

## Climate Change and Official Statistics

### 1. National Circumstance

Sri Lanka situated southern tip of India between  $6^{\circ}$  –  $10^{\circ}$  north latitude and between  $80^{\circ}$  –  $82^{\circ}$  longitude extending over 65,610 square kilometers frequently influenced its climate by the events Indian Ocean. The Island's central part is mountainous and when extending towards Coast the topography is plane. Although it is a small country, one could see considerable variation in the climate and it could be attributed to the location in the Indian subcontinent and topography. The average annual rainfall varies from 1,000 (39") mm -5,000 mm (197"). Its rain predominantly influenced by two monsoons namely North-east and South-west, thereby creating two major rainy seasons. The mean temperature in the Central peak areas varies from 15 – 19 Celsius while in rest of the areas 25 – 28 Celsius. Major rivers originated at central hills flows in a radial pattern through coastal plains towards the sea.

Sri Lanka's total population at the Census of Population and Housing taken in 1981 was 14.8 million while in 2001 it has reached up to 18.7 and in the year 2007 mid year estimate is 20.01 million. Presently the recorded annual growth is around 1 percent. Population is unevenly distributed across the country. Nearly 2/3 of its total population is confined to wet zone.

Sri Lanka's economy which depended heavily upon agriculture until 1960s basically export oriented plantation crops had started diversifying its nature since last two decades.

#### Sectoral Share of GDP 1987 – 2007 (at constant prices)

Sector	1987	1998*	2007**
Agriculture forestry and fishery	20.5	17.2	13.0
Mining and quarrying	2.5	1.1	1.9
Manufacturing	19.7	18.2	17.7
Constructions	6.9	6.7	6.4
Services	50.4	56.8	59.6

\* Based on 1998 prices \*\* Based on 2002 prices

Agriculture sector constitutes of two sectors, the produce of plantation crops mainly catered to the export market while small holding or peasantry sector producing mainly for the domestic market. The first sector synthesized with tea, rubber, and coconut, cocoa, coffee, cinnamon, cloves and cardamom mainly catered to the foreign market. Paddy is the main crop which cultivates about 600,000 hectares in the main season and 350,000 hectares in the second season produced for the domestic market. Many species of animals such as neat cattle, buffaloes, swine, goat and poultry are being reared in the country. Fishery sector includes both marine and coastal and also inland fishery sector secured livelihood for a considerable number of its inhabitants.

The climate of Sri Lanka is also conducive to forest cover. One time the forestry cover existed at a considerable share has dropped to less than 2/3 in the land area as a result of deforestation.

Energy supply in Sri Lanka is mainly based on three sources namely; hydro power, biomass and thermal power. However, the contribution from biomass sector is very marginal. Summary data on this sector for the years 2005 and 2006 is given below.

#### Power Generation Statistics 2005, 2006

Power Stations	Type	No. of Power Stations		Installed Capacity In MW.		Gross Generation in GWH	
		2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
<b>C.E.B.</b>	• Total	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1758</b>	<b>1758</b>	<b>5337</b>	<b>5951</b>
	• Hydro	16	16	1207	1207	3173	4290
	• Thermal	6	6	548	548	2162	1669
	• Wind	1	1	3	3	2	2
<b>P.P.P</b>	• Total	<b>55</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>3432</b>	<b>3428</b>
	• Hydro#	45	60	85	109	5314	346
	• Thermal	10	10	567	567	5	3082
<b>Total</b>		<b>81</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>2411</b>	<b>2434</b>	<b>8769</b>	<b>9379</b>

# - with waste heat, Solar, Biomass, Power plants

## 2. Impacts on Climate Change

Climate Change has a direct impact on the economy, environment, human and animal life. Global warming has significant threat to the Island on following activities.

Source*	Impact
Sea level rise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal settlements</li> <li>• Coastal erosion</li> <li>• Sea water intrusion</li> <li>• Fishery industry</li> <li>• Port activities/Tourism</li> </ul>
Temperature rise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power Generation</li> <li>• Agriculture and livestock</li> <li>• Human health</li> </ul>
Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ground Water Levels</li> <li>• Power generation</li> <li>• Agriculture/Livestock output</li> <li>• Human Health</li> <li>• Transport facilities</li> </ul>
High Intensity of Rainfall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land erosion</li> <li>• Land degradation</li> <li>• Agriculture/Livestock output</li> <li>• Human health/hHuman settlements</li> <li>• Power generation</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport Infrastructure</li> </ul>
Increased thunder activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to infrastructure</li> <li>• Human life risks</li> </ul>

### 3. Official Statistics

Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) is the central agency established to collect compile and disseminate statistics to the Government and its mandate is described below.

#### 3.1 Legal Framework

The legal authority under which DCS operates is governed by two laws; these are the Census Ordinance 1956 (amended in 2000) and the Statistics Ordinance. These two ordinances explain the duties and responsibilities of the Head of the Department and the staff while collecting data through the means of Censuses and surveys and it prevents any form of abusing its rights or powers. The law dictates what the statistical agency is expected to do with the information when respondents submit to it. Respondents are asked to comply with the statistical agency's demands for information so long as they can be justified in the name of the objectives set by the law. In exchange for intrusion upon privacy rights, the statistical agency is required to safeguard respondents' information. If the agency breaks this commitment, its officers are subject to certain sanctions. If respondents do not comply, they too are subject to certain sanctions.

##### *Census Ordinance.*

The first legal sanction in Sri Lanka provided under the Census Ordinance was framed in 1868 on the lines of the English law for the conduct of the first Census in 1871. This ordinance was amended in 1880 and also in 1900. By these amendments, it has made provisions to undertake the Census with legal wrights by accessing defined census units by the census officer and request for the information needed for the purpose of census taking. It also spells out the obligations of respondents by giving answers to the best of their knowledge and belief. If the Census officers violates Census regulations or abuse of powers or respondents obstructing an officer in carrying out his duties are liable to be punished. The Census Ordinance has undergone with amendments in 1945, 1955, 1980 and 2000. The Census ordinance covers not only the Census of Population and Housing but also Agriculture, Industry, Commerce etc. The amendments made in 1980 include the provision of legal sanctity for the confidentiality of the information collected at the Census. Thus the Census Ordinance casts an obligation on the part of the respondents to answer all questions asked at a Census and at the same time it safeguards the respondents by causing any information collected at a Census to be inadmissible as evidence in a Court of law. Extract of the Census and Statistical law is annexed.

##### *Statistics Ordinance.*

The Statistics Ordinance which was enacted in 1935 provides for the establishment of an official Bureau of Statistics and for the supply of information thereto. This ordinance was amended in 1955. The Statistics Ordinance provided legal sanction for the Director of Census and Statistics to collect statistical information relating to the socio-economic conditions of the country. There is provision in this ordinance like in the Census Ordinance to safeguard the confidentiality of the information provided by the respondent. The ordinance also prevents the disclosure of identity of any information in respect of an individual person for any purpose other than disseminating aggregate information for decision making.

However, these ordinances do not spell out any mechanism for ensuring coordination between different agencies of the government that are engaged in data gathering as a part of their administrative purposes.

### **3.2 Organization of DCS**

The statistical system functioning in Sri Lanka is known to be centralized one and the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) is the National Statistical Office in Sri Lanka mainly responsible for the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistical data requirements of the government. Apart from its responsibility of collecting and supplying data on the various sectors of the socio-economic conditions of the country, it recruits train and place professional staff of all government agencies requiring statistical services. In addition to that it provides statistical consultancy services to the agencies require assistance, on statistical matters, through its technical divisions. As such the DCS service as a focal point and performs the services of a central statistical agency.

The DCS is the main government statistical agency is entrusted with the responsibilities data collection pertaining to economic and social life of the inhabitants and dissemination, as well as coordination of, personnel recruitment and training for, and provision of technical services to, the entire statistical system. DCS is headed by a Director General with equivalent rank of Additional Secretary who at present reports directly to the Ministry of Finance and Planning. DCS is operating its functions through 18 technical and service divisions housed in different locations in the city of "Colombo." These divisions are headed by either Directors or Deputy Directors.

DCS operates its principal office and technical divisions in Colombo with an island wide net work of field offices and field officers attached to district secretariats and Divisional Secretariats and also branch offices in key Ministries and Departments.

The collection and compilation of data is performed through the staff attached to 25 District Statistical Offices, located in the District Secretariats. Each office is under the charge of a Deputy Director/Senior Statistician/ Statistician, who is assisted by a team of Statistical Officers attached to the Divisional Secretary's office. These officers are engaged in training and monitoring of data

collections performed by primary reporters as well as they do collect data themselves for certain surveys that they are entrusted by the technical divisions.

The DCS maintains 40 branch offices at present in various Ministries, Departments and other governments agencies, which are placed in charge of either a Deputy Director, Senior Statistician, Statistician or Statistical Officer. The statistical personal in these branch offices are under the immediate administrative control of their respective Heads of Ministries, Departments, even though they belong to the cadre of the DCS. However they obtain advice and guidance from the technical divisions of the DCS. DCS does not have a direct input in the development of the work plans of line ministries, but contributes to technical improvements to data collection activities in these ministries through the professional staff based in these branch offices. In theory, DCS HQ units have technical oversight of the statistical units in the line Ministries.

As mentioned earlier DCS is responsible for collection, compilation and dissemination of all type of socio-economic information comply with the vested power and legal authority under the Census ordinance and statistical ordinance. The statistical programs undertaken by DCS are as follows.

1. Conducting annual/biannual sample surveys under current statistical program
2. Conducting ad-hoc surveys depending on national requirements.
3. Collection of statistics through administrative records.
4. Conducting the Censuses in different disciplines.

The data disseminate by DCS based on the above sources are published in the Statistical Abstract and they are available to the public by means of hard copies, electronic media and website. A concise summary of list of statistical tables are given below.

- References: 1. Initial National Communication Under The United nations Framework Convention on Climate Change- Sri Lanka 2000  
October – Ministry of Forestry and Environment  
2. Statistical Abstract 2007- Department of Census and Statistics  
3. Guide to Statistics – Department of Census and Statistics

## **Areas Covered by Official Statistics**

### **- AREA AND CLIMATE**

## **Area**

- 1.1 Area of Sri Lanka by province and district
- 1.2 Land area by province, district and D.S division

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- 1.5 Mean annual and monthly relative humidity, 2002 - 2006
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- 2.5 Estimated mid year population by sex and age, 2003 -2006
- 2.6 Population distribution by sex , age and district , Census 2001
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- 2.8 Population density by district, census years
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- 2.10 Population by ethnic group, census years
- 2.11 Population by ethnic group and district, Census 1981,2001
- 2.12 Percentage distribution of population by ethnic group and district, Census 1981, 2001
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- 3.12 Life expectancy at specified ages by sex, 1963, 1971 and 1981
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