



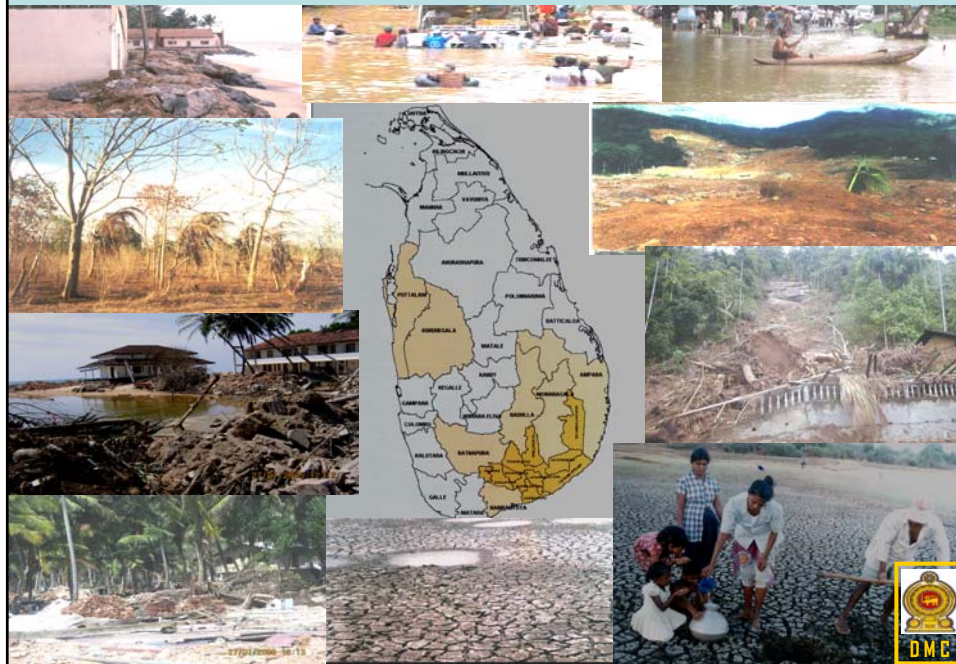
Sri Lanka Country Paper

# Disaster Management Policy in Sri Lanka

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## Multi Hazards Risk Assessment in Sri Lanka



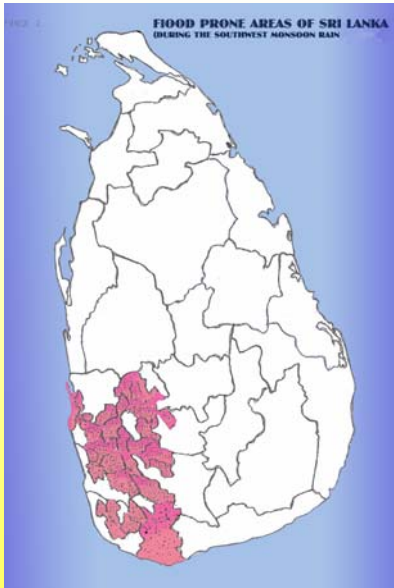
## Disasters that have affected in Sri Lanka

- Floods
- Landslides
- Cyclones
- Droughts
- Tsunami
- Sea Erosion
- Epidemics

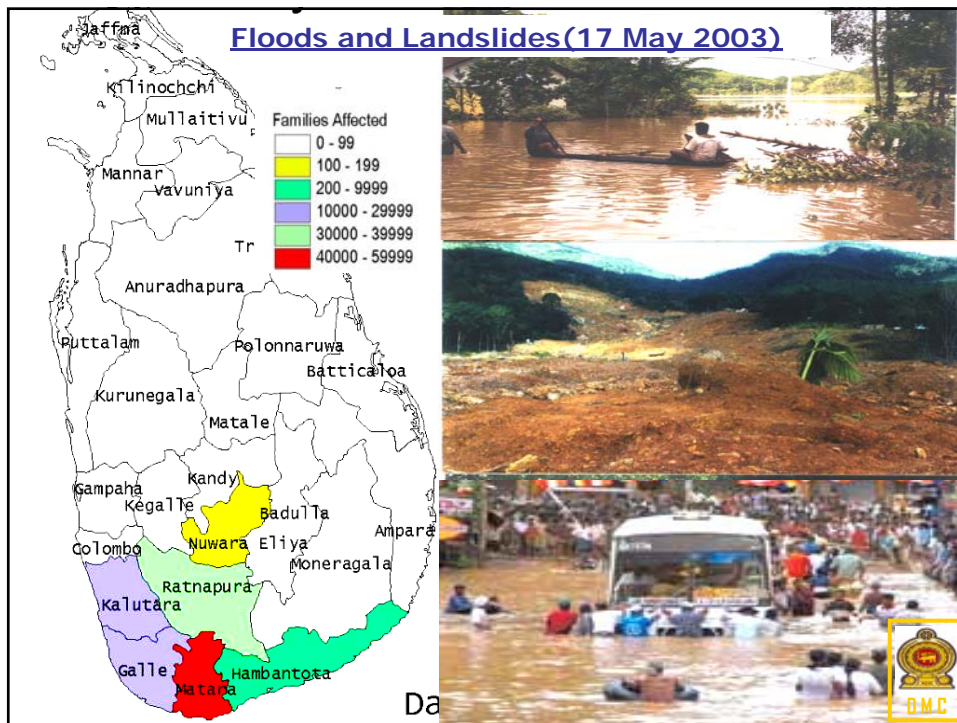
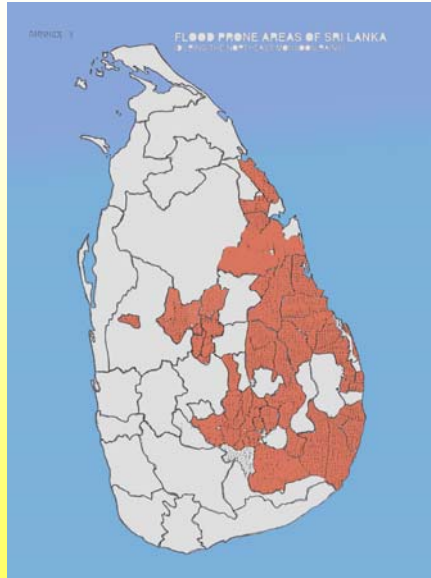


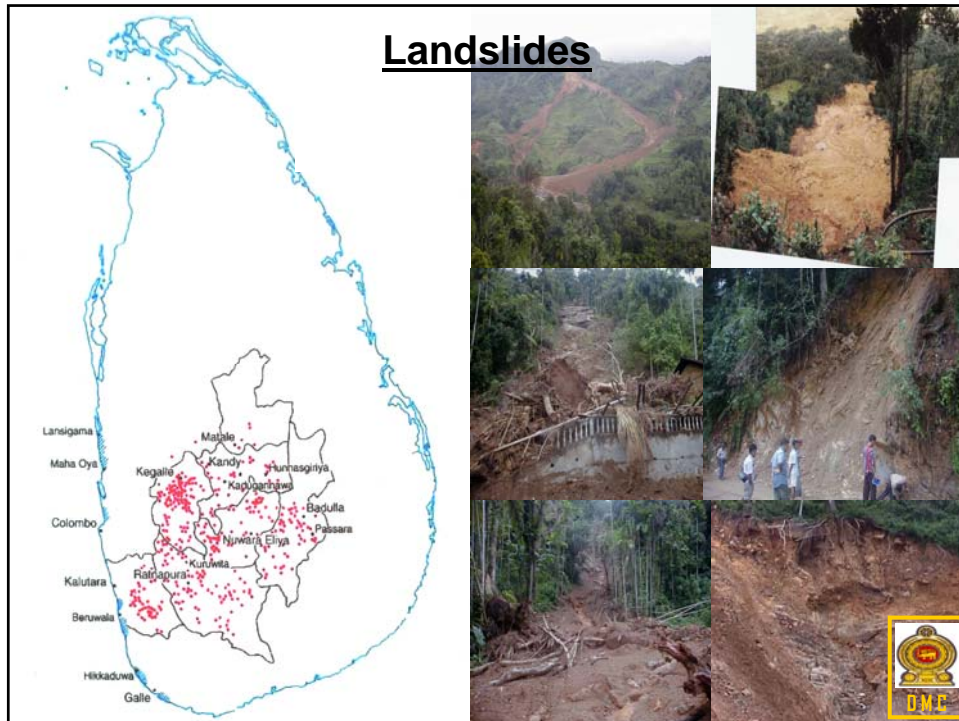
## Floods during the Southwest Monsoon

May-September



## Floods during the Northeast Monsoon September - December





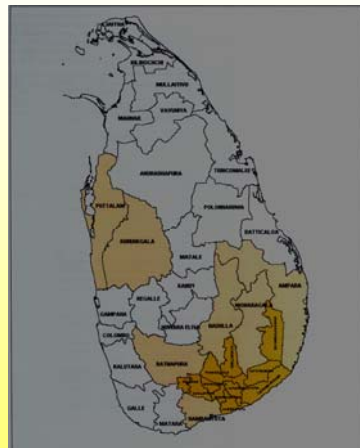
## Droughts

- ❖ Drought is the most significant hazard in Sri Lanka in terms of people affected and relief provided
- ❖ South-Eastern district of Hambantota and the North-Western region of Mannar and Puttalam are frequently affected
- ❖ Drought tendency is markedly less in the South-West of Sri Lanka where there is heavy rainfall




## **Drought – 2001**

- Severe drought occurred in  
7 Districts of the country
  - HAMBANTOTA
  - MONERAGALA
  - KURUNEGALA
  - PUTTALAM
  - RATNAPURA
  - BADULLA
  - AMPARA





**26<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2004 Tsunami - Districts Affected**



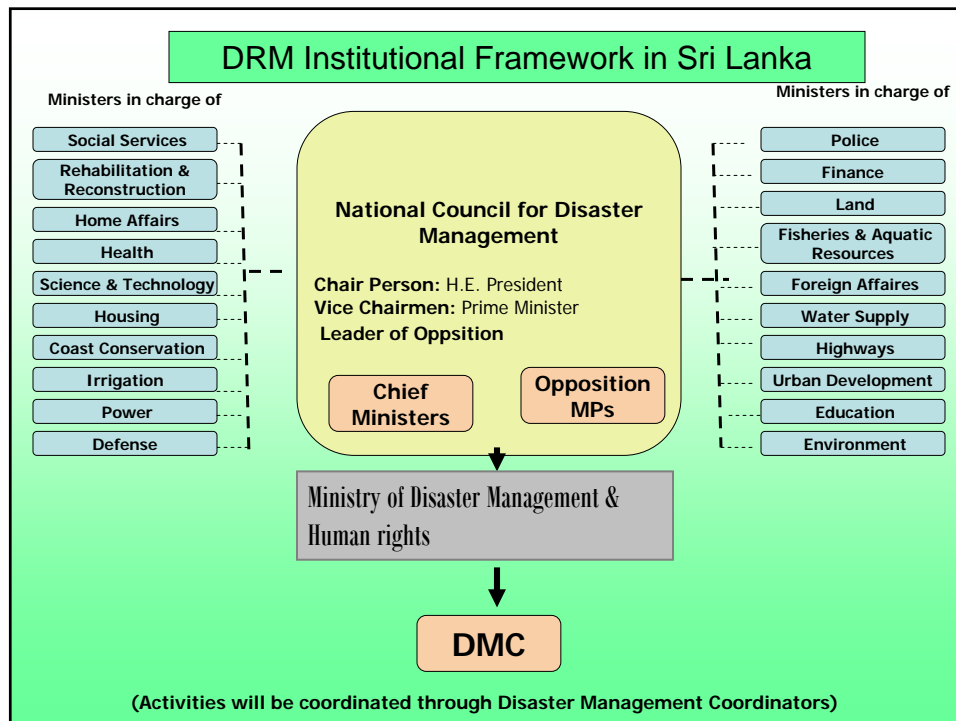
## Legislative Background

- Tsunami of December 2004, floods and landslides of May 2003 and various small to medium scale disasters in Sri Lanka over the past few years have brought back into focus the fact that Sri Lanka is a disaster prone country.
- Recurrent disasters have caused losses to human lives, property and the environment and eroded development gains.
- Need to strengthen all aspects of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) – both proactive risk reduction as well as reactive disaster response mechanisms
- Tsunami has reaffirmed the urgent need for a DRM legislation in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan Parliament passed the “Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act No 13 of 2005.”

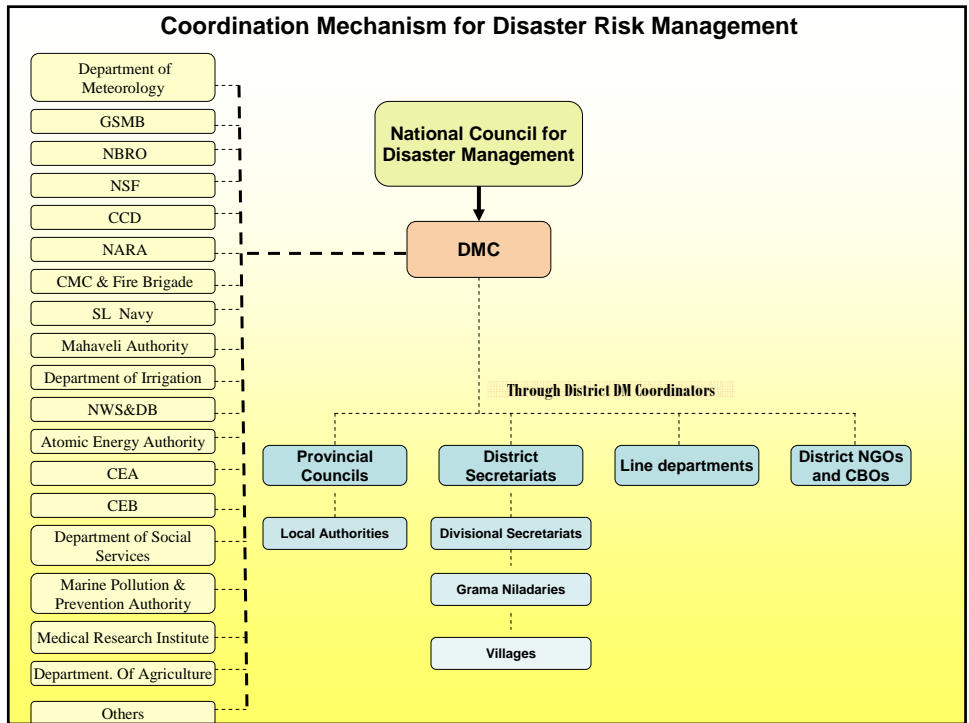
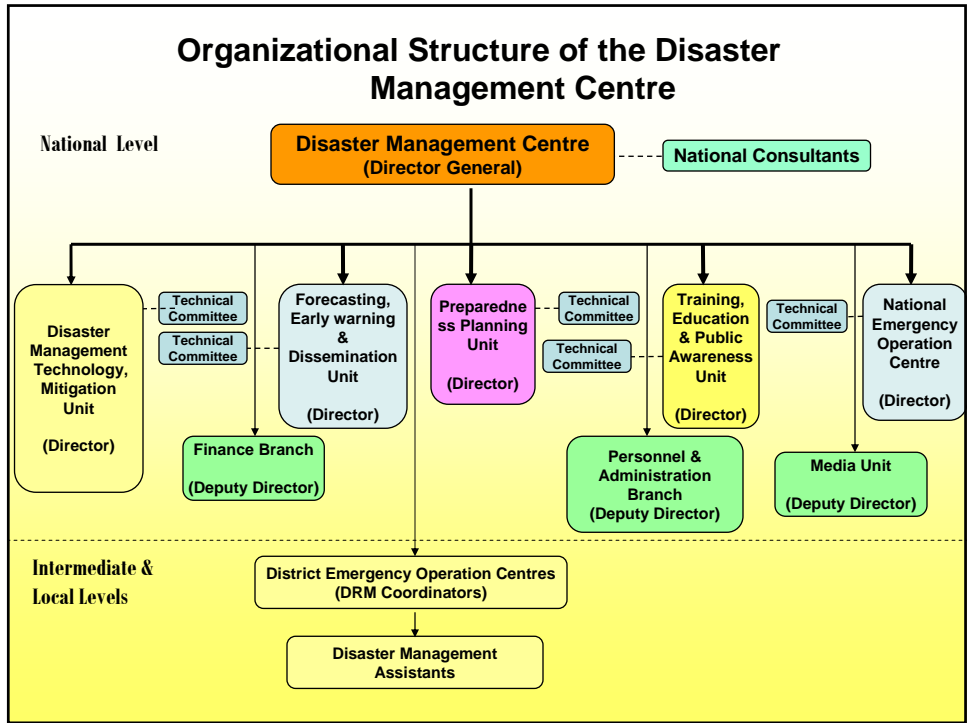


## Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act, No.13 of 2005

- Establishment of *Institutional and Legislative systems* for a 'legal' framework for DRM
- Addresses Disaster Management (DM) holistically, leading to a policy shift from response based mechanisms to a proactive approach
- Provide for establishment of National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM) and Disaster Management Centre (DMC)







## National Policy

- It is accepted that
  - ❖ Disaster cannot be avoided. However Impact could be minimized.
  - ❖ Managing disaster in 21<sup>st</sup> century require a national approach
  - ❖ Disaster Management need to be incorporated in to national plan for development to
    - ❖ Prevent occurrence of Disasters
    - ❖ Mitigate impacts
    - ❖ Ensure adequate preparedness for effective response
    - ❖ Ensure sustainable development

## National Policy Cont....

- Policy provided for;
  - Development of National Disaster management Plan & National Emergency Operation Plan
  - Understanding of roles and responsibilities all stake holders in DM
  - Encouraging CBDM
  - Capacity building & Public Awareness
  - Effective use of resources

## National Policy Cont....

- There are 23 Guiding Principles;
  - Ensure coordination among all stakeholders
  - Decentralization of DRM activities with funds
  - Only one agency responsible for issuing early warning
  - Ensure development of realistic DM Plan at all levels
  - Effective use of Media for warning and awareness

## National Policy Guidelines Cont....

- Propagate culture of volunteerism
- Adopt Incident Command System
- Ensure social justice and equity
- Involve professional expertise on DRM activities
- Exercise transparency and Accountability

## Strategy for DRM

- Technical Advisory Committees appointed as per DM Act to guide DMC
- National Emergency Response Committee to coordinate activities
- Provincial, District, Divisional, Local Authority & Village level committees will coordinate and implement DM activities
- EW centre, Risk assessment data collection analysis centre, 24/7 NOC, and DMC will be in one location and linked to all local centres.

## Strategy for Disaster Response

- Divisional Secretaries/ LA , Village DM committees will be 1<sup>st</sup> responders,
- If the disaster is beyond 1<sup>st</sup> responders capacity District & Provincial authorities will respond at appropriate level
- If the disaster is of national magnitude then central Government will take action

## Funds for Disaster Management

- DMC to establish a special DM fund as provided in the DM Act and provide fund to LA,PC for DRM activities
- Disaster Management included as a line item in the national budget ensuring allocation fund by government agencies for DM
- Incorporation of Disaster Risk Assessment in to EIA ensure allocation of funds for mitigation works in new projects

## Regional Cooperation

- In 2003 floods and 2004 tsunami immediate response came from countries from the region
- Expert advice received for reconstruction phase was valuable
- In formulating legislation countries in the region made available professionals in DM
- Wealth of experience in the region for design of infrastructure in disaster prone areas, post disaster construction & retrofitting is very useful

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

- Promote the establishment of Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System\_(OCTWS) and establish communication system between OCTWS and respective disaster management agencies in the region
- Explore the possibility of using satellite communication facility available in the region, in favorable terms, for post disaster search & rescue and relief distribution activities.
- Reach an agreement to provide real time data to all agencies involve with the issue of disaster warning messages in the region



## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

**Cont.....**

- Create discussion forums for the regional disaster management experts & organizations to meet regularly to share experiences and advise on changes needed
- Strengthen the Capability and Capacity in the region for disaster response



**Thank You !**

