Sri Lanka: Climate Smart Sustainable Cities

Urban Statistics:

The project target is Greater Colombo area with Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte (SJK) Municipal Council as the pilot for integrated planning and implementation approach.

The many of the lessons emerging from this project will be applicable to many other urban areas within Sri Lanka and also similar small countries, especially island economies with abundant blue-green areas, with fast growing urban population.

The size of the Greater Colombo Area (GCA) is 656 sq km with a population of 5,600,000 (in 2020). The SJK MC area is 17.04 sq km with a population of 115,000 (in 2020) and expected to grow to 300,000 by 2050.

The GCA is a key economic hub, a Ramsar Convention wetland site and the centre of government.

UNEP
United Nations Environment Programme

Global Platform for Sustainable Cities

gef global environment facility
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

Sri Lanka: Challenges and Drivers

Challenges:

- air pollution, connected with traffic congestion.
- urban heat island effect from decreased green areas and wetlands.
- increasing flood risk related to unplanned development.

Drivers:

- urban sprawl.
- unmanaged solid and liquid waste resulting in pollution and degradation of water bodies and wetlands.
- fragmentation of wetlands resulting in isolation and gradual extinction of threatened species (Fishing Cat, otter) and reducing the area for the migratory birds
- Lack of planned housing for the poor and vulnerable leading to informal settlements in wetland and areas adjoining water bodies.
- Inadequate capacity to develop integrated plans and financial resources for sustainable development.

Sri Lanka: objectives and structure

The project is using **wetland protection** and **urban mobility** as an entry point to showcase **integrated approach** to finding solutions that meet the development needs and address the environmental challenges, both national and global.

- **Component 1. Supporting integrated and inclusive urban planning, strategies, and policy development**
  - Develop, based on current mandates and coordination mechanisms, recommendations for strengthening coordination at urban planning, project development, and project implementation within Municipal boundaries.
  - Integrated plan, building on UDA Development Plan for Kotte, on land use including zoning for wetland protection, mobility plan including NMT plan for Kotte.
  - Develop GHG Inventory for Kotte MC area and strengthen data collection systems for regular update of GHG inventory.
  - Policy and Regulatory framework for strengthening E-bus uptake for public transport.

- **Component 2. Promoting investments in sustainable, nature positive and resilient urban development and adopting innovative financing mechanisms**
  - **Integrated wetland conservation approach** using nature-based solutions promoting private sector partnership in integrated wetland and transport infrastructure and NBS based green wetland protection corridor
  - **Sustainable Transport** - Facilitate pilot and scale up of e-bus with public private partnership

Sri Lanka: objectives and structure

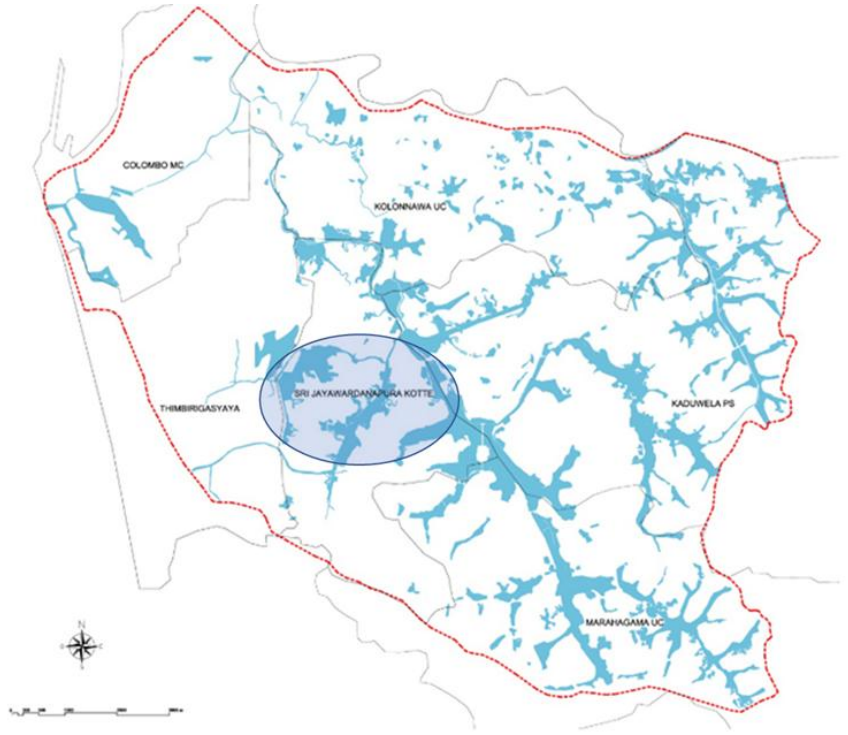
- **Component 3. Strengthening knowledge sharing and capacity-building**
  - Training of urban planners and policy makers on integrated planning and GHG inventories based on project experience.
  - Training of private bus owners and transport policy makers on e-bus policy and regulatory tools and financing.
  - Training of urban planners and government staff related to urban planning and implementation on NBS based integrated approaches for wetlands and greenspace management.
  - Participation in various Global Project training and peer to peer exchange events.
  - The training and knowledge sharing events will ensure equal participation and access to male and females.

Sri Lanka: Integrated wetland conservation approach using nature-based solutions

Integrated wetland conservation approach using nature-based solutions:

- Develop technical and financing design with private sector partnership for show casing integrated approach for green corridor linking wetland areas with cycling lanes and public spaces to protect wetlands using nature based solutions.

- Pilot NBS based green wetland protection corridor pilot (including possibility of using NBS approach, including possibility of sewage treatment integrated into the plans).



WRM wetland map with SJK highlighted