal has been launched in March 2017 and is now accessible to the public. Institutional arrangements for hosting the portal have already been identified. Activity Data preparation for the GHG inventory using time-series land-use land cover (LULC) maps of 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015 have been completed in 2016. GHG inventory training sessions have been completed with key departments. A National Forest Inventory (NFI) manual, methodology, and pilot NFI training will be completed by June 2017.

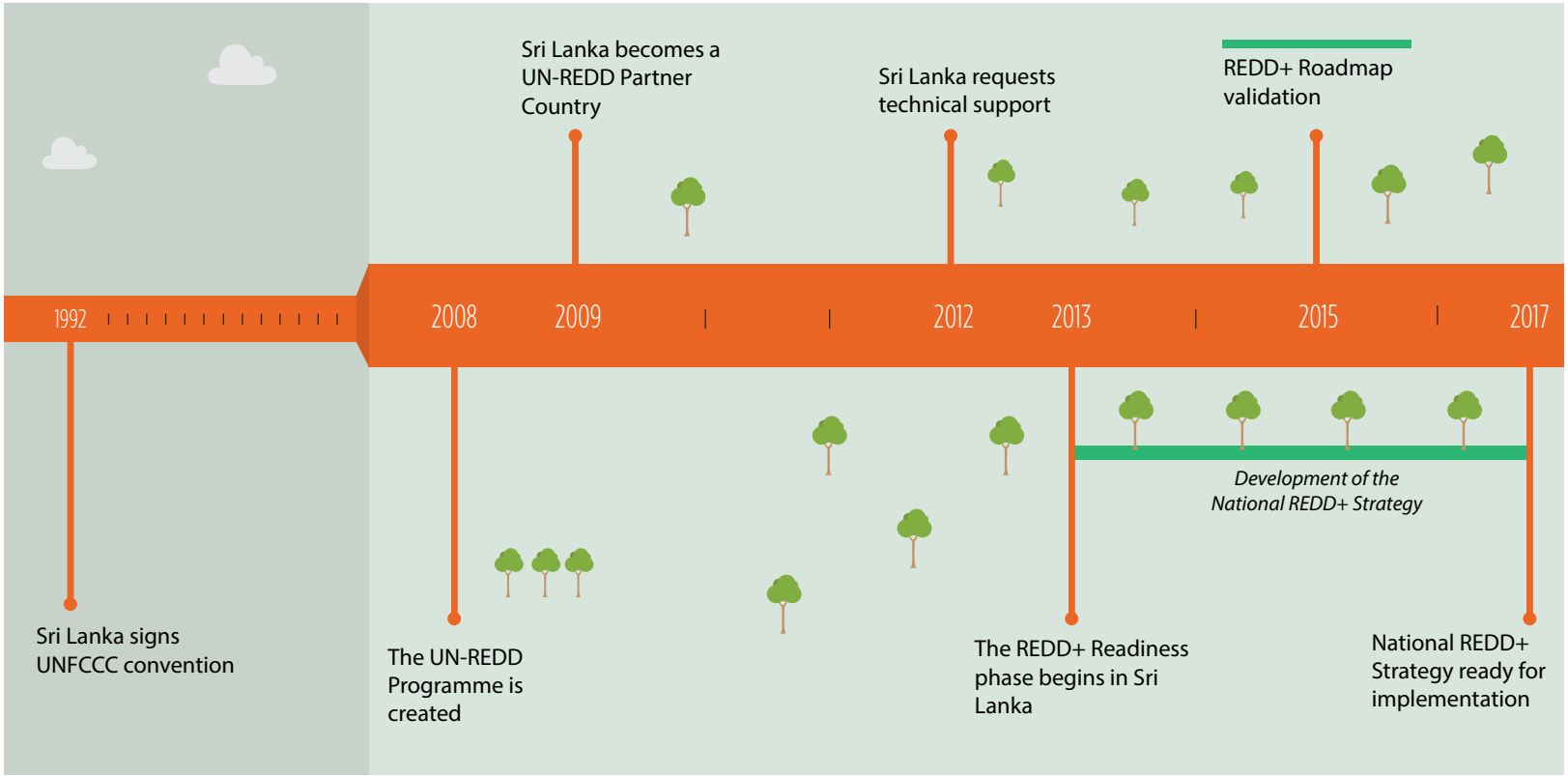
10. *Safeguards Information System (SIS)* - A system for providing safeguard information, including how the safeguards are addressed and respected, to the UNFCCC, as well as to the public, is currently being designed. Institutional coordination mechanisms have already been identified.

11. In addition, Sri Lanka has put in place robust and effective mechanisms to manage both internal/external investments and anticipated results-based finance (section D1) together with credible institutional arrangements and capacities (section D1) to implement those four elements and to make the necessary information available for receiving REDD+ results-based payments to continue generating transformational change.

A.3.
National context to REDD+

12. Sri Lanka has been a signatory to the UNFCCC since 1992. The country's national focal point to the Convention is the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment (MMDE) through the Climate Change Secretariat (CCS). In 2009, Sri Lanka became a UN-REDD partner country, and the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) (through the Forest Department (FD), the Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) and the CCS) with many other stakeholders (Civil Society Organizations, Indigenous People, Private Sector, Academics and Forest User Communities) and support of the three UN organisations has jointly implemented a full-sized UN-REDD National Programme (from 2013 to 2017). It considered all aspects of the forestry sector, as well as Sri Lanka's rich biodiversity and natural resources, when addressing the issues of deforestation and forest degradation.

Sri Lanka's commitment to fight climate change



13. Since 2014, Sri Lanka has been piloting the Community Based REDD+ (CBR+) Programme, a joint initiative between the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme and the UN-REDD Programme to implement community-based REDD+ activities. The CBR+ Programme has been closely linked to the national REDD+ agenda and process by developing and testing community-led options for addressing deforestation and forest degradation at sub-national levels. The CBR+ Programme in Sri Lanka has selected projects in critical hotspots of deforestation and forest degradation and one national project. These projects have supported the establishment of forest vigilant committees, built capacity among the Civil Society Organisation (CSO) members and communities, established fire belts, and created livelihood options to reduce the burden on forests. These projects have been completed in March 2017 – allowing the GoSL to update its NRIFAP based on the lessons-learned at sub-national levels.

Photography: Hiranya Sudasinghe

A.4.
Forest governance and land use in Sri Lanka

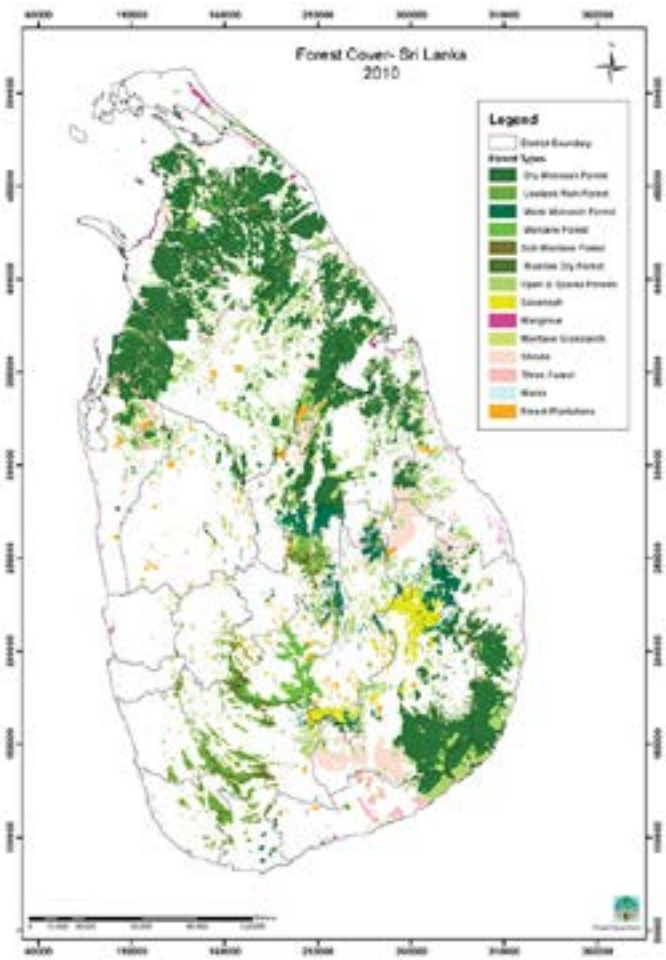
Forests in Sri Lanka

14. The country has a total natural forest area of approximately 1.95 million ha or 29.7%[7]. Diversified topographic features, varying climatic conditions and edaphic factors have led to the development of different forest types in Sri Lanka. These are distributed within the three major climatic zones of the island (Wet Zone, Intermediate Zone and Dry Zone) with the FD traditionally stratifying forests using a classification system developed by Koelmeyer in 1957[8]. During a recent forest cover survey (see figure 1), the FD identified more precisely the extents of the specified forest types[9] grouping them as follows; montane forests (44,758 ha), sub-montane forests (28,514 ha), lowland rain forests (123,301ha), moist monsoon forests (117,886 ha), dry monsoon forests (1,121,392ha) and riverine forests (2,425 ha), mangroves (15,670 ha) and open and sparse forests[10] (429,484 ha).

15. Of these forest types moist monsoon forests and dry monsoon forests are found in the Dry Zone. The Intermediate Zone accommodates dry monsoon as well as moist monsoon forests with the sparse and open forests found across the two zones. The Wet Zone is characterized by species rich lowland rain forests as well as lower montane and montane forests. In all climatic zones, riverine forests are found

Sri Lanka forest cover is 1.95 million ha or 29.7%

Figure 1 | Forest cover map in Sri Lanka 2010



7. Edirisinghe, E.A.P.N., Ariyadasa, K.P. and Chandani, R.P.D.S. 2012. Forest cover assessment in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lanka Forester, 34: 1-12.
8. Koelmeyer, K.O., 1957, 'Climatic Classification and the Distribution of Vegetation in Ceylon', *Ceylon Forester*, Vol. III, No. 2 (New Series)
9. Edirisinghe, E.A.P.N, Ariyadasa, K.P. and Chandani, R.P.D.S., 2012, 'Forest Cover Assessment in Sri Lanka', *The Sri Lanka Forester*, Volume 34 (New Series), Colombo
10. It should be noted that the category open and sparse forests includes a total extent of forests of all categories with a canopy cover between 10 to 40%.

Photography: Hiranya Sudasinghe

A CSO-led study undertaken in 2016 has identified 38 non-carbon benefits from the conservation of Sri Lanka's forests.

along streams and rivers. Each of these forest types has inherent characteristics based on their local environment and species composition, playing an important role in biodiversity conservation, hydrology (especially in head waters protection), soil conservation, amelioration of the environment and as a source of raw material for livelihood development.

16. Different forest types thriving in different climatic zones provide a high level of species diversity and the country, along with the Western Ghat is considered one of the world's biodiversity hotspots. In particular the country's floral biodiversity and number of endemic species is extremely high relative to its size (see Tables 3 and 4).

17. In order to conserve biodiversity, the GoSL, through the two major agencies concerned, the FD and the DWC, has undertaken significant efforts by creating a large network of protected areas. The present protected area network of the FD includes 117 Conservation Forests (136,588 ha), 4 International Biosphere Reserves (143,106 ha) and 547 Reserved Forests (1,095,050 ha). Due to the presence of unique biodiversity, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has designated 2 World Heritage Sites (Sinharaja - 11,127 ha and the Central Highlands of Sri Lanka, which is a serial property comprising three component parts: Knuckles Conservation Forest (31,305 ha), Horton Plains National Park (3,109 ha) and the Peak Wilderness Protected Area (20,596 ha)). The DWC is also responsible for a significant number of protected areas targeted torwards faunal and floral biodiversity conservation. These include 3 Strict Nature Reserves (31,571 ha), 16 National Parks (738,547 ha), 7 Nature Reserves (101,645 ha), 1 Jungle Corridor (8,777 ha) and 61 Sanctuaries (277,122 ha).

18. The natural forests of the island have not been harvested for timber for the last three decades, with the domestic supply of timber and firewood coming from forest plantations and tree resources outside forests, such as home gardens and community wood lots. Twenty-three Regional Plantation Companies (RPCs) currently manage approximately 9,000 ha of forest plantations in order to supply fuelwood and timber for both private and industrial use. The FD manages approximately 80,000 ha of forest plantations.

19. The high floral biodiversity contributes to the availability of a significant number of Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs). These products are utilised by

communities living along the forest fringe and also provides them with a significant income. A CSO-led study[11] undertaken in 2016 has identified 38 Non-Carbon Benefits (NCBs) from the conservation of Sri Lanka's forests. These vary with the forest type but provide substantial monetary and non-monetary benefits to forest-user communities.

11. Non-carbon benefits in the context of REDD+ in Sri Lanka, UN-REDD National Programme in Sri Lanka, 2016.
12. Source: *'The 2007 Red List of Threatened Fauna and Flora of Sri Lanka'*, IUCN, Colombo

Table 3 | Species richness of Sri Lankan flora[12]

Group	No. of Species	No. of endemics
Angiospermae (Flowering plants)	3771	926
Pteridophyta (Ferns)	348	48
Mosses	566	63
Liverworts	222	
Lichens	661	

Table 4 | Species richness in inland and marine fauna (Condensed from IUCN Red List 2007)

Taxonomic group	No. of species	No. of endemics
Invertebrate fauna	1601	355
Vertebrate fauna	932	284
Marine fauna	579	

Photography: Hiranya Sudasinghe

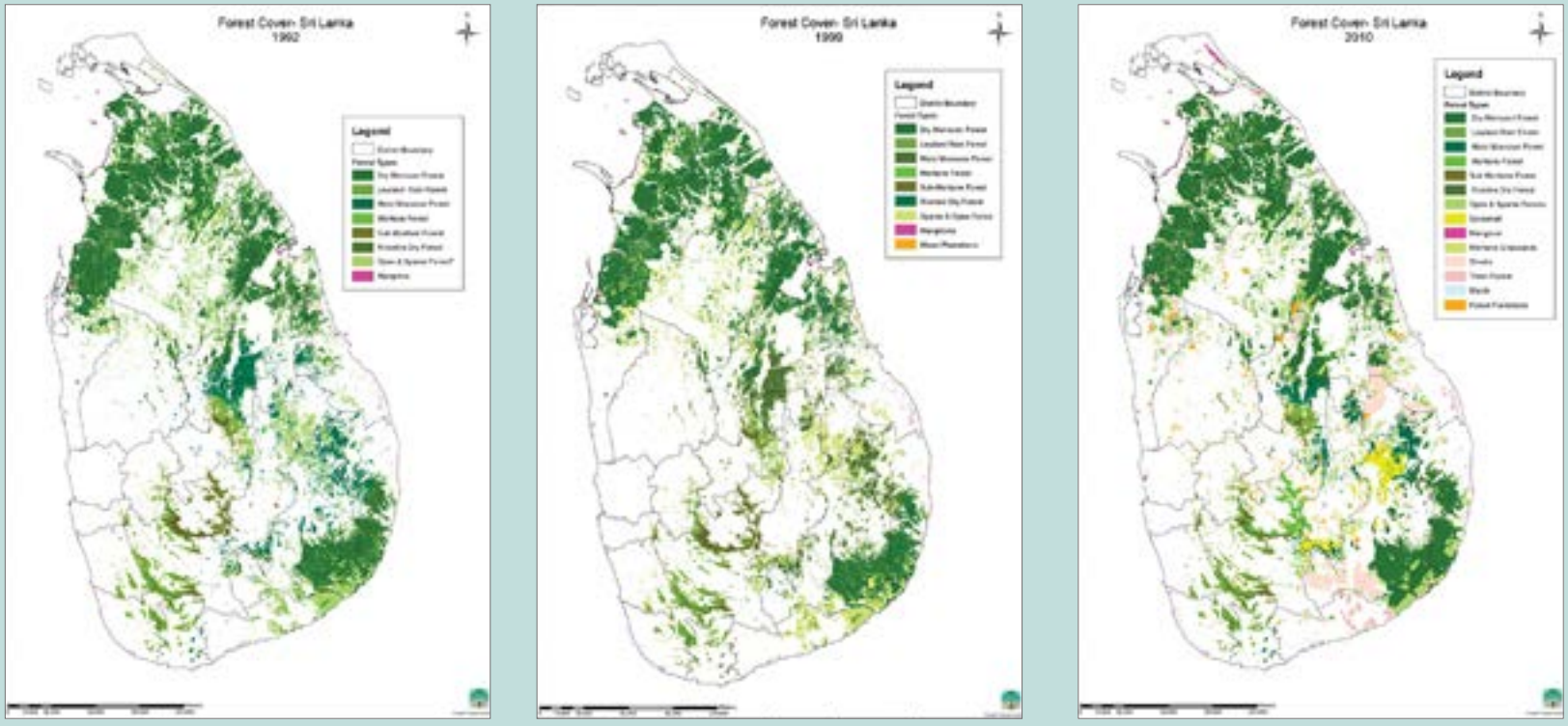
Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation[13]

20. Sri Lanka's economic growth has been accompanied by a decline in forest cover. Today, the country has a total natural forest area of approximately 1.95 million ha or 29.7%[14] - a significant change from the 70% forest cover estimated at the turn of the 19th Century. This transition has occurred through a combination of historic and modern drivers of forest cover change.

21. The spatial analysis of forest cover change between 2000 and 2010 (see figure 2) shows that the overall rate of deforestation has slowed to an average of 8,088 ha/year[15] (annual deforestation rate of approx. 0.3%). A significant reduction

13. Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Sri Lanka: Assessment of key Policies and Measures, UN-REDD National Programme in Sri Lanka, December 2015.
14. Edirisinghe, E.A.P.N., Ariyadasa, K.P. and Chandani, R.P.D.S. 2012. Forest cover assessment in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lanka Forester, 34: 1-12.
15. Sri Lanka's Forest Reference Level submission to UNFCCC, January 2017

Figure 2 | Forest cover change 1992-1999-2010



from the rate of 42,200 ha/year that had occurred between 1956 and 1984.[16] Deforestation has also becoming more scattered across the country with rates higher in the Dry Zone than the Wet Zone.

22. Table 5 shows changes in forest cover by administrative district over the same period with the highest rates of forest cover change (in absolute terms) occurring in five hotspot districts of the Dry Zone namely Anuradhapura, Moneragala, Hambantota, Ampara and Puttalam districts. While the top five districts were located in the Dry Zone, Matale and Kalutara districts were also identified as having the highest rates of forest cover change in the Intermediate and Wet Zones respectively.

16. Please note there is a data gap between the 1980's and 1990 due to the civil conflict in the country.

Table 5 | Districts with forest cover loss (1992-1999-2010)

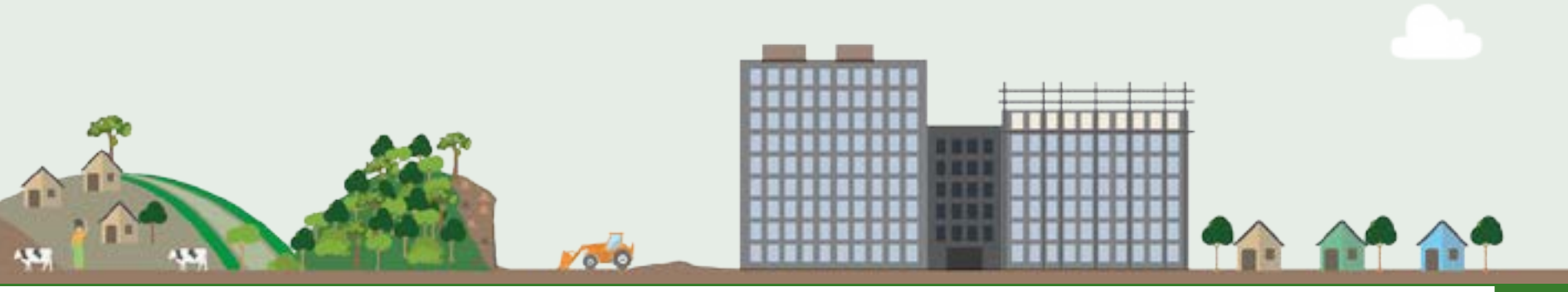
District		Changes of forest cover (ha)					
		1992 - 1999	% of loss	1999 - 2010	% of loss	1992 - 2010	% of loss
1	Anuradhapura	-33579	-11%	-7686	-3%	-41265	-14%
2	Moneragala	-25188	-10%	-2784	-1%	-27972	-11%
3	Hambantota	5475	7%	-28064	-32%	-22589	-28%
4	Ampara	-5013	-3%	-13316	-8%	-18329	-11%
5	Puttalam	-11555	-11%	-6132	-7%	-17687	-17%
6	Matale	-13940	-16%	2167	3%	-11773	-13%
7	Trincomale	-4800	-4%	-251	0%	-5051	-4%
8	Kalutara	-3345	-15%	-1387	-7%	-4732	-21%
9	Batticaloa	-98	0%	-4010	-7%	-4108	-7%
10	Polonnaruwa	-2889	-2%	-632	0%	-3521	-2%
11	Matara	-1110	-5%	-1436	-7%	-2546	-11%
12	Mulaitivu	-3134	-2%	1026	1%	-2108	-1%
13	Kurunegala	-3415	-11%	1408	5%	-2006	-6%
14	Kilinochchi	-1070	-3%	375	1%	-695	-2%

Photography: Devaka Seneviratne

There are three main drivers of deforestation in Sri Lanka:
- Encroachments;
- Infrastructure development project
- Private agriculture ventures

and a range of small-scale drivers of forest degradation

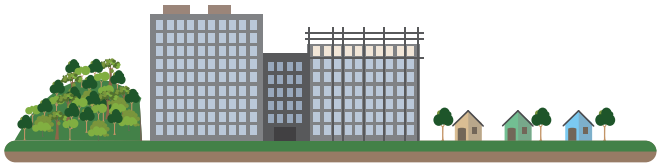
23. The major drivers of forest cover change pre and post independence were reviewed as part of a process of identifying potential REDD+ actions. The work identified key drivers, underlying drivers, catalysts and inhibitors to forest cover change. The assessment was done through a review of existing literature, secondary data, spatial assessment of forest cover changes, and primary data collected through focus group discussions, key informant interviews and consultations with stakeholders from government agencies and CSOs.



24. The study showed that deforestation and forest degradation, particularly observed in the hotspot districts, is due to three direct drivers:

1) Encroachments, for agriculture, settlements and other purposes such as gem mining and coastal shrimp farming.

2) Infrastructure development projects, such as the construction of roads, highways, harbors and airports, the development of tourism activities and expansion of power generation and transmission facilities as well as associated resettlement programmes. The number of such projects has also increased rapidly since the return of peace in 2009.



3) Private agriculture ventures, in particular the expansion of commercial rain-fed highland agriculture and the development of smallholder plantation agriculture in the Dry Zone.

The study also identified that forest degradation in the same period resulted from a range of small-scale activities including practices such as cardamom cultivation, fuelwood collection, collection of various NTFPs (e.g. rattan, medicinal plants, resin), grazing lands for cattle, anthropogenic forest fires, gem mining and quarrying and illicit felling of timber. This latter issue, though not in large scale, is prevalent throughout the country. These activities were collectively grouped as a single driver called **localized small-scale activities.**

25. These direct drivers are catalysed by underlying drivers such as a rapid increase in the demand for land for agricultural activities and infrastructure development projects following the end of the civil war, as well as ongoing demand for forest products in national and international markets. In many cases these underlying drivers are supported by land-sector policies that are targeted on expanding food production or increasing infrastructure development. This creates a situation of poor coordination and conflicts of objectives among governmental agencies. Other underlying drivers include; population growth, technological advancement, commercialisation of rural economies and political patronage. The practice of periodic regularisation of encroached lands together with lack of law enforcement by authorities also play a key role in allowing the impacts of encroachment to continue.

26. The assessment also highlighted some existing mechanisms to address these drivers, including protected area management and policies, environmental laws and regulations, spread of home gardens (as a source of timber and other resources), customary rights, public pressure, labour migration and off-farm employment opportunities as well as increase in general awareness of environmental issues. The interaction between these different factors is summarised in Table 6 below.

Table 6 | Summary of drivers and their catalysts and inhibitors

Type of damage	Direct drivers	Indirect drivers
Deforestation	 Encroachments	• Demand for residential lands; • Global demand for export crops (e.g. tea); • Global demand for aquaculture products (e.g. shrimp); • Local demand for other field crops (e.g. maize, vegetable); • Other purposes (e.g. gem mining)
	 Development projects	Demand for land in projects in following areas/sectors: • Irrigation development; • Urban development; • Energy (e.g. hydropower); • Resettlement; • Tourism; • Livelihood development; • Roads and highways • Airports and harbors; • High voltage transmission lines
	 Private agriculture ventures	• Export and local demand for agricultural products (e.g. cashew, banana); • Policy objective of reducing import costs by substituting sugar imports
Forest Degradation	 Localised small-scale activities	• Local demand for timber and wod products; • Households needs; • Industrial infrastructure

Catalysts	Inhibitors
• Permissive land laws and policies; • Political interference; • Limitations in monitoring capacity; • Poor coordination among agencies; • Population growth; • Commercialization of rural economies; • Mechanization of agricultural technologies	• Forest policies and protected area management; • Internal and external migration of the rural labour force; • Home gardens; • Off-farm employment; • Customary rights
• Population growth; • Poor coordination among agencies; • Political interference	• Environmental laws and regulations; • Forest policies and protected area management; • Public pressure and awareness
• Political patronage; • Poor coordination among agencies; • Population growth; • Mechanization of agricultural technologies	• Environmental laws and regulations; • Forest policies and protected area management; • Public pressure and awareness
• Limitations of monitoring capacity; • Political interference; • Population growth	• Forest policies and protected area management; • Home gardens; • Labour migration; • Customary rights

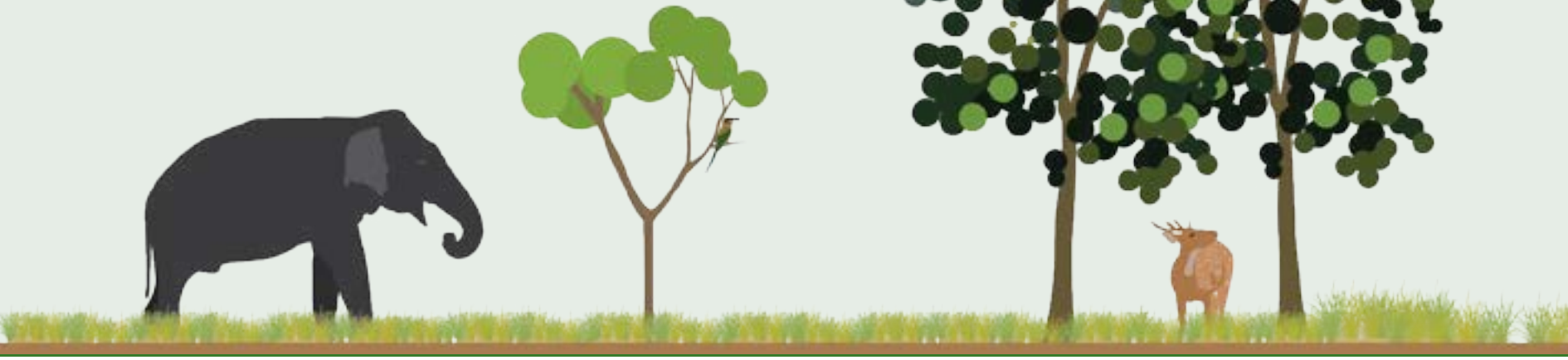
Institutional setup

27. Sri Lanka has a well-established and effective sub-national administrative system. This includes 9 Provinces, 25 Districts and 331 Divisional Secretaries. The technical departments with jurisdiction over forest areas such as the FD and the DWC are centralised in terms of decisions, operational planning and budgets but have demonstrated the ability to take action on the ground and maintain relationships with the local government at the divisional level despite the coordination issues among the institutions.

28. Management of the country's forest cover falls mainly within the purview of two government entities, the FD and the DWC. FD and the DWC are responsible for the management of approximately 19.2% and 17.6% surface area of the island respectively (including both forest and non-forest lands). Some fragmented areas of forests are within lands administered by the Coast Coverv ation and Coastal Resources Management Department, the Land Reform Commission (LRC) and the Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka (MASL), in estates leased to Regional Plantation Companies (RPCs) and in Vihara & Dewala (temple) lands. Some forests are also under private ownership. The extent and condition of forests in these ownership categories is not available. Further assessment of fragmented forest lands will be done during the NRIFAP implementation through better identification, increased protection and enhanced monitoring.

29. The FD has a long tradition of forest governance, the objectives of which has evolved over time with the changing social, cultural and economic environment. Established in 1887, the FD has a significant organisational network consisting of 5 forestry regions, 23 forestry divisions, 82 forest ranges, 358 forest beats and 782 forest field assistant divisions in a hierarchical order. Forests are categorised as Conservation Forests, Reserved Forests and Other State Forests. Forestry operations related to sustainable forest management are centrally regulated while general administration activities are decentralised to the forestry regions.

Photography: Hiranya Sudasinghe



30. The DWC has divided the island into 12 regions with powers delegated to these regions to undertake wildlife management.

Main forest-related legislation

31. *Forest Ordinance* – This is the legislative tool that empowers forest officers to implement their duties in relation to the protection of forest resources. First enacted in 1907, it has multiple amendments - the last in 2009 (Forest (Amendment) Act No.65 of 2009).

32. *Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance* - This ordinance came into effect during a period when wildlife management was a subject handled by the FD (Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance, No.2 of 1937). Since then, it has been amended several times with the last amendment made in 2009 (Fauna and Flora Protection (Amendment) Act, No.22 of 2009).

Main forest-related policies

33. *Forest Policy* - The first forest policy was promulgated in 1929 and modified several times according to circumstances and priorities at different periods. A new policy was approved in March 1995, which is currently operational and has the following objectives:

    i. To conserve forests for posterity, with particular regard to biodiversity, soils, water, and historical, cultural, religious and aesthetic values;

    ii. To increase the tree cover and productivity of the forests to meet the needs of present and future generations for forest products and services;

    iii. To enhance the contribution of forests to the welfare of the rural population, and strengthen the national economy, with special attention paid to equity in economic development.

34. *National Wildlife Policy* - The first National Policy on Wildlife Conservation was approved by cabinet in June 1990. The present National Wildlife Policy promulgated in 2000 updates the previous policy, while also adding some points that respond to the evolving needs of Sri Lankan society and the additional mandates of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which Sri Lanka ratified in 1994.

35. *National Climate Change Policy* – This policy was approved in 2012 with the objectives to:

    i. Periodically sensitise and make communities aware of the country's vulnerability to climate change;

    ii. Take adaptive measures to avoid and minimise the adverse impacts of climate change on people, their livelihoods and ecosystems;

    iii. Mitigate greenhouse gas emissions in the path of sustainable development;

    iv. Promote sustainable consumption and production;

    v. Enhance knowledge on the multifaceted issues related to climate change in the society and build its capacity to make prudent choices in decision making;

    vi. Develop the country's capacity to address the impacts of climate change effectively and efficiently;

    vii. Mainstream and integrate climate change issues in the national development process.

36. *National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)* – The plan has an operational period of seven years from 2016 to 2022 and provides the strategic approach needed to ensure that Sri Lanka's rich biodiversity is conserved and used in a sustainable manner. The national targets are synergistic with global targets such as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The NBSAP is also a guiding policy framework for provincial authorities as well as civil society groups and private sector organizations and provides approaches to biodiversity conservation and ecosystems management. The NBSAP has five strategic goals with 20 targets:

    i. Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society;

    ii. Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use;

    iii. Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity;

    iv. Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services;

    v. Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

Limitations of the forest governance system

37. The existing sectoral policies and corresponding policy instruments acknowledge only to a limited extent the linkages that exist across sectors. For example, the Forest Policy makes no explicit reference to climate change (or to other REDD+ relevant sectors like infrastructure, agriculture, etc.). The National Climate Change Policy also makes no explicit reference to the mitigation opportunities that exist in the forestry sector (however, these are acknowledged in the Sri Lankan Nationally Determined Contributions - NDCs) but states the need to 'acknowledge and improve carbon storage capacity of the forests in forest management, taking into account the other ecosystem services provided by the forests'.

38. Although most Sri Lankan forests fall within the purview of FD and DWC, they are hosted under two different Ministries: Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, and Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife respectively, making coordination and streamlining of activities difficult.

39. Both FD and DWC expect that the participation of the civil society in policy making will be reinforced in the future. The DWC collaborates with village communities in managing protected areas. The same collaborative efforts are made by the FD in managing conservation and reserved forests by forming vigilant groups for forest protection and to combat forest fires and by promoting community forestry approaches. Ways and means are suggested in the NRIFAP to extend the collaboration with the civil society to improve the forest governance in Sri Lanka.

Photography: Devaka Seneviratne

B

National commitment towards REDD+ objectives

B.1.
Alignment with government priorities

40. Sri Lanka is focusing on long-term strategic and structural development challenges as it strives to transition to an upper middle-income country. Key challenges include boosting investment, including in human capital, realigning public spending and policy with the needs of a middle-income country, enhancing the role of the private sector, including the provision of an appropriate environment for increasing productivity and exports, and ensuring that growth is inclusive.[18] In this context, His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka launched, in 2016, 'Sri Lanka Next - A Blue-Green Era' initiative, a strategy for the sustainable development of Sri Lanka.

41. The 'Sri Lanka Next - A Blue-Green Era' initiative indicates the country's commitment to follow a low-carbon emission development pathway. This incorporates a commitment to sustainable management of oceanic, marine and terrestrial resources and placing the environment first when proceeding with the government's rapid development agenda. Within this context, the GoSL considers decreasing GHG emissions through reductions in deforestation and forest degradation as an integrated part of its 'Sri Lanka Next - A Blue-Green Era' initiative.

42. Specifically, the government of Sri Lanka has demonstrated its commitment to goals that align with REDD+. In October 2015, HE President of Sri Lanka announced Wana Ropa (Planting of Forest) - a three-year programme beginning in January 2016 to contribute to increase forest cover from 29.7% to 32% (approx. 150,000 ha) of the country's land area by 2020. It will accompany Punarudaya (Renaissance), a larger programme to drive sustainable development in the country.

43. The overall goal of the Punarudaya programme is to create a sustainable environment within Sri Lanka and build on the National Action Plan for Haritha (Green) Lanka Programme. Four of its key objectives are directly supported by the NRIFAP: (i) Conservation and development of forest resources to maintain sustainability; (ii) Establish a life friendly ecosystem for sustainable utilisation, conservation and management of natural resources, (iii) Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management and (iv) Informed and mobilised public in the area of environmental conservation.

44. A study conducted in 2016[19] concludes that institutional capacity related to Sri Lanka's major cross-sectoral policies and laws is uneven. Addressing these institutional weaknesses and strengthening cross sector coordination on environmental issues through REDD+ has the potential to contribute to many key sectors of the national economy.

45. The GoSL signed the Paris Agreement in April 2016 and approval from the Parliament of Sri Lanka was given in September 2016[20]. As a result of the growing interest of the GoSL towards REDD+ during the readiness phase, the GoSL – through its NDCs – acknowledges the role of the forestry sector as a key mitigation strategy. The NDCs recommended

18. http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/srilanka/overview
19. Policies, Laws and Regulations analysis of prioritized REDD+ Policies and Measures, Sri Lanka UN-REDD National Programme, January 2016
20. Cabinet Paper No.16/1803/701/026, Ratification of Paris Agreement by Sri Lanka

Photography: Hiranya Sudasinghe

REDD+ will contribute to the national objective of increasing the current forest cover from **29.7%** to **32%**.

an increase of the current forest cover from 29.7% up to 32% (aligned with Wana Ropa). This includes all PAMs recommended by the NRIFAP:
(i) Improvement of the quality of growing stock of natural forests and forest plantations,
(ii) Restoration of degraded forests and hilltops (shrubs, grasslands and state lands),
(iii) Increase river basin management for major rivers of Sri Lanka,
(iv) Forestation of underutilised private lands and marginal tea lands,
(v) Urban forestry (tree planting along roadsides, temple lands, schools and other government lands),
(vi) Establishment/reactivating of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS),
(vii) Promote private and public sector companies for investment in environmental conservation projects through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs. (Sri Lanka NDCs, 2016[21]).

46. Other sectors covered by the NDCs, such as agriculture, water and biodiversity, will also be supported by the NRIFAP. The agriculture sector will benefit from soil and water conservation practices (PAM9) for other marginal areas to minimise land degradation and to improve the land and water productivity. The water sector will benefit from the protection and conservation measures in 4,000 ha of priority catchment areas (PAM6). The biodiversity sector will also be supported with the restoration of 5,000 ha of degraded wildlife ecosystems inside and outside the protected area network (PAM3) and the implementation of outreach programme for 24 national parks (PAM4).

21. See INDC of Sri Lanka, http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/INDC/Submission%20Pages/submissions.aspx

B.2.
REDD+ vision and objectives

47. The GoSL has developed a vision for REDD+ that forms part of the national approach to improving the overall effectiveness of the country's forest and land management regimes. This vision was developed through a highly consultative process and looks beyond receiving results-based payments for emission reductions to the broader benefits that REDD+ actions will bring. The vision is in line with Articles 2 and 3 of the UNFCCC, which underscores the importance of taking mitigation action in ways that respect developing countries' priorities for poverty alleviation and social and economic development. These elements are brought together in Sri Lanka's vision for REDD+.

48. Through REDD+, Sri Lanka recognises an opportunity to address its current limitations in ensuring integrated and sustainable land and forest management and to address the lack of coordination in land management practices that are contributing to and exacerbating those environmental

Photography: Devaka Seneviratne

REDD+ Vision

Forests and beyond; sustaining life and livelihoods in a greener Sri Lanka”

Sri Lanka will harness the transformational potential of REDD+ to ensure improved land management practices that protect, maintain and enhance ecological functions and social benefits, while sustaining current economic growth.

challenges. It is also in line with an increasingly widespread sentiment among stakeholders of the need for more sustainable land and natural resources management to protect the country's natural capital.

49. REDD+ in Sri Lanka will thus be implemented through a cross-sectoral framework and built into relevant institutional action plans and budgets to ensure strong leadership and ownership of the transitional process towards adopting more sustainable land and forest management practices. This will also help the country to achieve a range of sectoral objectives, not limited to those of the forestry or wildlife conservation sectors. Such an effort would greatly enhance the sustainability and permeability of REDD+ outcome across the country's institutional framework. A number of key cross cutting goals that will be achieved through REDD+ include:

50. **Climate Change Mitigation** – Sri Lanka's NDC aims to reduce its overall GHG emissions unconditionally by 7% - and conditionally by 23%. This will be done predominantly from the energy sector, with the transport, industry, forestry and waste sectors contributing collectively 3% and 7% under the unconditional and conditional scenarios. Through the PAMs for reducing deforestation, the NRIFAP intends to contribute to achieving both the nationally intended and conditional targets.

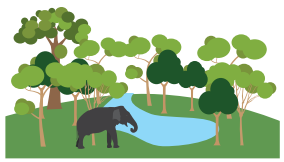
51. **Sustainable Land Management** - The GoSL wishes to increase its forest cover to 32% from the current 29.7%. The carbon enhancement PAMs are expected to contribute up to 45,000 ha out of a total of 150,650 ha (30%) to this target, mainly through restoration of degraded forest lands[22].

52. **Restoration and Maintenance of Ecosystem Services** - Forests in Sri Lanka provide important environmental services such as provisioning of water and food, climate and water quality regulation, and maintaining soil fertility. These are all critical for rural livelihoods and land-based production

REDD+ Objectives

Climate Change Mitigation

Sustainable Land Management



Restoration and Maintenance of Ecosystem Services

Sustaining Current Economic Growth

Minimize Natural Disaster Risks

22. Government of Sri Lanka's objective to increase the forest cover from 29.7% to 32% represents an area of 150,650ha. PAM3 will support the restoration of a total area of 45,000 ha over 5 years (30% of the GoSL's objective)

most specifically agriculture. These critical ecosystem services have been under significant threat from, among other factors, infrastructure development and agricultural expansion.

53. **Sustaining Current Economic Growth** - Sri Lanka's average economic growth rate was 6.4% between 2010 and 2015, and the country faces a number of challenges related to the transition towards a higher middle-income country. While extreme poverty is low, moderate poverty remains a challenge, as rural-based agrarian social and economic structures continue to shift towards a more urban production and service based economy. Such a socio-economic transition has also altered human-environmental relations, and thus the ways in which the country's forests and forest resources are managed have also changed.

54. **Minimize Natural Disaster Risks** - Forests play a critical role in local environments, stabilising soil and reducing the speed of run off that help to reduce the incidence of weather related natural disasters such as landslides, floods and droughts which cost human lives and national funds for disaster management.

Photography: Devaka Seneviratne

Box 2 - A stepwise and targeted approach to REDD+ development

- In order to achieve these goals, and as part of a pragmatic step-wise approach to REDD+ implementation, Sri Lanka will start by focusing on two of the five REDD+ activities:

Reducing emissions from deforestation; and

Enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

This is based on current data availability and capacity to measure changes in forests.

- After 5 years, two additional activities –

Reducing emissions from degradation, and

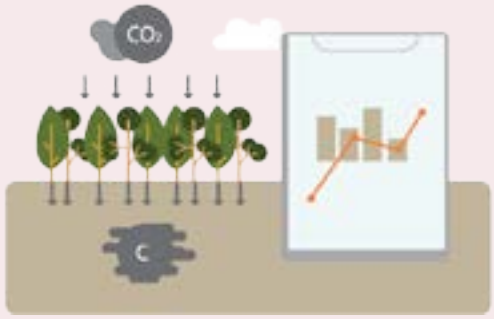
Sustainable management of forests

– are expected to be added, once necessary measurement parameters have been set, and the national forest emission levels have been upgraded and resubmitted to the UNFCCC.

- While the scale of REDD+ implementation is fully national in Sri Lanka, interventions will be concentrated in relevant areas in order to maximise impact and efficiency. Actions to address deforestation will be particularly focused at those districts with the highest rates of deforestation (see A.4), while forest enhancement will take place in areas where it is considered most strategic, cost-effective and socially and environmentally acceptable.

B.3.

Provision of the Forest Reference Level (FRL)



55. Sri Lanka submitted its first FRL to the UNFCCC in January 2017. Key technical elements, such as forest definition, scope of FRL (REDD+ activities, forest carbon pools and gases included), scale (national or sub-national), time period and the data and methodologies used are presented in the below paragraphs.

56. *Forest definition* - Sri Lanka defines forests as land with tree crown cover of more than 10% and area of more than 0.5 ha with trees able to reach a minimum height of 5m at maturity in situ. Forest plantations are included within this while agricultural land, oil palm and rubber plantations are excluded. This definition is used for both GHG inventory and the second National Communication to UNFCCC.

57. *Scope of FRL* – Scope of FRL refers to which REDD+ activities, forest carbon pools and gases are included in its construction. Sri Lanka's scope is summarised in table 7.

58. *Scale of FRL* - Noting that Decision 1/CP.16 requests countries to develop national FRL, with sub-national FRL as a potential interim measure, Sri Lanka has decided to submit a national FRL. Extent of forest area in Sri Lanka is small, relative to neighboring countries, and administration of most of the forests is centralized within the FD and DWC. Hence there is no justification to develop interim sub-national FRLs at the current stage of REDD+ implementation.

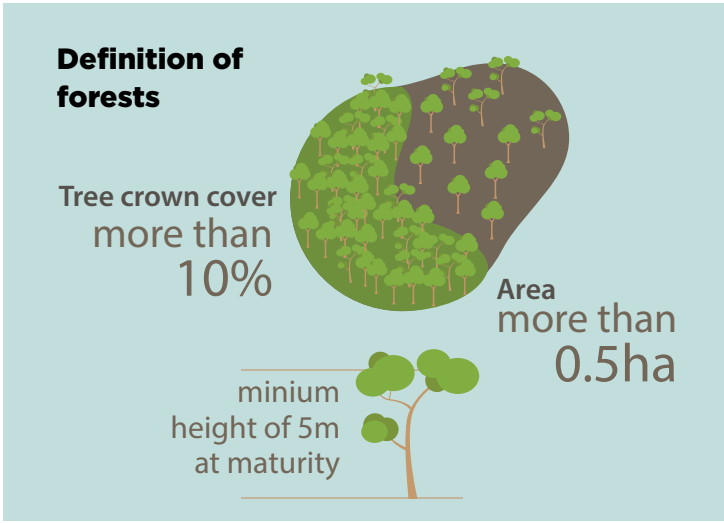
59. *Time period* - Based on available data, Sri Lanka considers 2000 to 2010 as its historical period for FRL development.

60. *Adjustments for national circumstances* – The return of the country to peace in 2009 has been followed by a period of rapid economic development as well as significant public and private investments in infrastructure. Based on this,

> Sri Lanka defines forests as land with tree crown cover of more than 10% and area of more than 0.5 ha with trees able to reach a minimum height of 5m at maturity in situ

Table 7 | Scope of the first FRL in Sri Lanka

Activities	Deforestation
	Afforestation and Reforestation
Pools	Above Ground Biomass
	Below Ground Biomass
Gases	CO_2

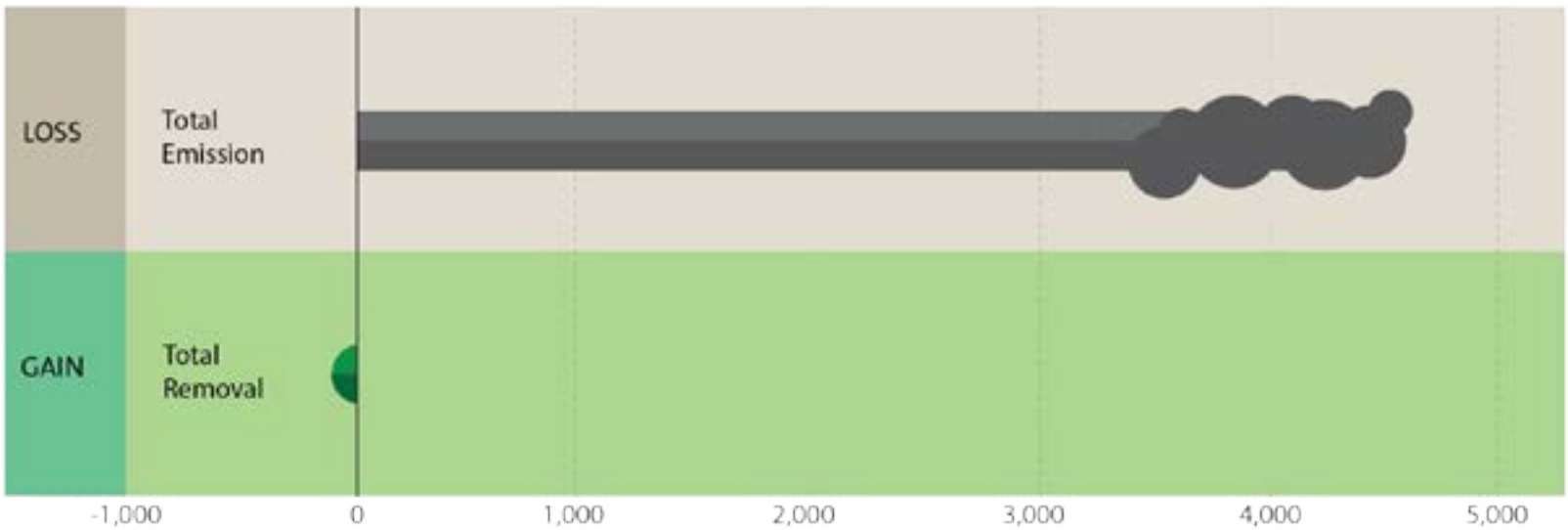


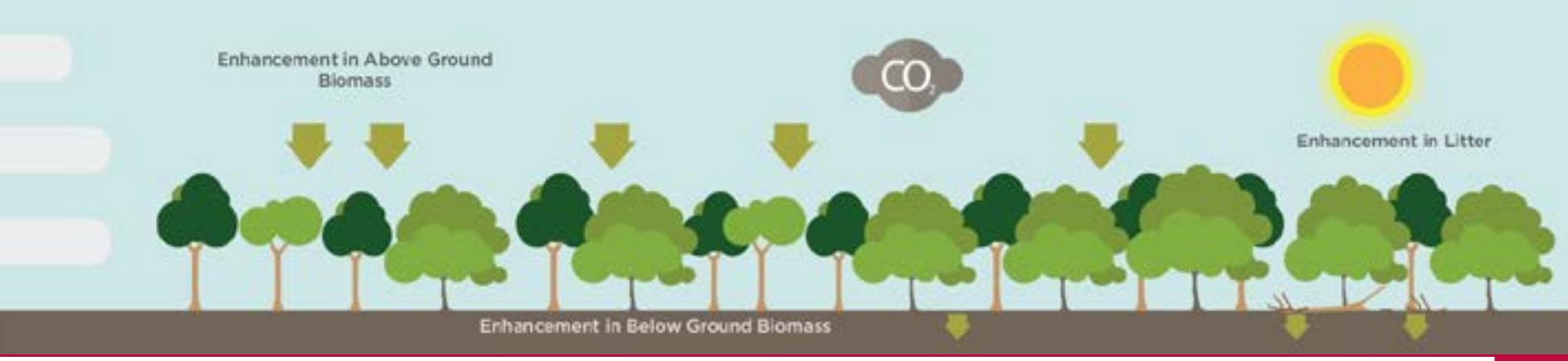
consideration was given to whether an adjustment should be made to the FRL to take account of these changing national circumstances that fall largely outside the reference period. An analysis[23] based on a series of models of planned and actual forest cover change linked to changes in population, labour force and household income indicated that no adjustment was required, and as such, Sri Lanka has decided to use the average annual GHG emissions estimated for the period 2000-2010 in the context of the FRL and for the purpose of receiving results-based payments.

61. *Activity Data*– Sri Lanka includes (i) Reducing emissions from deforestation and (ii) Enhancement of forest carbon stocks from afforestation and reforestation in the FRL. The deforestation/afforestation activity data used for the construction of the FRL were drawn from Sri Lanka's FD national forest cover map, which was used for forest cover statistics for the year 2000, University of Maryland maps for gain and loss up to the year 2010 (filtered by the Sri Lankan forest cover map 2000), and with the combined data corrected for bias using sample data. Activity data were

23. Sri Lanka's national circumstances for constructing Forest Reference Level, Sri Lanka UN-REDD National Programme, October 2016.

Figure 3 | Graphical representation of emission and removals per year as part of FRL (Gg of CO2eq per year)





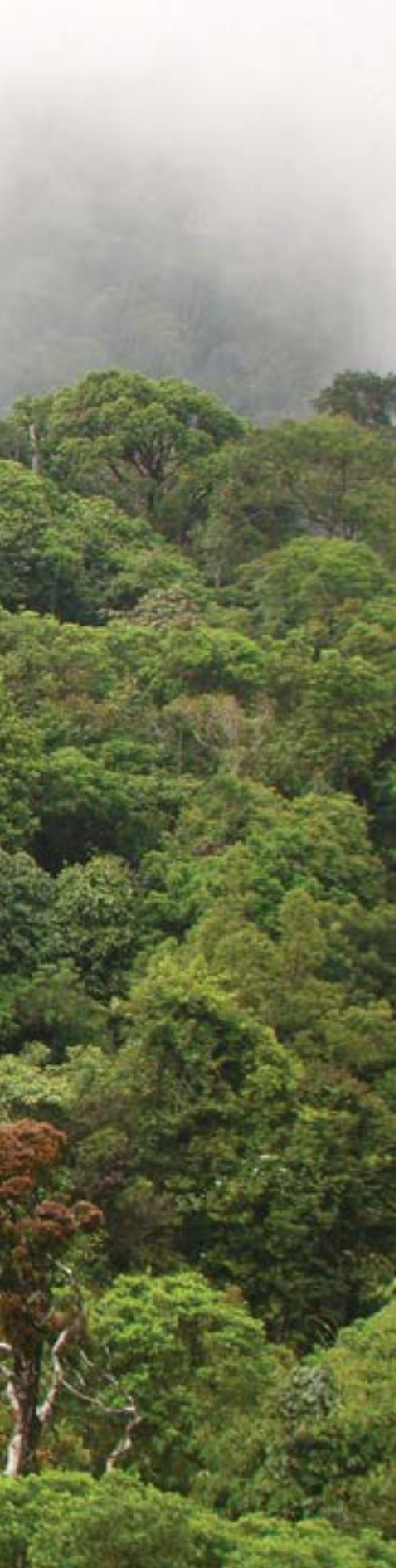
estimated following Approach 3 as described in the IPCC Good Practice Guidelines for the LULUCF Sector (IPCC, 2003). This approach takes into account geographically-explicit land use and the land use change data for estimating activity data. Following this approach, an annual deforestation of about 8,088 ha/year over the period 2000-2010 has been identified.

62. *Emission Factors* – To estimate historical emissions, Sri Lanka proposes to multiply the deforestation area per forest type by the forest carbon contents in this forest type applying the Tier 1 assumption of full oxidation of organic matter. These assumptions are used since the information available on the carbon content of land use after deforestation requires further investigation.

63. *Forest Reference Level* – Sri Lanka's FRL consists of historical annual deforestation and reforestation estimates for the period 2000-2010 combined with IPCC default emission and removal factors.

Table 8 | Sri Lanka's proposed FRL

LOSS/GAIN	Carbon Pools	Unit (Tonnes of C per ha per year)	CO2 Eq in 1000 tonnes	CO2 Eq in 1000 tonnes per year
LOSS	Above ground carbon	872,778	3200	4596
	Below ground carbon	362,915	1331	
	Litter	17,839	65	
GAIN	Enhancement in above ground biomass	14,566	-53	-70
	Enhancement in below ground biomass	4326	-16	
	Enhancement in litter	99	-0.36	



Photography: Hiranya Sudasinghe

C

REDD+ Policies and Measures (PAMs) and expected results

C.1.
REDD+ PAMs in Sri Lanka

64. Sri Lanka has identified 13 Policies and Measures (PAMs) to address the identified drivers of forest cover change (see Table 9 for the full list). These PAMs were prioritised and developed through a highly consultative process that brought together technical practitioners, private sector representatives, civil society and policy makers and used a combination of open consultation and criteria based assessments. A detailed description of this process is provided in Annex 1. The PAMs have been categorized under three priority policy areas to facilitate their alignment with Sri Lanka's NDC and other national priority policies mentioned earlier: (i) Forest, Wildlife and Watershed, (ii) Land Use Planning and (iii) Other Forested Lands.

Table 9 | REDD+ PAMs and their goalsIn relation to the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, the selected PAMs mainly focus on addressing six key areas

Policy Area 1:	
POLICY AND MEASURE	 **PAM 1: Improve forest law enforcement and monitoring**
	 **PAM 2: Scale-up of forest boundary survey, demarcation and declaration**
GOAL	A 36% reduction in annual forest loss (currently 8,000 ha) over 5 years, through increased enforcement and monitoring capacity
	A total of approximately 160,000 ha of new forests to be placed under appropriate protection and sustainable management regimes, over 5 years, including protected areas, to expand the total forest cover

Forest, Wildlife and Watershed

C

			
PAM 3: Restore degraded forests and wildlife ecosystems	**PAM 4: Strengthen sustainable forest management (natural forests)**	**PAM 5: Strengthen sustainable management of forest plantations**	**PAM 6: Strengthen protection of watersheds**
A total of approximately 40,000 ha of degraded forests to be restored over 5 years, through assisted natural regeneration and reforestation (32,000 ha in the Dry Zone and 8,000 ha in the Wet Zone), plus 5000 ha of wildlife habitats	To create enabling conditions for sustainable forest management to increase forest biomass and biodiversity, while enhancing collaborative management opportunities with local communities and meeting local demand for forest products	A total of 2,500 ha of sustainably managed forest plantations established over 5 years, to enhance forest carbon stocks and to reduce pressure on natural forests	To create enabling condition for forest restoration and enhancement to increase biomass and restore and maintain critical ecological functions, regulating the quality and volume of water and reducing natural disaster risks, improving soil conservation and reducing erosion

65. *Forest, Wildlife and Watershed* – In this area a total of six PAMs have been identified to support and enhance GoSL's existing and planned efforts on restoration, sustainable management and enhancement of forest resources under the purview of FD and DWC. These PAMs are particularly focused on strengthening law enforcement, forest boundary demarcation and restoration of degraded forest ecosystems in order to ensure the overall effectiveness of national forest management. This area presents the highest emission reduction or/and removal potential, as well as significant opportunities to deliver non-carbon benefits.

Policy Area 2: Land Use Planning

PAM 7:
Support inclusion of Strategic Environmental Assessment under Land Use Planning (LUP)

A 5% reduction in annual forest loss (currently 8,000 ha) through better coordination and sectoral alignment in land use planning

PAM 8:
Strengthen Environmental Impact Assessment process

To create an enabling condition for a more thorough and stringent environmental and social appraisal process in order to reduce conversion pressure, degradation of sensitive environment bio diversity loss

PAM 9:
Improve land productivity and rehabilitation practices

A 5 % reduction in annual forest loss (currently 8,000 ha) over 5 years, through increasing land productivity to reduce conversion pressure

PAM 10:
Improve the tree cover of non-forested lands (home gardens, urban centres, abandoned paddy lands, sand dunes, public lands and settlements)

To create an enabling condition for forest protection by increasing supply of timber and fuelwood in order to reduce pressure on natural forests

66. *Land Use Planning* – PAMs in this area focus on broader aspects of land management concerning forests, including land use planning to fully adopt strategic and sustainable land management practices with the national forest cover expansion target in mind. The majority of the PAMs under this policy area are considered enabling activities, which support the implementation of other PAMs which are more directly aiming at generating emissions reductions or/and removals.

Policy Area 3: Other Forested Lands

 **PAM 11: Strengthen protection of other non-state forested lands[24]**	 **PAM 12: Strengthen local supply chain for fuelwood demand**	 **PAM 13: Develop agroforestry models for addressing forest degradation**	POLICY AND MEASURE
To create an enabling condition to increase forested areas under protection	To create an enabling condition for forest protection by increasing supply of timber and fuelwood to reduce pressure on natural forests	To create an enabling condition for making the existing agro-forestry schemes financially more viable for the schemes' participants in order to reduce pressure on natural forests	GOAL

67. *Other Forested Lands* – PAMs in this area deal with forest lands outside of the purview of FD and DWC. They focus on both reducing the risk of conversion of forest to other land uses and increasing timber and fuelwood supply from these areas to reduce pressure on natural forests managed by the DWC and FD. Several of these PAMs address forest degradation despite it not currently being included within the FRL. This represents both the holistic approach of the NRIFAP and the anticipated inclusion of forest degradation in future iterations of the FRL.

24. Vihara Devalagam, Janataha Estate Development Board (JEDB), Sri Lanka State Plantations Cooperation (SLSPC), Regional Plantation Companies (RPCs) & Land Reform Commission (LRC)

68. In relation to the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, the selected PAMs mainly focus on addressing six key areas:

    i. weak enforcement of policies, laws and regulations (PLRs);

    ii. lack of strategic land use planning;

    iii. weak enforcement of environmental impact assessment procedures;

    iv. weak forest management practices, inadequate manpower and field facilities to protect forests effectively;

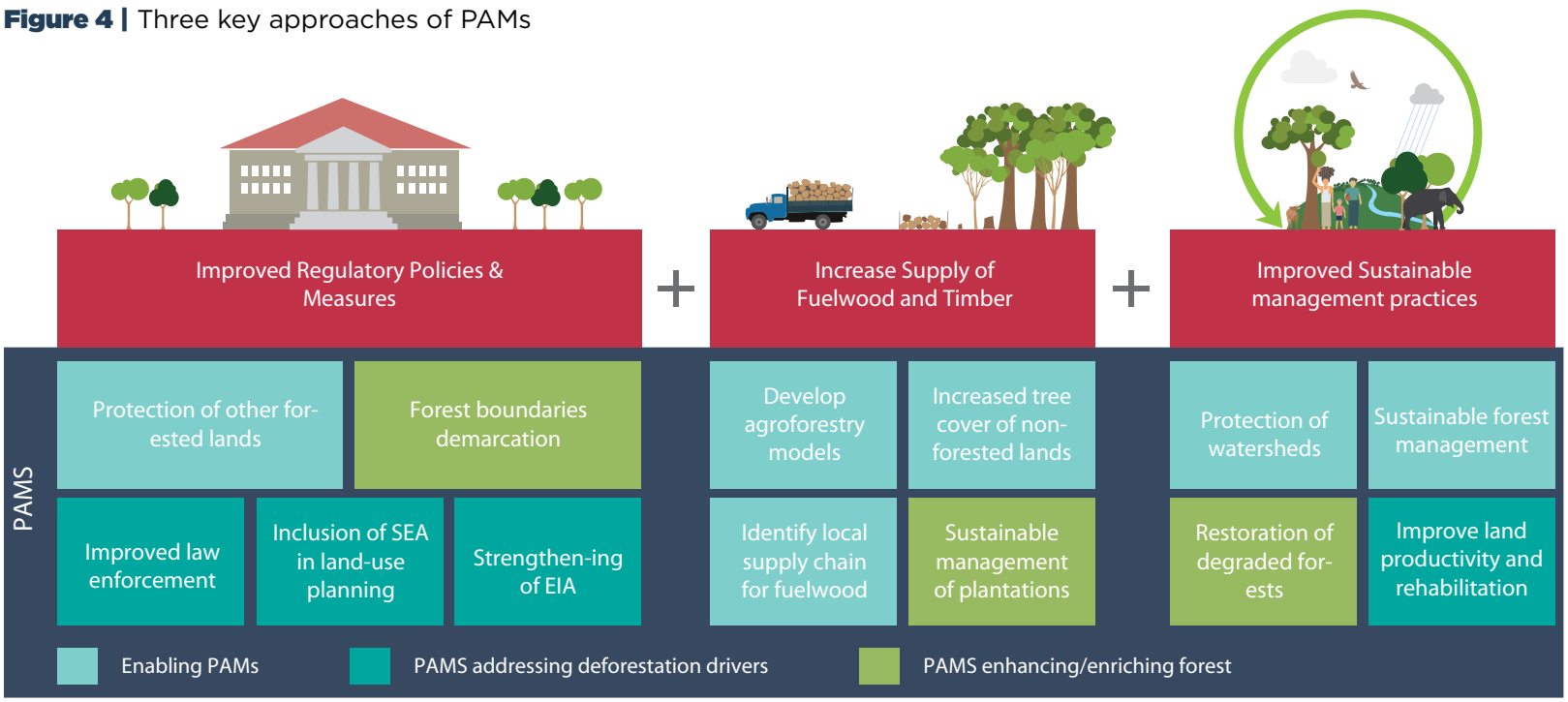
    v. weak control of demand and supply of fuelwood, timber and wood products;

    vi. poor inter-sectoral coordination.

69. This is done through three key approaches:

    1) improving regulatory measures (i.e. law enforcement, environmental impact assessment, forest boundary demarcation) to protect natural forests from encroachments,

Figure 4 | Three key approaches of PAMs



13 PAMs to improve regulatory policies and measures, increase supply of fuelwood and timber, and improve sustainable management practices.

infrastructure development and private agricultural ventures;

2) increasing the supply of fuelwood from other forest lands to address localised drivers from small-scale economic activities; and

3) improving the overall effectiveness of sustainable forest/land management regimes to enhance forest cover and carbon stock across the country while also contributing to enhanced livelihoods for forest user communities.

70. Figure 4 shows how these 13 PAMs will respectively contribute to these cross cutting areas with each PAM also colour coded to indicate which specific REDD+ activity category it falls under or that it is an enabling PAM.

71. The proposed PAMs will also have impacts across Sri Lanka's overall land management practices, helping to achieve the country's broader vision of using REDD+ to support effort to achieve low carbon sustainable land management across the country. It should also be noted that while, other underlying drivers/catalysts such as political interferences and population growth were also identified, their complex socio-economic and political nature was considered beyond the scope of REDD+ for Sri Lanka, particularly given the timeframe of the NRIFAP. Figure 5 below shows Sri Lanka's theory of change with the strategic areas of PAMs.

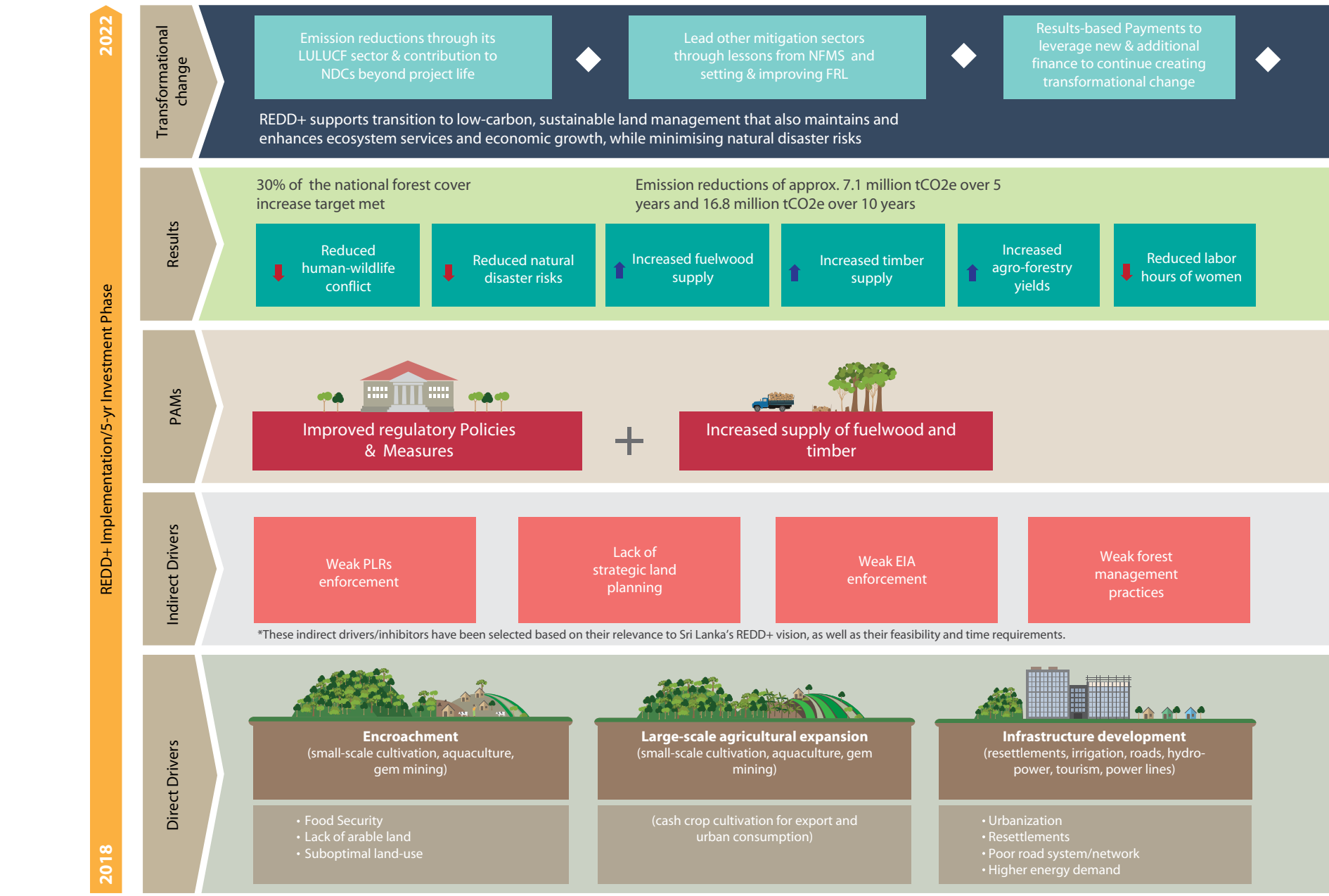
72. The majority of the PAMs identified are built on the existing and planned activities of relevant national institutions to enhance their overall effectiveness to deliver new and additional carbon and non-carbon impacts. The emphasis is therefore put on providing technical and financial support to the institutions implementing specific PAMs and in realising the full GHG emission reduction or/and removal potential of each PAM. Both technical and functional capacity gaps as well as additional financing needs in relation to each PAM have been identified, together with estimated carbon and non-carbon impacts and social and environmental risk level (see Table 10).

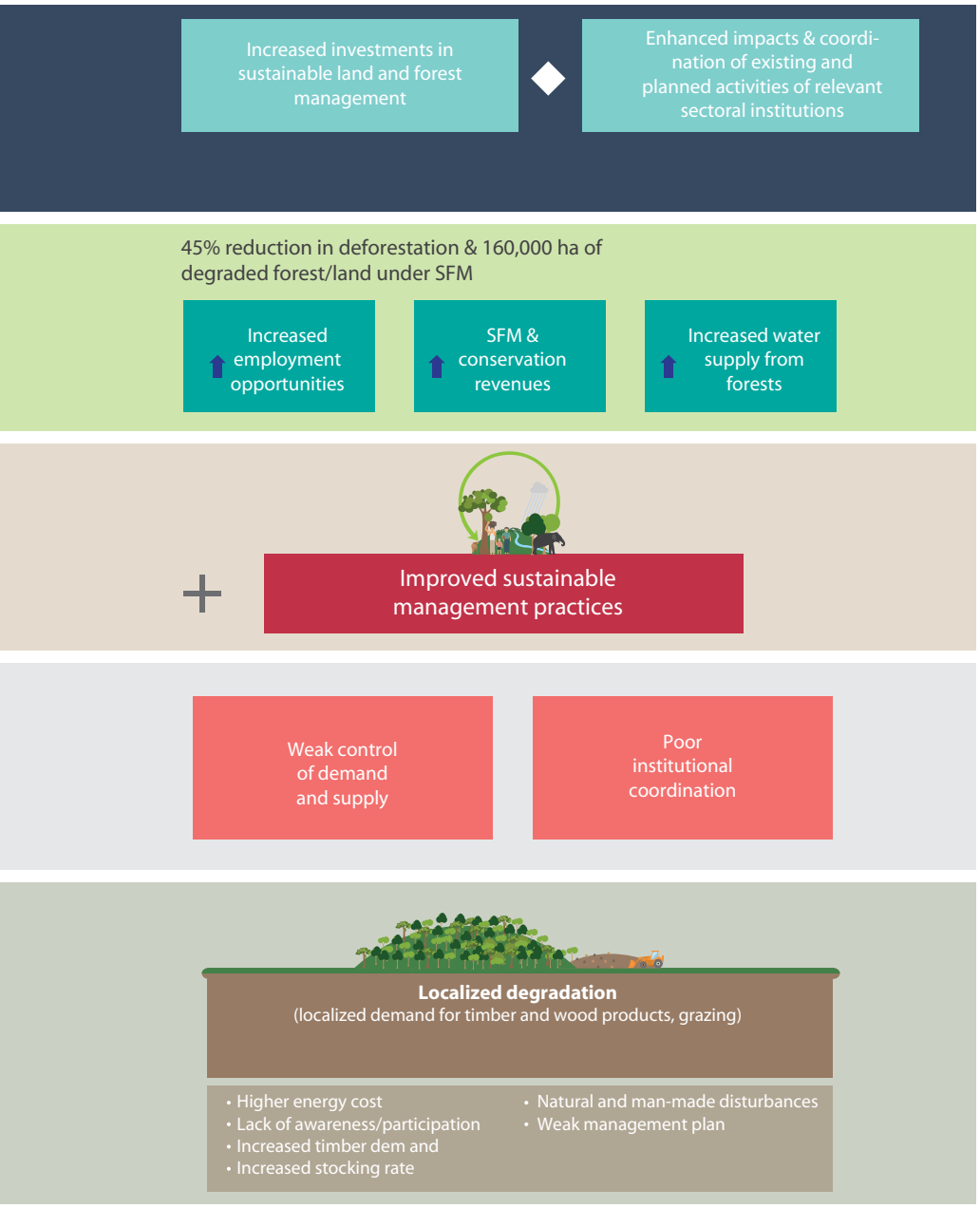
73. In addition to supporting existing activities, the NRIFAP also introduces new and innovative concepts and approaches such as:

- New agroforestry models and home garden management plans for different agro-eco regions;
- Improved safeguards systems through improved capacities on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and through the operationalisation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process;
- Incentive schemes such as conservation easements suggested for forest land owners or contractual agreements between communities and Plantation Companies for fuelwood supply;
- Public Private Partnerships[25] to promote reforestation, afforestation, forest restoration and urban forestry;

25. The Grow-a-Fighter campain launched by the FD through which private sector companies can support the restoration of degraded forests to reach the national goal of 32% forest cover (see www.vanaviruvaduma.lk for more information)

Figure 5 | Theory of change with strategic polices and measures





- The CSOs network built through the readiness process to support wider safeguards and community level monitoring of REDD+ activities.

74. A detailed profile of each PAM, describing among others its specific geographical focus, implementation arrangements, budget, timeframe, targets, risks and safeguards is presented in Annex 2. Table 10 below presents the consolidated integrated financing plan for the 13 PAMs. In addition to the PAMs, the costs for the development of stakeholders' engagement strategies for each relevant PAM implementation site are also included as well as costs of technical assistance for PAMs implementation. Implementation of PAM1 on forest law enforcement, PAM2 on forest boundary demarcation and PAM5 on management of forest plantations will be carried out alongside a comprehensive programme of technical advice and capacity development, drawing on international expertise and experience of past and ongoing programmes in the Asia-Pacific Region that will increase the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the approaches.

75. The total cost of the PAMs is USD 73,110,019 out of which USD 19,042,056 are already covered by the existing national budget. The net balance for implementing all 13 PAMs is USD 54,067,963.

Total cost of the PAMs

USD 73,110,019

Net balance for implementing PAMs

USD 54,067,963

Table 10 | Consolidated integrated financing plan for REDD+ PAMs

REDD+ POLICIES AND MEASURES COSTS AND IMPACTS

PAMs	Coordinating Institutions	Total Cost (USD)	Annual Costs (USD)		
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
PAM1: Inproved law enforcement	FD / DWC	4,041,079	994,872	816,185	767,518
PAM2: Forest boundaries demarcation	FD / DWC	11,696,627	1,800,200	2,478,607	2,478,607
PAM3: Restoration of degraded forests	FD / DWC	22,883,240	4,680,200	4,550,760	4,550,760
PAM4: SFM of natural forests	FD / DWC	6,757,733	711,600	1,447,133	1,534,000
PAM5: Sustainable management of forest plantations	FD	8,673,287	1,777,287	1,720,667	1,727,333
PAM6: Protection of watersheds	FD	1,967,600	31,600	484,000	484,000
PAM7: Inclusion of SEA in LUP process	NPPD	3,528,033	1,066,993	609,793	594,860
PAM8: Strenghtening of EIA process	CEA	243,667	75,000	89,667	26,333
PAM9: Improve land productivity and rehabilitation	DoA	7,949,767	46,833	1,975,733	1,975,733
PAM10: Increase tree cover of non forested lands	DoA	1,644,833	56,167	347,167	413,833
PAM11: Protection of other forested lands	MoL	1,317,667	132,600	296,267	296,267
PAM12: Identify supply chain for fuelwood	MoPI	470,167	20,500	119,167	110,167
PAM13: Develop agroforestry models	FD	1,936,320	66,667	467,413	467,413
PAMS TOTAL COST		73,110,019	11,460,518	15,402,558	15,426,825
Development of stakeholders engagement strategies for each relevant PAM implementation site	All supported by the REDD+ TS	140,000	140,000	-	-
Technical Assistance for PAMs implementation	Internation-al Partner / REDD+ TS	2,343,000	585,210	561,460	508,110

				Strategy Category				
Year 4	Year 5	Existing National Budget (USD)	Additional Resources Needed (USD)	REDD+ (Deforestation and/or Enhancement)	Enabling	Emission reduction potential (tCO2eq) 5 YEARS	Emission reduction potential (tCO2eq) 10 YEARS	Risks level (Low - Medium - High)
731,252	731,252	2,527,420	1,513,659	Deforestation		1,152,191	1,152,191	Medium
2,469,607	2,469,607	6,553,493	5,143,133	Enhancement		4,449,530	11,892,081	Medium
4,550,760	4,550,760	1,829,040	21,054,200	Enhancement		1,045,814	3,213,964	Medium
1,537,800	1,527,200	625,733	6,132,000		×	-	-	Medium
1,724,000	1,724,000	1,094,553	7,578,733	Enhancement		78,841	236,522	Low
484,000	484,000	564,800	1,402,800	Enhancement		-	-	Medium
678,193	578,193	1,804,996	1,723,037	Deforestation		160,026	160,026	Medium
26,333	26,333	9,667	234,000	Deforestation		-	-	High
1,975,733	1,975,733	2,333,033	5,616,733	Deforestation		160,026	160,026	Medium
413,833	413,833	1,163,333	481,500		×	-	-	Medium
296,267	296,267	46,333	1,271,333		×	-	-	Low
110,167	110,167	320,000	150,167		×	-	-	Medium
467,413	467,413	169,653	1,766,667		×	-	-	Medium
15,465,358	15,354,758	19,042,056	54,067,963	Total Emission Reduction Estimates		7,056,428	16,814,810	
-	-	0	140,000					
337,860	350,360	0	2,343,000					

C.2.
Expected results

Anticipated mitigation impacts

76. For countries with low forest cover like Sri Lanka, expected REDD+ results-based payments will likely be small, and therefore, REDD+ is justified through building on existing institutional arrangements and capacities to generate maximum transformational impacts towards the country's overall sustainable development.

77. Over the 5 years of the NRIFAP, a total anticipated carbon emission reduction/removal of 7.1 million tCO_2e is expected through the implementation of the 13 PAMs. Given the nature of the PAMs, these impacts represent a sustainable

26. Avoided emissions from deforestation and removed emissions from enhancement of forest carbon stock are based on assumptions for each PAM. They are the two REDD+ activities that have been included in Sri Lanka's first FRL and monitored, measured and reported to the UNFCCC through the NFMS.

Table 11 | Anticipated Cumulative Total Emission Reductions[26]

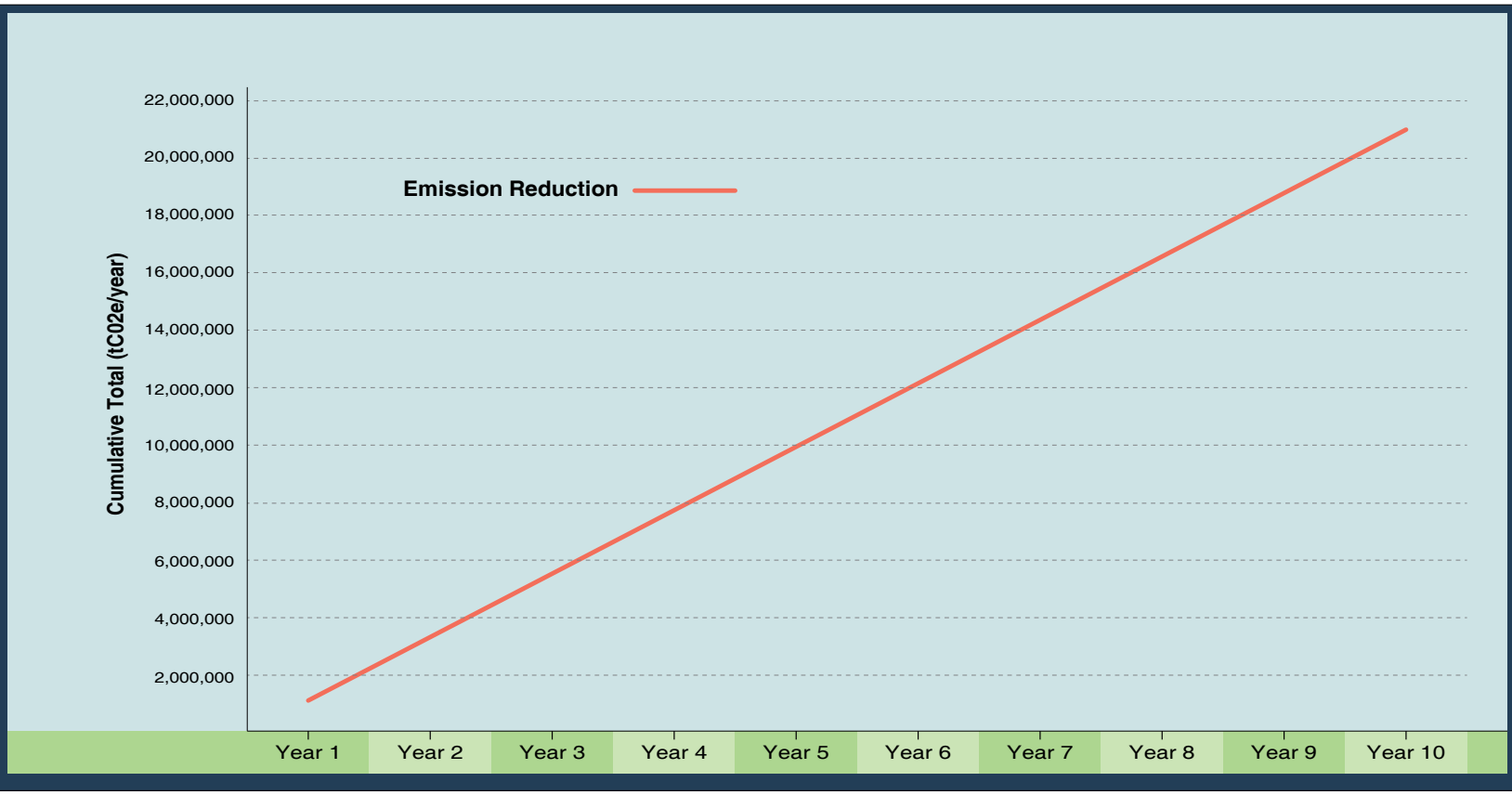
Year	Avoided Emissions per year (1000 tC/year)	Removed Emissions per year (1000 tC/year)	Total (tC/year)	Total (tC02e/ year)	Cumulative Total (tC02e/ year)	Total Emission Reductions over 5 years (tC02e)	Total Emission Reductions over 10 years (tC02e)
1	80,297	81,075	161,372	591,751	591,751		
2	80,297	188,646	268,943	986,214	1,577,964		
3	80,297	303,173	383,470	1,406,184	2,984,148	7,056,428	
4	80,297	417,700	497,997	1,826,155	4,810,303		
5	80,297	532,227	612,524	2,246,125	7,056,428		
6	-	532,227	532,227	1,951,676	9,008,104		
7	-	532,227	532,227	1,951,676	10,959,781		
8	-	532,227	532,227	1,951,676	12,911,457		16,814,810
9	-	532,227	532,227	1,951,676	14,863,134		
10	-	532,227	532,227	1,951,676	16,814,810		

long-term shift in Sri Lanka's forest baseline. Over 10 years, total carbon emission reductions/removals of 16.8 million tCO2e are expected directly as a result of the proposed interventions. Table 11 presents the anticipated cumulative total emissions reductions over 5-year and 10-year periods. Annex 3 presents the anticipated emission reductions associated with each PAM and their respective assumptions.

Socio-economic co-benefits

78. Implementation of the NRIFAP will deliver a number of non-carbon benefits[27]. These non-carbon benefits will contribute to good environmental governance, rural economic development, social justice and ecosystem services restoration and enhancement, as well as to climate change adaptation.

27. Non-carbon benefits in the context of REDD+ in Sri Lanka, UN-REDD National Programme, 2016



79. An economic appraisal[28] was conducted in 2016 to value the non-carbon benefits of the NRIFAP, particularly in relation to the REDD+ PAMs. The following indicators were identified to guide this economic appraisal and will be used to monitor non-carbon benefits during the implementation of the NRIFAP[29]:

- Increased revenue stream from forest conservation and protection and sustainable forest management;
- Reduced human-wildlife conflicts;
- Increased employment opportunities/income generation opportunities;
- Reduced women's labour hours;
- Increased timber and fuel wood supply;
- Increased water supply/soil conservation benefits through improved forest management;
- Reduced natural disaster risks (fire, landslide, etc.);
- Increased food and nutrition security; and
- Increased export value of forest products.

80. The appraisal concluded (see table 12) that the project is viable with a positive net present value of USD 34.8 million at the 10% discount rate. This is the total amount of savings to the national economy. The Economic Internal Rate of Return (EIRR) is 29% with a benefit/cost ratio of 1.58. The EIRR of the project is higher than the 10% discount rate adopted by the GoSL for the evaluation of public investment projects. It therefore indicates that the implementation of the project is an effective allocation of resources.

81. A sensitivity analysis (see table 13) was also conducted to examine the effects of changes in the benefits and costs streams. The following scenarios were considered.

i. 20% increase of investment costs;

ii. 20% reduction of benefits (both carbon and non-carbon);

iii. Combination of above factors (i) and (ii)

The sensitivity analysis found the following impacts on the net benefit.

Table 12 | Summary of the cost benefit analysis

Criterion	Value
Net Present Value (USD) @ 10%	$34,873,376
EIRR	29%
Benefit Cost Ratio	1.58

28. Economic appraisal of the National REDD+ Investment Framework and Action Plan, Sri Lanka UN-REDD National Programme, December 2016.
29. Monitoring will be dependent on the availability of appropriate data.

Photography: Hiranya Sudasinghe

Table 13 | Sensitivity analysis

Condition	Net Present Value (USD) (@ 10% discount rate)	EIRR	Benefit/Cost Ratio
Base case	34,873,376	28.63%	1.58
20% increase of investment costs	22,845,596	19.89%	1.32
20% reduction of total benefits	15,870,921	18.21%	1.26
Combination of above	3,843,141	11.64%	1.05

Under both the 20 % increase in investment costs and 20% reduction of total benefits scenarios, the EIRR stays above the 10% acceptable level. Even for the worst case scenario of 20% reduction of benefits along with 20% increase in costs, the EIRR stays slightly above the 10% level.

Photography: Hiranya Sudasinghe

D

Coordination, monitoring and reporting mechanisms

The Warsaw framework on REDD+ identifies four technical elements of REDD+ that all countries need to engage with the REDD+ mechanisms under the UNFCCC. These are a National REDD+ Strategy and/or Action Plan, a Safeguard Information System (SIS), a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), and a Forest Reference Level (FRL). The first of these elements, in Sri Lanka's case is the current document, the NRIFAP, the overall coordination of which is addressed in Section D1 below. The other three elements are addressed in Section D.2.

D.1.
Institutional arrangements for implementation of the NRIFAP

To allow a smooth transition from the readiness to the implementation phase and ensure institutional sustainability of REDD+ in Sri Lanka, a number institutional arrangements have been established.

General coordination of the implementation of the NRIFAP[30]

82. A number of key bodies have been established or designed in order to effectively implement and provide oversight to the NRIFAP implementation. Central among these are the REDD+ Advisory and Coordination Board (RACB) and the REDD+ Technical Secretariat (TS) with further information on these provided below:

83. *REDD+ Advisory & Coordination Board (RACB)* – The RACB is the central coordination and oversight body for REDD+ in Sri Lanka. Established in early 2016, it has been regularly updated on the NRIFAP development progress to ensure a smooth transition from the UN-REDD National Programme to NRIFAP implementation. The board's membership includes 13 ministries, 20 state agencies, two CSOs, two IP & local community groups, two private sector representatives and 2 academic representatives, with a total of 41 members. Chaired by the Secretary to the MMDE, the RACB is responsible for ensuring the efficient and transparent decision-making over the implementation of the NRIFAP and for the overall strategic coordination of all REDD+ PAMs, supported by various development partners and national institutions. The RACB will be supported by the REDD+ Technical Secretariat (REDD+ TS) for the day-to-day operation and coordination of the NRIFAP implementation.

84. *REDD+ Technical Secretariat (REDD+ TS)* – The REDD+ TS will coordinate the implementation of REDD+ activities and provide technical guidance to implementing agencies. It replaces the current Programme Management Unit of the UN-REDD National Programme in Sri Lanka. The REDD+ TS will consist of an operational and administrative team supported by technical experts. The designation of the profiles will be determined by the scope of the REDD+ PAMs and according to the donor requirements. The REDD+ TS will be responsible for the fund disbursement coordination and will provides oversight and support to the physical and financial progress of relevant implementing institutions. All matters will be reported to the RACB. The REDD+ TS will be governed by a Steering Committee[31]. The REDD+ TS will be located in the MMDE under the Additional Secretary, Natural Resources Management.

85. Implementing state agencies will manage their respective activities through a combination of central line agency management and Project Implementation Units linked to specific development partner funds. Implementing and coordination agencies have also been identified for the development and management of the SIS and of the NFMS (see section D2)

86. Several non-governmental networks have also been created such as the Sri Lanka Climate and Forest Action

30. Refer to the detailed Action Plan for NRIFAP coordination and capacity building below.

31. The Steering Committee will be convened by the GoSL at the beginning of the implementation phase. Its membership, roles and responsibilities will be decided at that time.

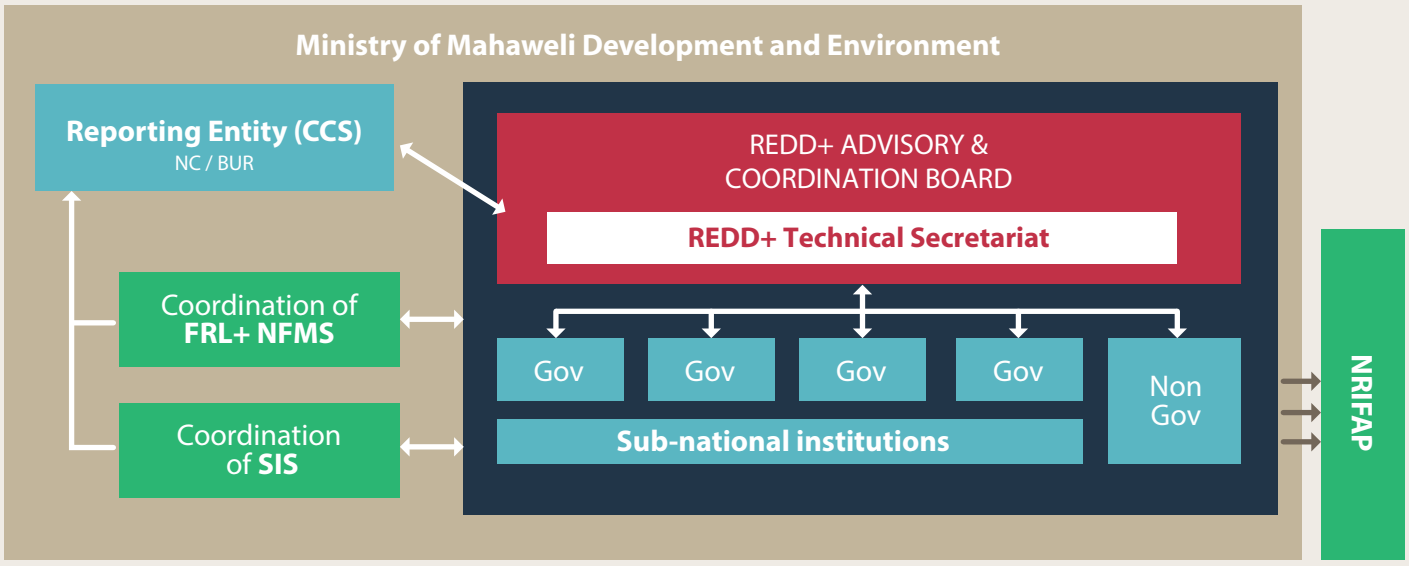
RACB and REDD+ TS will be the key coordinating bodies for REDD+ implementation in Sri Lanka...

Network (SLCFAN - a CSO platform regrouping more than 50 organisations), an Indigenous People Forum (regrouping all 6 IP clans), the Academic and Research Forum (regrouping all universities in Sri Lanka) and a private sector network (through the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka and Biodiversity Sri Lanka) to help facilitate coordination between government and different stakeholder groups (see section D.4, *Continuation and expansion of support to the established stakeholder forums/networks*).

PAMs Implementation

87. The implementation of PAMs will be conducted by relevant line agencies (see Table 10 and Box 3). For most of the PAMs, these agencies will also be supported by SLCFAN. SLCFAN will also support the implementing agencies in mobilizing the community, local groups and indigenous people wherever necessary. The Academic & Research Forum will provide technical advice to the REDD+ TS and will undertake and provide directions to the research and capacity building components when required. The Private Sector Forum will be

Figure 6 | Institutional arrangements for the implementation of the NRIFAP



Box 3 | Coordinating agencies and forums engaged in PAMs implementation

- Forest Department (FD)
- Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC)
- Central Environmental Authority (CEA)
- Department of Agriculture (DA)
- Ministry of Lands
- Ministry of Plantation Industries
- Land Use Policy Planning Department (LUPPD)
- National Physical Planning Department (NPPD)
- Civil Society Organisation Platforms
- REDD+ Academic and Research Forum
- Indigenous People (IP) Forum
- Private Sector Forum

engaged through Public Private Partnerships with the Forest Department and/or municipalities for forest restoration/greening activities (part of PAM10). The REDD+ TS will coordinate and provide logistical support to these forums.

88. Twelve public and non-public sector institutions/platforms are directly coordinating the execution of the PAMs (see Box 3). Specific Task Forces (TFs) and Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) may also be developed to facilitate coordination between agencies on specific PAM implementation while broader coordination is managed by the REDD+ TS and RACB.

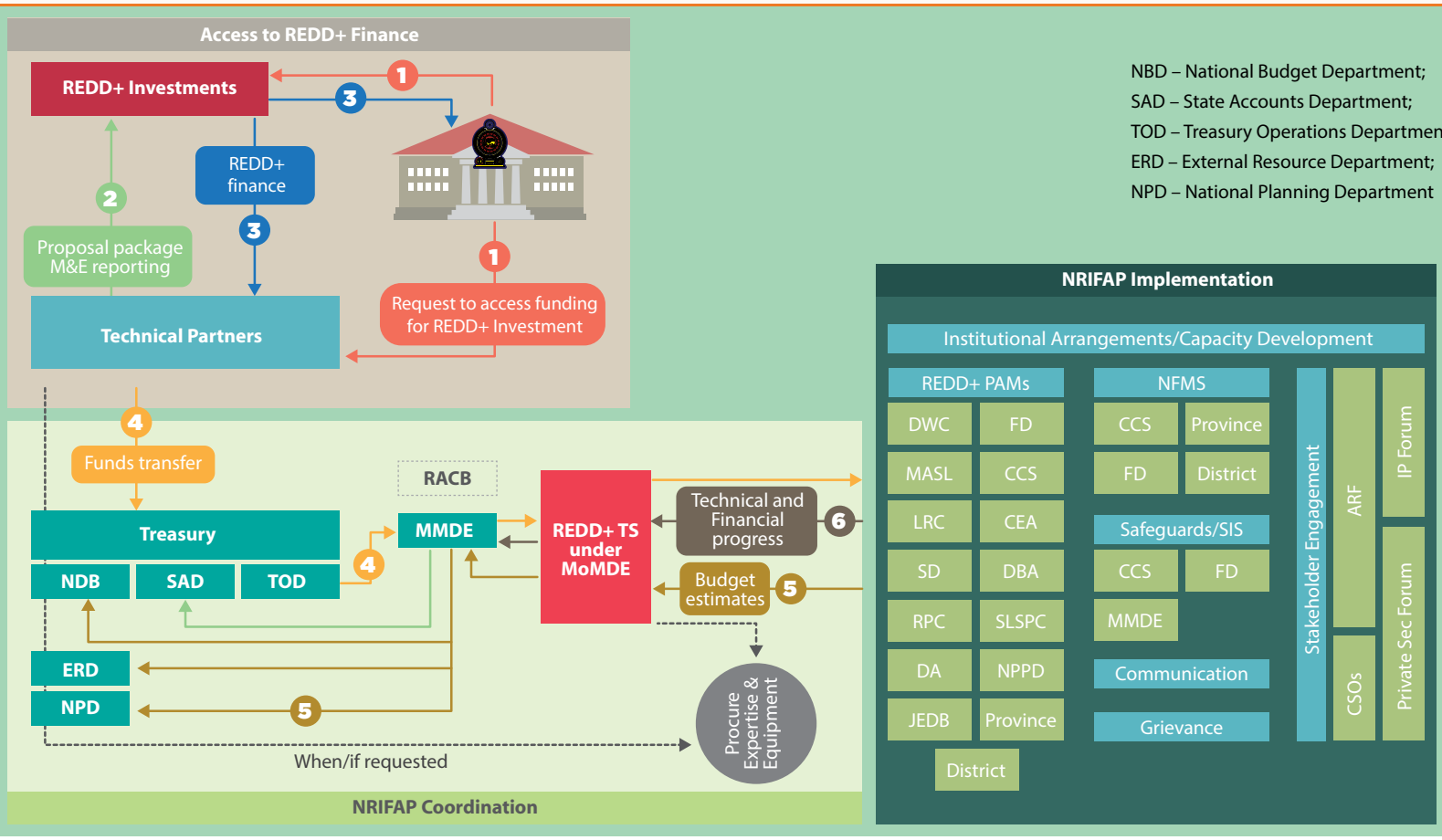
REDD+ fund management mechanisms

89. More than 20% of the total cost of the NRIFAP is already covered by national investments. The financing deficit will be addressed by external funding first as investments and later as result-based payments. Hence Sri Lanka has designed and consulted[32] on a financial management mechanism to receive, pool and disburse REDD+ funding (shown in Figure 7). This design takes into account the governmental preferences and rules on public financial management. In addition it has considered the criteria likely to be set up by the international funding sources.

90. The REDD+ TS acts as the central planning and monitoring body to REDD+ implementing institutions and as such will also play the central role in financial management and coordination to help bring together domestic government finance and international support. The REDD+ TS will support the National Planning Department in coordinating and facilitating planning and budgeting for NRIFAP implementation with implementing institutions and will develop a consolidated multiyear plan with specific annual plans and budgets for the respective implementing institutions covering the lifespan of the

32. The financial management mechanism was designed based on consideration of four potential financing scenarios and operational structures. Extensive expert and stakeholder consultations were undertaken to review these potential approaches before a final design was agreed. Further information on this can be found in: Design of a financial mechanism for the management of REDD+ funding in Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka UN-REDD National Programme, December 2015.

Figure 7 | Schematic depiction of REDD+ financial arrangements



NBD – National Budget Department;
SAD – State Accounts Department;
TOD – Treasury Operations Department;
ERD – External Resource Department;
NPD – National Planning Department

D

NRIFAP. It will also support the implementing institutions in technical and financial reporting to the national agencies and ministries and will facilitate the submission of national reports to the UNFCCC through the National Focal Point.

91. The reporting process of REDD+ TS is shown in Figure 7 (black arrows). The activities of the reporting process starts with submitting monthly expenditure statement to the SAD and ends with the year-end accounts submitted by the REDD+ TS. In addition, funding and technical partners may require ad-hoc information/reports relating to REDD+ activities.

92. The national entities identified in the schematic diagram have well defined roles and functions under the government on planning, budgeting, etc. These are fully described in the REDD+ fund management assessment report for Sri Lanka.[33]

33. Design of a financial mechanism for the management of REDD+ funding in Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka UN-REDD Programme, December 2015.

Table 14 | Investment framework for the coordination of the NRIFAP and capacity building of key institutions

Implementation Plan		
COORDINATION OF THE NRIFAP AND CAPACITY BUILDING OF KEY INSTITUTIONS		
ACTIONS	Implementing/supporting Institutions	Budgetary category
Action 1: Operationalization of the REDD+ TS/PMU (personnel, IT equipment, travel, stationary and office)	REDD+ TS	Staff & Consultants
		Contractual Services & Grants
		Travel
		Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
Action 2: Inception and staff training (technical and administrative/operational)	REDD+ TS	Staff & Consultants
		Contractual Services & Grants
		Travel
		Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
Action 3: Development and implementation of Standard Operating Procedures	REDD+ TS	Staff & Consultants
		Contractual Services & Grants
		Travel
		Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
Action 4: Awareness programme on REDD+, Forestry and Land use	REDD+ TS, RACB	Staff & Consultants
		Contractual Services & Grants
		Travel
		Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
Action 5: Training on REDD+, Land-use, National Strategies for PAMs implementers	REDD+ TS, CCS, PAMs implementers	Staff & Consultants
		Contractual Services & Grants
		Travel
		Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
Action 6: Capacity building on importance of and how to mainstream gender among the established REDD+ agencies, coordination bodies, stakeholder forums/networks, etc.	REDD+ TS, RACB, CSOs, ARF, PS	Staff & Consultants
		Contractual Services & Grants
		Travel
		Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
Action 7: Training on Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	REDD TS and PAMs implementers	Staff & Consultants
		Contractual Services & Grants
		Travel
		Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables

BUDGET						TIMELINES									
Amount Year 1 (LKR)	Amount Year 2 (LKR)	Amount Year 3 (LKR)	Amount Year 4 (LKR)	Amount Year 5 (LKR)	Total Costs (LKR)	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S9	S10
28,794,381	28,794,381	28,794,381	28,794,381	28,794,381	143,971,905										
					0										
3,739,530	3,739,530	3,739,530	3,739,530	3,739,530	18,697,650										
58,523,645	18,697,650	18,697,650	18,697,650	18,697,650	133,314,245										
6,690,904	2,099,107				8,790,011										
6,559,710	6,559,710				13,119,420										
8,199,638	8,199,638	4,919,783	4,919,783	4,919,783	31,158,623										
7,991,913	7,991,913	3,083,064	3,083,064	3,083,064	25,233,018										
3,365,577					3,365,577										
					0										
450000*124.651%					0										
373,953					373,953										
6,362,919	6,362,919	5,969,336	5,969,336	5,969,336	30,633,846										
					0										
6,559,710	6,559,710	6,559,710	6,559,710	6,559,710	32,798,550										
2,667,615	2,667,615	2,339,630	2,339,630	2,339,630	12,354,121										
4,985,380	787,165	393,583	393,583	393,583	6,953,293										
					0										
					0										
1,967,913	1,967,913	983,957	983,957	983,957	6,887,696										
5,903,739	1,311,942	2,623,884			9,839,565										
					0										
					0										
7,652,995	3,826,498	7,652,995			19,132,488										
3,804,632	1,180,748	590,374	590,374	590,374	6,756,501										
218,657	218,657	109,329	109,329	109,329	765,300										
983,957	983,957	655,971	655,971	655,971	3,935,826										

D

Implementation Plan

ACTIONS	Implementing/supporting Institutions	Budgetary category
Action 8: Quarterly budget coordination, planning and reporting	REDD+ TS	Staff & Consultants
		Contractual Services & Grants
		Travel
		Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
Action 9: Procurement of good and services for Outputs 1-5 as requested	REDD+ TS	Staff & Consultants
		Contractual Services & Grants
		Travel
		Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
Action 10: Quality assurance of PAMs and technical coordination and oversight of outputs	REDD+ TS	Staff & Consultants
		Contractual Services & Grants
		Travel
		Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
Action 11: Strategic review of national strategies and plans	Key institutions (FD, DWC, CCS) in REDD+ implementation	Staff & Consultants
		Contractual Services & Grants
		Travel
		Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
Action 12: Continuation and expansion of support to the established coordination/management bodies (RACB, SC, TFs, TWGs)	REDD+ TS	Staff & Consultants
		Contractual Services & Grants
		Travel
		Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
Action 13: Annual and semi annual reporting of progress to RACB	REDD+ TS	Staff & Consultants
		Contractual Services & Grants
		Travel
		Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
Action 14: Monitoring and evaluation (mid-term and final review)	REDD+ TS	Staff & Consultants
		Contractual Services & Grants
		Travel
		Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
TOTAL COSTS (LKR)		
TOTAL COSTS (USD)		

	BUDGET						TIMELINES									
	Amount Year 1 (LKR)	Amount Year 2 (LKR)	Amount Year 3 (LKR)	Amount Year 4 (LKR)	Amount Year 5 (LKR)	Total Costs (LKR)	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S9	S10
						0										
						0										
						0										
	186,977	186,977	186,977	186,977	186,977	934,883										
	7,479,060	7,479,060	7,479,060	7,479,060	7,479,060	37,395,300										
						0										
	560,930	560,930	560,930	373,953	373,953	2,430,695										
	373,953	373,953	373,953	373,953	373,953	1,869,765										
	83,017,566	83,017,566	83,017,566	83,017,566	83,017,566	415,087,830										
						0										
	9,348,825	9,348,825	9,348,825	8,413,943	8,413,943	44,874,360										
	9,348,825	4,674,413	4,674,413	4,674,413	4,674,413	28,046,475										
	21,865,700	11,559,710				33,425,410										
						0										
	9,019,601	9,019,601				18,039,203										
	2,733,213	2,733,213				5,466,425										
						0										
	7,200,000	7,200,000	7,200,000	7,200,000	7,200,000	36,000,000										
	1,800,000	1,800,000	1,800,000	1,800,000	1,800,000	9,000,000										
	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	15,000,000										
						0										
						0										
	560,930	560,930	560,930	560,930	560,930	2,804,648										
	1,495,812	1,495,812	1,495,812	1,495,812	1,495,812	7,479,060										
			11,218,590		14,958,120	26,176,710										
						0										
			1,869,765		3,739,530	5,609,295										
			1,682,789		3,365,577	5,048,366										
	323,338,157	244,960,040	221,582,782	195,412,901	217,476,128	1,202,770,007										
	2,155,588	1,633,067	1,477,219	1,302,753	1,449,841	8,018,467										

D

D.2.
Coordination of REDD+ technical elements

The below section provides information on the coordination mechanisms for the remaining three technical elements identified within the Warsaw framework on REDD+. The section is divided by element covering the Safeguard Information System (SIS), the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), and the Forest Reference Level (FRL) with the National REDD+ Strategy (or NRIFAP) covered within the section above. Information is also provided on how information related to these elements will be brought together in reporting to the UNFCCC.

Reporting to UNFCCC

93. The national focal point to the UNFCCC is the Climate Change Secretariat (CCS) of the MMDE. Thus, the CCS is responsible for liaising with other institutions in the development of and provision of reports related to REDD+. The CCS will play a central role in bringing together information on REDD+ implementation, providing information to the bodies under the Convention and disseminating information from the international level to domestic actors.

94. Information on how specific reporting requirements will be met is also provided below and it is recognised that the CCS will seek approval of all stakeholder groups involved in REDD+ implementation before submission of any report to the UNFCCC.

95. *BUR technical annex on Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHG-I) for the LULUCF sector* - The FD will support the CCS in preparation of its BUR while the CCS will be responsible for the quality control before submission.

96. *FRL* - Sri Lanka's first FRL has been submitted to the UNFCCC in January 2017. Following this, Sri Lanka has received technical advisory and capacity development support services to assist the FD and the CCS through the independent assessment process. Support will also be needed to update and upgrade the FRL by expanding the scope and increasing data accuracy through the NFI and SLMS. It is expected that Sri Lanka will submit an improved FRL towards the end of the implementation phase (after 5 years)

97. *Summary of Information on REDD+ Safeguards* –The CCS will submit the first Summary of Information (SoI) on REDD+ Safeguards to the UNFCCC in 2022. Subsequent SoIs will be provided every 4 years according to the timetable set by the UNFCCC.

Safeguards Information System[34]

98. Sri Lanka's SIS will be a central information compilation and reporting function coordinated by the CCS of the MMDE. The system is based on an extensive assessment process carried out during the UN-REDD National Programme which set the goal and scope of the SIS as well as reviewing Sri Lanka policies, laws and regulations (PLRs) against the REDD+ safeguards laid out in the Cancun agreement and the potential risks and benefits inherent within each PAM[35]. Based on this a number of safeguards and indicators were identified for inclusion in the SIS. Information on the presence, updating and

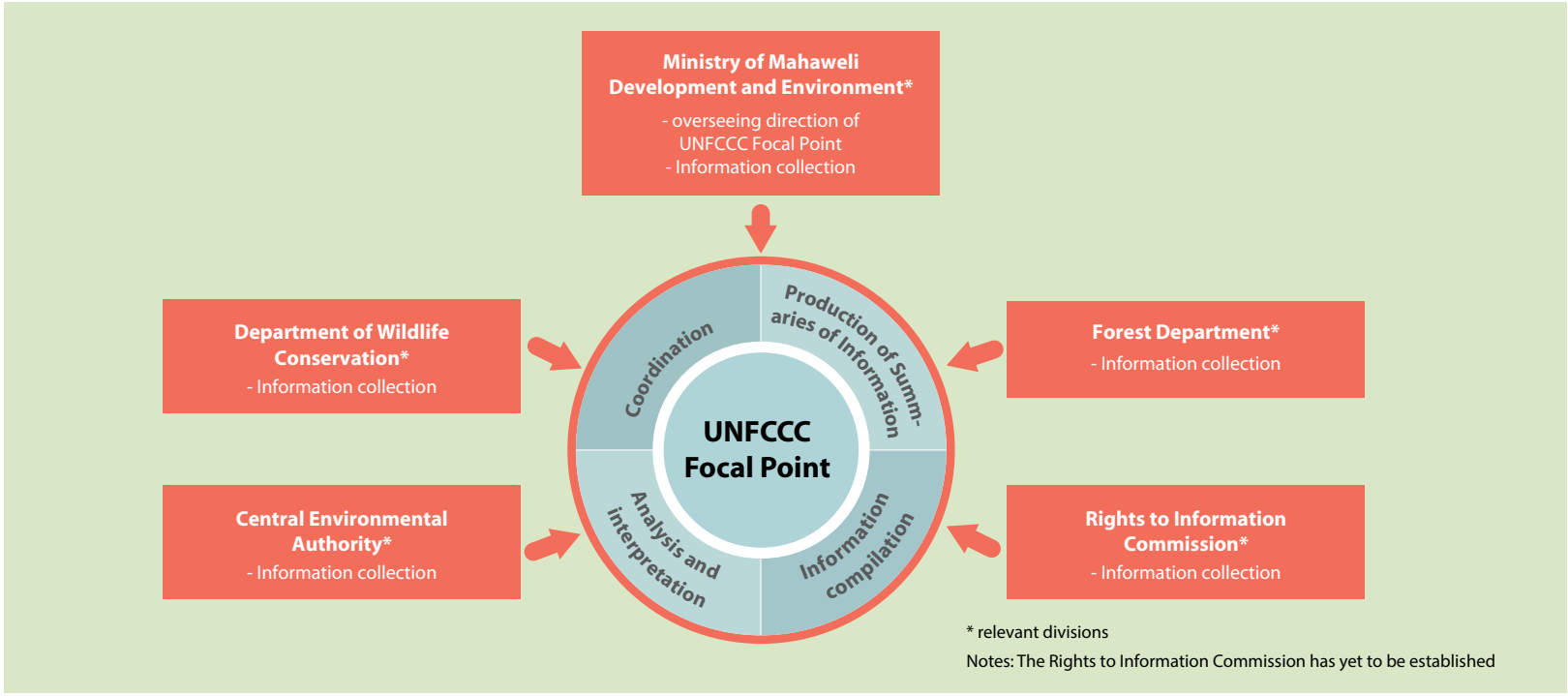
34. Refer to the detailed Action Plan for Safeguards Information System below.
35. Sri Lanka's national approach to REDD+ safeguards, UN-REDD National Programme in Sri Lanka, November 2016

application of these will initially be provided by the five '*primary*' institutions, which hold responsibility for them (see Figure 8). Information on environmental and social outcomes (benefits enhanced and risks mitigated) of PAMs implementation will be collected by those institutions responsible for implementing the PAMs. This includes national and sub-national government institutions, as well as key non-state actors, including community based organisations and forest-users/rural communities[36]. The CSS will then collate and review this information and develop it into a SoI for submission to the UNFCCC.

99. Over time this system could be expanded to include *'secondary'* information providers to gain a broader understanding of how safeguards are being addressed and respected and the impacts of PAMs[37]. Existing

36. These groups are potentially important contributors of information on environmental and social outcomes under Cancun safeguards (b - governance), (c - rights), (d - participation) and (e – benefits of natural forests, biodiversity and ecosystem services).
37. Sri Lanka's national approach to REDD+ safeguards, UN-REDD National Programme in Sri Lanka, November 2016.

Figure 8 | Proposed Institutional Arrangements for Sri Lanka's first iteration of a REDD+ Safeguards Information System



capacity constraints within these institutions, however, limits the availability of such data at present. This incremental approach, based around country data collection systems is in line with the country approach to safeguards and UNFCCC guidance that a SIS should be built on existing country systems. As the central coordinating agency the responsibilities of the CCS include:

- Overall coordination of institutions contributing information to, and disseminating information from, the SIS;
- Information compilation in a pre-defined format;
- Analysis and interpretation of complied information to demonstrate how the Cancun safeguards/national criteria have been addressed and respected, including attribution of benefits and risks to implementation of PAMs;
- Production of SoI and submission to the UNFCCC.

100. Both state and non-state actors will be engaged in the final quality assurance of SIS products, with stakeholders provided with the opportunity to review draft products, notably SoI before their submission to the UNFCCC.

Photography: Hiranya Sudasinghe

Sri Lanka's approach to REDD+ safeguards and design of Sri Lanka's first Summary of Information

101. *Goal and scope* - Sri Lanka is required to meet the seven Cancun safeguards, as a consequence of its commitments to the UNFCCC. Other international donor safeguards are absolute, 'do no harm' requirements for project approval rather than 'goals'. If Sri Lanka wishes to apply for multi-lateral or bi-lateral funding, then it will be required to adhere to the safeguard requirements of the relevant agencies. The initial goal of the national approach, therefore, is to meet the requirements of the seven Cancun safeguards. With regard to 'scope', REDD+ safeguards are applied only to REDD+ actions in the short term, with the possible eventual extension to the whole forestry sector as a means to attract other sources of investment. Goal and scope will be iteratively revised as Sri Lanka's needs and capacities on REDD+ change.

102. *Nationally-clarified safeguards criteria*[38] - The Cancun safeguards are broad statements which have been further defined in accordance with national circumstances, resulting in a list of thirty-four nationally-clarified safeguards criteria allocated to one of the seven Cancun Safeguard 'categories'. Thirty-four safeguard criteria will be difficult to report against, at least in the short term. For the purposes of Safeguard Information System information structuring and operating, and the initial stages of reporting to the UNFCCC, it may be appropriate to further rationalize the safeguard criteria. One option could be to merge the safeguard criteria addressed and respected by the same PLRs. Another could be to remove the safeguard criteria fully addressed and respected, allowing to focus the work on the sensitive ones.

103. *Risks/benefits assessment of REDD+ PAMs*[39] - A number of risks/benefits were identified through multi-stakeholder consultations at national and sub-national levels. These benefits/risks have been categorized according to their level (low, medium and high – combining their 'probability' and 'impact'). During the NRIFAP implementation, Sri Lanka will first focus its effort in reducing high-level risks and enhancing high-level benefits. Benefits and risks of PAMs will be iteratively re-assessed as they are modified and re-prioritised through 'learning by doing' of PAM's implementation through periodic revisions of the NRIFAP.

104. *Status of safeguards in Sri Lanka, review of Policies, Laws and Regulations (PLRs)* – This step involved identification and analysis of gaps, weaknesses and inconsistencies of the existing Policies, Laws, and Regulations (PLRs) that are necessary to operationalize the Cancun safeguards. The complete outcomes of the PLR analysis are presented in full in a separate document[40]. The analysis resulted in 47 recommendations for PLR gap-filling and strengthening, and specific agencies were identified as being responsible for managing the proposed reforms.

38. Cancun safeguards as clarified for Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka UN-REDD National Programme, November 2016.
39. Risks and benefits analysis of REDD+ PAMs in Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka UN-REDD Programme, November 2016.
40. Status of safeguards in Sri Lanka, review of Policies, Laws and Regulations (PLRs), Sri Lanka UN-REDD Programme, November 2016.

Further prioritization of the PLRs for reform, detail of institutional capacity analysis, and development of action plans for institutional capacity strengthening will be conducted at the begining of th implementation phase. This would include prioritizing the list of current PLR gap-filling recommendations, as well as developing additional recommendations on how to strengthen institutional mandates, procedures and capacities to improve implementation of priority PLRs.

105. *SIS structure* - A SIS refers to a framework in which different information sources and existing systems are identified and coordinated for the provision of information on how the Cancun Safeguards are being addressed and respected through national communications to the UNFCCC and UNFCCC REDD+ web platform[41]. During the

41. UNFCCC Decisions 12/CP.17, paragraph 3; UNFCCC Decision 9/CP.19, paragraph 11
42. UNFCCC Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 72
43. UN REDD Programme (2015), Report on Prioritizing REDD+ Policies and Measures in Sri Lanka. December 2015

Table 15 | Proposed structure of the Sri Lanka's Summaries of Information

Summary of Information sections	Content
Information on how the Cancun safeguards have been addressed when developing the NRIFAP	UNFCCC guidance on summaries of information requires countries to provide information on how the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected, throughout the implementation of REDD+ PAMs. Even though the Cancun safeguards should also be applied during the NRIFAP development process[42], there is no requirement to include information on this readiness phase application in summaries submitted to the Convention. The elaborated stakeholder-led multi-criteria analysis[43], undertaken in 2015, will be outlined in the first summary of information.
Information on which REDD+ activities are included	Sri Lanka will provide information on the 13 PAMs. This would provide additional context for understanding the summary of information as it is these specific PAMs to which the safeguards are applied.
Information on national circumstances relevant to addressing and respecting the Cancun safeguards	Beyond outlining the nature and scale of REDD+ PAMs, information on national circumstances relevant to addressing and respecting safeguards will be presented: The goals and scope of Sri Lanka's national approach to safeguards The benefits and risks associated with the PAMs to be implemented under the NRIFAP, i.e. the priority environmental and social issues that are to be safeguarded in Sri Lanka when it comes to REDD+ implementation
A description of each safeguard in accordance with national circumstances	Sri Lanka's country specific description of each Cancun safeguard will be presented based on the refined criteria developed through the national clarification process.
A description of existing systems and processes relevant to addressing and respecting safeguards	In this section of the summary of information, Sri Lanka will include a description of the three key governance arrangements central to the national approach to safeguards: Policies, laws and regulations The summary of information will summarise the identification of existing PLRs, as well as plans to reform PLRs to attend to identified gaps, weaknesses and inconsistencies.

UN-REDD National Programme, Sri Lanka has designed its SIS in the form of a matrix, indicating for each PAM how the potential risks and their level; relevant national safeguard criteria; national PLRs that are needed to operationalize the safeguard criteria; PLR gaps and gap-filling actions; and relevant sources of information could be organized to allow for the regular reporting of safeguard performance.

106. *Summary of Information content* - There is no UNFCCC-required *structure* for summaries of information. UNFCCC guidance on summaries of information encourages countries to improve the quality of information with each successive submission. As such, it will be important for Sri Lanka to demonstrate incremental progress in addressing and respecting safeguards to facilitate payments for REDD+ results in the future. The table 15 below indicates how the Sri Lanka's first summary of information could be structured.

Summary of Information sections	Content
	Institutional arrangements In the context of REDD+ safeguards, institutional mandates, procedures and capacities for implementing and enforcing Sri Lanka's PLRs are relevant to respecting safeguards when implementing REDD+ PAMs. **Information systems and sources** Information on existing systems and sources of safeguard information making significant contributions to the national SIS will be included in this part of the summary of information. Descriptions of any modifications to existing information systems, to accommodate new information needed to close any safeguard information gaps could also be provided, as could links between the SIS and the NFMS, particularly in relation to Cancun safeguards e), f) and g).
Information on how each of the safeguards has been addressed and respected	Demonstrating how the safeguards, and their constituent national criteria, have been addressed and respected, is likely to constitute the most significant part of summaries of information. Although the first summary may focus more on demonstrating how safeguards are being addressed, over time, there would likely be more information included on how they are respected.
Optional other relevant information	In addition to the core components described above, the quality and credibility of Sri Lanka's summaries of information could be further ensured by including (or providing access to) supplementary information as relevant or applicable, such as : the process of how the summary of information was produced; the process of developing the national approach to safeguards; the processes of SIS design, development and operation; and channels and mechanisms for stakeholders to provide feedback on draft and published summaries; further sources of information such as annexes or hyperlinks to websites, databases, etc.

Table 16 | Investment framework and action plan for the Safeguard Information System

	Implementation Plan		
	SAFEGUARDS AND SAFEGUARDS INFORMATION SYSTEM		
	ACTIONS	Implementing/supporting Institutions	Budgetary category
Operationalization of institutional arrangements for maintaining the Safeguards Information System (SIS)	**Action 1:** Conclude assessment of existing systems and sources (primary and secondary PLR holders) of information	CCS, REDD TS	Staff & Consultants
			Contractual Services & Grants
			Travel
			Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
	Action 2: Strengthen UNFCCC Focal Point and primary PLR holder capacities to operate the SIS	CCS, REDD TS	Staff & Consultants
			Contractual Services & Grants
			Travel
			Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
	Action 3: Operationalise SIS v1.0: collect information on outcomes, compile information, populate matrices, analyse and interpret information	CCS, Primary PLR holders (FD, CEA, DWC, Right to Information Commission), PAMs implementers	Staff & Consultants
			Contractual Services & Grants
			Travel
			Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
REDD+ Safeguards are addressed and respected	**Action 4:** Implement priority recommendations for improved addressing (PLR reform) and respecting (PLR implementation) of safeguards	Depend on the selected gap filling actions	Staff & Consultants
			Contractual Services & Grants
			Travel
			Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
	Action 5: Re-assess benefits and risks / refine goal and scope of PAMs as they are modified and re-prioritised throughout PAMs implementation	CCS, REDD TS	Staff & Consultants
			Contractual Services & Grants
			Travel
			Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
Monitoring of progress and reporting	**Action 6:** Produce and submit summary of information on REDD+ Safeguards	CCS, REDD TS	Staff & Consultants
			Contractual Services & Grants
			Travel
			Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
	TOTAL COSTS (LKR)		
	TOTAL COSTS (USD)		

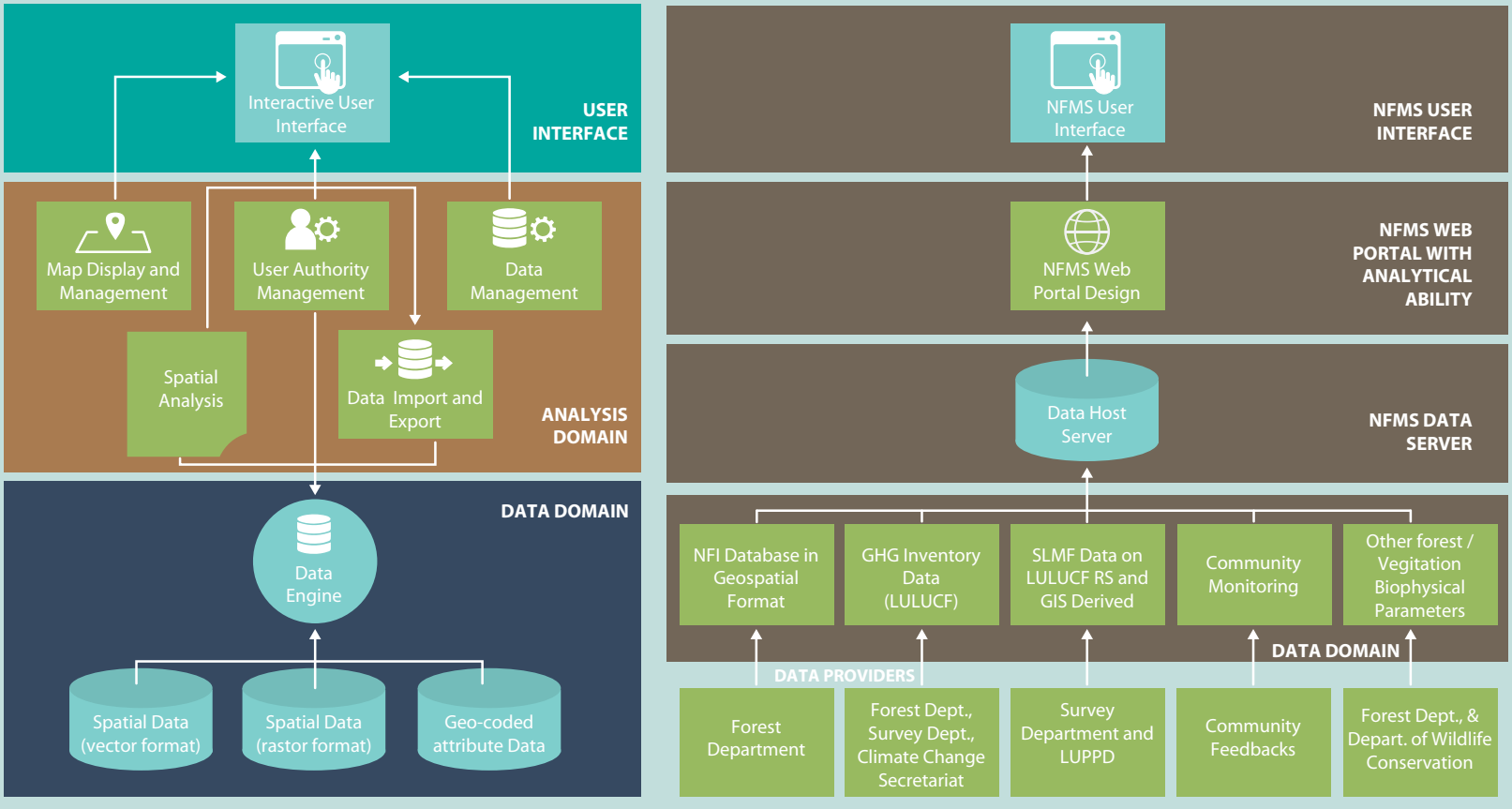
BUDGET						TIMELINES									
Amount Year 1 (LKR)	Amount Year 2 (LKR)	Amount Year 3 (LKR)	Amount Year 4 (LKR)	Amount Year 5 (LKR)	Total Costs (LKR)	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S9	S10
5,261,540					5,261,540										
					0										
868,050					868,050										
1,332,167					1,332,167										
7,513,841	10,986,041	10,986,041	10,986,041	10,986,041	51,458,004										
					0										
925,920	1,851,840	1,851,840	1,851,840	1,851,840	8,333,280										
2,604,150	4,340,250	4,340,250	4,340,250	4,340,250	19,965,150										
3,208,313	3,208,313	3,208,313	3,208,313	3,208,313	16,041,564										
1,157,400					1,157,400										
1,157,400	1,157,400	1,157,400	1,157,400	1,157,400	5,787,000										
1,578,694	1,578,694	1,578,694	1,578,694	1,578,694	7,893,468										
13,888,800	13,888,800	13,888,800	13,888,800	13,888,800	69,444,000										
					0										
6,944,400	6,944,400	6,944,400	6,944,400	6,944,400	34,722,000										
7,812,450	7,812,450	7,812,450	7,812,450	7,812,450	39,062,250										
		5,208,300		5,208,300	10,416,600										
					0										
		1,157,400		1,157,400	2,314,800										
		1,776,609		1,776,609	3,553,218										
		1,874,988		1,874,988	3,749,976										
				636,570	636,570										
					0										
		5,232,605		5,232,605	10,465,211										
54,253,125	51,768,187	67,018,090	51,768,187	67,654,660	292,462,249										
361,688	345,121	446,787	345,121	451,031	1,949,748										

National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)[44]

107. Sri Lanka's NFMS is an online geo-portal for data storage, analysis and information dissemination and has three major components: (a) Satellite Land Monitoring Systems (SLMS) for land use and forest cover; (b) National Forest Inventory (NFI); and (c) Greenhouse Gas Inventory data. The monitoring function of the NFMS is primarily a domestic tool to assess the participation and results of REDD+ implementation by different stakeholders and institutions. The NFMS uses a combination of data

44. Refer to the detailed Action Plan for NFMS activities

Figure 9 | Structure of Sri Lanka's NFMS



sources and assessments to estimate anthropogenic GHG emissions by source and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest area changes in order to measure and report on the performance of REDD+ activities against its submitted and assessed FRL (see next section). It may also allow for the implementation of specific PAMs to be monitored and their carbon and non-carbon impacts to be compared, thus permitting refinement and adaptive management of the NRIFAP. Figure 9 below provides the arrangement and structure of the NFMS in Sri Lanka.

108. Within this system there are a significant number of departments and agencies that have a role to play in data provision or systems management. These are provided in Table 17 below. To develop the NFMS, a Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) Task

Table 17 | Departments' roles and responsibilities for NFMS operation

Department	Roles	Responsibilities
Forest Department (FD)	SLMS/NFMS host	Hosting website server and its maintenance, periodically uploading data in coordination with other data provider departments
	SLMS/NFMS data	Producing forest cover maps (years 1992, 1999, 2010 and 2015) and uploading on SLMS / NFMS server
	NFI data	Disseminating analysed NFI results via geo portal
Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC)	Data provider	Providing data on important wildlife habitats and ecosystems
Survey Department (SD) and Land Use Policy Planning Department (LUPPD)	Data provider	Producing Land Use Land Cover maps (years 1985, 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015) and other topographical and thematic maps
Climate Change Secretariat (CCS)	Data provider	Producing historical records on national communications
Central Environmental Authority (CEA)	Data provider	Providing data on environmentally sensitive and protected areas under the National Environmental Act
Natural Resource Management Center (NRMC)	Data provider	Producing maps of soil, watersheds and agro-ecological zones/regions
Forest user communities	Feedback / information / alert provider	Sharing information on hazards affecting forests such as fires and other illicit activities

Force was established in 2012 with membership including the FD, SD, DWC, CEA and CCS. The MRV TF will continue through the implementation phase to ensure the maintenance of the geo-portal and to support its updating with new data and functionalities as required.

109. The development of the NFMS system and geoportal has been possible due to a data sharing agreement, signed in 2014, between the FD, SD, DWC, CEA, CCS and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The data sharing agreement will be updated in the future to accommodate new data acquired by these departments to update the geo-portal.

110. The below sections provide an overview of the development process of a number of key elements of the NFMS that will continue during the implementation phase and will help to improve the quality and accuracy of information included within the system.

Photography: Devaka Seneviratne

Implementation of a complete National Forest Inventory (NFI) cycle based on the methodology designed and piloted and the institutional arrangements established during the readiness phase

111. Sri Lanka does not have a system of regular forest inventory at the national scale, a network of permanent sample plots (to generate data on land and forest cover, forest dynamics and biomass), or a historical record of managing natural forest areas. The readiness efforts therefore focused on building understanding and capacities of GoSL staff on NFI methodologies and design by conducting piloting and capacity development activities.

112. NRIFAP implementation will thus focus on the completion of a full NFI cycle using the approach piloted during the readiness phase. This will include full-time technical assistance during the cycle, and regular training and mentoring.

113. One central and five regional NFI units have been established for implementation of the NFI, and for institutionalisation of the NFI within the FD and DWC. In addition, a dedicated database management team has been set up and trained to manage, interpret and present NFI data for both technical planning and policymaking purposes. National-level management plans will be prepared for natural forests, based on the data produced through the NFI, along with updating of management plans for forest plantations.

114. Sri Lanka's forest area will be classified into specific strata based on information available prior to NFI, and these strata will be revised and updated on the basis of data collected during the first NFI cycle. Key tree species will be identified and allometric equations will be identified/ developed for these key species and key forest types (strata). As required, research and sampling will be carried out to develop equations for species and strata that are not covered by existing allometric equations. With full-time technical advisory support, these data will be used to generate nationally-specific emission factors for use in Sri Lanka's GHG-I.

Implementation of Satellite Land Monitoring System (SLMS) building on the SLMS 'geo-portal' developed during the readiness phase

115. During the readiness phase, the Survey Department developed digitised versions of the national land and forest cover map for 1985, including the development of a land and forest cover classification system that is consistent across all government departments and institutions, and a methodology for interpreting remote sensing images according to this classification system. Following this, the national land cover maps of 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015 were digitised (visual interpretation) according to the same classification system using Landsat satellite images. These images, along with layers of information on forest management, use, tenure, planning and statistics have been incorporated into a web-based geo-portal[45] for forest information, hosted by the FD and accessible to all.

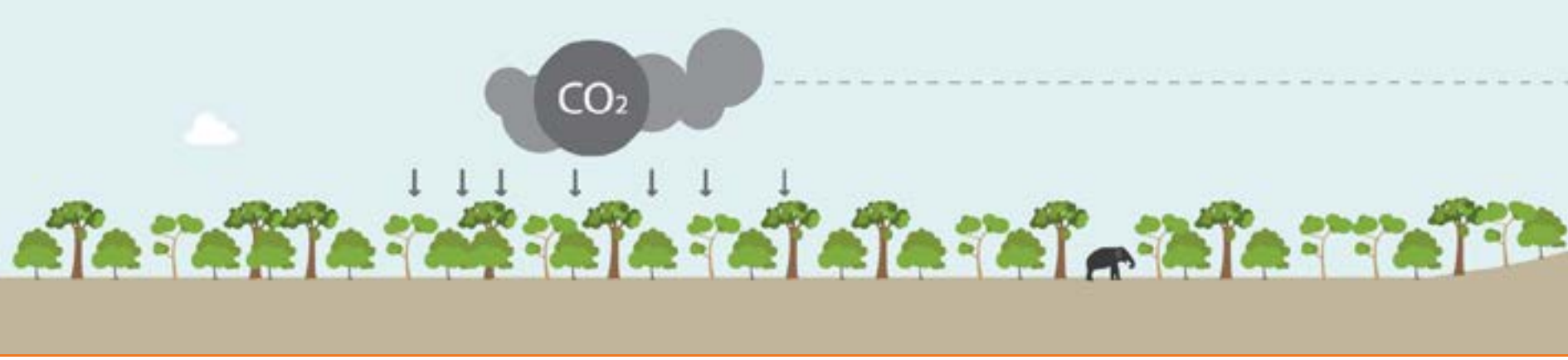
116. A comprehensive programme for updating and interpretation of spatial information for the forest sector will continue. Development of temporal land use and land cover maps and database maintenance will be done. Following the launch of the Sri Lanka SLMS geo-portal in February 2017, additionally required imagery, equipment and materials for operation and updating of the portal have been identified, and will be acquired to provide forest information and to monitor the implementation of PAMs.

117. Activity Data (AD) on forest cover change will be improved and refined through accuracy assessment and adjustment of wall-to-wall land cover maps from 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015 to minimise error and bias. Accuracy will be further ensured through the use of open source online resources.

118. Forest cover classification will be refined by modification of forest type classifications, sub-dividing key forest types by density and developing a methodology for consistently identifying transitions between density classes, thus allowing the measurement of forest degradation and restoration after 5 years.

119. Such support will also include the recruitment and training of staff for image interpretation based on stratification, ground-truthing and verification methodology of satellite imagery, quality control/assurance, collection and maintenance of information related to impacts of the PAMs.

45. http://www.nfms.lk/portal/



Forest Reference Level (FRL)

120. The FRL was developed through a TWG established under the MRV TF to ensure consistent guidance and technical oversight of the FRL. This multi-disciplinary TWG was responsible for developing a complete draft FRL for Sri Lanka, and recommending its submission to the UNFCCC for assessment. This working group will remain operational over 2017 to address the FRL finalisation process. Its role will then be reviewed with regard to providing future updated FRLs. Figure 10 below provides a summary of FRL construction arrangements in Sri Lanka while Table 18 provides the key role and responsibilities of different departments in FRL construction.

Figure 10 | FRL construction arrangements in Sri Lanka

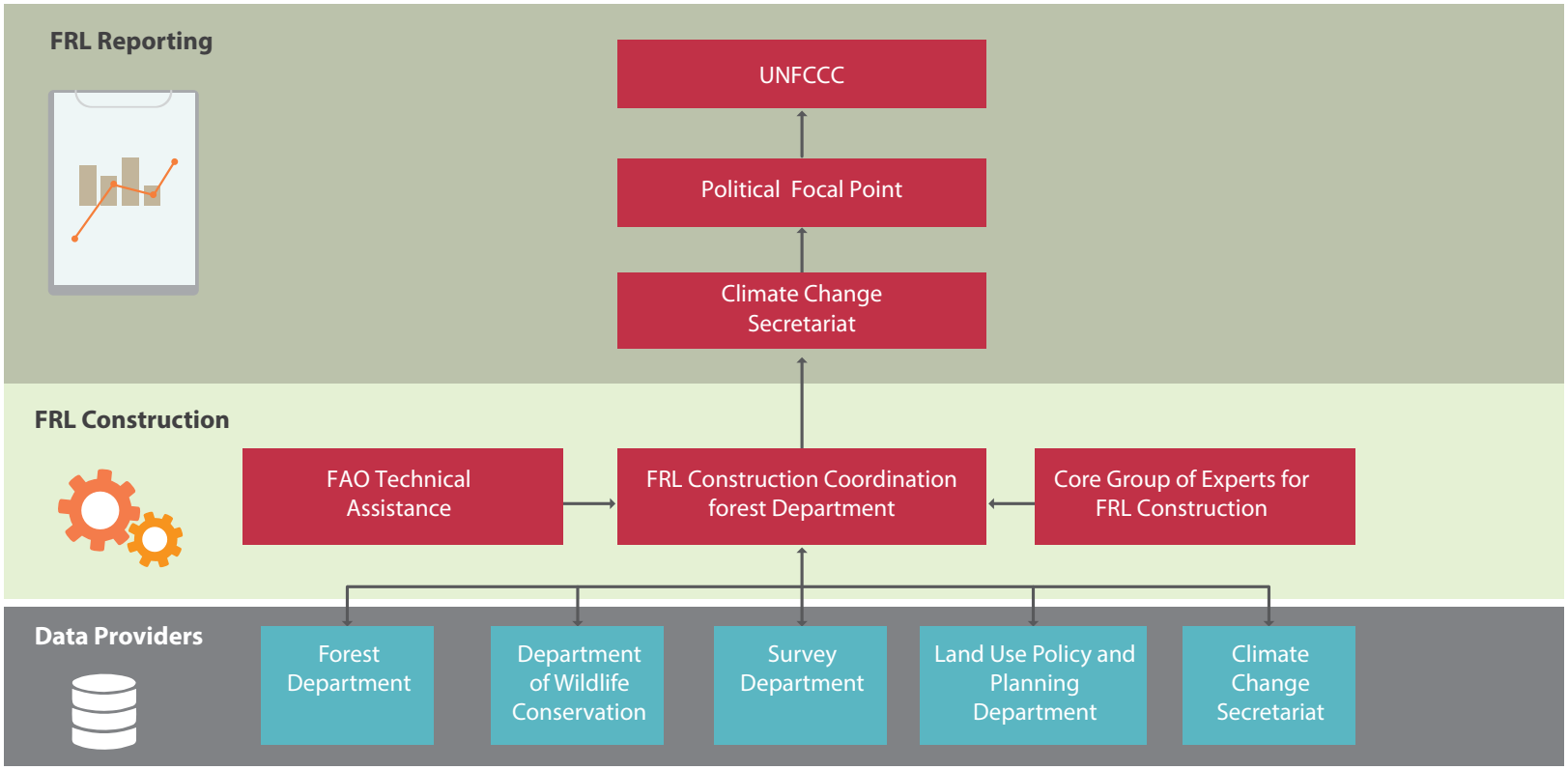


Table 18 | Departments' roles and responsibilities in FRL construction

Department	Roles	Responsibilities
Forest Department (FD)	Data provider	Provide data and maps on forest cover and forest types
	FRL construction coordinator	Bring all stakeholders and experts together
	FRL report submission	Submit FRL report to UNFCCC focal point for international reporting
Survey Department (SD)	Data provider	Provide data and maps on land use land cover maps and other topographical and thematic maps
Land Use Policy Planning Department (LUPPD)	Data provider	Provide data and maps on land use land cover maps and other topographical and thematic maps
Climate Change Secretariat (CCS)	Data provider	Provide historical records on national communications
	FRL reporting to UNFCCC	FRL reporting to UNFCCC
Department of Census and Statistics	Data provider	Provide statistical data on various development plans focused on forest land conversion to non forest land
National Physical Planning Department	Data provider	Provide data on various development plans focused on forest land conversion to non forest land
Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka	Data provider	Provide data on various development plans focused on forest land conversion to non forest land
Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development	Data provider	Provide data on various development plans focused on forest land conversion to non forest land

Table 19 | Investment framework and action plan for the National Forest Monitoring System and Forest Reference Level

Implementation Plan		
NATIONAL FOREST MONITORING SYSTEM AND FOREST REFERENCE LEVEL		
ACTIONS	Implementing/ supporting Institutions	Budgetary category
Action 1: Implementation of the National Forest Inventory	FD	Staff & Consultants
		Contractual Services & Grants
		Travel
		Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
Action 2: Development of allometric equations and emission factors	FD	Staff & Consultants
		Contractual Services & Grants
		Travel
		Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
Action 3: Maintenance of a Satellite Land Monitoring System	FD	Staff & Consultants
		Contractual Services & Grants
		Travel
		Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
Action 4: Modification of the Forest Reference Level	FD	Staff & Consultants
		Contractual Services & Grants
		Travel
		Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
Action 5: Research and training related to forestry, wildlife and watershed management sectors	FD, DWC, Academic and Research Forum	Staff & Consultants
		Contractual Services & Grants
		Travel
		Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
TOTAL COSTS (LKR)		
TOTAL COSTS (USD)		

BUDGET						TIMELINES									
Amount Year 1 (LKR)	Amount Year 2 (LKR)	Amount Year 3 (LKR)	Amount Year 4 (LKR)	Amount Year 5 (LKR)	Total Costs (LKR)	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S9	S10
44,981,508	44,981,508	44,981,508	44,981,508	44,981,508	224,907,541										
25,432,200	25,432,200	25,432,200			76,296,600										
18,650,280	12,716,100	16,954,800	4,238,700	4,238,700	56,798,580										
156,831,900	139,877,100	139,877,100	20,352,330	19,074,150	476,012,580										
	10,596,750	10,596,750	6,328,803	5,298,375	32,820,678										
	35,181,210	21,193,500	21,193,500		77,568,210										
	6,993,855	2,119,350	2,119,350	2,119,350	13,351,905										
	27,551,550	27,551,550	8,477,400	7,947,986	71,528,486										
1,242,450	1,242,450	310,613	310,613	310,613	3,416,738										
10,353,750	10,353,750				20,707,500										
3,934,425	3,934,425	3,934,425	3,934,425	3,934,425	19,672,125										
20,707,500	15,218,977	12,424,500	12,424,500	12,424,500	73,199,977										
18,045,750	3,609,150	3,609,150	15,811,686		41,075,736										
					0										
9,022,875			9,022,875		18,045,750										
7,218,300	3,609,150	3,609,150	3,444,934		17,881,534										
					0										
18,940,845	18,940,845	18,940,845	18,940,845	18,940,845	94,704,225										
8,117,505	8,117,505	8,117,505	8,117,505	8,117,505	40,587,525										
3,517,586	3,517,586	3,517,586	3,517,586	3,517,586	17,587,928										
346,996,874	371,874,111	343,170,531	183,216,559	130,905,543	1,376,163,618										
2,313,312	2,479,161	2,287,804	1,221,444	872,704	9,174,424										

D

D.3.
Cross cutting issues – capacity building and research

An assessment[46] conducted in 2016 describes the current functional and technical capacities of key government institutions that are identified as lead coordinators or implementers of REDD+ in Sri Lanka. The assessment targeted the agencies identified within the NRIFAP as leading/coordinating each of the four REDD+ elements and the PAMs and guided the development of detailed capacity building action plans. At the same time, discussions were held with the Academic and Research Forum (ARF) to define a research action plan for the forestry, wildlife and watershed management sectors. Both cross cutting issues will support NRIFAP implementation by building capacities of the main stakeholder groups.

46. Capacity Building Needs Assessment (CBNA) for Implementation of the National REDD+ Implementation Framework and Action Plan (NRIFAP), Sri Lanka UNREDD Programme, December 2016.

Table 20 | Key capacity building recommendations for the coordinating institutions of the NRIFAP

Action Area	Coordinating Institutions	Capacity Building Recommendations
NRIFAP Coordination	RACB	• Identify individual representatives and alternates for each member agency • Training on climate change and Sri Lankan development policies and access to other capacity building options including access to international learning events • Increased accessibility of RACB meeting information
	REDD+ TS under the Natural Resources Management Division in MMDE	• Ensure continuity of coordination between the end of the readiness phase and the beginning of the implementation • Ensure timely and comprehensive establishment • Provide capacity building support to the Secretariat • Establish/maintain focal points within other ministries and agencies as well as TWGs for specific technical work areas • Transfer website from the UN-REDD PMU to the FD
Safeguard Information System (SIS)	CCS	• Development of structured trainings on REDD+, climate change and Sri Lanka development • Support on understanding of safeguards and SIS • Facilitated development of SIS • Capacity building on National Communication and BUR
National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and Forest Reference Level (FRL)	FGISID – Coordination DWC, SD, and LUPPD – data providers	• Technical support on FRL and NFMS • Training and capacity building on NFMS / FRL and on technical aspects • Maintenance of TWG and establishment of data sharing agreements • Review of staffing and equipment

Capacity building action plan

121. Implementation of the NRIFAP also includes a comprehensive capacity building approach to ensure that all institutions engaged in REDD+ implementation have the capacity to fulfill their mandate (see Table 20 below). These recommendations are based on the assessment of overall capacity of agencies identified to lead NRIFAP implementation and the functional capacity of agencies to deliver the proposed PAMs, which noted that overall good capacity existed but that there was need for further strengthening. Based on these recommendations, a capacity building action plan has been developed to address the capacity gaps/needs to implement the NRIFAP and is included in Table 20.

Action Area	Coordinating Institutions	Capacity Building Recommendations
PAM1: Improved law enforcement	FD/DWC	• Increase understanding of REDD+, climate change and national strategies • Identify where relevant specific PAM capacity building plans • Establishment of TWGs to address cross sector coordination in PAMs • Strategic reviews of national strategies and plans, organisational structures and staff development plans • Stakeholder engagement and communications training • Capacity building on importance of and how to mainstream gender among the REDD+ implementers, coordination bodies, stakeholder forums/networks, etc. • Training on monitoring, learning and evaluation
PAM2: Forest boundaries demarcation	FD/DWC	
PAM3: Restoration of degraded forests	FD/DWC	
PAM4: SFM of natural forests	FD/DWC	
PAM5: SFM of forest plantations	FD	
PAM6: Protection of watersheds	FD	
PAM7: Inclusion of SEA in LUP process	NPPD	
PAM8: Strengthening of EIA process	CEA	
PAM9: Improve land productivity and rehabiliation	DA	
PAM10: Increased tree cover of non forested lands	DA	
PAM11: Protection of other forested lands	MoL	
PAM12: Identify local supply chain for fuelwood	MoPI	
PAM13: Agroforestry	FD	

Research related to forestry, wildlife and watershed management sectors

122. Research has a long history in Sri Lanka but a need to update research approaches to link more closely with current information demands has been noted during the Sri Lanka UN-REDD National Programme. As such NRIFAP implementation will target both an increase in levels of relevant research and a development of new research areas (including data collection and sharing mechanisnms)

123. Research areas within the forestry sector that will be considered include: (1) continuation of tree improvement programmes to raise good quality industrial timber and short-rotation tree crops for higher biomass production with increased carbon sequestration, (2) suitable methods for enrichment of degraded forests in different agro-ecological regions, (3) suitable species and techniques for reforestation in upper catchments, and (4) low impact logging of forest plantations.

124. Research areas under the wildlife sector that will be considered include: (1) Recognition of biodiversity and ecosystem services and demonstration of their economic value, (2) biodiversity baseline surveys, (3) ecological distribution of large herbivores (4) assessment of large animals' carrying capacity of the existing forests, (5) vegetation changes and their effect on population dynamics of faunal species and (6) habitat quality of different vegetation types in the reserves, to understand the carrying capacity of different fauna dependent on these habitats.

125. Research on watershed management that will be considered include: (1) effects of forest conservation/ reforestation on water yield and quality in downstream flows, (2) reinforcement of river banks by biological and mechanical measures to withstand torrential flows, (3) monitor the water quality and sediment loads in waterways that provide water to water purification plants in order to determine the cost of water purification due to pollution of stream water, the need to reforest stream reservations and improve agricultural practices and (4) introduction of agro-forestry practices to existing farmlands on highlands.

126. The ARF created during the readiness phase will coordinate this component together with key government agencies. The ARF will provide technical guidance on the research topics and will provide available data and research information that may directly or indirectly support REDD+ implementation.

D.4.
Stakeholder engagement

The REDD+ readiness phase has demonstrated Sri Lanka's strong commitment to robust stakeholder engagement, particularly with regards to civil society, including men and women from indigenous and non-indigenous forest user communities. Such a commitment is built on the recognition of the role of civil society in influencing policies and supporting local communities, as well as the appreciation of the role of forest-user communities in actively managing local forests while dealing with the effects of climate change and reduced forest productivity. NRIFAP implementation will continue this commitment and further strengthen capacity to achieve the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders within REDD+ implementation. To achieve this, the NRIFAP will support a number of key action areas including; continuation and expansion of support to the established stakeholder forums and the mainstreaming of gender into all stakeholder engagement processes. Information on these areas is provided in the sections below.

Sri Lanka UN-REDD Programme Photobank

The main REDD+ stakeholders forums are Sri Lanka Climate and Action Network (CSO network), REDD+ Academic and Research Forum, Indigenous People and Private Sector Forums

Photography: Hiranya Sudasinghe

Continuation and expansion of support to the established stakeholder forums/networks

Authentic national representation that is recognised and supported by its stakeholder constituency

127. During the REDD+ readiness phase, the UN-REDD National Programme worked with partners in government and civil society to establish two coordinating bodies to facilitate engagement of civil society and indigenous people on REDD+. The Sri Lanka Climate and Forest Action Network (SLCFAN), which evolved from the CSO platform that was established in 2013, now has a total of 52 members. Guided by a Board of Directors (5 men and 2 women), members meet regularly to strategize upcoming engagement with other key institutional stakeholders in REDD+.

128. An Indigenous Peoples Forum (20 men and 10 women) was also convened in November 2013 with representatives from six clans: Dambana, Hennaigala, Dalukana, Vaharei, Rathugala and Pollebedda settlements. Each clan is represented by a self-designated leader, who later chose the leader from Dambana to represent all six clans in national level policy discussions related to REDD+.

CSO stakeholders

Private sector stakeholders

129. During the implementation of the NRIFAP, it will be of critical importance to effectively engage with a range of stakeholders at various levels, including, where relevant, identifying and collaborating with rights holders, who could be women and/or men. Stakeholder forums/networks, in particular those established through the REDD+ readiness phase (SLCFAN and the IP Forum), will be called on to support this process. Continuing and expanding support to these forums/networks will therefore be strategic and necessary. Support will include efforts to review their memberships to ensure adequate expertise and representation across genders[47] and from specific districts or provinces where REDD+ implementation will be carried out. This should include building contacts with youth and women/gender-based organisations or networks that are familiar with the local contexts.

Access and capacity to participate in the formulation and implementation of the NRIFAP

130. Based on an initial stakeholder mapping, three primary engagement activities were adopted for SLCFAN, and the IP Forum: information sharing, consultation and collaboration. Additional face-to-face consultations (10 in total) took place in Dambana in an effort to ensure inputs from the IP Forum. Based on expertise identified during a membership review, SLCFAN members, in particular, selected different roles to undertake during REDD+ implementation, such as awareness raising; participate and influence policy dialogues; and/or monitor engagement process and implementation impacts on communities.

131. There are multiple roles the civil society and forest dependent communities could consider during the

47. In line with the target endorsed by the UN Economic and Social Council, it is widely held that women, at a minimum, should at least make up 30% of any decision making body, committee, consultation, workshop, etc. for more information, see United Nations (1995), Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Fourth World Conference on Women, available at http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf

Government sector stakeholders

IP community stakeholders

Sri Lanka UN-REDD Programme Photobank

NRIFAP implementation. Emerging experiences from CBR+ highlight to the effective roles communities play in forest protection and forest management, contingent upon adequate support for sustainable livelihood considerations. The civil society, in turn, is an important partner for the communities in its support to strengthen community networks, provide legal and technical aid, as well as disseminate appropriate technologies or good practices related to livelihood activities. Additional consideration will be made to ensure these types of support are gender responsive, wherein the different roles, responsibilities and contributions of men, women and youth, specific to the context where REDD+ interventions will take place, are analyzed.

132. Through the implementation of the NRIFAP, support will be provided to the PS forum and ARF to review their roles during the NRIFAP implementation. It is expected that the ARF will lead the work on research related to forestry, wildlife and watershed management. The PS forum will be fully engaged in actions related to Public Private Partnerships to promote reforestation, afforestation, forest restoration and urban forestry.

A clear and functional mechanism for decision-making

133. The process to identify and prioritize REDD+ PAMs was built on an authentic national stakeholder engagement and collaborative decision-making mechanism. These concepts will continue during the implementation of the NRIFAP and specifically the implementation of each PAM. A number of tools have been developed to help PAMs implementers identify whether or not Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) will be required for the specific intervention, including an activity review flowchart (see Annex 3), and a screening list[48] prepared by the

48. A working final of the FPIC guidelines is complemented by its associated Legal Companion, which outlines existing international law and emerging State practice affirming that indigenous peoples have the right to effective participation in the decisions, policies and initiatives that affect them, and that FPIC is a legal norm that imposes duties and obligations on the States.

UN-REDD National Programme (Annex 4). If it is required, full consideration will be given to ensure the affected forest user communities will be able to give or withhold their consent.

134. Correspondingly, a planning tool, in the form of a checklist[49], has also been developed to guide implementing agencies, at to whether a gender-responsive stakeholder engagement plan, based on principles of consultation, participation and consent, is required for PAMs with operations on the ground (one or more of those criterions will trigger the consent). This tool was designed to promote and sustain full, effective and gender-responsive engagement of local communities, while minimising risks and maximising benefits that may arise from PAMs implementation. Additionally, the tool is intended to assist implementing agencies to ensure appropriate level(s) of stakeholder engagement, followed by the identification and design of the types of activities necessary to support the required level(s) of engagement. Therefore, the checklist should not be seen as a prescriptive tool.

135. The tools can also be used by interested citizens as well as civil society groups to raise awareness among local communities, support implementing agencies in operationalising the checklist, or monitor the process and outcomes from the checklist. Support will be provided to civil society members for these potential multiple roles; providing quality assurance for the process and for project monitoring and evaluation purposes.

Mainstreaming gender in stakeholder engagement

136. During the NRIFAP implementation, gender balanced representation and participation will be strengthened both building on work undertaken during the REDD+ readiness phase and through lessons learned on how to effectively mainstream gender into stakeholder engagement processes in Sri Lanka[50]. Key target for this work include, women representing at least 30% of any decision-making body, committee, consultation, workshop, etc. To help achieve this at the national level, the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs will be requested to be a member of the RACB. At the provincial or district levels, building on existing efforts to strengthen CSO representation, relevant gender, women's and youth CBOs and CSOs will be identified, invited and supported to take part in the dialogue and collaboration with authorities. Acknowledging that there are socio-economic, cultural and political barriers faced by women and youth, deliberate action will be taken to ensure women and youth, in addition to men, are equitably, actively and meaningfully involved in REDD+ implementation. This means measuring beyond the number of participants to also promote the meaningful

49. Checklist to determine necessity of a gender-responsive stakeholder engagement plan for PAMs Implementation, Sri Lanka UN-REDD National Programme, October 2016.

50. Women's inclusion in REDD+ in Sri Lanka: Lessons from good practices in forest, agriculture and other natural resources management sectors, joint initiative by Women Organising for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN), the UN-REDD National Programme, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), October 2013.

Sri Lanka UN-REDD Programme Photobank

engagement of women, men and male and female youth.[51]

137. Equally, support will be provided to build capacities on how to mainstream gender in REDD+ implementation among targeted agencies, institutions, stakeholder platforms, networks and federations. Prior to implementation and in order to integrate a gender perspective in data collection and monitoring and reporting processes, baseline surveys specific to the REDD+ intervention areas will be undertaken in a gender-responsive manner. This will be followed by developing gender sensitive indicators in the monitoring and evaluation systems. Adequate funds will be allocated to support integrating gender and women's empowerment considerations in stakeholder engagement activities during REDD+ implementation.[52]

Development and dissemination of communication, awareness-raising and policy dialogue materials and knowledge management strategy [53]

138. It is important to ensure that all relevant stakeholders are provided with full and correct information in an easily and widely accessible, legible and understandable manner to allow stakeholders to form their opinions about issues and act on these. Providing clear, unbiased, high quality and engaging information on REDD+ will also establish the initiative as a visible and credible force in development, as well as helping to influence policy, practice and public discussion. Thus, communication and knowledge management will play a vital role during NRIFAP implementation. Based on the GoSL's commitment to ensuring the provision of full and correct information and lessons learned through the UN-REDD National Programme a National Communications, Knowledge Management and Media strategy for REDD+ implementation in Sri Lanka will be developed to support NRIFAP implementation.

139. As part of the communication strategy prepared by the UN-REDD National Programme for the readiness phase, REDD+ information was adapted to suit various target

51. Promoting the meaningful engagement of women and men can involve holding separate consultation meetings with men, women and other marginalized groups (e.g. youth); arranging meetings at a time and location that works well for women and youth; addressing safety issues women might face in reaching meeting locations, etc.
52. Refer to the detailed Action Plan on stakeholder engagement below.
53. Refer to the detailed Action Plan on information dissemination and communication below.

Table 21 | Investment framework and action plan for stakeholder engagement in NRIFAP implementation

Implementation Plan		
CONTINUATION AND EXPANSION OF SUPPORT TO THE ESTABLISHED STAKEHOLDER FORUMS/NETWORKS		
ACTIONS	Implementing/ supporting Institutions	Budgetary category
Action 1: Support checklist process to potentially develop a gender-responsive stakeholder engagement plan for PAMs with implementation on the ground	CSOs and REDD+ TS	Staff & Consultants
		Contractual Services & Grants
		Travel
		Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
Action 2: Adapt and deliver awareness-raising, using a gender perspective, at relevant PAM implementation sites	CSOs and REDD+ TS	Staff & Consultants
		Contractual Services & Grants
		Travel
		Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
Action 3: Monitor stakeholder engagement process and PAM implementation impacts on communities	CSOs	Staff & Consultants
		Contractual Services & Grants
		Travel
		Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
Action 4: Support development of platforms or networks, including for marginalised groups (e.g. women and youth) and other relevant groups at relevant PAM implementation sites	CSOs	Staff & Consultants
		Contractual Services & Grants
		Travel
		Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
Action 5: Support to stakeholders forums (CSOs, IP, PS, ARF)	REDD+ TS	Staff & Consultants
		Contractual Services & Grants
		Travel
		Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
TOTAL COSTS (LKR)		
TOTAL COSTS (USD)		

	BUDGET						TIMELINES									
	Amount Year 1 (LKR)	Amount Year 2 (LKR)	Amount Year 3 (LKR)	Amount Year 4 (LKR)	Amount Year 5 (LKR)	Total Costs (LKR)	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S9	S10
	3,580,884					3,580,884										
	7,957,520	7,957,520	7,957,520	13,925,660	1,989,380	39,787,600										
						0										
						0										
						0										
	11,936,280	11,936,280	11,936,280	11,936,280	11,936,280	59,681,400										
						0										
						0										
						0										
	19,893,800	19,893,800	19,893,800	19,893,800	19,893,800	99,469,000										
						0										
						0										
						0										
	11,936,280	11,936,280	11,936,280	11,936,280	11,936,280	59,681,400										
						0										
						0										
						0										
						0										
	1,591,504	1,591,504	1,591,504	1,591,504	1,591,504	7,957,520										
	5,968,140	5,968,140	5,968,140	5,968,140	5,968,140	29,840,700										
	62,864,408	59,283,524	59,283,524	65,251,664	53,315,384	299,998,504										
	419,096	395,223	395,223	435,011	355,436	1,999,990										

stakeholders: cartoons, posters, brochures, articles and reports, and symposiums. This information was disseminated online as well as to national government and non-governmental representatives for distribution among networks. Each technical component of the strategy was preceded by a brief introduction to raise awareness on the topics at hand, sharing timelines of the upcoming work, identifying potential contribution by SLFCAN and the Indigenous Peoples Forum, followed by dissemination of reports and updates. These lessons learned will be used when developing the National Communication, Knowledge Management and Media strategy for REDD+ implementation in Sri Lanka.

140. An effective Communication, Knowledge Management and Media Strategy will help gain visibility and create the needed understanding about the role forests play in sustaining the livelihoods of people. Such approach is aimed at gaining support and cooperation among REDD+ stakeholders and the public to ensure that the

Newspaper Advertisements

Website

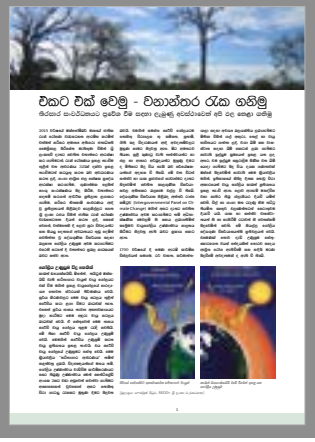
Competitions

Exibitions

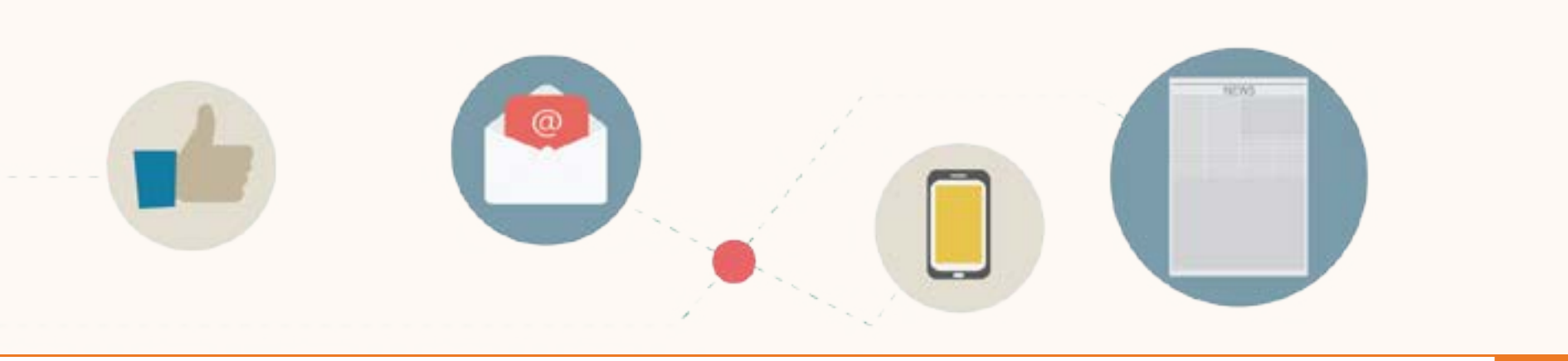
Cartoons

Newsletter

Articles



Symposiums



benefits the country is gaining by implementing REDD+ are understood and well accepted, and therefore, add momentum to REDD+ implementation in Sri Lanka.

141. The Communication, Knowledge Management and Media Strategy will include specific approaches for each of the PAM implementation areas and will be integrated with the GoSL's Sri Lanka NEXT 'Blue-Green Era' initiative Within this context, REDD+ will be projected as part of the GoSL's response to the challenges that the nation faces – at a crucial phase of rapid development – to engage in an emerging global initiative to move towards a 'greener' Sri Lanka. Key tools to be used will include newspaper and social media campaigns, which have been effective during the REDD+ readiness phase[54]. The strategy will also ensure that the right tools are developed for the right constituent audience. Tables 22 and 23 below provide an overview of this targeting and some of the methods that will be used.

54. The 'REDD+ Sri Lanka' Facebook page has received over 30,000 'likes' since its establishment

Table 22 | Key target audiences for REDD+ communication materials

Target audience	Objective	Message/s
Public	Gain support and create momentum	General awareness of REDD+ and benefits of REDD+ to the nation
Stakeholder agencies	Better implementation of actions	How REDD+ can help meet individual needs
Those affected	Understand the risks and benefits of proposed actions to make an informed decision	Ministry/Department objectives Activities revised and adapted to sensitivities

Table 23 | Key media systems to be used for communications

Target audience	Media to be used	Form of communication
Public	TV/radio/newspaper	Talk shows + discussion forums + newspaper articles and advertisements
Stakeholder agencies	Presentations/newsletter/face-to-face	Video clips + presentations + articles + meetings + communications material
Those affected	Media formats to be determined based on site-specific cultural sensitivities	Leaflets + government system

Table 24 | Investment framework and action plan for communication during implementation of NRIFAP

Implementation Plan			
COMMUNICATION			
	ACTIONS	Implementing/ supporting Institutions	Budgetary category
Development and dissemination of communication, awareness-raising and policy dialogue materials	**Action 1:** Develop Communication, Knowledge Management and Media Strategy, and develop gender-sensitive communication and knowledge management strategies for each PAM implementation area	REDD+ TS	Staff & Consultants
			Contractual Services & Grants
			Travel
			Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
	Action 2: Develop assessment tools for effectiveness of communication tools to deliver knowledge in an accessible fashion to stakeholders, including equitably women, men and youth	REDD+ TS	Staff & Consultants
			Contractual Services & Grants
			Travel
			Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
	Action 3: Implementation of Communication and Media Strategy, and corresponding strategy for each relevant PAM implementation area	REDD+ TS	Staff & Consultants
			Contractual Services & Grants
			Travel
			Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
	Action 4: Implementation of Knowledge Management Strategy, and corresponding strategy for each relevant PAM implementation area	REDD+ TS	Staff & Consultants
			Contractual Services & Grants
			Travel
			Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
	Action 5: Events to promote the NRIFAP	REDD+ TS	Staff & Consultants
			Contractual Services & Grants
			Travel
			Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
TOTAL COSTS (LKR)			
TOTAL COSTS (USD)			

	BUDGET						TIMELINES									
	Amount Year 1 (LKR)	Amount Year 2 (LKR)	Amount Year 3 (LKR)	Amount Year 4 (LKR)	Amount Year 5 (LKR)	Total Costs (LKR)	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S9	S10
	2,250,000					2,250,000										
						0										
						0										
						0										
	4,500,000					4,500,000										
			3,500,000		6,000,000	9,500,000										
						0										
						0										
						0										
	25,000,000	25,000,000	25,000,000	25,000,000	25,000,000	125,000,000										
						0										
						0										
						0										
	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	25,000,000										
						0										
	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	5,000,000										
						0										
	5,000,000		5,000,000		5,000,000	15,000,000										
						0										
						0										
	42,750,000	31,000,000	39,500,000	31,000,000	42,000,000	186,250,000										
	285,000	206,667	263,333	206,667	280,000	1,241,667										

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Support to ensure effective utilisation and functions of existing Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRMs)

142. An analysis of forest and land-use related grievance patterns, trends and their corresponding GRMs at local, district, provincial and national levels was conducted in 2015[55]. It indicated their strengths and weaknesses, as well as recommendations for improvement. Those recommendations will be implemented to increase the accessibility and understanding of GRMs, their different functions and purposes among potential users. Specific activities include establishing a focal point system among existing mechanisms and developing and disseminating information materials, among others.

143. The analysis also anticipates grievances that may stem from REDD+ implementation. It concluded that while existing mechanisms provide a good starting point for addressing grievances likely to arise under REDD+ implementation, there are limitations. These are attributed to either a lack of mandate, capacity or resources or outdated legislation, or poor implementation and enforcement of existing laws or a combination of both factors.

144. Since the analysis and recommendations were developed before decisions were made regarding key REDD+

55. Review of consultation and participation processes, and response mechanisms in the context of REDD+, Sri Lanka UN-REDD National Programme, October 2015.

Sri Lanka UN-REDD Programme Photobank

interventions, further review will need to be conducted for short-term recommendations aimed at improving existing mechanisms at community, divisional/provincial and national levels, specific to PAMs, including how these mechanisms are viewed by both men and women. The review should also include proposed long-term recommendations designed to proactively prevent grievances and reduce demand on the existing mechanisms.

145. Recommendations that could immediately be considered are to;

- integrate and continue a proactive stakeholder engagement approach to ensure REDD+ implementation does not aggravate old tensions;
- provide sufficient and timely information on GRMs to help men and women understand the function and purpose of a GRMs, the different options available to file their grievances, as well as associated processes to address these grievances;
- strengthen the implementation of GRMs in PAMs implementation areas;
- assign focal points to coordinate and establish communication and cooperation among all relevant institutions; and
- ascertain, with a view to implementation, the most effective way to develop a centralized information system and protocols to manage and access GRMs records from PAMs implementation areas.

Table 25| Investment framework and action plan for grievance redress mechanisms during implementation of NRIFAP

	Implementation Plan		
	GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISMS		
	ACTIONS	Implementing/ supporting Institutions	Budgetary category
Support to ensure effective utilisation and functions of existing grievance redress mechanisms for PAMs implementation	Action 1: Analysis of existing GRMs in relation to PAMs, to ensure effectiveness and usability equitably among women, men and youth	REDD+ TS	Staff & Consultants
			Contractual Services & Grants
			Travel
			Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
	Action 2: Support to RACB to provide guidance on GRMs for PAMs implementation	REDD+ TS	Staff & Consultants
			Contractual Services & Grants
			Travel
			Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
	Action 3: Raise legal awareness on national legal framework, knowledge of national GRMs and available options, and general conflict management with broad communities in PAMs implementation areas	CSOs	Staff & Consultants
			Contractual Services & Grants
			Travel
			Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
	Action 4: Build capacity on conflict management and mediation skills for Community Mediation Boards, Divisional Secretaries and Provincial Land Commissioners in PAMS implementation areas	CSOs	Staff & Consultants
			Contractual Services & Grants
			Travel
			Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
	Action 4: Support to GRMs in PAMs implementation sites	Implementing Agencies and CSOs	Staff & Consultants
			Contractual Services & Grants
			Travel
			Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
	Action 5: Develop a centralized information system and protocols to manage and access GRMs records from PAMs implementation areas	Implementing Agencies and CSOs	Staff & Consultants
			Contractual Services & Grants
			Travel
			Operating Costs, Supplies & Consumables
	TOTAL COSTS (LKR)		
	TOTAL COSTS (USD)		

	BUDGET						TIMELINES									
	Amount Year 1 (LKR)	Amount Year 2 (LKR)	Amount Year 3 (LKR)	Amount Year 4 (LKR)	Amount Year 5 (LKR)	Total Costs (LKR)	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S9	S10
	4,550,000	4,460,000				9,010,000										
						0										
						0										
						0										
						0										
						0										
		1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	6,000,000										
		2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	10,000,000										
						0										
	2,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	3,000,000	20,000,000										
						0										
						0										
						0										
	2,500,000	11,250,000	3,750,000	3,750,000	3,750,000	25,000,000										
						0										
						0										
						0										
	1,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	4,000,000	20,000,000										
	500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,000,000	10,000,000										
	1,500,000	6,000,000	7,500,000	3,000,000	2,000,000	20,000,000										
						0										
	11,250,000	18,750,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	75,000,000										
						0										
						0										
	23,300,000	56,960,000	42,750,000	38,250,000	33,750,000	195,010,000										
	155,333	379,733	285,000	255,000	225,000	1,300,067										