



Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in National Forest Policy

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Sri Lanka - Overview

- Area: 65,610 sq km
- Population: 20 million
- Population density: 323/sq km
- Population growth: 0.73%
- HDI: 0.715
- Forest Cover: 29% of the land area



Milestones in Gender Equality

- 1931- Universal voting rights and equal rights to contest elections
- 1945- Free education and free health for all
- 1978- Constitution – Equal rights without discrimination on the grounds of sex
- 1981 – UN Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW)
- Equal rights in the general law

Evolution of Forest Policy

Time Period	Policy	Restoration Strategy
1900	Reclaim the <i>chena</i> cultivation areas	“Taungya” reforestation program mainly in the Dry and Intermediate zones
1938	Planting <i>Patna</i> lands	Pinus and Eucalyptus were introduced in the up country patna lands
1953	Emphasis on timber and fuelwood production	Planting of dry and wet patna with P. caribaea, E.grandis, and E.microcoris with some mechanical site preparation
1980	Donor funded projects. USAID Watershed Management Project	Large scale planting of fuelwood in the dry zone and Pinus in the up country catchment areas
1980	Social Forestry Initiatives	CFP project 1982-1989 and PFP project 1993-1999
1995	Current Forest Policy	Community based tree planting and private sector involvement in forest plantation development

National Forest Policy - 1995

- » To conserve forests for posterity with particular regard to biodiversity, soils, water, and historical, cultural, religious, and aesthetic values
- » To increase the tree cover and productivity of the forests to meet the needs of present and future generations for forest products and services
- » To enhance the contribution of forestry to the welfare of the rural population, and strengthen the national economy, with special attention paid to equity in economic development





Forest Policy making process

- Present forest policy was formulated in 1995 along with the preparation of forestry sector master plan which covers the period 1995-2025
- A series of stake holder workshops were held under 14 different themes with the participation of state, universities, NGO, and CBO members
- After the workshops a separate working group was set up to draft the main policy objectives and strategies under key thrust areas
- National Forest Policy was finalized through several stake holder workshops



Policy on management of state forest resources

- The traditional rights, cultural values, and religious beliefs of people living within or adjacent to forest areas will be recognized and respected.
- For the management and protection of the natural forests and forest plantations, the state will, where appropriate, form partnership with **local people, rural communities**, and other stake holders , and introduce appropriate tenurial arrangements .
- Degraded forest land will be established as forest for conservation and multiple use production, where it is economically and technically feasible, mainly for the benefit of **local people**.

Policy on Wood and Non-Wood forest products, Industries and Marketing

- Greater responsibility will be given to local people, organized groups, cooperatives, industries, and other private bodies in commercial forest production, industrial manufacturing, and marketing.
- Efficient forest products utilization, development of competitive forest industries based on sustainable wood sources, and manufacture of value added forest products will be promoted.
- The state will facilitate the harvesting and transport of forest products grown on private lands.
- Effective measures to protect forests and illegal trade in wood, non-wood forest products and endangered species of flora and fauna will be instituted.

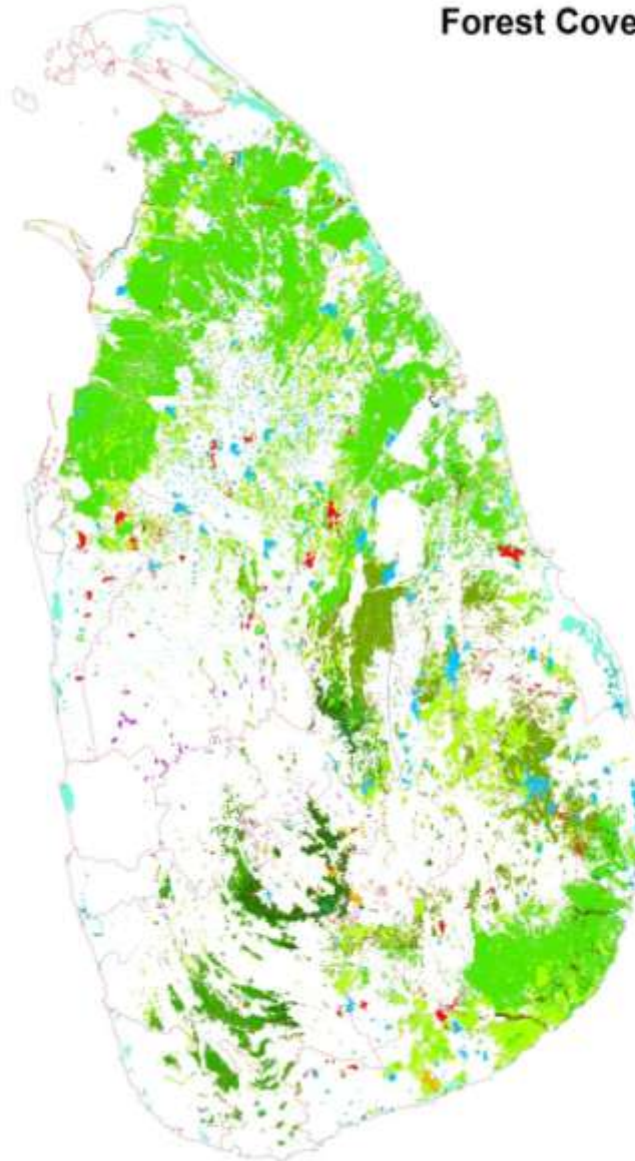


Policy on Management of Private Forest and Tree Resources

- Trees growing on homesteads, and other agroforestry, will be promoted as a main strategy to supply wood and other forest products for meeting household and market needs.
- The establishment, management, and harvesting of industrial forest plantations by **local people, communities**, industries, and others in the private sector will be promoted
- The state will promote tree growing by **local people, rural communities**, NGOs and other non-state sector bodies for the protection of environmentally sensitive areas.



Forest Cover - 2010



- District Boundary
- Forest Types**
- Brackish & Saline Water
 - Conifers
 - Dry Monsoon
 - Eucalyptus
 - Fresh Water
 - Lowland Rain
 - Mahogany
 - Mangroves
 - Moist Monsoon
 - Montane
 - Non Forest
 - Riverine Dry
 - Sparse & Open
 - Sub-Montane
 - Teak

0 15 30 60 90 120
Kilometers



Key features in the forestry sector

- About 29% of the land area is covered by natural forests
- Almost all natural forests are state owned
- All natural forests are set apart for the conservation of soil, water, and biodiversity and no logging is allowed since 1990
- 70% of the industrial timber and 80% of the fuelwood are obtained from the tree resources outside the forests mainly from home gardens, Rubber and Coconut plantations
- No communities are living inside the forests

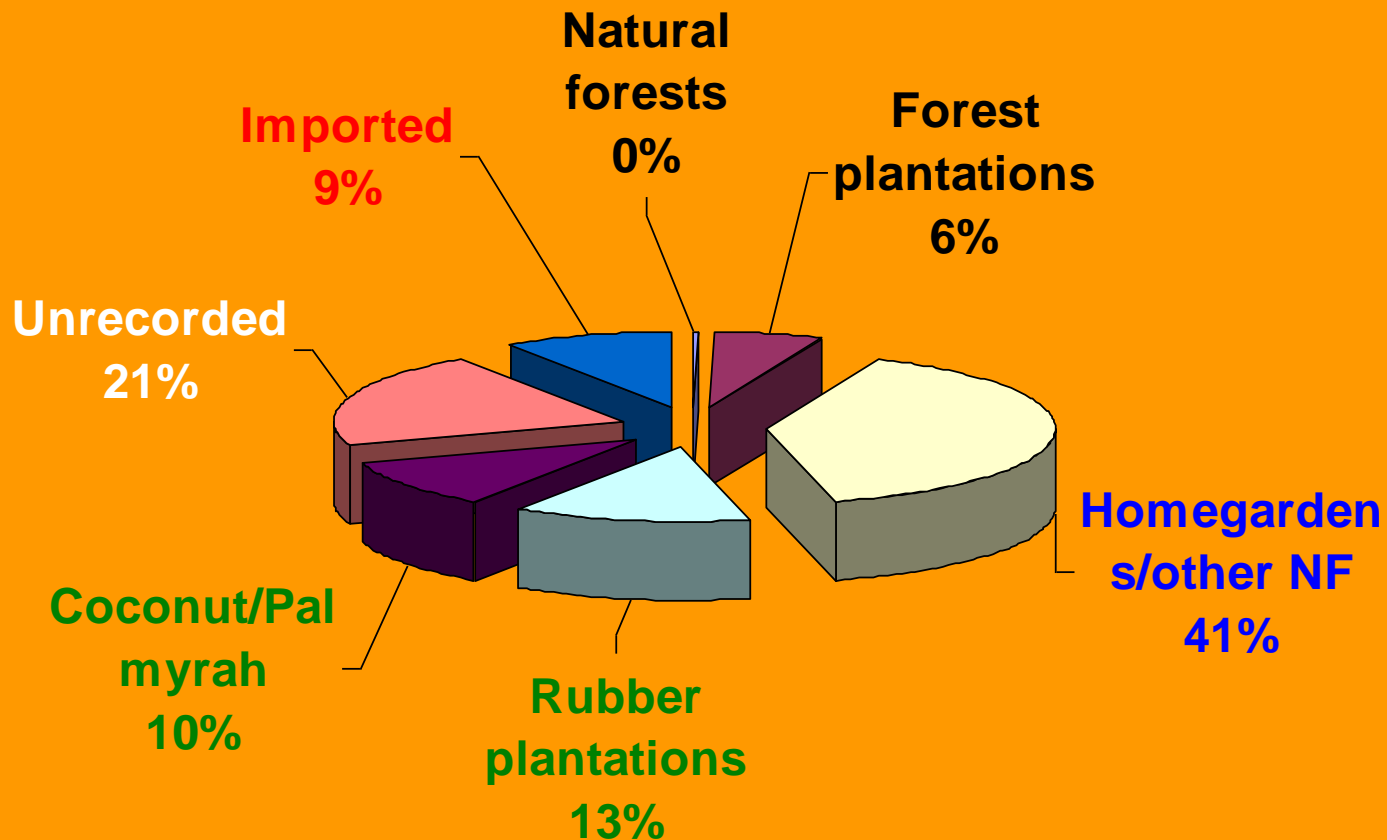


Key features in the forestry sector (Contd.)

Home gardens provide nearly 42% of the industrial timber

Forest dependency is relatively low compared to many other countries in the region

Sources of Timber Supply in Sri Lanka





Gender Equality in Forestry Sector

- State forestry administration was male dominated until 1982
- With the introduction of competitive exams for the recruitment of employees to all grades situation has changed
- In the state forestry service female employees in the junior level is about 28% while in the senior level is 16%.
- Equal salaries are guaranteed for equal work in all island wide services



On going initiatives

- Steps have been taken to revise the current forest policy in order to address new trends in forestry
- Though the gender equality is not explicitly mentioned in the current policy, gender issues have been addressed through on going programs on participatory forest management (Ex. Signing forest agreement by both husband and wife in the house hold ensuring equal access, providing micro financing facilities directly to the women)
- Amendments made to the Forest Ordinance in 2009 have made provisions to enter in to forest agreement and benefit sharing without discrimination on the ground of sex



Way Forward

- Current forest policy does not address the gender issues explicitly, rather mention the community or local people. In the light of new trends in forestry, including gender equality, national forest policy need to be revised as a matter of priority
- The awareness on gender issues is low among the policy makers and whole concept is sometimes misunderstood. Therefore, proper training on gender issues needs to be provided to the policy makers and others
- Need to place specific indicators in to national forestry projects/programs in order to assess the real impact of gender initiatives



Thank You