Round Table Discussion on Land Use Policy

*Land Use Planning in Sri Lanka, Past Present and Future*

Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) in Collaboration with the Millennium Challenge (MCC)

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Land use planning - definition

- Land use planning should be a decision-making process that “facilitates the allocation of land to the uses that provide the greatest sustainable benefits” (Agenda 21. Paragraph 10.5).

- It is the systematic assessment of physical, social and economic factors in such a way as to encourage and assist land users in selecting options that increase their productivity, are sustainable and meet the needs of the society.
Functions of Land

• The Production Function
• The Biological or Biotic Environmental Function
• The Climatic Regulation Function
• The Hydrological Function
• The Storage Function
• The Waste and Pollution Control Function
• The Living Space and Recreational Function
• The Archival or Heritage Function
• The Connective Space Function
The Basic objective of the LUPPD was;

**Formulate Land Use Policies**
and Prepare Plans to rationally allocate the land resources among competing needs of the country for optimal and sustainable use while maintaining an environmental balance.

- Preparation of Land Use Plans at National, Provincial, Divisional and Plot Level.
- Establishment of Land Use Planning Committees at National Provincial, Divisional and Village Level.
- Setting up Land Use Planning Units at Provincial and Cluster (District) Level
- Setting up of a Land Resource Data Bank
Above Activities are Mandated by Government Special Gazette Notifications No 1654/21 (Date-May 2010)

- Create the legal background for implementing the National Land Use Policy adopted for Sri Lanka
- Prepare a National Land Use Plan for Sri Lanka
- Provide Technical guidelines so as to utilize the limited land resource for the betterment of the human beings while maintaining environment equilibrium
- Issue recommendations and directives to establish the conservation and future existence of land resource in development plans based on the land resource
- Launch programmers so as to expand the knowledge, training and education on scientific land use planning
National Level

2. National Land Use Planning Act (Draft)
3. Policy on Protection and Conservation of Water Sources

District Level

1. District Land Use Planning – 08 Districts in the Provinces of North & Eastern

Regional

1. Divisional Secretary Level Land Use Plan
(320 D.S. Divisions- Scale 1:10,000)
Local Level (Demonstrations)

I. Village Level Land Use Plans
II. Rehabilitation Program for degraded Lands
III. Parcel Level Demonstration

Special Projects

• North & East Land Suitability Reports
• Land Suitability Study for Grazing
• Protection and Rehabilitation of River Banks
• Paddy Land Study
Supportive Programs

• District land Use Planning committees
• Divisional land Use Planning Committees
• Awareness Programs on land Use Planning
Land Use Planning Efforts- Past, Present and Future

• Land Use Planning Hand Book for Sri Lanka 1986/87
• National land Use Policy- 2007
• National Land Use Planning Bill-2014
• Land Use Planning Guidelines-User Manual
• Guidelines for Divisional Land Use Planning
• Formulation of Land Evaluation/Site Assessment and other functionality Guidelines
Land Use Planning Efforts- Past, Present and Future (Contd)..

• District land Use Plans Prepared for the Districts of Northern and Eastern Provinces (08 Reports)

• Divisional Land Use Plans prepared for balance districts (17 Districts, 251 plans)
Land Use Planning Issues addressed by the above plans

- Issues related to presently Protected Areas
- Issues related to proposed areas for protection
- Misuse of Land
- Presence of Underutilized Lands
- Presence of Unused Lands
- Land Use Conflicts
Inter Ministerial /Departmental relations

- Developing of Participatory land Use Planning Guidelines (FAO/GEF)
- Bio-Diversity Conservation Plan Upper Kala Oya Basin (UNDP)
- Upper walawe river basin Land Use Plan and Social vulnerability mapping
- Kelani River Basin land Use Study
- Implementation of Protection and Conservation of Water Sources and Sprouts