

**POLICY COHERENCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE,
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) AND
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR) IN SRI LANKA**

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Sri Lanka

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Science

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DECLARATION

I declare that this is my own work and this thesis does not incorporate without acknowledgment any material previously submitted for a degree or Diploma in any other University or institute of higher learning and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgment is made in the text.

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ABSTRACT

Policy coherence is critical in addressing the complex challenges that developing countries confront when coping with climate change, attaining sustainable development goals, and decreasing disaster risks. The research focuses on assessing the level of policy coherence for climate change adaptation (CCA), DRR, and SDGs, specifically in Sri Lanka, while identifying the pathways to enhance resilience. The objectives of this research include investigating the coherence of CCA, DRR, and SDGs, identifying issues within policy documents regarding their coherence in Sri Lanka, and determining policy coherence pathways for resilience. The research methodology comprises a review and content analysis of seventeen policy and legal documents in Sri Lanka, complemented by qualitative research through semi-structured interviews with ten government representatives and stakeholders. The data collected from both content analysis and interviews were analyzed using NVivo software.

Findings reveal several challenges in policy coherence within Sri Lanka, such as a fragmented approach, lack of integration, inadequate coordination, limited resources, and insufficient monitoring and evaluation. While international frameworks inspire policies, local implementation often falls short. Furthermore, there is a need for development cooperation to introduce innovative approaches like climate-resilient infrastructure and environmentally friendly solutions for CCA and DRR. Efficient management of land use and the accountability for constructing physical infrastructure that incorporates both disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation are equally essential. Community involvement emerges as a significant factor in successful policy implementation, which helps bridge gaps in existing policies and acts.

Based on a preliminary evaluation of policy documents, relevant literature, and a comprehensive framework, this study provides recommendations to achieve policy coherence in CCA, DRR, and SDGs in Sri Lanka. These recommendations include enhancing strategic coherence, improving risk assessment frameworks for DRR and CCA, strengthening institutional cooperation and stakeholder management, establishing a common monitoring and evaluation system, formulating implementation strategies, and increasing community involvement. By addressing the identified gaps and pathways to policy coherence, policymakers can establish robust linkages among CCA, DRR, and SDGs, ultimately fostering long-term resilience.

Keywords: Climate change adaptations, Disaster risk reduction, Policy coherence, Resilience, Sustainable development goals,

DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to all who work persistently to preserve our world and defend our environment from the rising threat of climate change. This work is dedicated to the activists, scientists, policymakers, and people devoted to lowering our carbon footprint and establishing a more sustainable future.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CC	Climate Change
DGEC	Directorate General of the Environment and Climate
DoDMA	Department of Disaster management Affairs
DMA	Disaster Management Act
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DPR	Disaster Preparedness and Relief Act
EAD	Environmental Affairs Department
EWS	Early Warning Systems
LDRRMC	Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
MDA	Ministries, Departments, Agencies
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MLCSD	Ministry of Living conditions and Sustainable
MNREM	Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment, and Minerals
MRE	Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NCPA	National Civil Protection Agency
NAP-CLD	National Action Program for Combating Land Degradation
NCCC	National Committee on Climate Change
NCPA	National Civil Protection Agency
NDC	National Determine Contribution
NDMC	National Disaster Management Center
NDMP	National Disaster Management Plan
NDRMC	National Disaster Risk Management Center
NDRMC-TC	National Disaster Risk Management Center-Technical Committee
NHP	National Housing Policy

NPDRR-CCA	National platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation
NPSSD	National Policy and Strategy for Sustainable Development
NPSCP	National Policy on Sustainable Consumption and Protection
NPDM	National Policy on Disaster Management
NSCCC	National Steering Committee on Climate Change
NTCCC	National Technical Committee on Climate Change
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
SD	Sustainable Development
SGD/SGDs	Sustainable Development Goals
TOSSD	Total Official Support for Sustainable Development
ODA	Official Development Assistance
UNDRR	UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A Interview questions for the survey on policy coherence for climate and disaster resilience in Sri Lanka

Appendix B Revised interview questions for the survey on policy coherence for climate and disaster resilience in Sri Lanka

Appendix C NVivo Analysis