



# National Spatial Planning as a Tool to achieve resilience and development and **disruption**

## The case of Sri Lanka National Physical Plan 2050 Then and Now

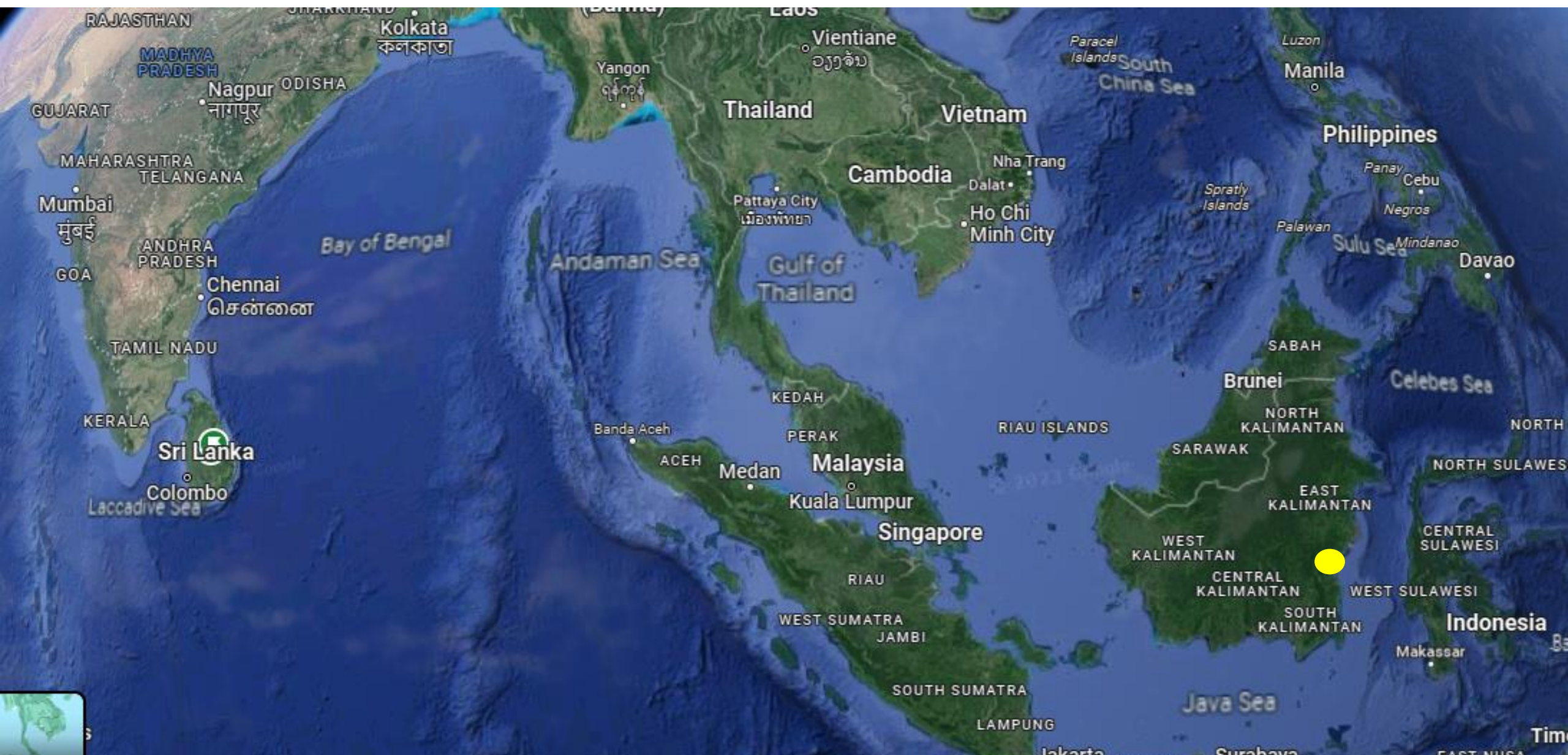


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# National Spatial Planning as a Tool to achieve resilience and development or disruption



# National Physical Plan 2050

Enacted in June 2019



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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

EXTRAORDINARY

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No. 2127/15 - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2019

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## PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL Government Notifications

GAZETTING OF THE UPDATED NATIONAL PHYSICAL PLANNING POLICY AND THE PLAN-2050 APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL PHYSICAL PLANNING COUNCIL

I, Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Megapolis and Western Development, do hereby publish, the Updated National Physical Planning Policy and Plan - 2050, prepared under the Section 5(a) and (b) of the Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Act, No. 49 of 2000, and approved by the National Physical Planning Council as per Section 3 (4a) of the Act on 26.02.2019, for the information of the general public.

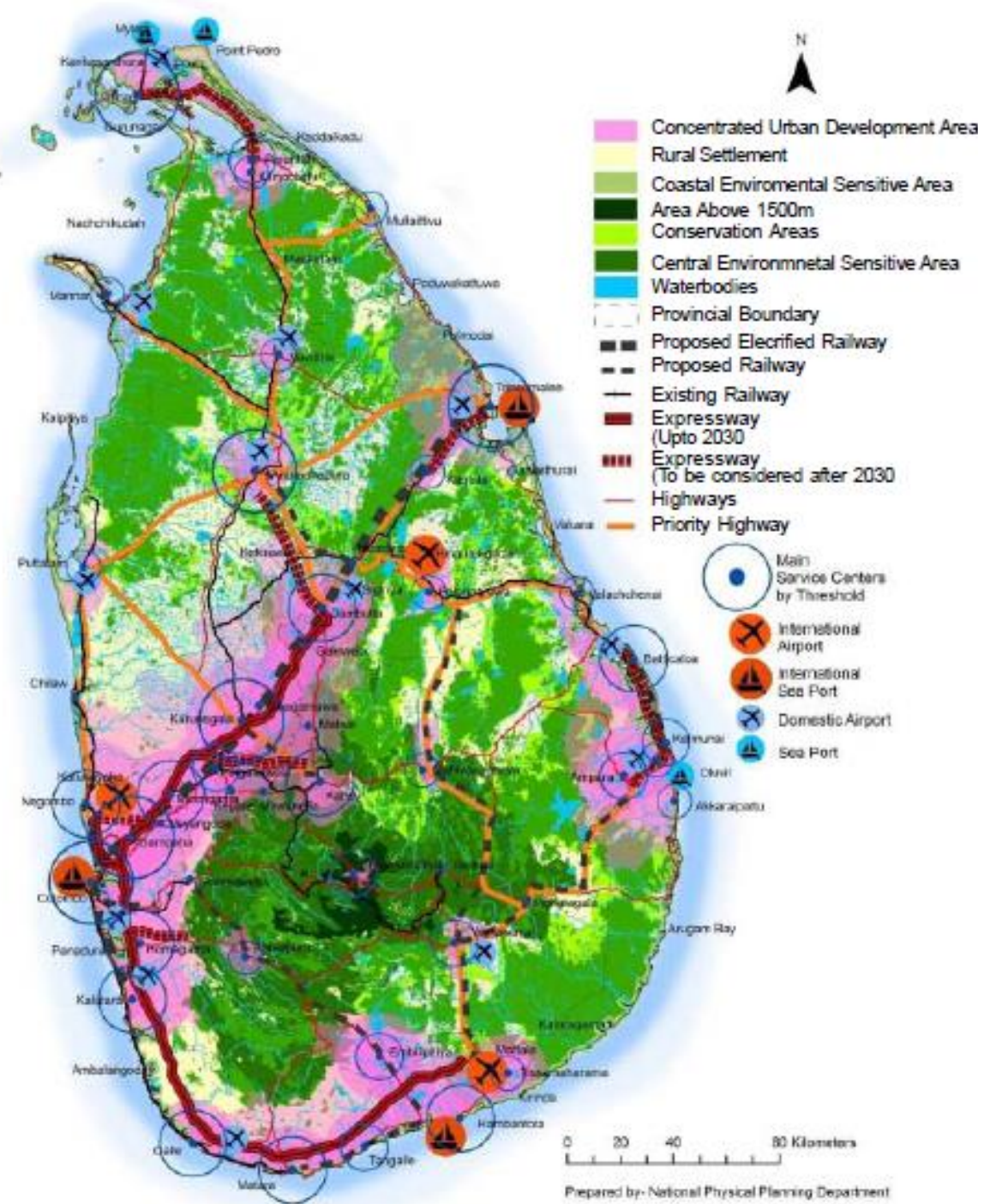
PATALI CHAMPIKA RANAWAKA,  
Minister of Megapolis and Western Development.

Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development,  
Suhurupaya,  
Battaramulla,  
01st June 2019.

Updated National Physical Planning Policy and Plan - 2050

BASED ON THE NATIONAL PHYSICAL PLANNING POLICY AND PLAN - 2030 APPROVED ON  
03.07.2007 AND 09.11.2011

This document was prepared in accordance with Sections 5A(b) of the Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Act, No. 49 of 2000, under powers vested with Director General of National Physical Planning Department, as per



# Since then (2019-2022)

## The impact of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Compact

### Three projects selected to fund:

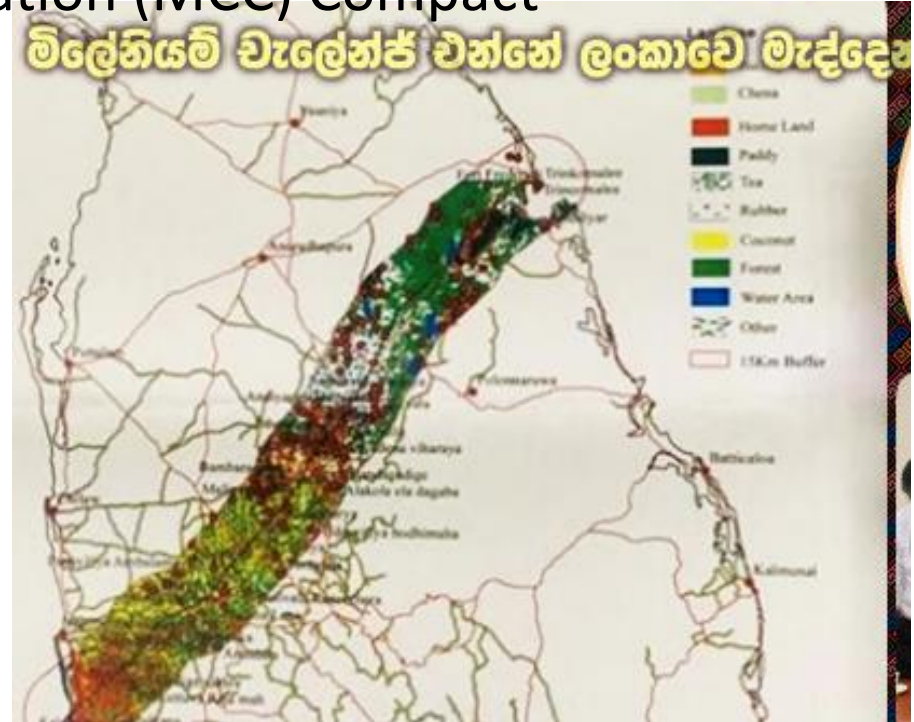
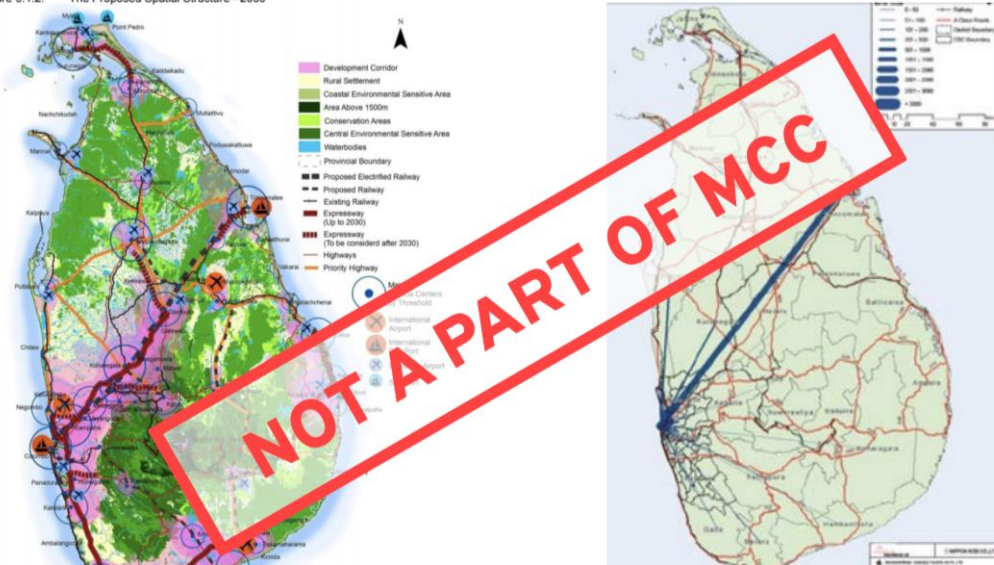
- Road Traffic /Signal Systems Improvement in Colombo (Proposed by the RDA)
- Circular Highway Construction and Improvements (Proposed by the RDA)
- **Formation of the Land Information Base (Project by the Survey Dept. and the Ministry of Lands)**



# Since then (2019-2022)

The impact of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Compact

Figure 5.1.2: The Proposed Spatial Structure - 2050



# Since then (2019-2022)

- Election of a New President and a New Government: 2019
- Manifesto of the New Government :

## New Approach in National Spatial System



*The C shaped Economic corridor is undoubtedly a vital link in our economic planning process, as it entails creating vital market access points for our local and foreign investors. These economic corridors will be developed integrating Colombo port and Katunayake Airport, Hambantota port and Mattala airport, Kankasanthurai port and airport, as these are fundamental and core to making the "agro industrialization" growth strategy a reality as envisioned by our government.*

### Four Multi-dimensional Commercial Cities

We will develop the main commercial cities of Colombo, Hambantota, Jaffna, and Trincomalee and link them with the airports and ports as an economic corridor that will establish an internal and international network.



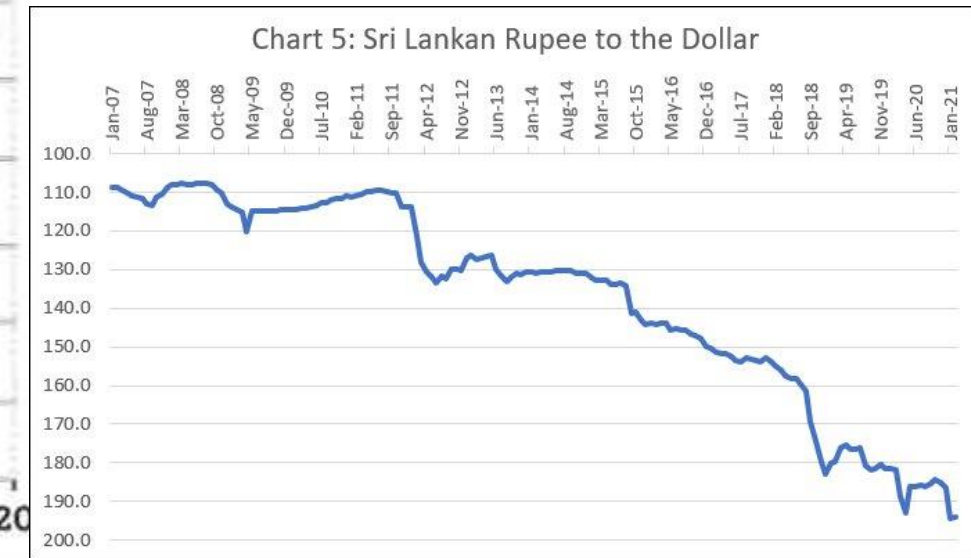
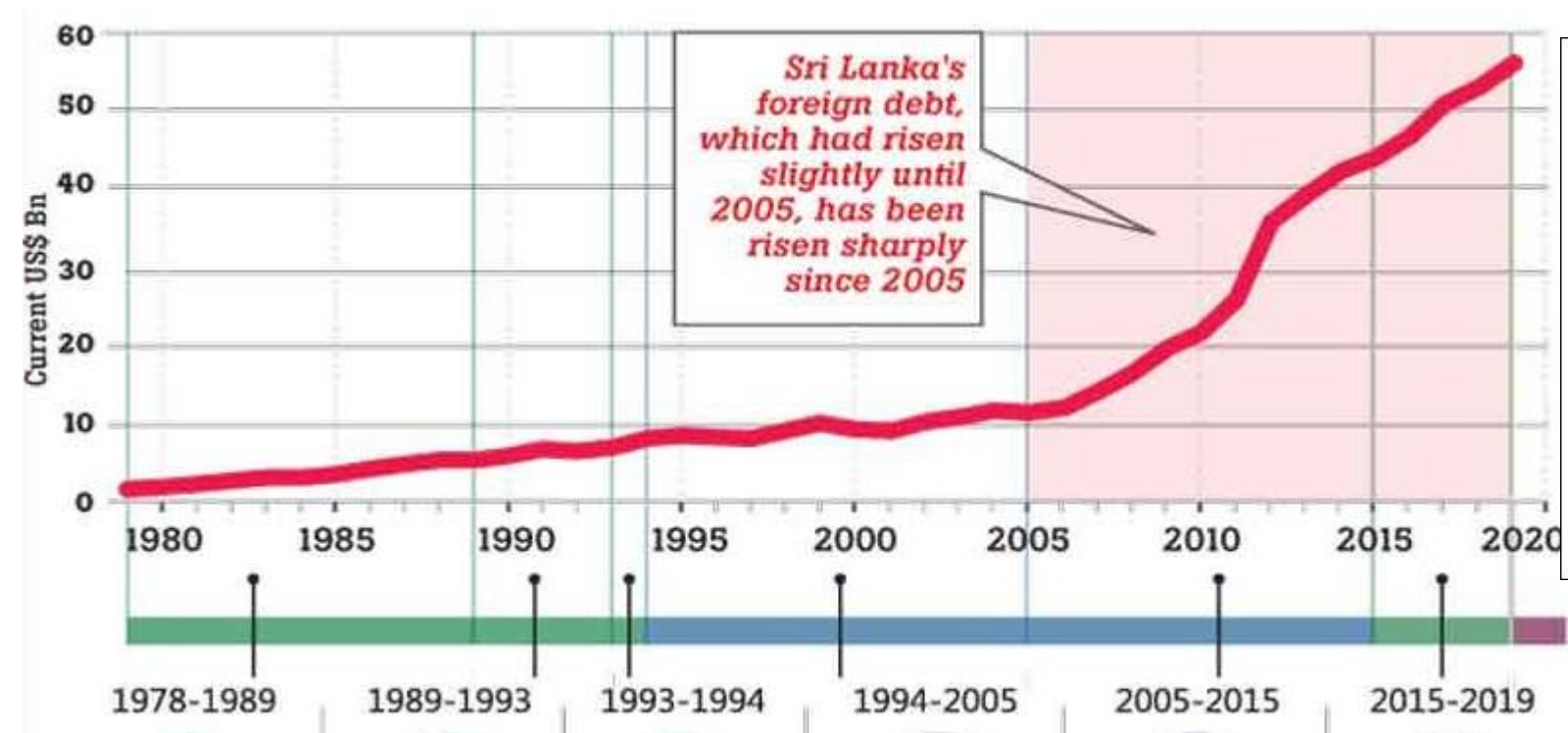
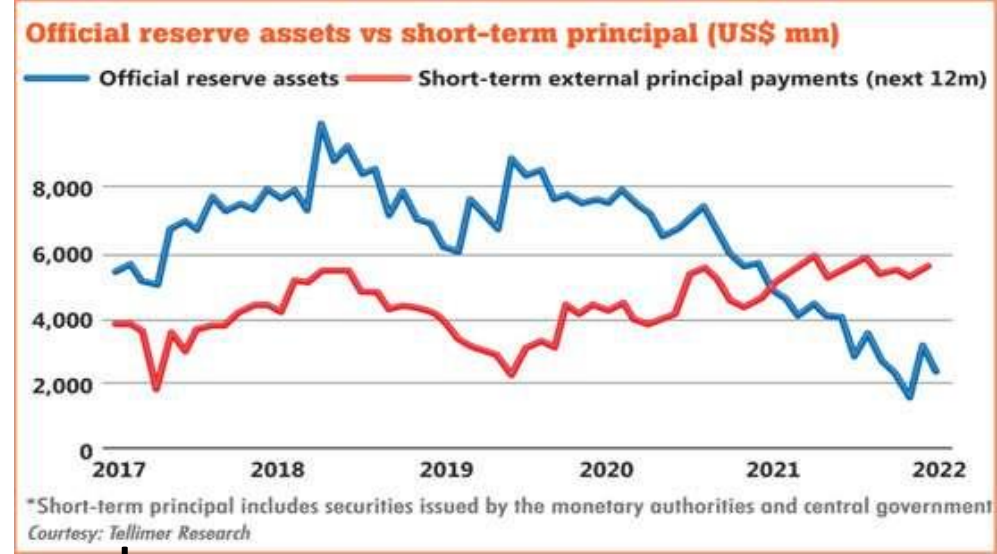
### New Colombo - Commercial and Financial Hub

It is gratifying to see that the Colombo Commercial and Financial Hub which was criticized and vilified is in progress and is now a pride for the country. The new land mass added by this project has given new hope and is now the "New Colombo" of the 21st century. It is now a centre for global commerce, trade finance, and banking. We will expedite the stalled development of this new city and fast track the introduction of legal and financial provisions to make it a commercial and financial centre.

## The C Shaped Economic Corridor and Four Multi-Dimensional Commercial Cities

# Since then (2019-2022)

- The Down turn of the Economy of Sri Lanka
- Challenges to the New Government
- Inappropriate policies associated with development



# Since then (2019-2022)

## Rolling into the Vicious Circle

### Irregular monetary and fiscal policies:

- Depreciating government revenue
- Central Bank printing of currency notes
- Declining value of the national currency (LKR)
- Losing confidence in investment environment
- Increasing trade deficit and depreciating foreign reserves
- Government's inability to provide public goods





# Since then (2019-2022) Rolling into the Vicious Circle

## Catalyzed by Corvid 19 Pandemic Situation:

- Movement restrictions and Locked up communities
- Short of supplies- Food and essential services
- Loss of employment, businesses and foreign remittances
- Declining household income and Increasing poverty



# Since then (2019-2022)

## Rolling into the Vicious Circle

### Ad hoc Physical Developments and Inconsistent Policies:

- Deviation from the National and Local Plans
- Problematic prioritization and implementation of projects
- Less of visionary guidance on land use, leading to disastrous consequences



# Since then (2019-2022)

## 'Aragalaya' – Uprise of the people



### May –June 2022

- Emerging public unrest and protests against the Government
- Ousting of the President and the Government
- Appointment of a Caretaker Government 2022- to date

# Since then (2019-2022)

## Latest:

- Caretaker President has been appointed
- He appointed a Parliamentary Sub-Committee to identify **Short and Medium Term Programs related to Economic Stabilization**
- The Committee proposed **19 strategic directives to change the existing system:**
  19. *“No large scale project should be commenced, and no capital expenditure should be made outside of the National Physical Plan”.*

# Reformulation of the National Physical Plan

## The Legitimate Process



# The National Physical Plan 2050

## Guiding Policies

### 1. Conservation of the 'Critical' and the 'Unique'.

Considered the **sensitive settings, water resources** and the **natural ecosystems** for the long sustaining economy and the socio-cultural environment.

### 2. Promotion of the 'Livability' for 'Human'

Considered the environments **most appropriate for human habitation** in terms of climate, availability of resources for basic needs and essential services.

### 3. Optimization of the 'Utility' of the 'Available'.

Considered the **optimum use of the available resources and infrastructure** for future development and in view of the **Sustainable Development Goals**.

### 4. Exploration of 'Potentials' and 'Enhancement' of the use

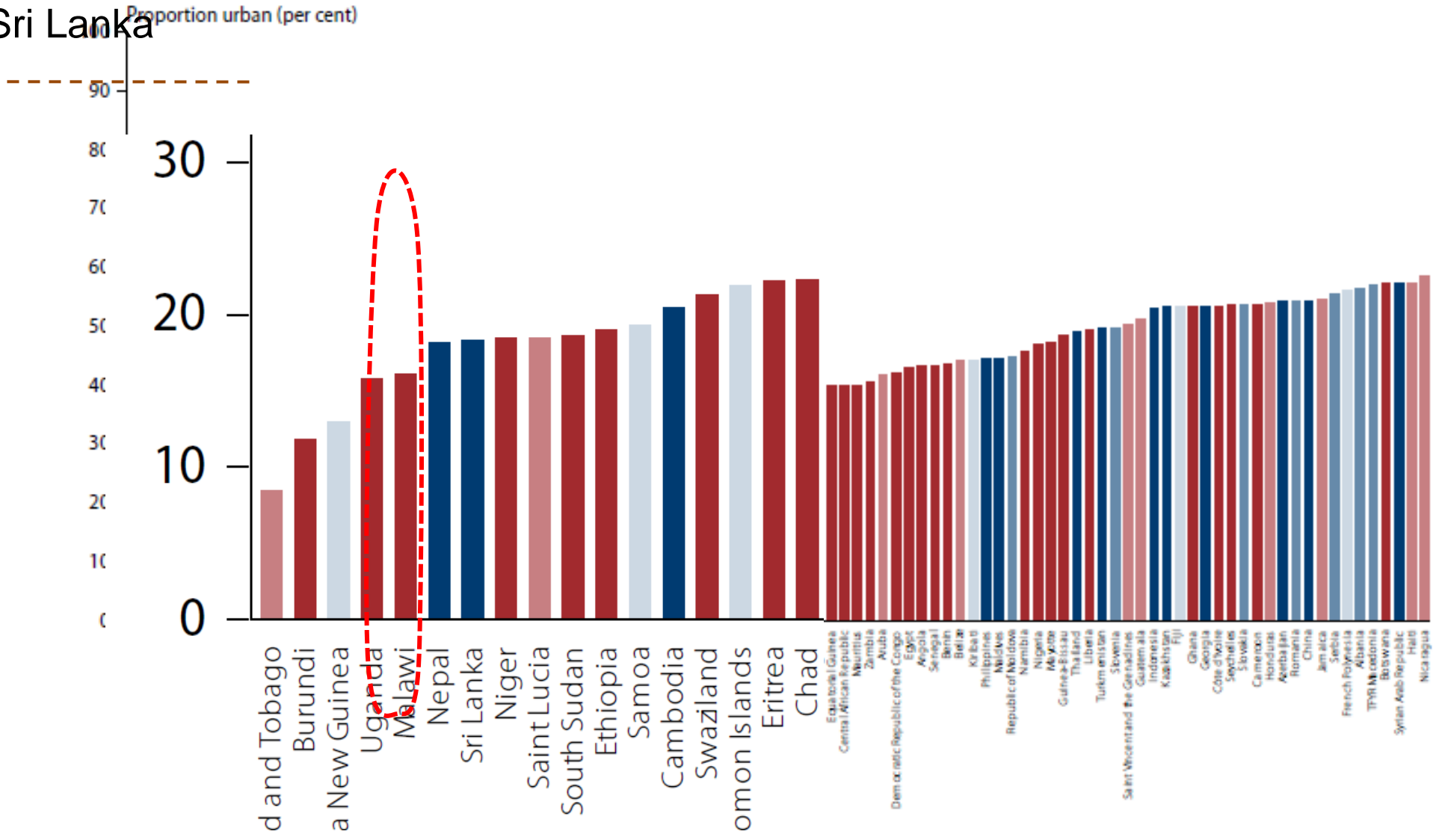
Considered the Human Resource locations: where populations with various skills and education levels are located Resource locations: such have potentials for diversified developments.

# Urban Quest of Sri Lanka?

## Census Figures:

### Urban Population in Sri Lanka

Figure 1. Percentage of population residing in urban areas in 2014, selected countries or areas



# Urban Quest of Sri Lanka?

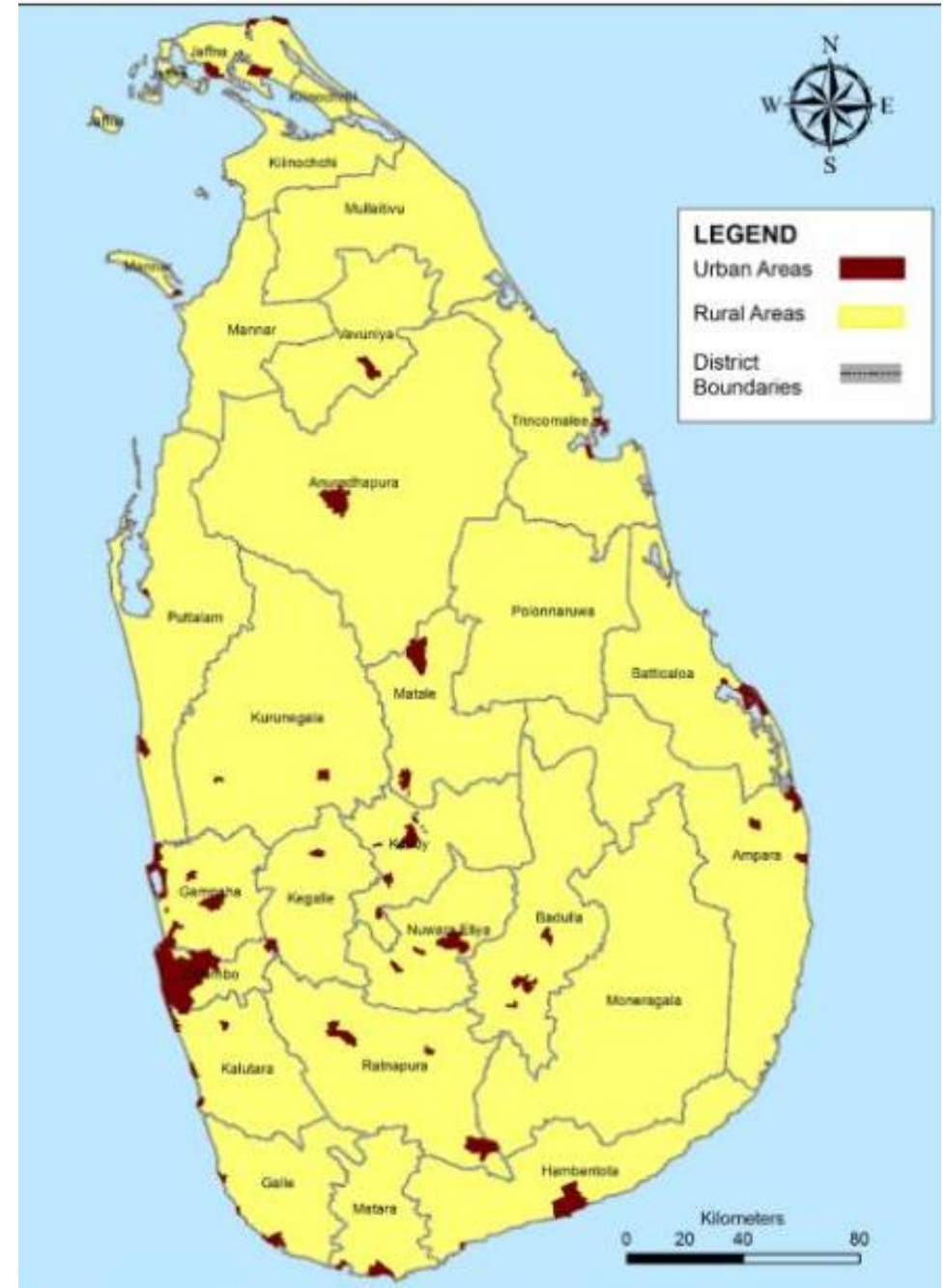
## Census Figures:

Urban Population in Sri Lanka

Census Year	Percentage Population in the Category		Percentage Residential Land Occupied
	Category	Percentage	Category
1971	3.08	<b>18%</b>	6.0
1981	11.63	<b>23%</b>	7.2
2001	33.50	<b>14.6%</b>	6.3
2012	49.49	<b>18.2%</b>	6.7

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Urban Areas in Sri Lanka according to the Existing Definition





# 'Urbanization' and 'Urbanizing' of Sri Lanka:

Analysis of Census Figures in Sri Lanka for:

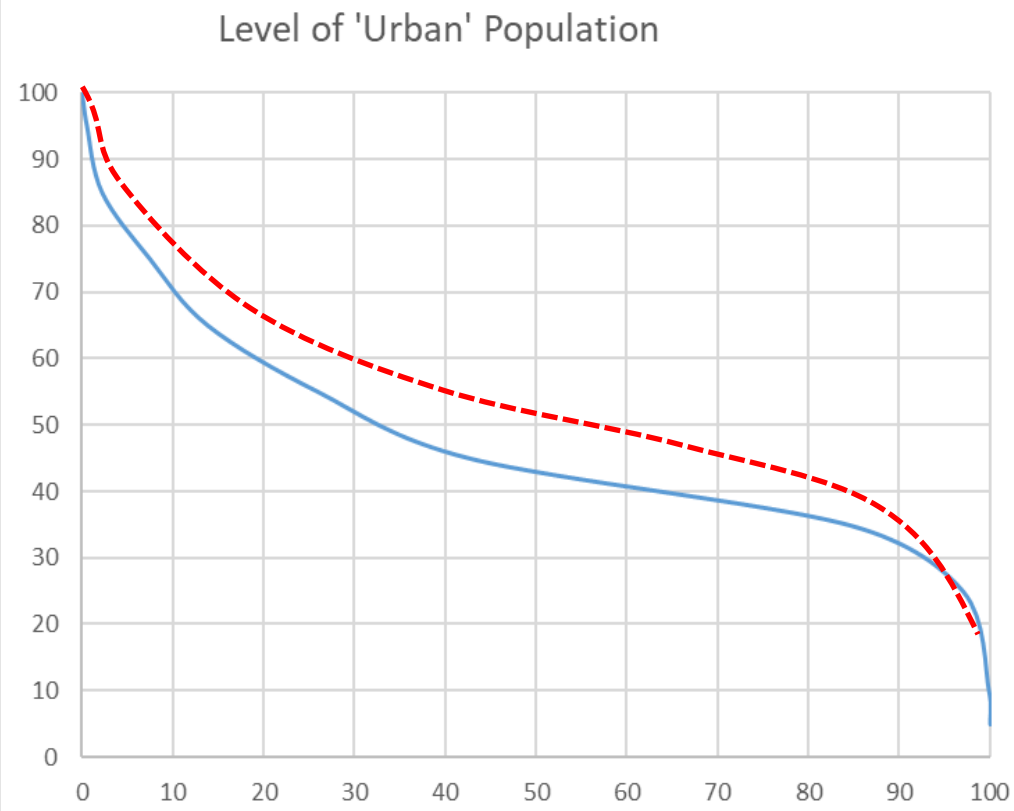
- **Having Access to 'Urban' Facilities**
- **Leading 'Urban' Lifestyles**
- **Having 'Urban' Aspirations**

Who is Urbanized?

Virtually Everybody, but

Literally nobody

Urbanization level (percentile category)	% of the Total population	Cumulative % Population	% of Land Extent	Cumulative % Land Extent
91-100	0.54	0.54	0.03	0.03
81-90	1.67	2.21	0.1	0.13
71-80	5.28	7.49	0.37	0.5
61-70	6.37	13.86	0.56	1.06
51-60	12.17	26.03	1.86	2.92
41-50	16.71	42.74	5.27	8.19
31-40	41.7	84.44	36.91	45.1
21-30	12.57	97.01	32.87	77.97
11-19.9	2.85	99.86	19.05	97.02
0-10	0.15	100.01	2.96	99.98

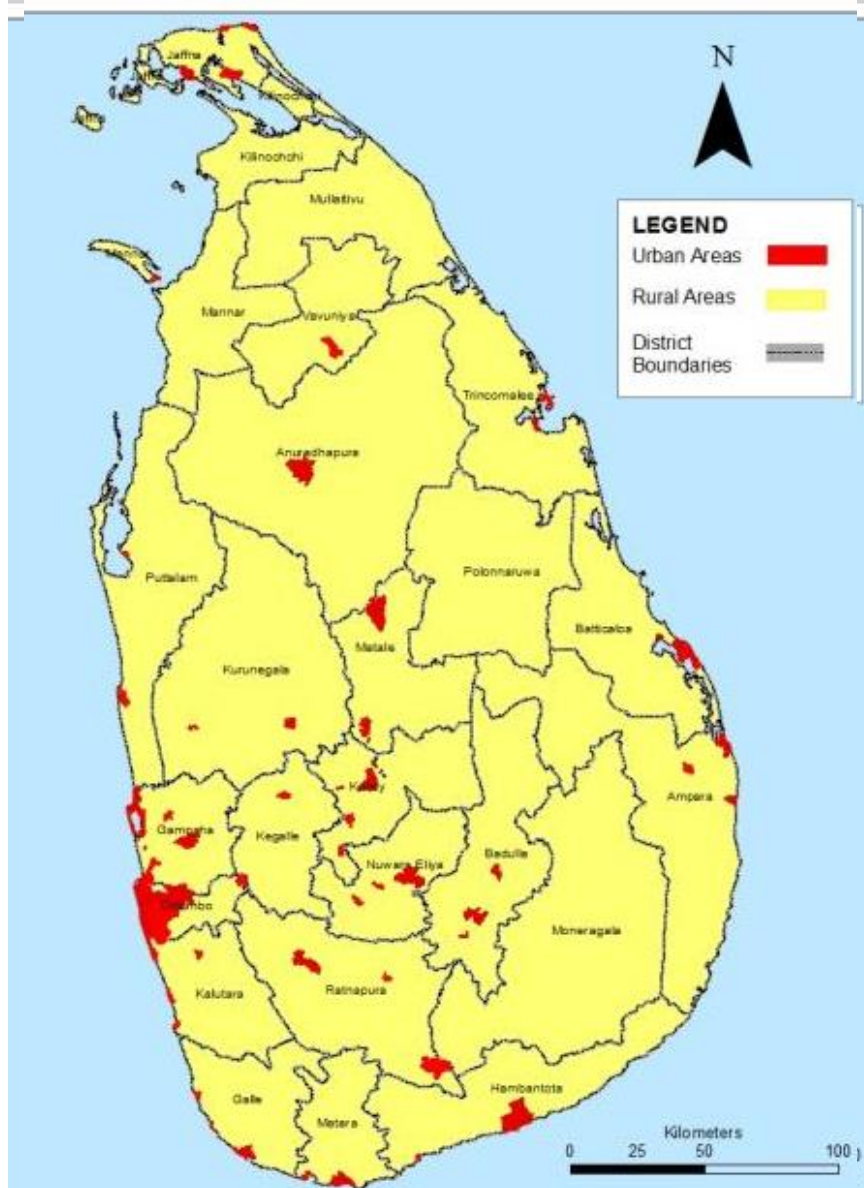


Source: Munasinghe, M, Geeganage, C and de Silva C, 2015.

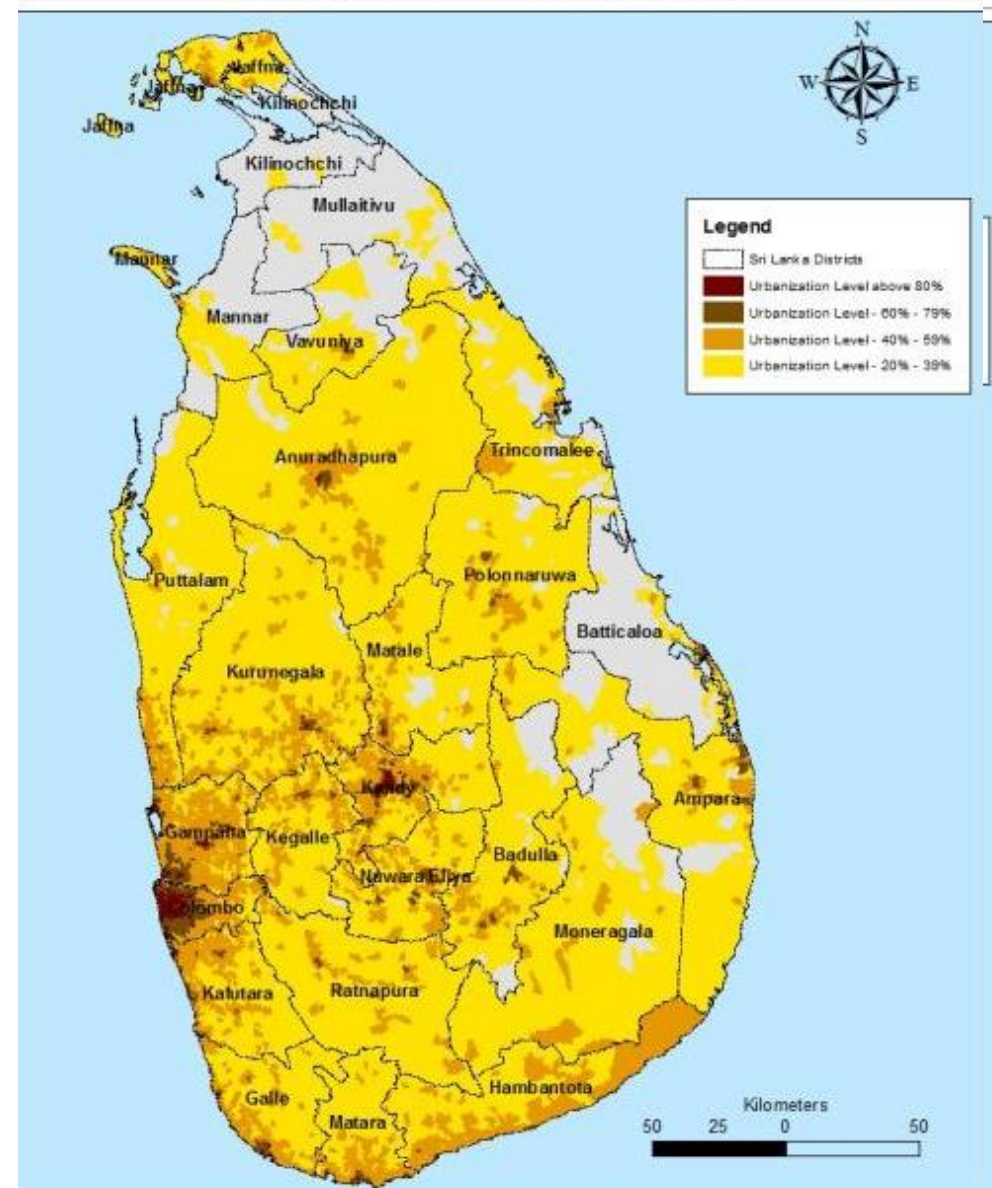
# Hidden Urbanization in Sri Lanka

Distribution of populations. who are more than **40% 'Urban**

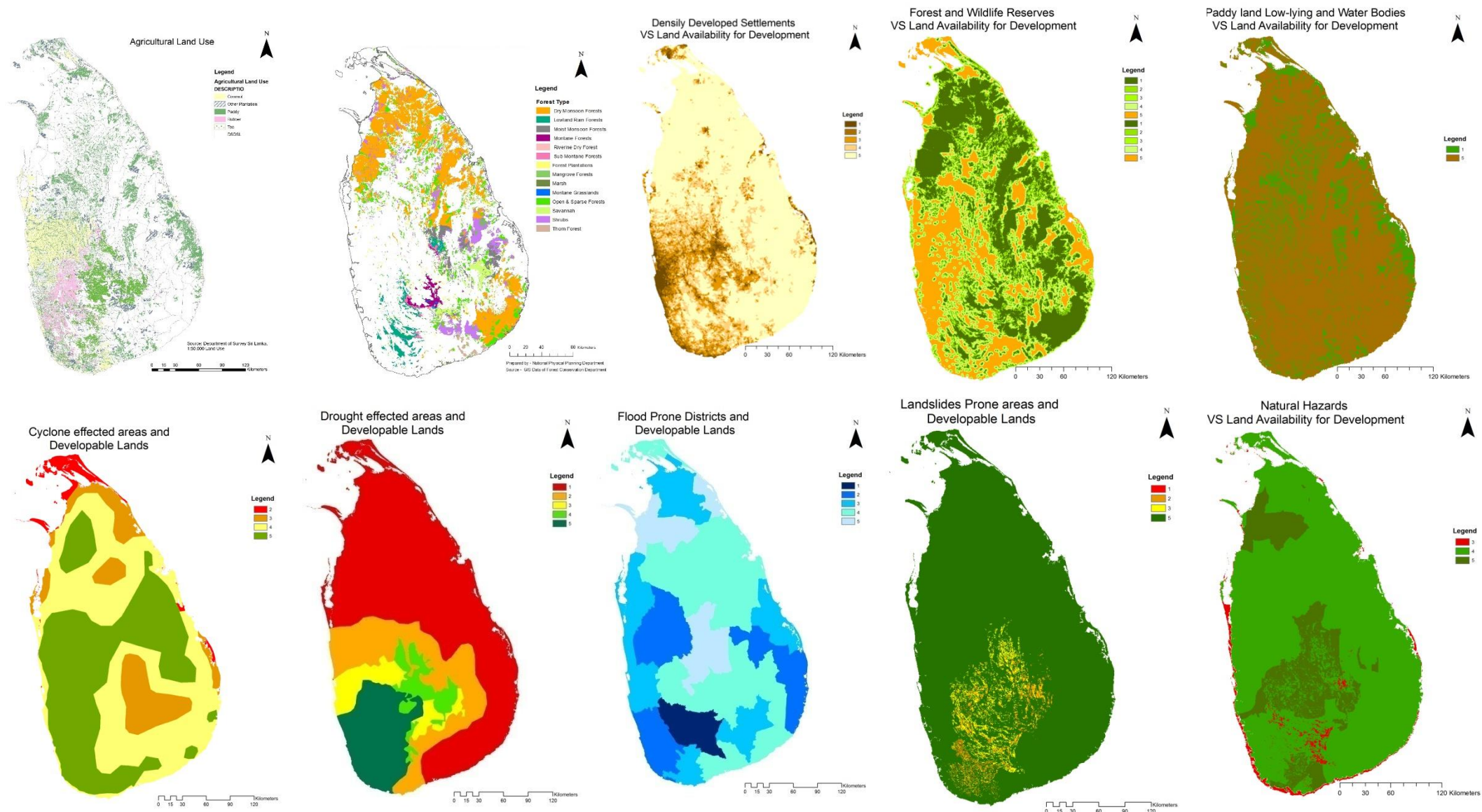
Existing Urban Areas in Sri Lanka



The Level of Urbanization in Sri Lanka according to the introduced New Framework



# 1. Conservation of the 'Critical' and the 'Unique'. Lands Need to be Conserved (Analysis of the Sensitivity and the Constraints)

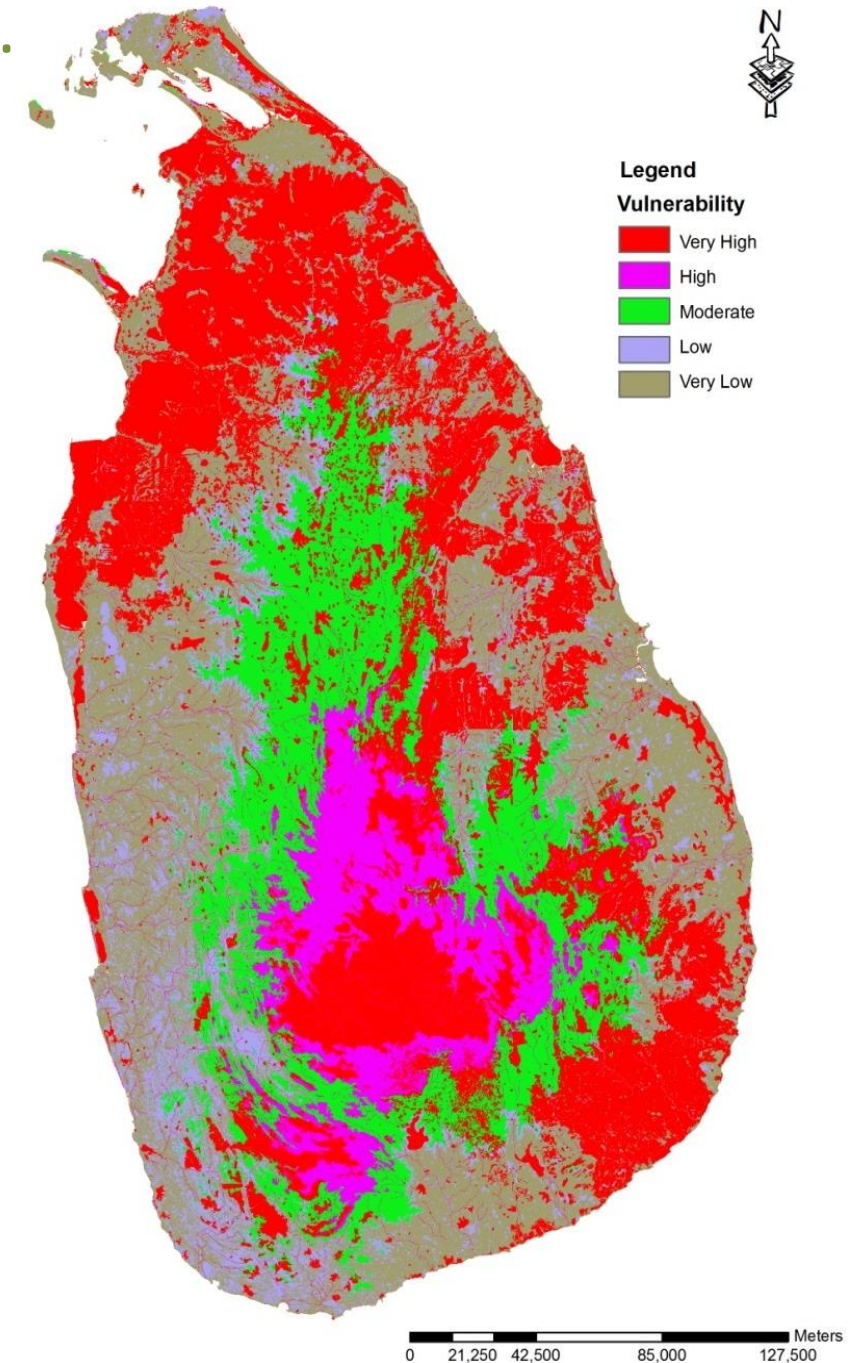


# 1. Conservation of the 'Critical' and the 'Unique'.

## Lands Crucial for Conservation due to Environmental Sensitivity

### Criteria

1. Occupies by Forest Reserves, Conserved Areas, Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Wild Life Reserves, etc.
2. Vulnerable to Landslides, Floods, Cyclones, and other Natural Disasters
3. Exposed to the impacts of climate change (sea level rise, high rainfall, drought etc.)

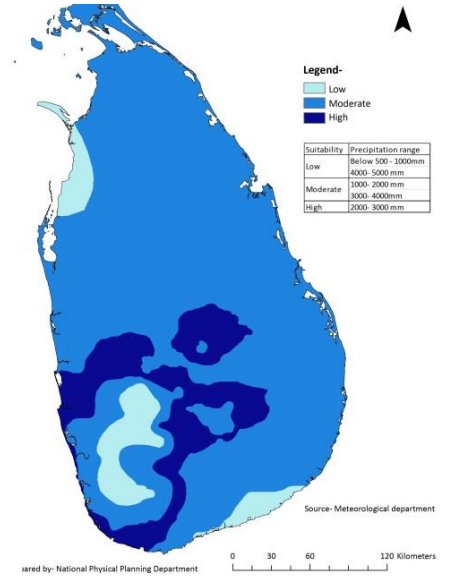
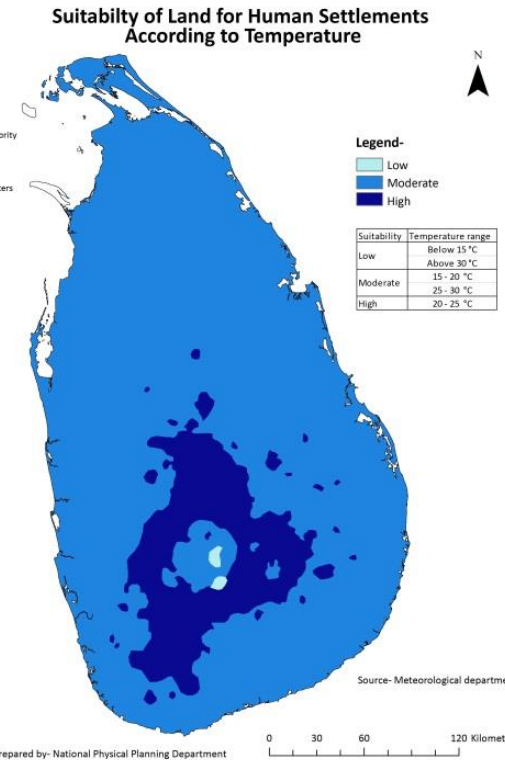
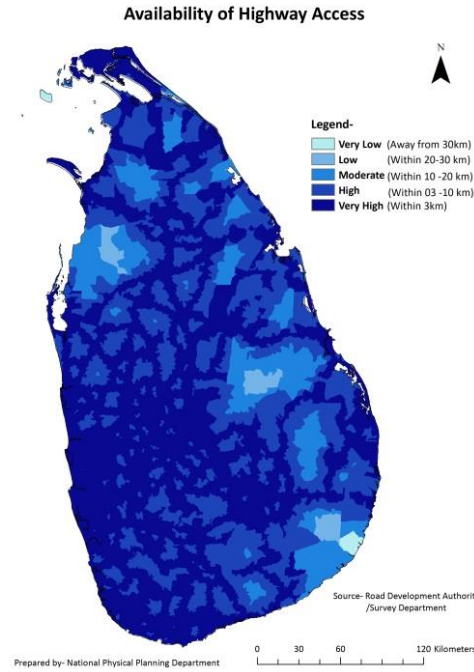
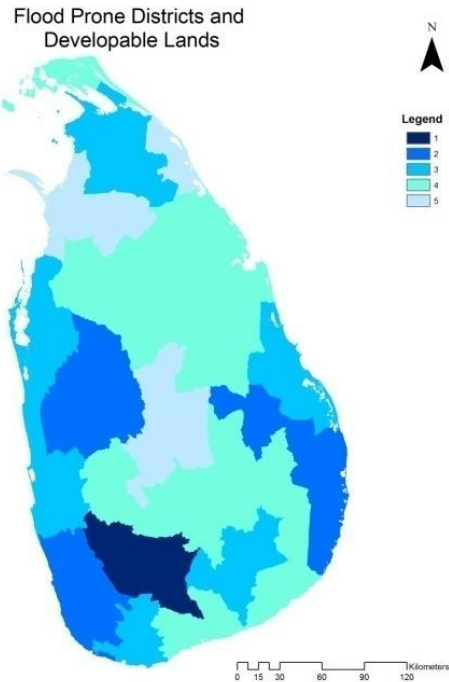
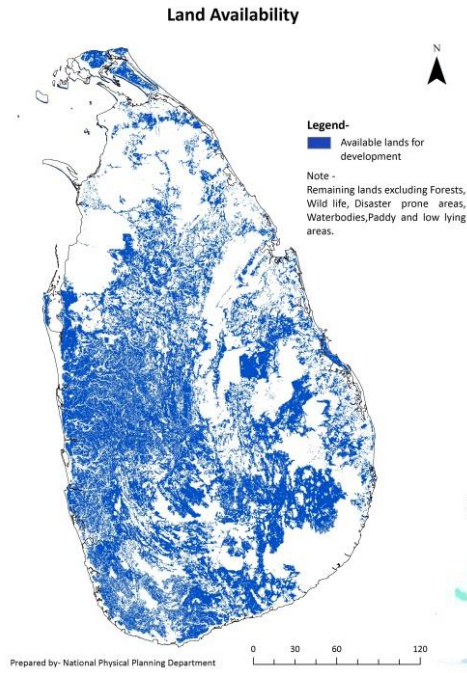


# 2. Promotion of the most 'Livable' areas for future human settlements

## Free from Disasters

## Accessibility to Infrastructure

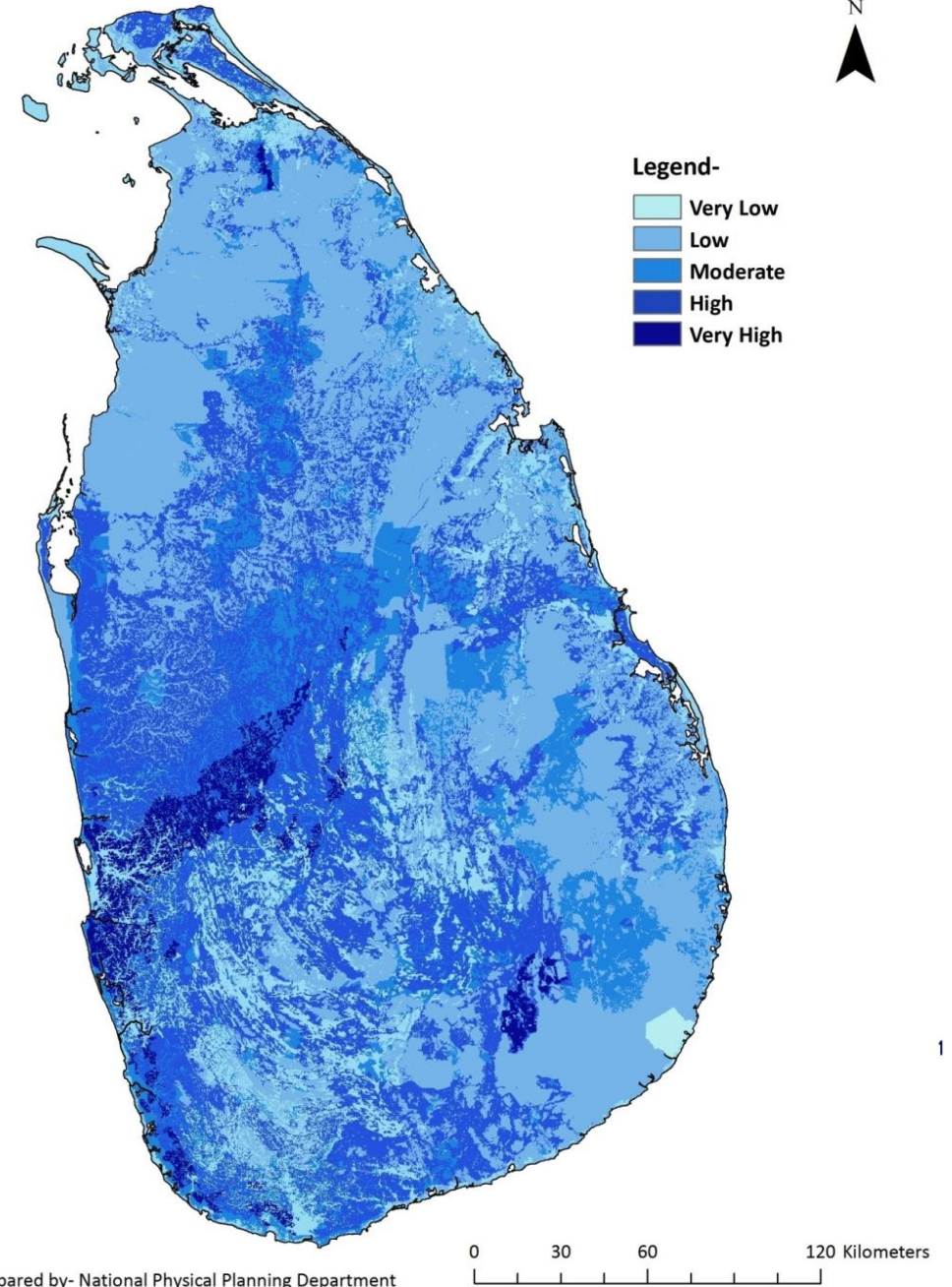
## Climatic conditions



## 2. Promotion of the most 'Livable' areas for future human settlements

### Criteria

1. Free from disasters
2. Availability of water supply schemes
3. Availability of main road connections
4. Close proximity to main urban centers
5. Availability of lands for development purposes (free from disasters)
6. Healthy temperature
7. Healthy rainfall

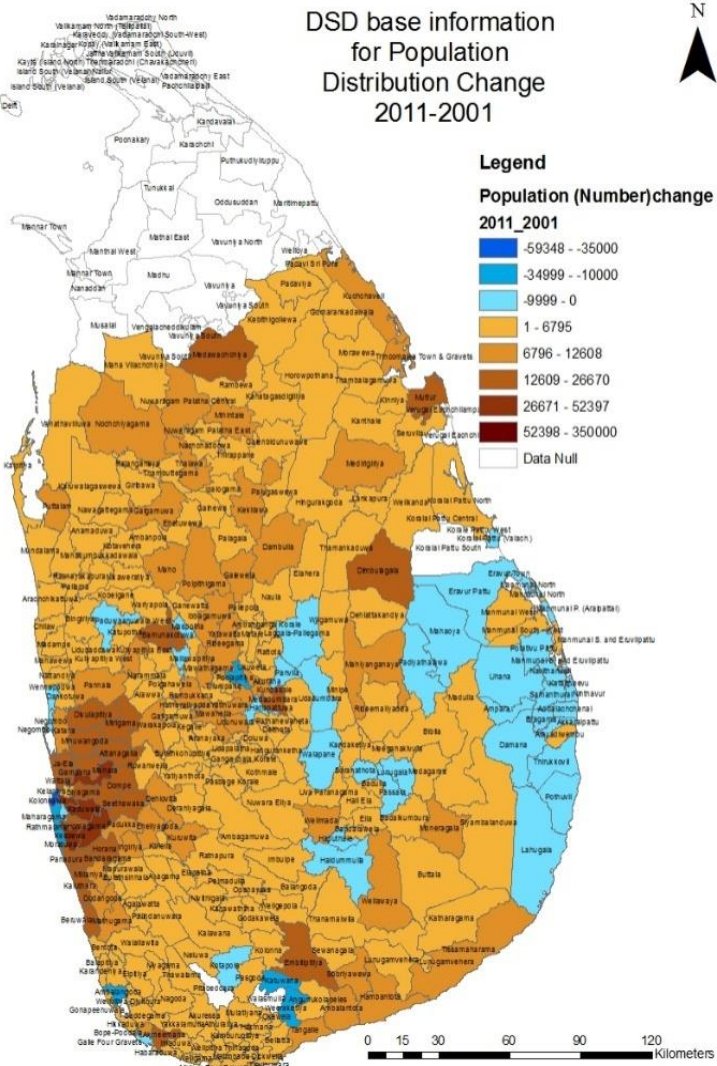
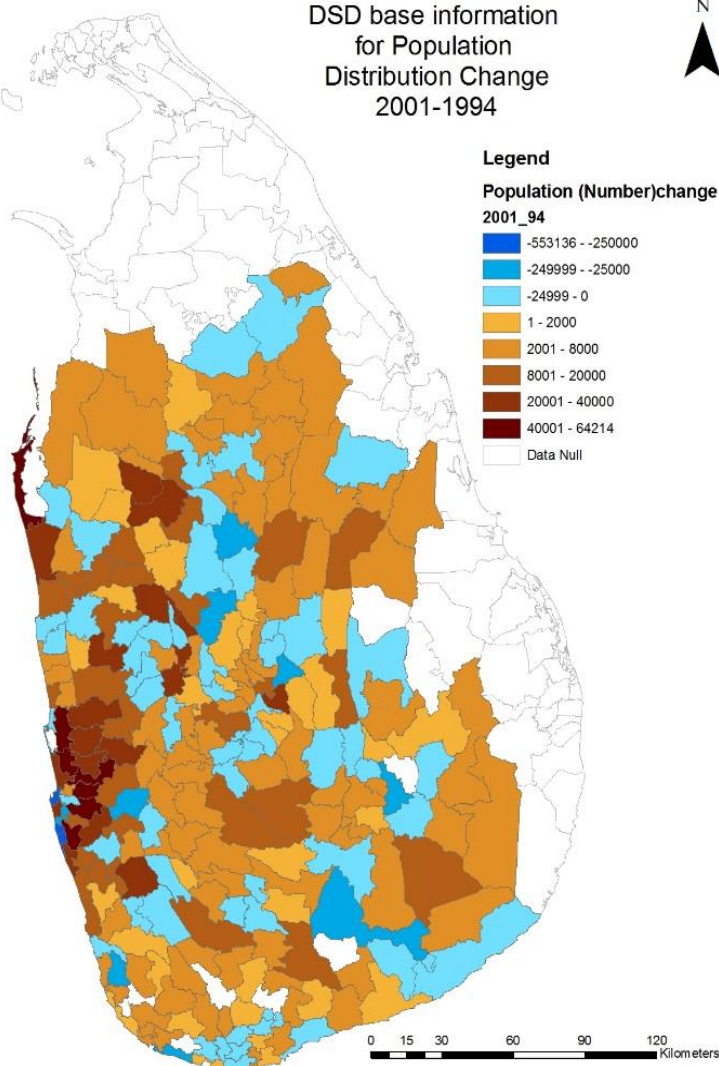
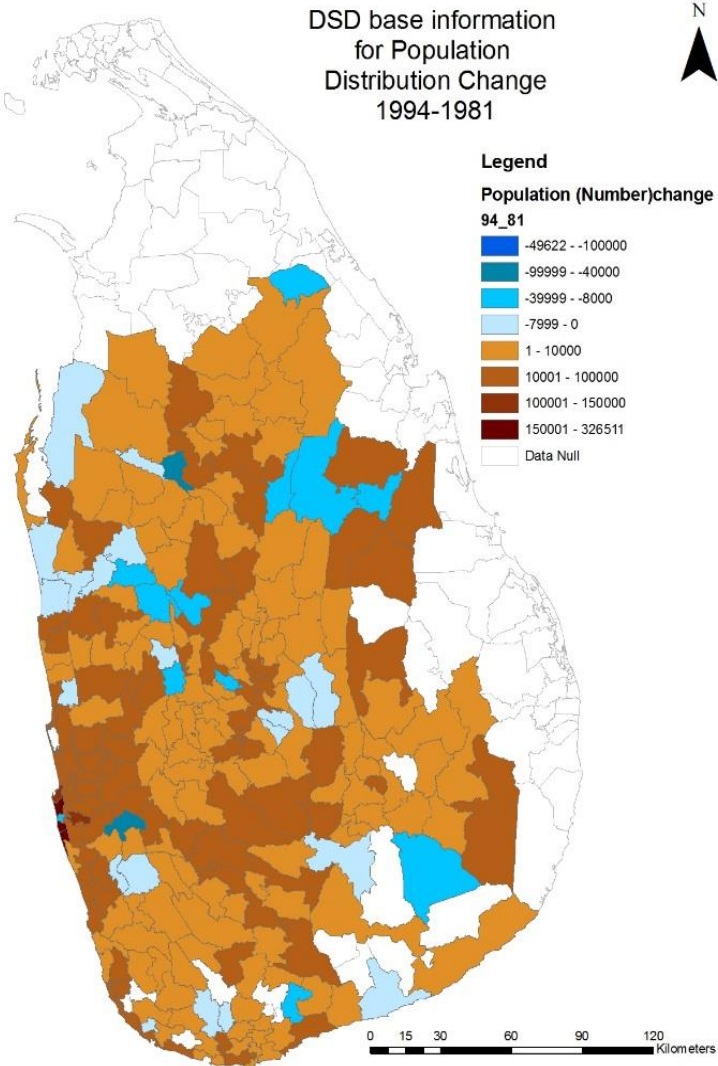


# 3. Optimization of the 'Utility' of the 'Available' resources and Infrastructure.

1981- 1994

1994- 2001

2000-2012



### 3. Optimization of the 'Utility' of the 'Available' resources and Infrastructure.

**Population - 20,800,000** (2018 estimated)

Relatively more literate ( 91% - 95%),  
Increasingly 'better educated'

Year	Tertiary	Secondary	Primary
1991	18 - 20 %	38 – 40%	90 – 95%
2001	20 - 25%	45 – 50%	90 – 95%
2011	25 - 30%	50 - 60%	90 - 100%
2021	30 – 40%	60 - 70%	90 - 100%
2030	> 50%	> 70%	100 %

Population characteristics

- Increasing at a decreasing rate (1.0% )
- Literacy rate (>95%)
- Compulsory Secondary Education and Promoted Tertiary Education
- Unemployment rate (4-6%)

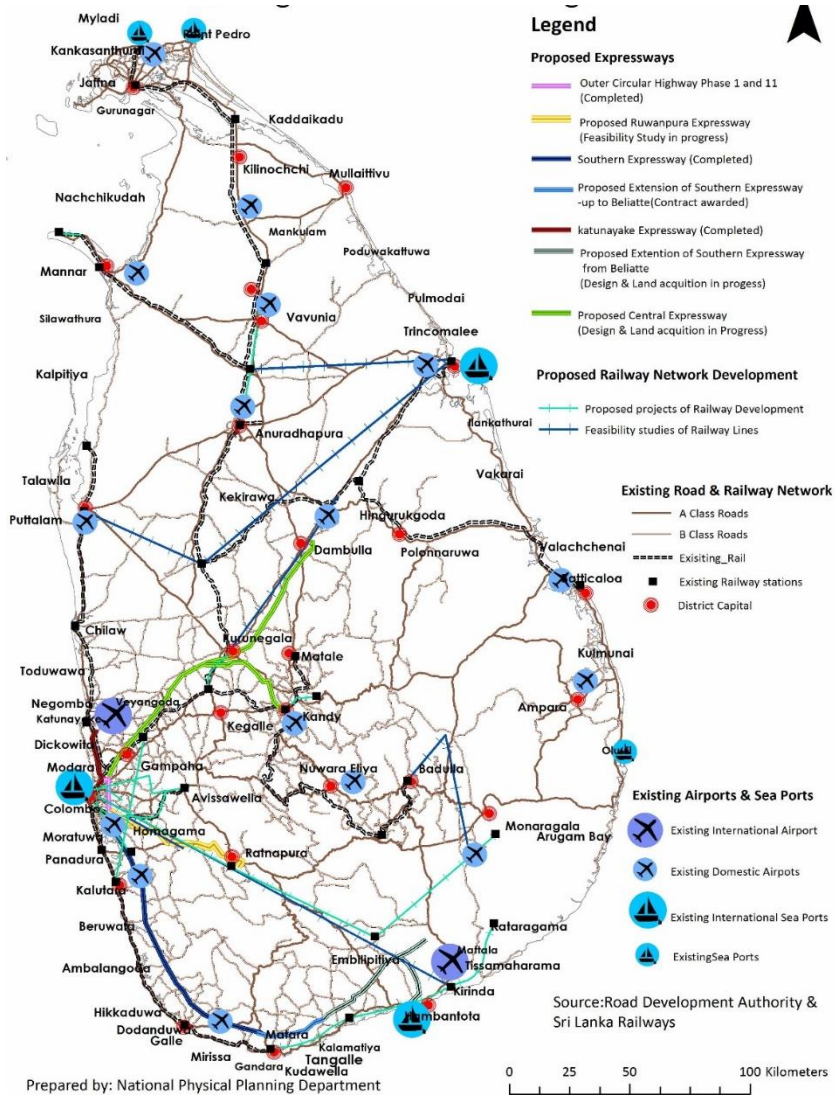
**Implication:**

Higher Attainment > Higher Expectations > New Opportunities

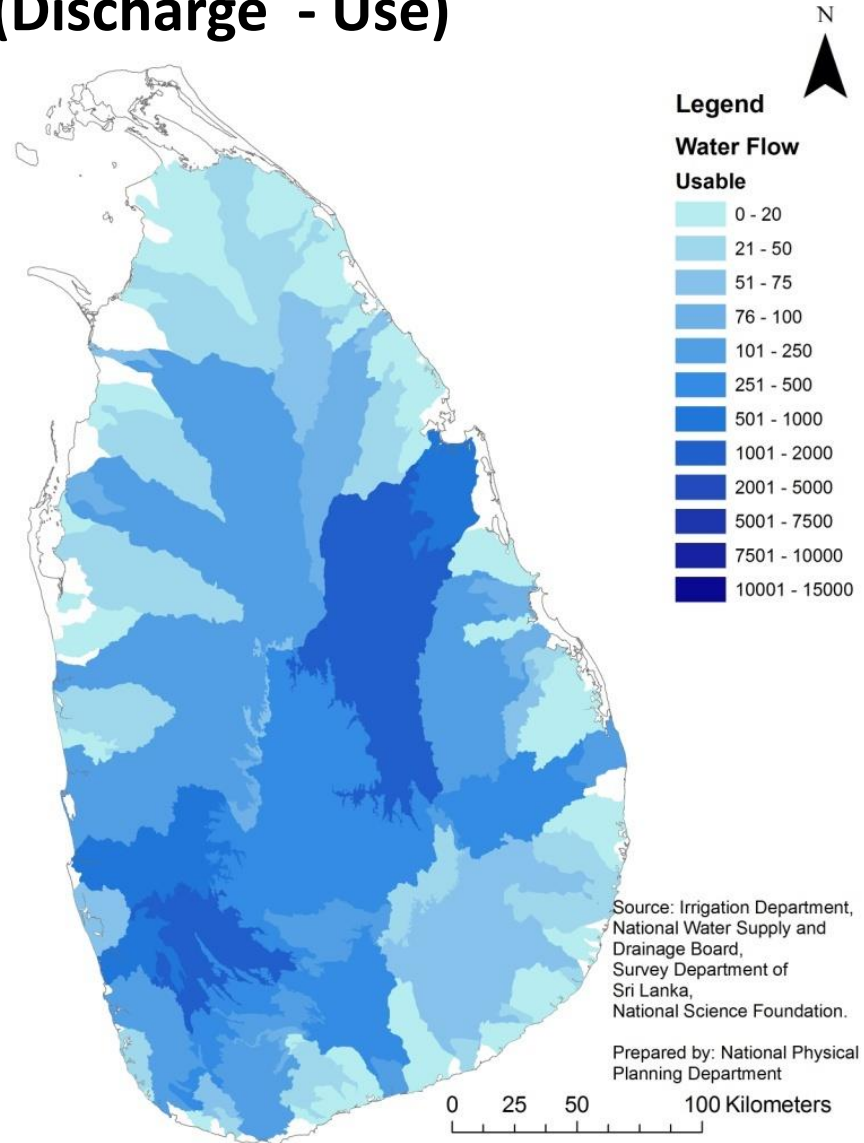


# 3. Optimization of the 'Utility' of the 'Available' resources and Infrastructure.

## Major Infrastructure Development Projects



## Availability of water for Further use (Discharge - Use)

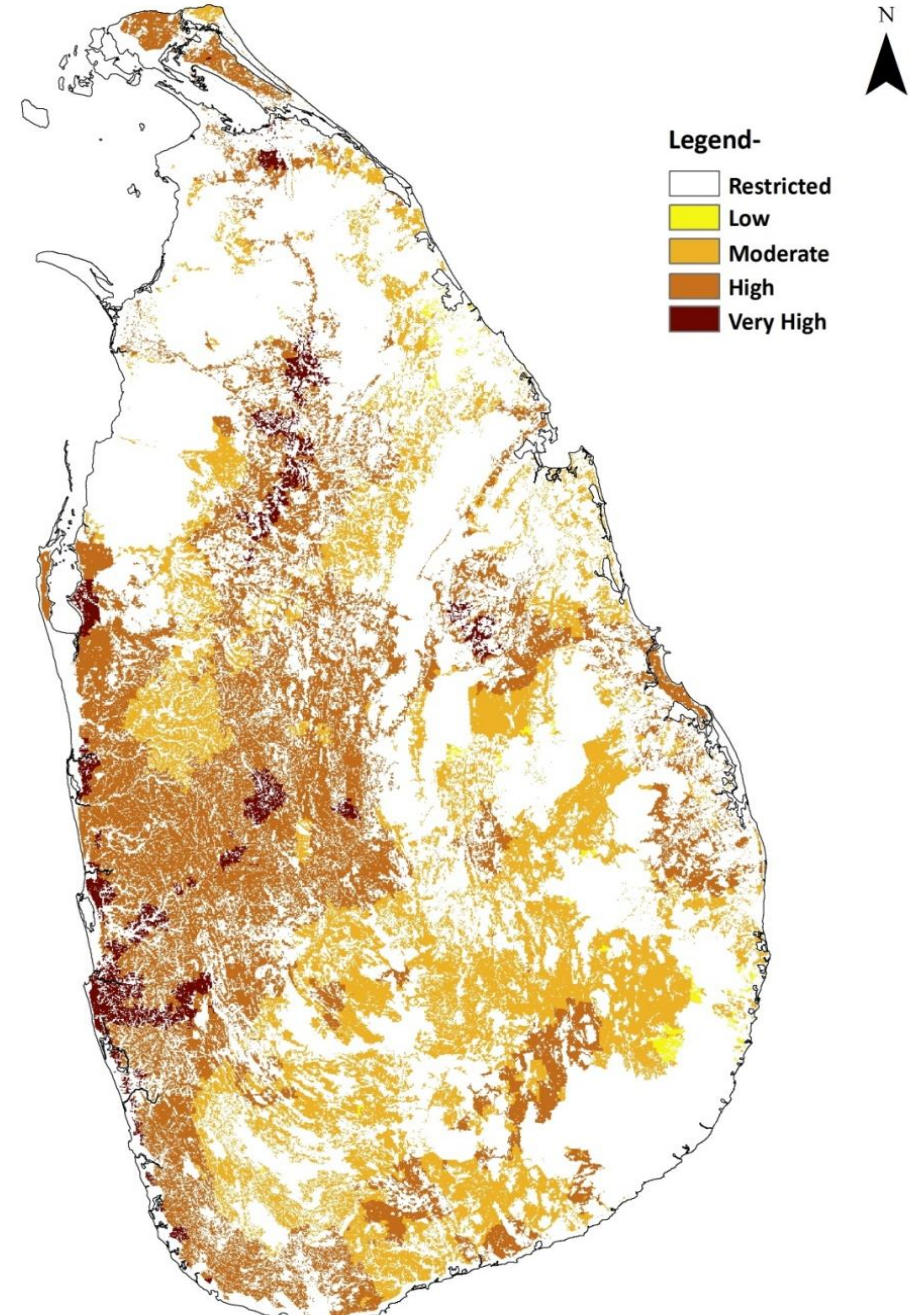


### 3. Optimization of the 'Utility' of the 'Available' resources and Infrastructure.

#### Lands Developable for the Best Utility of Land, Infrastructure and Human Resources

##### Criteria

1. Free from Major Threats
2. Availability of Water for Developments
3. Proximity to Highways and Main Roads
4. Close proximity to Urban Centers
5. Less of undulating terrains

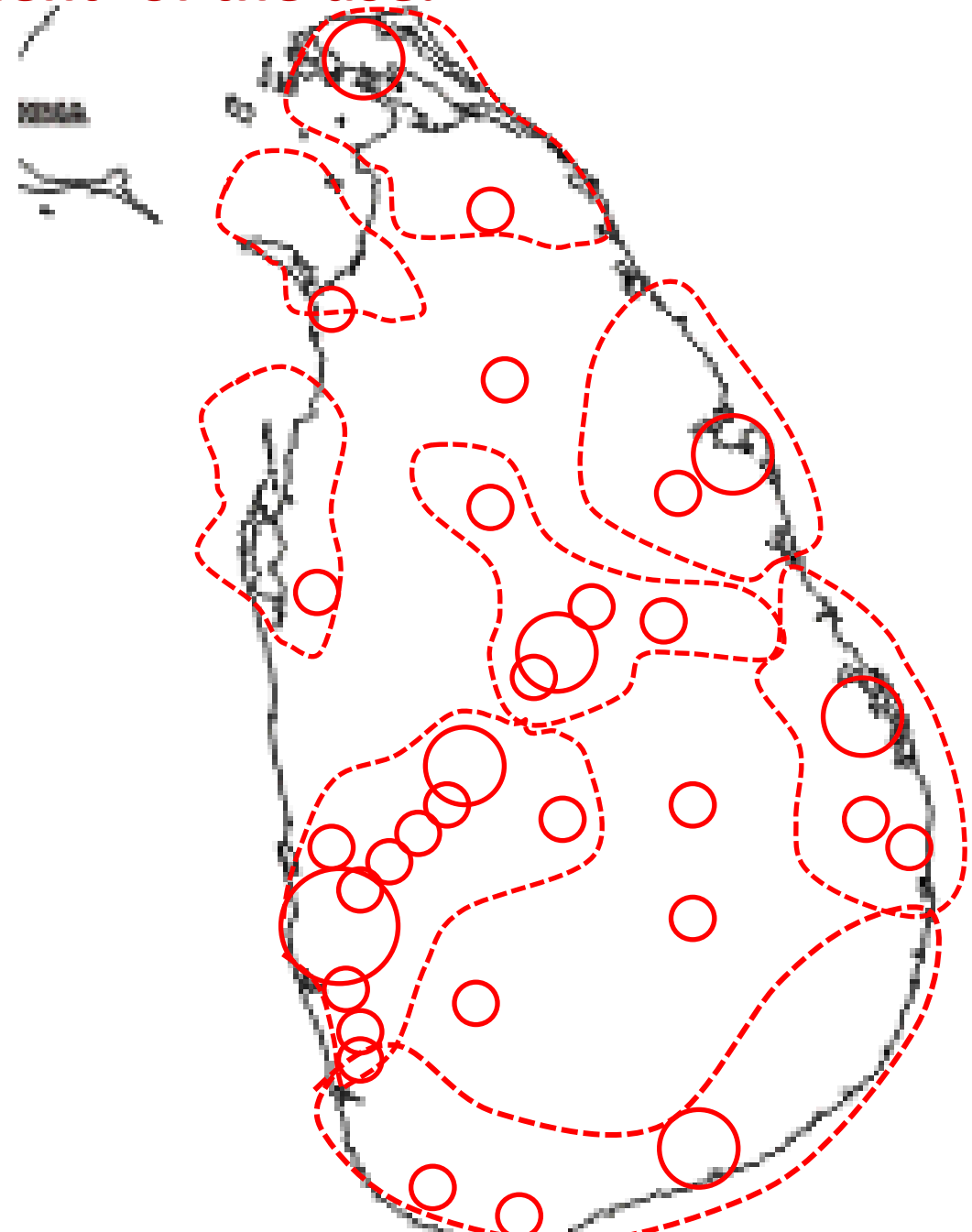


## 4. Exploration of 'Potentials' and 'Enhancement' of the use.

Locations with High Potentials  
for exploration of Possibilities  
Eco/Nature/Culture Tourism,  
Agricultural Resources  
Fisheries and Aquatic Resources,  
Mineral Resources  
Human Resources

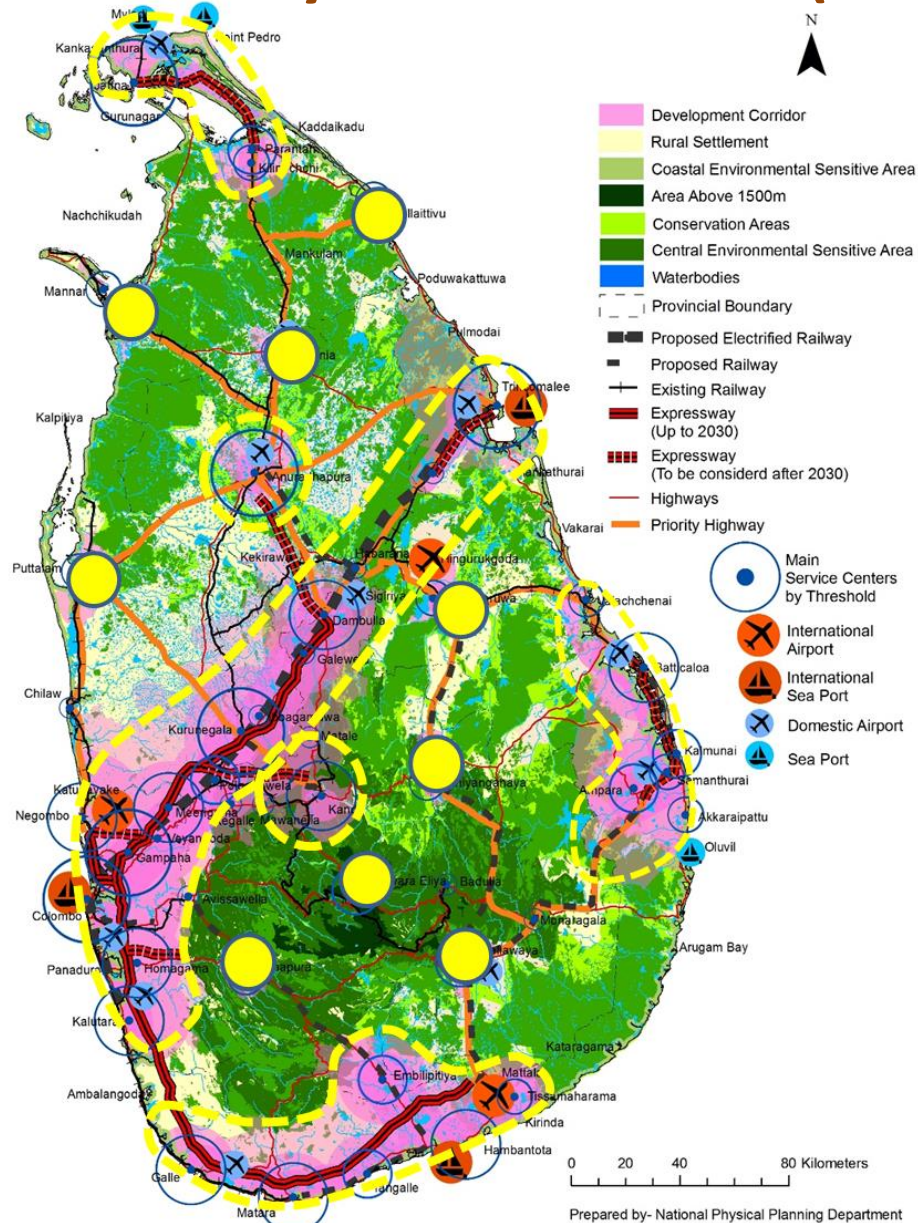
### Criteria

1. Easy access to future potential resources
2. Close proximity to national road connections  
(Expressways, Highways and Railways)

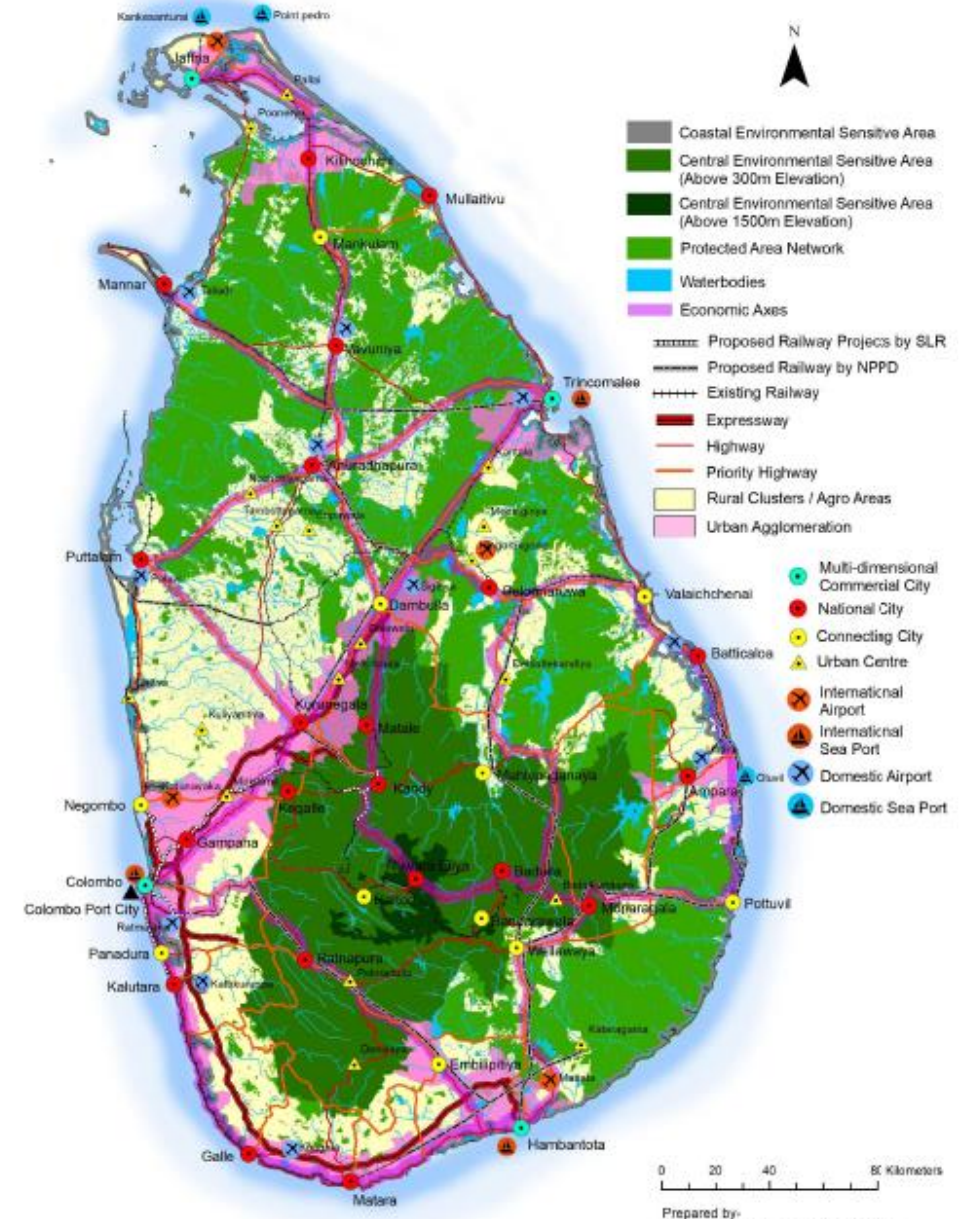


# The Spatial Strategy

## National Physical Plan 2050 (2019)



## National Physical Plan 2048 (2022)



# Spatial Strategy – NPP 2048

## 1. Resilience against natural disasters

Conserved Central Highlands

+ Forest Reserves

+ Water Cascades

+ Sensitive Ecosystems

## 2. Resilience against man made disasters

Four Urban Conurbations

+ Two Metro Regions

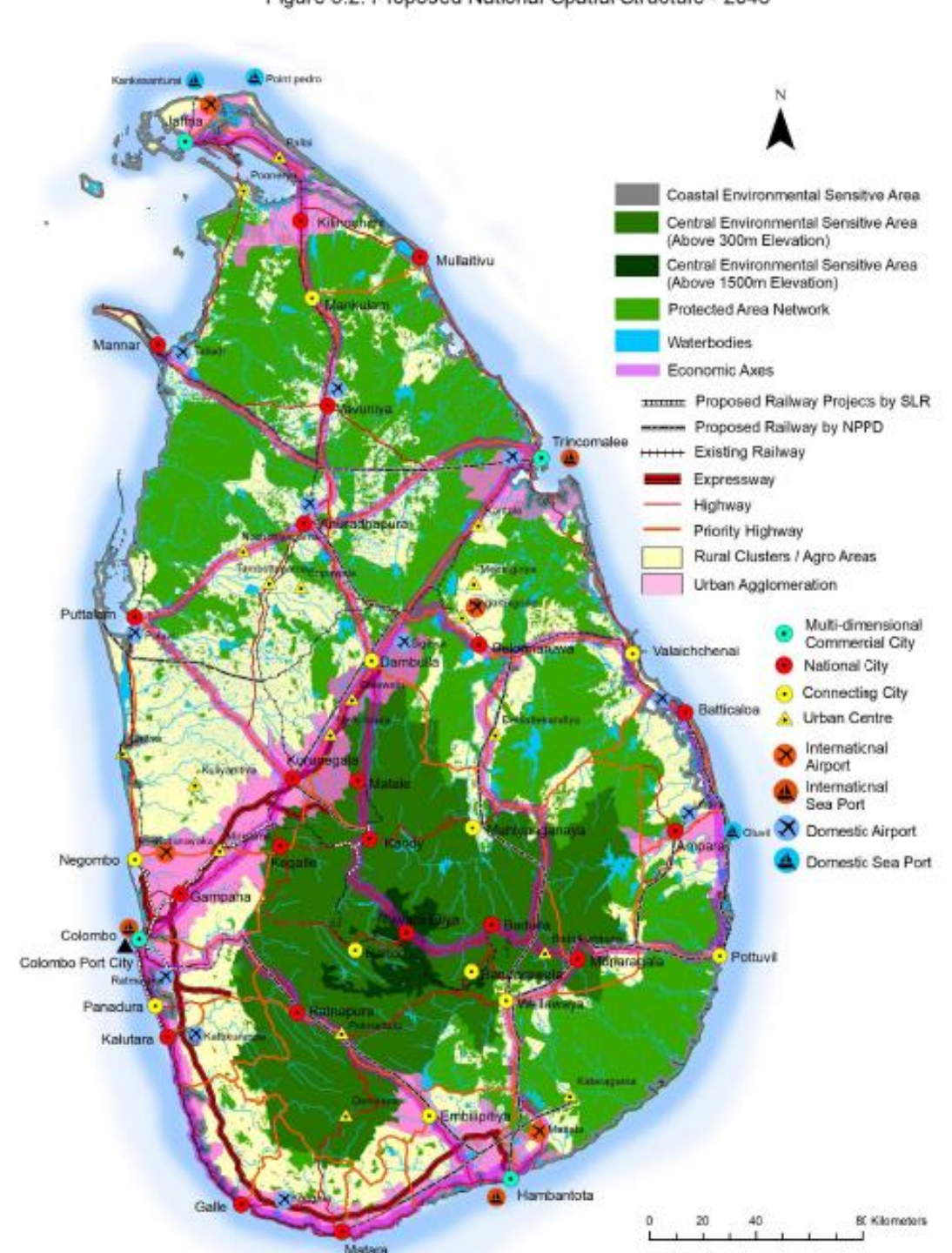
+ Nine Main Cities

## 3. Resilience against economic disasters

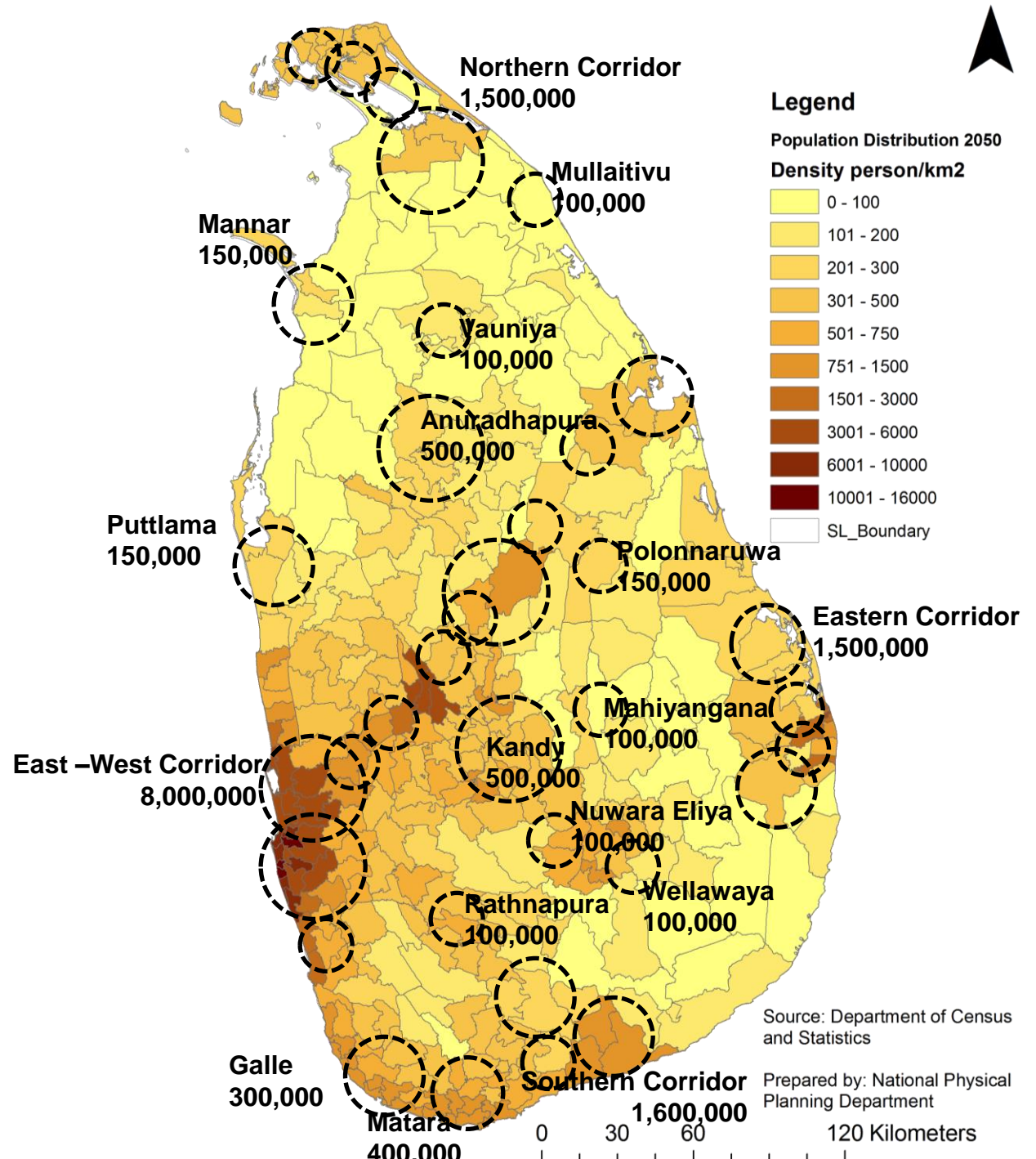
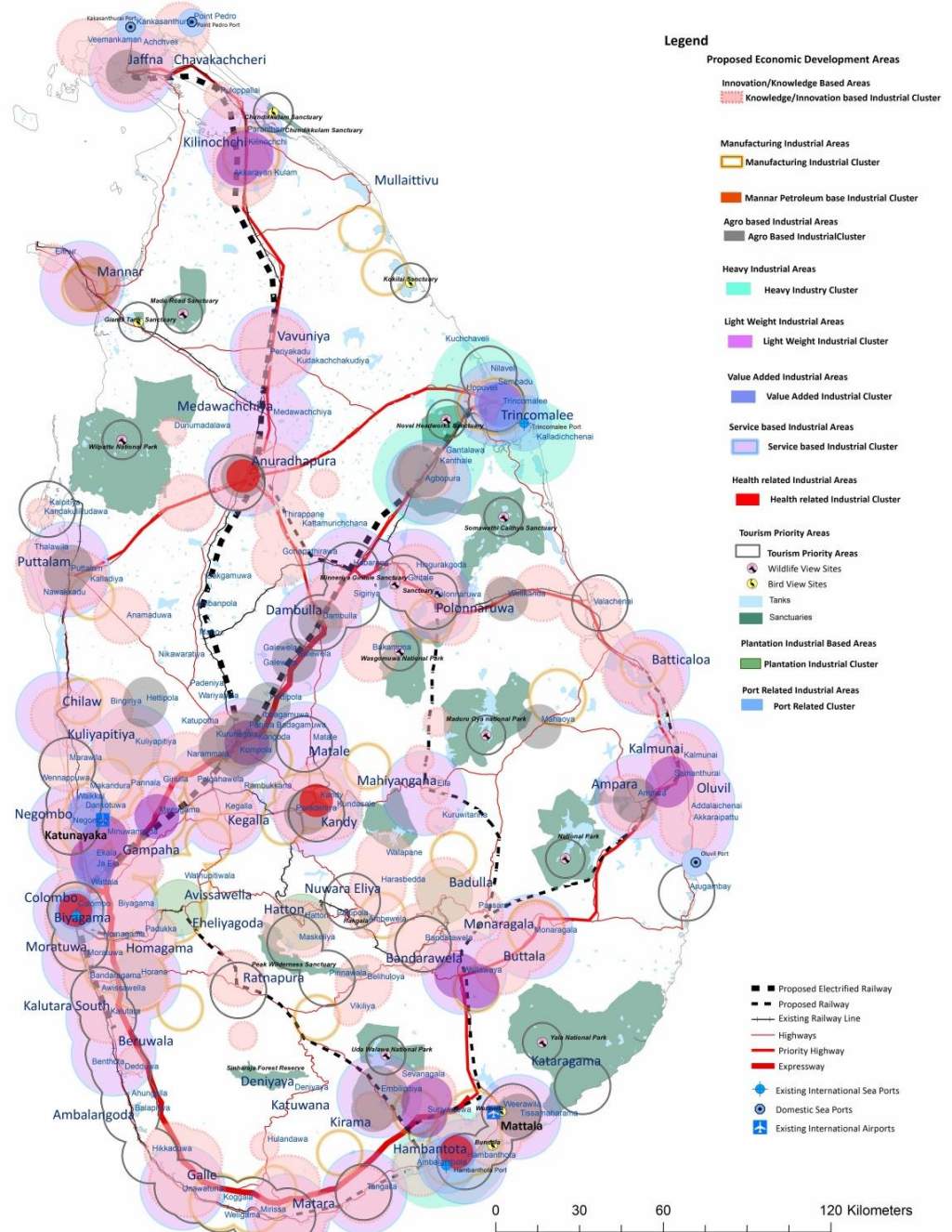
Optimized

Road & Transport Infrastructure

Land & Water Resources



# Proposed Economic Development Areas (Draft)



# Lessons Learnt :

## National Spatial Plans can be:

- **Tools**, double edged, but ornamental
- The use depends on the purpose:  
either to achieve resilience, safe and sustainable territorial no developments  
or  
to disrupt the harmonious existence/developments  
to make and unmake governments and nations
- Plans can have multiple narrations, and may not complete,  
but  
a Scientific Approach will save the Plan.
- Efforts, costs, knowledge and information, are worth and will be of use at  
the right time.

**Developments in Planning in the past is History**

**Developments in future without Planning is Mistry**

**Planning for Developments in the future is a Necessity**

**Tank you for your patience!**

**National Spatial Planning as a Tool to achieve resilience and development  
The case of Sri Lanka National Physical Plan 2050**



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