

### 03: The Vision and Goals

The updating of the National Physical Planning Policy followed the process set out by the Town & Country Planning Ordinance No.13 of 1946, Amended by Act No.49 of 2000. It has been complimented with a series of preliminary studies and consultations of the experts, development agencies, stakeholders and interest groups. This chapter outlines the approach adopted for the updating of the National Physical Planning Policy and the Vision and the Goals formulated for the National Physical Plan 2050.

#### 3.1 Time Horizons

The time horizons are set for the Plan in the following manner:

- 1. Short term horizon:** Five-year period (2020-25), whose state of the affairs is within the most foreseeable limits of the planning team. The current development trends, the policies adopted by the present government and the likely outcomes of them, and the development projects that are already in progress which will have a major impact on the physical and social environment of the island are the key factors considered within this horizon.
- 2. Medium term horizon:** Ten to fifteen-year period (2030-35), the situation of which can be foreseen with some level of certainty by the planning team. The improving quality of life and the social status, the changing state of political affairs both locally and globally, and the fast evolving technology that changes the entire development scenario of the country and the likely consequences of such changes, are the considerations within this horizon.
- 3. Long term horizon:** Twenty-five to thirty-year period (2050), the state of which is mostly beyond the sight of the present day planning thoughts. Yet the core values those need to be preserved, expectations those will remain unchanged and the objectives those need to be achieved at any cost are the considerations for the work at this phase.

#### 3.2 The Vision Statement

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நேர்த்தியான வளம்பொருந்திய திறன்மிகு நாட்டிற்கான  
நிலையான தன்னிகரற்ற திட்டமிடப்பட்ட தேசம்

***Mannered, Geared and Smart Nation  
in a Planned, Sustained and Adored Land***

1. Planned (a Built Environment that will facilitate an uncompromised growth in the economy, continuous improvements to social well-being, and the optimum utility of the physical, social, economic and environmental resources)
2. Sustained (a Development that will ensure the prolonged use of the land, ocean, water, human, wildlife and other resources of the island)
3. Adored (a Landscape whose unique physical characteristics and the socio-cultural manifestations are retained amidst new developments)
4. Mannered (Providing the ambiance appropriate for Peace and Harmony among people)
5. Geared (Providing opportunities for improved Health, Wealth (Employment), Knowledge(Education), Skills (Training) and Power (Equity))
6. Smart (Pave the way for innovative, progressive and embraced State-of-the Art Technology and good practices).

#### 3.3 The Broad Objective

As the overall objective the proposed plan intends to provide a guide towards developing a physical environment that will facilitate Sri Lanka to become a smart nation and a competitive economy of the world within the next decade and remain thereafter; ensuring the optimum and sustainable use of the available and unexplored resources of its land, its inhabitants and the ocean; exploiting the opportunities provided by the ongoing economic, political and technological advances around the globe; and harnessing the potentials attributed by its strategic geographic location in the Indian Ocean.

### 3.4 Goals

#### 3.4.1. Short Term Goals (2020-25)

These are goals those need to be achieved within the forthcoming five to ten year period, in order to facilitate the medium and long term goals.

- a. Spatial structure that facilitates unhindered **growth** in the economy, more employment and business opportunities for Sri Lankans within the island and attract local and foreign investments for development.
- b. Development directives that promote the best **utility** and the efficient use of the available land and infrastructure, and built into the unique landscape of the island
- c. Regulatory framework that ensures the long **sustainability** of land, water, and other resources, natural eco-systems, cultural landscapes and traditions of the inhabitants.

#### 3.4.2. Medium Term Goals (2025-30)

These goals can have a longer range and expected to be fully achieved within the next ten to fifteen-year period.

- a. Space that facilitates the **transformation** of the national economy from conventional industries to high-tech and innovation based industries and increased international trade.
- b. Developments that promote the **exploration** of new opportunities and untapped resources in land, ocean locations and in inhabitants.
- c. Physical environment that supports the increased **attraction** for investments and trade.

#### 3.4.3. Long Term Goals (2050)

These can be regarded as all-time goals whose validity remains from today to a period even beyond the horizons of this Plan.

- a. **Sustainable** Use of land, water, ocean and other resources of the Island, preserving agriculture, traditional industries, cultural landscapes and the practices.
- b. **Responsiveness** to the effects of climate change and natural hazards
- e. **Balanced** development across the Island that provides for equity, equal opportunities and accessibility to resources for all.

### 3.5 Guiding Policies

In order to achieve the above goals in the desired development scenarios, and based on the findings of the preliminary studies carried out on the existing and the foreseeable future situations, the following guiding policies have been formulated to prepare the National Physical Plan 2050.

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| <p><b>3.5.1 Conservation of the ‘Critical’ and the ‘Unique’</b></p> <p>As an economical means of providing necessary supportive systems demanded by future physical developments throughout the island, Sri Lanka can depend largely on its natural eco systems, water resources and unique landscapes. Provision of alternative engineering solutions will add heavy costs for such developments. Therefore, the strategic conservation and improvement of the existing environmental systems and physical settings is crucial for a physically as well as economically sustainable development.</p> <p>At the same time, the upcoming and predicted effects of the climate change as well as the unforeseen disaster situations caused by human activities pose severe constraints for both economic and physical development of Sri Lanka unless necessary precautionary measures will be adopted at the earliest. Some critical environments such as the coastal areas and the fragile central hills are highly sensitive in this regard.</p> <p>In yet another face, many of the unique and attractive landscapes of the island are the bases of the economy of such places and act as the icons of the culture and the traditions of the nation. They are increasingly subject to degradation due to neglect, over exploitation and vandalizing. The protections of the essences of such settings are important for a sustainable economic and socio-cultural development. Thus, the mandatory conservation of the critical ecosystems, fragile areas and the unique landscapes are proposed as a guiding policy for the planning of future physical developments in Sri Lanka. Similarly, cultural landscapes too should be considered as a mandatory requirement for conservation.</p> | <p><b>3.5.2 Promotion of the ‘Livability’ for Human</b></p> <p>The long sustained development of a country can be expected only with a healthy nation, who enjoys a high quality of life associated with many indicators as set out by the United Nations. The quality of the physical environment that promotes ‘livability’ is an important factor in this regard.</p> <p>A livable physical environment can be achieved through several means, but the available geographic and weather conditions contribute towards most economic ways towards such. Out of many conditions conducive for human habitats, the atmospheric temperature, humidity levels, rainfall and the lands free from natural disasters and wild animal attacks can be considered as the most critical. The convenient access to land and water along with readily available physical infrastructure such as roads, transportation facilities, etc., and the social infrastructure such as schools and hospitals are also regarded as conditions necessary for livability.</p> <p>The livable physical environment is also meant to include the cohabitation with the natural (Flora and Fauna) which is included in consideration of cultural traits of the people.</p> <p>Selection of the areas those encompass the above conditions of livability for future human settlement development is proposed as a policy for the planning of future physical developments in Sri Lanka.</p> | <p><b>3.5.3 Optimization of the Utility of the ‘Available’</b></p> <p>According to the available information, owing to the debt servicing requirements and the immediate improvements required in priority sectors within ten years, Sri Lanka will have to lead its future development with many constraints. Heavy investments on large scale infrastructure may not be healthy, unless there are compelling reasons.</p> <p>In addition to such constraints, the UN Sustainable Development Goals envisages the sustainable use of infrastructure and natural resources.</p> <p>In that context, the best use of the available resources and the existing physical and social infrastructure, rather than investing on new infrastructure with an additional burden on the economy, and prioritization of the development needs, have become necessities.</p> <p>However, future investments shall be directed more towards improving the quality of what is available by means of making them more productive, efficient and state of the art, rather than increasing the quantity, unless there is a real need for such. For that the emerging technology around the globe can be well embraced by Sri Lanka while adequate investments shall be allocated to promote innovations locally.</p> <p>On these grounds, compulsory optimization of the utility of the available resources and the existing infrastructure in the planning of future physical developments is proposed as a guiding policy in planning.</p> | <p><b>3.5.4 Exploration of the ‘Potentials’, ‘Opportunities’ and the ‘Enhancement’ of the Use</b></p> <p>It is clear that, most of the potential resources in Sri Lanka have yet to be tapped for their full strength. One such resource is the ocean space declared as Exclusive Economic Zone that extends to more than 250,000 square kilometers into Indian Ocean. Except for fishing and a few minerals the rest of the resources embodied in it remain intact. There are many other resources associated with the ocean space such as the winds, ocean waves, likely petroleum and gas deposits, etc. those have not been adequately explored yet. The inland locations which have high potentials to attract tourists need to be promoted in a planned manner. Other than the popularly visited locations a vast variety of spaces still remain little known to many.</p> <p>Human Resource, specially the youth in the labour force, with various skills and education levels is another resource that Sri Lanka shall consider for a sustainable development. According to demographers, if not put into effective use within the period that it yields ‘population dividend’ Sri Lanka will miss another opportunity to gain the competitive advantage that it possesses in the region. Future developments shall be supportive of such explorations.</p> <p>The ever advancing technological innovations have to be incorporated to be in par with the international competitors. In this context, in the planning of future physical developments, providing maximum opportunities for the exploration and the enhancement of potentials and untapped resources is proposed as a policy.</p> |
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