

CLIMATE CHANGE AND CLIMATE ACTION GUIDED BY UN SDGS IN SRI LANKA: A REVIEW

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Abstract: Climate change is a pressing global issue that demands immediate attention and action. This study aims to provide an overview of the efforts made by Sri Lanka (SL) in addressing climate change and implementing climate action guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a vulnerable island nation, SL is highly susceptible to climate change impacts (CC). National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change Impacts 2016-2025 (NAP-CC) identified adaptation actions for nine vulnerable sectors as food security (crop-livestock-fisheries), water, health, human settlements, biodiversity, and ecosystems coastal and marine, export agriculture, industry-energy-transportation, and tourism. Rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and changing rainfall patterns pose significant challenges to the country's ecosystems, economy, and livelihoods. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, SL has taken proactive measures to combat climate change and align its actions with the UN SDGs. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SD), SL has implemented policies action plans and formed a parliamentary select committee dedicated to providing political direction for SDG implementation by passing of the SD Act No. 19 of 2017 to establish the legal framework for SDGs and launching several projects to address CC and assist in climate adaptation, mitigation, and preparedness. The inclusion of environmental education in the new school curriculum aims to promote an eco-friendly future generation. SL has signed the Paris Climate Agreement and has submitted Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Successful achievement of (NDCs) will contribute to the attainment of relevant SDGs in SL. Further, the tank cascade system can enhance community resilience by providing a reliable water supply for agriculture, reducing vulnerability to droughts, and supporting sustainable water management practices aligned with SDGs. By staying committed to climate action, SL can serve as a role model for other nations in the fight against climate change.

Keywords: Climate change; Climate action; SDGs; Sri Lanka