

Policy coherence for Resilience in Sri Lanka

Coherence of Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Abstract

Purpose

Policy coherence is a complex and tough task for many developing nations since their capacity to examine and deliver evidence-based inputs to policymaking are limited, and policy dialogue platforms need to be effectively utilized. Resolving these difficulties is a critical requirement for policy consistency. As a result, the study focuses on the level of policy coherence for Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in Sri Lanka and suggests routes for policy coherence for Resilience. The study's major aims are to investigate the coherent approach CCA, DRR, and SGD, to identify concerns in policy documents addressing the coherence of CCA, DRR, and SDG in local context, and to propose policy coherence suggestions for resilience in Sri Lanka.

Methodology

Methodology comprises a review and content analysis of seventeen policy and legal documents in Sri Lanka and a Qualitative study. The qualitative approach consists of semi-structured interviews that obtained deep and broad expertise knowledge with ten government representatives and stakeholders. Both content analysis and Interview data were analyzed by using NVivo.

Findings

It was discovered that there are several issues with the coherence of policies in Sri Lanka, including the fragmented approach, lack of integration, inadequate coordination, limited resources, and lack of monitoring and evaluation. The policies are inspired by international frameworks, and local implementations are not focused, leading to inadequate implementation of policies. The lack of development cooperation for the use of innovative approaches, such as climate-resilient infrastructure and environmentally friendly solutions for CCA and DRR, further aggravates the situation. Another concern is the lack of land use management and responsibility for the development of physical infrastructure for disaster risk reduction integration with climate change adaptation. It is found that there is a limited community involvement which is vital for the implementation of policies. Local implementations are encouraged to fill the gaps in existing policies/acts. The analytical framework of the study is based on a preliminary examination of policy documents, a review of the literature, and discussions with practitioners. The framework reflects the current situation of policy integration which addresses strategic, conceptual, institutional, operational, and financial coherence. The research suggests pathways for achieving policy coherence in CCA, DRR, and SDG in Sri Lanka, such as; enhancing the strategic coherence by improving goals to increase the coherence within CCA, DRR, and SDG, improve the credibility of the unified approach for developing DRR and CCA risk assessments, intensification of institutional cooperation and stakeholder management, improve the common monitoring and evaluation, establish implementation strategies, and increase the community involvement.

Originality/value

Based on the identified existing loopholes in the policies and pathways to policy coherence, the issues in policymaking could be overcome. It could be used to establish strong linkages between policies based on CCA, DRR, and SDGs to achieve long-term resilience.

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

1.0 Introduction

Sri Lanka is extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change and natural disasters due to the high temperatures, unique and complicated hydrological cycle and vulnerability to extreme climatic events. The need for effective policies and strategies to address these challenges has never been greater. However, several issues hinder the effectiveness of policies related to climate change adaptation (CCA), disaster risk reduction (DRR) and sustainable development goals (SDGs) in Sri Lanka. Therefore, there is a need for policy coherence within various domains, including appropriate local implementation. These three domains are intrinsically linked in the pursuit of sustainable and resilient development. Climate change exacerbates disaster risks, affecting the achievement of SDGs, and, thus, they need to be addressed cohesively. CCA, DRR and SDGs all contribute to building resilience and reducing vulnerabilities to environmental and societal challenges. Policy coherence in these areas is crucial because fragmented or disjointed policies can lead to inefficient resource allocation, lack of integration and missed opportunities for synergy. By examining their interconnections and coherence in a specific context like Sri Lanka, this study aims to provide valuable insights for policymakers and stakeholders, enabling them to develop a more integrated and effective approach to address these critical issues.

Policy and legislative frameworks can play an important role in ensuring that DRR and CCA actions are implemented comprehensively and coherently to achieve SDGs. Recent research has explored best practices for the design and implementation of resilient building codes, drawing insights from global initiatives focused on disaster-resilient building codes (Shavindree et al., 2019). This work emphasizes the potential for integrating disaster resilience considerations into national building regulations, with the ultimate aim of fostering a safer built environment. However, while these studies provide valuable insights, there remains a research gap that necessitates further investigation on policy coherence in Sri Lanka. Lu et al. (2020) touch upon issues related to urban design, public awareness and political influence in the context of disaster resilience, there is an opportunity for more in-depth and focused investigations in these areas. For instance, a comprehensive examination of the roles urban designers can play in shaping resilient building codes and strategies to effectively influence public perceptions and behaviors to mitigate overheating and reduce air conditioner use is warranted. Furthermore, the precise mechanisms for leveraging political influence in shaping building code development require additional

exploration. It is of paramount importance for governments to establish legal frameworks and formulate policies that require various ministries and departments to incorporate DRR and CCA into their operations and regulations (Nemakonde and Niekerk, 2023).

This study is significant as it holds the potential to increase Sri Lanka's resilience to climate change and natural disasters. The study focuses on assisting to decrease disaster impacts, enhance recovery and build a more sustainable future by finding gaps and enhancing coherence between CCA, DRR and SDGs. In addition, this study ensures that development goals are achieved in a way that is resilient to climate change and natural disasters, identify cost-effective solutions and assist Sri Lanka in meeting its international obligations related to climate change and DRR.

The research questions focus on understanding the coherent policy approaches of CCA, SDGs and DRR, identifying the issues related to policy coherence in Sri Lanka and determining pathways for policy coherence in the country. The objectives of this study are to examine the coherent approach of CCA, SDGs and DRR, identify the issues in policy coherence and identify pathways for policy coherence in Sri Lanka. Overall, this research has the potential to greatly contribute to the establishment of effective policies and strategies in Sri Lanka for CCA, DRR and SDGs.

2.0 Policy Coherence

Policy coherence is a strategy that combines all relevant policy sectors to generate mutually beneficial outcomes by maximizing cooperation and eliminating trade-offs (ESCAP, 2018). The policymakers use this to accomplish collective decisions to ensure all the systems of the nation aim for the same direction without diverting from the overall vision of the nation.

Although the word "policy coherence" is regularly used in international development, the terms "policy coordination" and "integration" are more commonly used. Coordination and integration are linked to the government's responsibility to provide inhabitants with services and to execute policies without gaps. Furthermore, it ensures that resources are used efficiently and that duplication is avoided.

According to Meijers and Stead (2004), policy integration creates the framework for an innovative joint policy for the concerned sectors and necessitates more cooperation. Contrarily, policy coordination tries to create mutually enforced, coherent policies. Persson and Tabellini (2004) disagreed with this assertion and claimed that varied degrees of policy integration could occur

without producing new, coordinated policies. The result can be one component integrated into a smaller (existing) unit or numerous pieces combined into a (new) entire part. According to Candel and Biesbroek (2016), the integration process is progressive, albeit occasionally linear, since it can be slowed or even reversed at times.

Coherence could well be achieved horizontally across sectors, vertically at various levels of government and collaboratively by various stakeholders, which connects the government, the private sector, community-based organizations (CBOs) and the general public. According to the OECD (2020), this can be catalyzed in three groups' strategic (visions and goals) coherence, operational (policy and institutions) coherence and technical coherence.

A method to assess the degree of incorporation – limited, partial, or considerable – of the two sectors in DRR and CCA policy texts were put up by United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) (2020) with a case study of sub-Saharan Africa. It has examined the CCA and DRR strategies' conceptual, institutional, operational and financial elements.

2.1 Understanding the three approaches

The study emphasizes the need for interlinking these initiatives with the goal of creating a more consistent and resilient built environment. It highlights several areas where consistency is crucial, including greater collaboration between influential institutions responsible for development and climate policies, the need for organizations coordinating climate action or SDGs and the establishment of a single organization overseeing both the SDGs and climate action (GIZ and WRI, 2018).

The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, with its 17 goals, serves as a worldwide framework for sustainable social and economic growth and is key to reducing poverty. The study recognizes the importance of enhancing policy coherence, particularly within Goal 17, which focuses on strengthening partnerships and ensuring that policies and actors work together. SDG 13 specifically targets climate action and increasing resilience to climate change-related hazards and disasters, while other SDGs also contribute to enhanced resilience and adaptation. The study acknowledges the interconnectedness of these goals and their relevance to creating risk-sensitive, coherent policies (UN, 2015; UNFCCC, 2017; ESCAP, 2018).

The Paris Agreement aims to limit global temperature increases and emphasizes both mitigation and adaptation efforts. While it does not explicitly mention the Sendai Framework, Articles 7 and 8 of the agreement address damage due to climate change effects, linking it inherently to DRR. These articles offer areas for collaboration and understanding acts to prevent, lessen and address damage and loss, which are core elements of the Sendai Framework. The agreement promotes collaboration among various stakeholders and emphasizes emergency readiness, early warning systems and risk assessments [UNFCCC, 2016; United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), 2020].

The Sendai Framework, a 15-year voluntary agreement, focuses on averting new hazards and reducing existing disaster risks through comprehensive, combined approaches that limit exposure and vulnerability. The framework outlines four action priorities and seven targets, with priorities 1, 2 and 4 directly involving communities dealing with DRR while priority 3 focused on Investing in DRR. These priorities encourage the use of climate change scenarios, international collaboration and consistency with combating climate change. However, there is room for improvement in areas such as investments, monetary channels for DRR and references to the climate change community [United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), 2020].

The study ultimately emphasizes the coherence among these three global processes: the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework, recognizing their interconnectedness and their collective role in promoting SDGs, CCA and DRR. It highlights the cross-cutting issues of CCA and DRR, particularly within the SDGs, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework, emphasizing the importance of coordinated and integrated approaches to address these critical global challenges.

2.2 Disaster impact profile in Sri Lanka

Natural disasters such as floods, landslides, cyclones and droughts make Sri Lanka extremely vulnerable. The consequences of these calamities may be severe, impacting not only individuals' lives and livelihoods, but also the country's economy and infrastructure. The country witnessed 16 natural disasters in 2020 alone, including floods, landslides, and droughts, affecting more than 1.6 million people and causing major damage to infrastructure and agriculture (DMC, 2021). The country witnessed 16 natural disasters in 2020 alone, including floods, landslides and droughts, affecting more than 1.6 million people and causing major damage to infrastructure and agriculture

(DMC, 2021). The primary hydro-meteorological and geophysical disasters escalate the loss of lives, property damage and health risks, which encompass epidemic-prone infectious diseases, vector-borne illnesses and conditions that can arise from environmental pollution, unsafe food and radiological incidents. These collectively have a substantial impact on public health, the economy and society as a whole (Disaster Management Center, 2022). Another concern that Sri Lanka is dealing with is the impact of climate change on the frequency and intensity of natural disasters. Increasing sea levels, shifting weather patterns and rising temperatures are all projected to amplify the effects of catastrophes in Sri Lanka and other nations in the area (IPCC, 2018). Climate-sensitive diseases such as vector-borne and zoonotic diseases, cancer, cardiovascular disease and stroke, food-borne diseases and nutrition, mental health and water-borne illnesses are closely linked to changing climate patterns, with increased rainfall and altered temperature profiles creating favorable conditions for disease transmission in Sri Lanka (Kalubowila, 2017). Tackling Sri Lanka's disaster management and preparedness difficulties needs a comprehensive and persistent effort, involving investments in infrastructure and resources as well as long-term disaster resilience planning.

2.3 Analytical framework: Integration spectrum

An analytical framework (Figure 1) is a structured approach used to analyze and understand complex issues or problems. In the context of policy integration, an analytical framework would be used to understand how different policies and plans are related to each other and how they contribute to achieving a common goal or objective. The analytical framework is developed based on the proposed approach to evaluate the level of incorporation by United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) (2020). The analytical framework is based on a preliminary examination of policy documents and a review of the literature. The framework represents the current policy integration scenario, addressing strategic, conceptual, institutional, operational and financial coherence [United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), 2020] which are described in the Table 1. These elements serve as structured criteria that address various facets of policy integration, ensuring a thorough and balanced assessment. By using these elements, this analytical framework provides a sound basis for evaluating the alignment of Sri Lanka's policies with global best practices and for identifying areas that require improvement in terms of policy coherence.

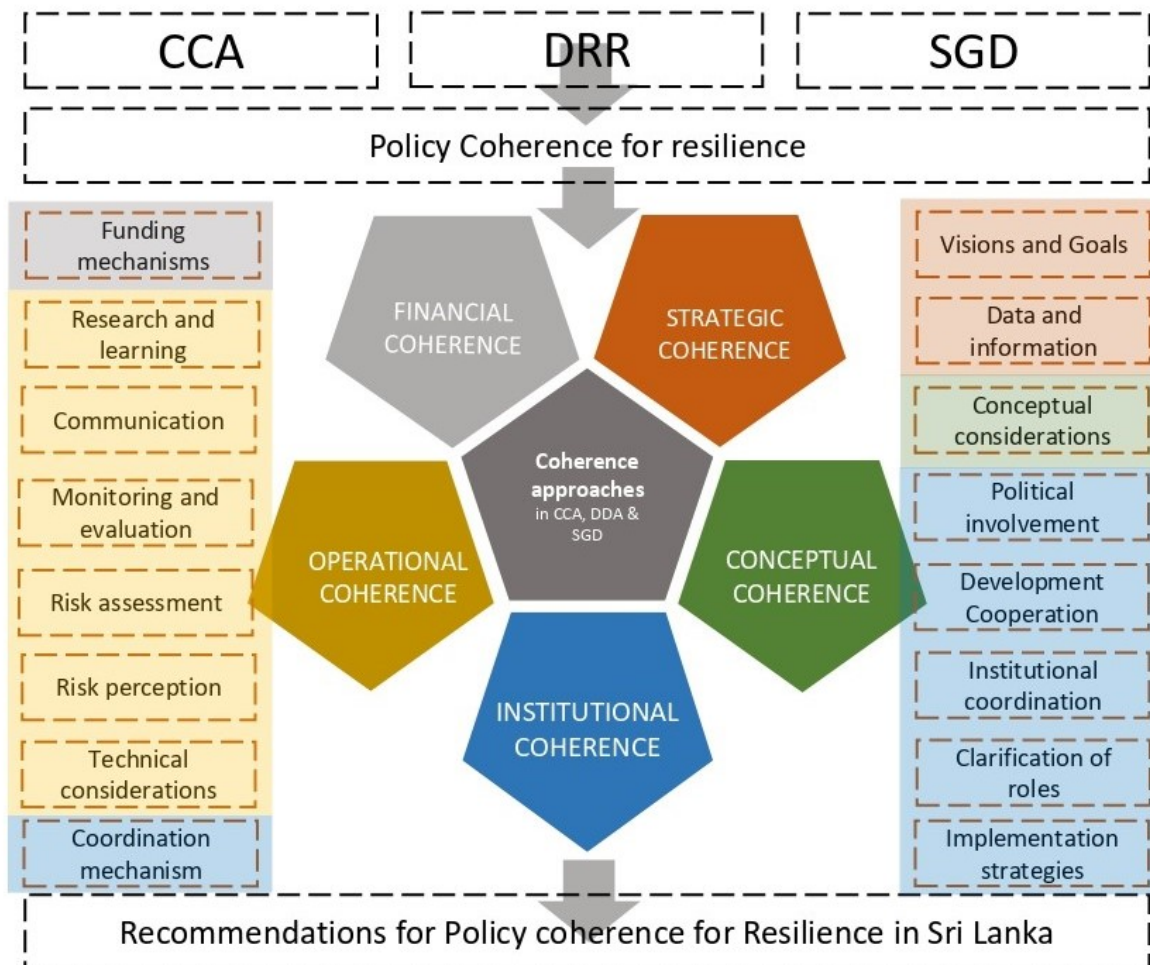


Figure I: Analytical framework; Policy coherence in Sri Lanka

Source- Compiled by the author

3.0 Methodology

The study will use two different methods in the process (Figure 2); review and content analysis of policy documents and participatory method that obtains deep and broad expertise knowledge with government representatives and stakeholders.

3.1 Content analysis of Policy documents

Analyzing both a policy and its corresponding act in DRR and CCA is fundamental for a comprehensive understanding. As per (Nemakonde and Niekerk) legislation in the form of policies and acts provides a structured framework that every sector must adhere to when integrating DRR and CCA into their development plans (2023). This dual analysis allows for a holistic grasp of disaster and climate resilience. The UNDRR underscores the necessity of integrated policies and legal structures in DRR efforts, aligning with the goals outlined in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 [United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), 2015]. Similarly, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) emphasizes the importance of aligning climate adaptation policies with relevant legislation to effectively combat climate change impacts, aligning with global sustainability objectives, including the SDGs (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 2021; UN, 2015). Therefore analyzing both a policy and its corresponding act is vital for a comprehensive understanding of how laws function in society, ensuring that they serve their intended purpose and allowing for effective implementation, compliance and evaluation. Content analysis comprised 17 policies and relevant acts of CCA, DRR and SDGs.

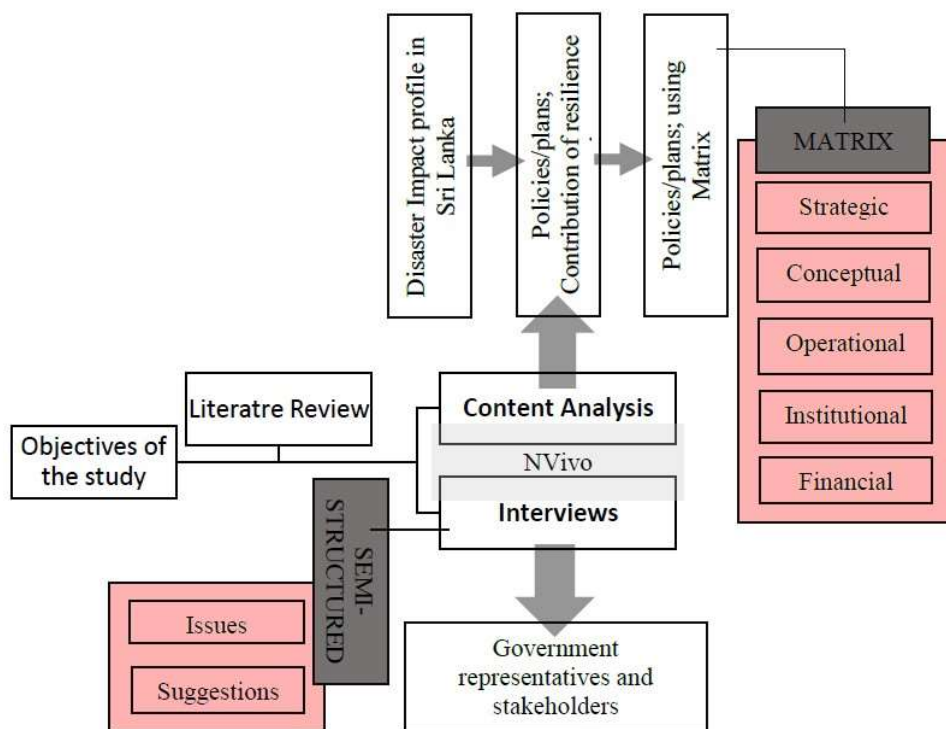


Figure II: Research design

Source: Compiled by the author

The content analysis method involves several steps, including document selection, data collection, coding and analysis (Neuendorf, 2016). The first part of the content analysis consists of the contribution of resilience properties or factors in the identified policies relevant to strategic and conceptual coherence, which includes several factors to review the policy documents. The second part of the analysis involved the use of a matrix, which was adapted from United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) (2022) and consisted of 15 questions. This matrix (Table 1) is specifically designed to review strategies in detail and was used as a coding system under the integration spectrum.

Strategic	Investigates the possibility of DRR and CCA to be jointly addressed to strengthen the relationship and the linkages between these two approaches.	Aligns with both worldwide and regional DRR and CCA instructions and procedures.
		While developing the vision, objectives, and principles, DRR and CCA are taken into account holistically.
		Attempts to combine DRR and CCA across many fields.
Conceptual	Discovers how countries have linked DRR and CCA conceptually, particularly through the concept of risk.	The goal is to increase resilience to climate and catastrophe threats.
		Establishes links between disasters and the vulnerabilities linked with climate change.
		To understand their synergies, analyzes the interconnections and differences between Climate CCA and DRR.
Institutional	Analyses whether coordination between DRR and CCA is intended and how institutional arrangements can assist coherence.	Outlines mechanisms for coordination to facilitate collaboration between stakeholders and activities related to CCA and DRR
		Identifies the primary agency responsible for leading efforts in DRR and CCA
		Emphasizes the need to coordination at the local level in CCA and DRR practices.
		Through a comprehensive, cross-sectoral strategy, specifies the roles and duties.
		Identifies external entities who help to promote coherence between DRR and CCA efforts
Operational	Investigates the measures, actions, and activities which connect DRR and CCA practices. Further, to find out to which extent planning is considered cross-sectoral.	Includes goals and actions targeted at improving DRR and CCA coherence.
		Specific activities and fields where DRR and CCA are appropriate and useful are identified.
Financial	Explores how funding strategies and investments connect DRR and CCA.	Provides a budget estimate for combining DRR and CCA operations.
		Advocates for operative funding for DRR and CCA programs.

		Promotes the use of risk insurance schemes to minimize the effects of climate change and other dangers.
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Table I: Matrix to review strategies in legal documents

Source: Adapted from UNDRR (2022)

3.2 Physical interviews

Semi structured interviews with government authorities and stakeholders provide useful intuitions on the policy coherence of these issues. This method was selected due to its balance between structure and flexibility where interview questions are predetermined list of questions and also allow for open-ended discussion. The method of interviews involves several steps, including participant selection, interview preparation, data collection and data analysis (Patton, 2015). The participant group represented a diverse spectrum of expertise and practical experience, drawing from civil society organizations, government agencies and academic institutions, ensuring a comprehensive and multifaceted perspective. This diverse assembly included academics such as professor in Geography, government representatives and practitioners such as directors from the Disaster Management Centre, a Former Director General from the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority, an additional secretary responsible for Policy and Administration at the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing and a research fellows from the Institute of Policy Studies. This broad representation of expertise and experience enriched the study, offering valuable insights into the intricate landscape of policy coherence in the realms of CCA, DRR and SDGs in Sri Lanka.

Interview questions consists of two main parts such as,

1. Issues in policies/plans in Sri Lanka with relevance to policy coherence of CCA, DRR, and SGDs in Sri Lanka
2. Suggestions for policy coherence DRR, CCA, and SGDs

Purposive sampling was used to select 10 government representatives, researchers and stakeholders for semistructured interviews, which allows deep and broad insights regarding policy coherence in Sri Lanka.

Both policy documents and interview data are analyzed by using NVivo. NVivo is a computer-assisted qualitative data analysis software used by researchers, analysts and organizations to support work with qualitative and mixed methods data. It provides a range of tools for coding,

categorizing and organizing qualitative data, such as interviews, surveys and text sources, and helps to identify patterns, themes and relationships in the data.

4.0 Findings

Findings are based on the content analysis of policy documents and interviews of government representatives and practitioners.

4.1 Reviewed policy documents

This study comprises of review and content analysis of 17 policy and legal documents. The below Table 2 provides an overview of the various policies and plans related to CCA, SDG and DRR in Sri Lanka.

No.	Policy/Plans	Key Feature
01	The National Climate Change Policy of Sri Lanka (2012)	Adaptation to and mitigation of climate change
02	National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change Impacts in Sri Lanka: 2016 – 2025	Adaptation to and mitigation of climate change. Reduce the vulnerability to climate risks.
03	National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (2016-2022)	Biodiversity conservation and ecosystems management in a sustainable manner.
04	National Environmental Policy (2003)	Promote the sound management of the environment while balancing social and economic development needs.
05	Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Sri Lanka (2011-2016)	Climate change adaptation, Improve climate resilience, healthy human settlements, and Safeguard Natural Resources and Biodiversity.
06	Sustainable Development Act (2017)	Incorporate seventeen Sustainable Development Goals in national planning processes, policies, and strategies in the relevant ongoing processes in the economic, social, and environmental fields.
07	National Policy and Strategy for Sustainable Development (Draft)	Embracing localizing and contextualizing the SDGs and providing guidance for action at all levels of governance.
08	National Policy on Sustainable Consumption and Protection (2018)	Minimizing the natural resources and toxic materials used and the waste and pollutants generated.
09	National Action Programme for Combating Land Degradation of Sri Lanka (2014)	Sustainable land resource management for the well-being of the people.
10	National Policy on Construction	Stimulate sustainable growth, reforms, and improvement, promote energy-efficient and environment-friendly technology, building materials, and systems
11	Disaster Management Act (2005)	Disaster management, Preparedness for disasters, and mitigation of disasters.
12	The Roadmap for Disaster Risk Management (2006- 2016)	Preparedness, response, mitigation, and risk reduction.

13	Mahinda Chinthana (2006- 2016)	Macro-Economic framework
14	National Policy on Disaster Management (2013)	Prevention, reduction, mitigation, Preparedness, emergency operations, relief, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction, and review.
15	Sri Lanka National Disaster Management Plan (2013-2017)	Reduced disaster impact on communities, infrastructure, lifeline facilities, shelter, agricultural property, and economic and development activities.
16	National Physical Planning Policy & Plan (2011-2030)	Protecting the environment, Reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, Human settlement development, Infrastructure facilities, Water resource development, and Economic Development
17	National housing policy (2017)	'Shelter for All by the Year 2025". Qualitative and quantitative improvement of housing Development.

Table II: Key features of selected policy documents

Source: Compiled by the author

Sri Lanka clearly has a number of policies and plans in place to address these concerns, as well as a commitment to CCA, DRR and SDGs. Sustainable development policies in Sri Lanka aim to balance economic growth, social development and environmental protection. The country's National Sustainable Development Strategy outlines a long-term vision for sustainable development and sets targets for various sectors, such as agriculture, energy and tourism (Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment 2018a).

DRR policies in Sri Lanka aim to reduce the impacts of natural disasters, which the country is highly vulnerable to. The Disaster Management Act of 2005 established a legal framework for DRR and management in Sri Lanka (Government of Sri Lanka, 2005). The country's National Disaster Management Plan outlines strategies to address disaster risks and reduce vulnerabilities (Disaster Management Centre, 2018).

Regarding CCA policies, Sri Lanka's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) aims to increase the country's resilience to the impacts of climate change. The NAP outlines actions to address climate change risks in sectors such as agriculture, water and health (Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, 2016a, 2016b).

Name	Files	References
Conceptual	0	0
Aims to build resilience	2	3
Discusses synergies or differences between DRR and CCA	0	0
Establishes linkages between disasters and climate-change risks	1	1
Financial	0	0
Includes an estimation of budget in support of joint DRR or CCA activities	0	0
Promotes risk insurance schemes to reduce the impacts of climate change	1	3
Refers to joint funding for DRR and CCA	2	4
Institutional	0	0
Describes coordination mechanisms to support coordination between CCA	1	1
Identifies external actors who support coherence between DRR and CCA	1	2
Identifies roles and responsibilities of DRR and CCA actors through a cross	1	1
Identifies the lead agency for DRR and CCA	3	3
Refers to coordination of DRR and CCA practices at the decentralized level	3	3
Operational	0	0
Identifies specific activities and sectors for which DRR or CCA are relevant	0	0
Includes objectives and activities aiming to boost coherence between DRR	0	0
Strategic	0	0
Adhere to international and national guidance	16	17
Adress CCA and DRR jointly	10	11
Mainstream DRR and CCA jointly into other sectors	1	1

Figure III: NVivo Node Structure; Content analysis

Source- Compiled by the author

4.2 Policy coherence in Sri Lanka; Review on policy documents

Figure 3 shows the NVivo node structure based on strategic, conceptual, institutional, operational and financial coherence which was developed according to aforesaid matrix (Table 1). Based on the hierarchy chart of the NVivo, Figure 4 developed to illustrate the matrix. According to that, the strategic dimension of policy coherence has become the most prioritized area among the five dimensions; adhering to the international and national guidance has been considered the most preferred area, which is followed by the opinion of addressing CCA and DRR jointly. The institutional dimension is the second highest referred dimension which has four categories. Similar examples have been acquired for both the coordination of DRR and CCA procedures at the decentralized level and identifying the lead agency for DRR and CCA. There is a medium level discussion of identifying external actors who promote DRR and CCA coherence. Also, the least reference was found for defining coordination mechanisms to enable coordination between

CCA and DRR stakeholders and activities/identifying roles and responsibilities of DRR and CCA actors through a cross-sectoral strategy.

Policy Coherence in five dimensions; Seventeen policy documents



Figure IV: Policy Coherence in five dimensions (matrix); Seventeen policy documents

Source- Compiled by the author

The financial dimension has come to rank three in the chart, where referring to joint funding for DRR and CCA has obtained a high reference than promoting risk insurance schemes to reduce the impacts of climate change and multiple hazards. However, the conceptual dimension of policy coherence has obtained less recognition compared to the other dimensions. Within the category aiming to build resilience to climate and disaster risks was obtained a high value than establishing linkages between disasters and climate change risks.

Through the content analysis, it is found that no operational coherence of CCA, DRR and SDG in most of the policy documents. Although there is a strategic and institutional coherence (which is very lightly focused) most of them are not operational. Financial coherence and conceptual coherence are slightly mentioned, and no pathway or direction given. There is an inadequacy of policy coherence of CCA, DRR and SDGs in Sri Lanka. The study identified that four policy

documents show limited integration, and five documents show partial integration. Only eight policy documents show substantial integration. Below eight policy documents will be discussed further comparing the contribution to the field of SDGs, CCA and DRR since only these eight documents have shown substantial contribution toward policy coherence compared to other nine documents (Figure 6).

No.		Strategic	Conceptual	Operational	Institutional	Financial
01	The National Climate Change Policy of Sri Lanka (2012)					
02	National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change Impacts in Sri Lanka: 2016 – 2025					
05	Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Sri Lanka (2011-2016)					
07	National Policy and Strategy for Sustainable Development (Draft)					
08	National Policy on Sustainable Consumption and Protection (2018)					
14	National Policy on Disaster Management (2013)					
15	Sri Lanka National Disaster Management Plan (2013-2017)					
17	National housing policy (2017)					

Table III: Content analysis of policy documents; Policy Coherence of CCA, DRR, and SGD in Sri Lanka. Light to dark: increasing intensity of coherence

Source- Compiled by the author

4.3 Interview findings of Policy Coherence approaches in SGDs, DRR, and CCA in Sri Lanka

The results of the NVivo analysis (figure 5) of the semi-structured interviews have identified seven pathways that can help improve sustainable development goals (SGDs), disaster risk reduction (DRR), and climate change adaptation (CCA) efforts.

The screenshot shows the NVivo software interface. On the left is a blue sidebar with the NVivo logo and project name 'Interview results.nvp (Saved)'. Below this are sections for 'Quick Access', 'IMPORT', and 'Data' (with sub-items 'Files' and 'File Classifications'). The main window displays a 'Codes' table with a search bar and a list of codes with their respective file counts and reference counts.

Name	Files	References
common monitoring and evaluation	10	12
Community involvement.	9	9
coordinated framework for the development of DRR and CCA risk assessments	8	9
goals to increase the coherence within CCA, DRR, and SDG	10	13
implementation strategies	10	13
Institutional cooperation	10	13
stakeholder management	10	19

Figure V: NVivo Node Structure; Interviews

Source- Compiled by the author

1. Enhancing the strategic coherence by improving goals to increase the coherence within CCA, DRR, and SDGs.
2. Intensification of Institutional cooperation
3. Improve the common monitoring and evaluation
4. Increase community involvement priorities of local communities and are more likely to be successful.
5. Increase the validity of coordinated framework for improving DRR and CCA risk assessments
6. Improve implementation strategies
7. Stakeholder management

5.0 Discussion

The coherent policy approaches of Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) are identified in the literature review. Issues in Policy Coherence of CCA, DRR, and SGD in Sri Lanka are identified with the content analysis of seventeen policy documents. To identify the pathways, eight documents are discussed with the results of semi-structured interviews of government representatives and practitioners.

5.1 Issues in Policy Coherence of CCA, DRR, and SGD in Sri Lanka

Some of the main issues derived from the above analysis are:

1. Fragmented approach: Each framework may be implemented in isolation, leading to duplication of efforts, conflicting priorities, and limited impact.

2. Lack of integration: The interlinkages between CCA, DRR, and SDGs may not be fully recognized, resulting in a fragmented approach to development that does not fully address the complex and interrelated challenges of sustainable development.
3. Inadequate coordination: There may be limited coordination between different levels of government, sectors, and stakeholders, leading to a lack of coherence and consistency in policy implementation.
4. Limited resources: The implementation of these frameworks may be hindered by limited resources, including financial, technical, and human resources, leading to a lack of effective implementation of policies.
5. Lack of monitoring and evaluation: There may be limited monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of these frameworks, making it difficult to assess their effectiveness and track progress toward sustainable development.
6. International frameworks inspire most policies, and local implementations are not focused on.
7. Lack of development cooperation for implementing new ideas, such as ecologically friendly and indigenous solutions for CCA and DRR or climate resilient infrastructure.
8. Inadequacy of the physical infrastructure to address DRR and CCA issues and insubstantial land use management to enhance coordination of DRR and CCA.
9. Limited community participation: While various policies emphasize community engagement in SDGs, CCA, and DRR activities, more concrete measures and objectives are needed to attain this involvement. It is significant considering communities' critical role in disaster risk reduction and adaptation.
10. The policies demonstrate why CCA and DRR need to be part of national development planning; nevertheless, more concrete actions and objectives are required to accomplish this integration. It is especially important given the complex interlinkages between climate change, sustainable development, and disaster risk reduction.

Since the policies demonstrate the importance of integrating CCA and DRR into national development planning, there is still a need for more concrete actions and targets to achieve this integration. This is especially important given the complex interlinkages between CCA, SDG and DRR.

5.2 Pathways of Policy Coherence in SDGs, DRR, and CCA

Based on the issues identified and the insights gained from semi-structured interviews with government representatives and stakeholders, there are several pathways for improving policy coherence in the frameworks of SDGs, DRR, and CCA in Sri Lanka.

5.2.1 Enhancing the strategic coherence by improving goals to increase the coherence within CCA, DRR, and SDGs

There are issues due to the need for a comprehensive and integrated strategic approach to align policy goals for CCA, DRR and SDGs. Although various policies recognize the importance of coherence and integration among CCA, DRR and SDGs, the strategic goals required to achieve such coherence must be more comprehensive and detailed.

The National Policy on Disaster Management (Ministry of Disaster Management, 2013a) strives to decrease disaster risks and vulnerabilities, but it lacks specific strategic goals to link DRR with CCA. Similarly, the National Policy and Strategy on Sustainable Development (draft) aims to achieve sustainable development but does not provide a clear framework to integrate CCA and DRR.

Furthermore, the CCA strategy for Sri Lanka (2011–2016) does not explicitly mention how to align CCA, DRR and SDGs, and the NAP for climate change impacts in Sri Lanka: 2016–2025 lacks a clear roadmap to achieve coherence and integration of the policies. These policy gaps suggest a lack of strategic coherence in aligning CCA, DRR and SDGs in Sri Lanka.

Setting clear and explicit goals for CCA, DRR and SDGs that are connected with the nation's overarching sustainable development program is critical. It can be achieved by promoting better communication and collaboration between relevant institutions, such as the Ministry of Environment, Disaster Management and Sustainable Development council.

5.2.2 Intensification of Institutional cooperation

Institutional cooperation is crucial in achieving policy coherence in CCA, DRR and SDGs. However, a lack of institutional cooperation in Sri Lanka in these policy areas leads to incoherence in policy implementation.

The National Policy on Disaster Management of 2013 and the Sri Lanka National Disaster Management Plan of 2013–2017 focus mainly on disaster response and emergency management. There is little emphasis on incorporating CCA and SDGs in these policies. Similarly, the National Housing Policy (Ministry of Housing and Construction, 2017) focuses mainly on providing affordable housing but does not sufficiently consider CCA, DRR and SDGs in the housing sector.

The lack of institutional cooperation is also evident in the absence of a coordinating body to ensure collaboration between different institutions and stakeholders in achieving policy coherence in CCA, DRR and SDGs. The 2016–2025 NAP for climate change impacts in Sri Lanka emphasizes the need for institutional collaboration in executing CCA measures. However, the policy does not clearly outline concrete measures to improve institutional cooperation and coordination.

Institutional structures for CCA, DRR and SDGs should be strengthened, focusing on ensuring the smooth functioning of these structures at the local and national levels. It includes creating platforms for inter-agency coordination and communication, developing guidelines for collaborative decision-making and setting up mechanisms for sharing information and knowledge.

5.2.3 Improve the common monitoring and evaluation.

In joint monitoring and evaluation, policy coherence ensures that different policies work together efficiently and effectively to achieve a common goal.

NAP for climate change impacts in Sri Lanka: 2016–2025 identifies the significance of monitoring and evaluation in achieving its goals. The policy emphasizes the need for a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system that should be integrated with other relevant policies and strategies, including DRR and SD. The policy calls for regular monitoring and evaluation of efficiency of policy in terms of its objectives, goals and targets. It also highlights the need for a reporting mechanism to be put in place to share information on the progress made in implementing the policy. The NAP emphasizes including DRR and CCA in development planning and decision-making. It aligns with the Sri Lanka National Disaster Management Plan: 2013–2017, highlighting the necessity of including DRR and CCA in planning. The NAP emphasizes strengthening water resource management and fostering climate-resilient agriculture to improve adaptive capability.

CCA strategy for Sri Lanka: 2011–2016 offers a comprehensive framework for tackling the effects of climate change on Sri Lanka's diverse sectors such as DRR, water resource management and

coastal zone management. The strategy emphasizes integrating DRR and CCA into development planning and decision-making. It aligns with the Sri Lanka National Disaster Management Plan: 2013–2017, highlighting the necessity of including DRR and CCA in planning. Improve adaptive capability emphasizes enhancing water resource management and coastal zone management. It aligns with the National Coastal Zone Management program: Strategic plan 2018-2023 (NOAA Office for Coastal Management, 2018) which encourages sustainable and integrated coastal management.

The draft of National Policy and Strategy on Sustainable Development provides a framework for promoting sustainable development in Sri Lanka. One way to evaluate policy coherence in this document would be to examine how it aligns with other policies that address related issues, such as environmental protection, poverty reduction and social equity. This policy highlights the importance of reducing poverty and promoting social equity to achieve sustainable development. It is consistent with the National Poverty Reduction Strategy: 2003, which aims to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion.

National Policy on Sustainable Consumption and Protection: 2018 emphasizes the importance of reducing waste through the implementation of the “3Rs” (reduce, reuse, recycle) and the development of a circular economy. It is consistent with the National Policy on Waste Management (Ministry of Environment, 2020), which prioritizes waste reduction and encourages using innovative technologies for waste management.

Furthermore, the NPSCP emphasizes increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy to minimize greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change. It aligns with National Energy Policy and Strategies of Sri Lanka (Ministry of Power, Energy and Business Development (2019), which establishes objectives for increasing the proportion of renewable energy in the country’s energy grid and improving energy efficiency.

National Policy on Disaster Management: 2013 (Ministry of Disaster Management, 2013a) provides a framework for DRR with preparedness and resilience in Sri Lanka. The NPDM emphasizes integrating climate change concerns into hazard mitigation management and promoting ecosystem-based methods for vulnerability reduction. It is congruent with the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (Ministry of Environment, 2011), highlighting the need for integrated DRR and CCA techniques.

The Sri Lanka National Disaster Management Plan emphasizes the importance of tackling disaster-related psychological repercussions on impacted populations, susceptible categories such as children, women and the elderly. It aligns with The Mental Health Policy of Sri Lanka (Ministry of Health, 2015) highlighting the need for comprehensive mental health care for disaster-affected communities. The NDMP emphasizes the necessity of incorporating DRR into education and training programs to develop individuals' and communities' ability to prepare for and respond to disasters. It aligns with the National Education policy framework (National Education Commission, 2022), highlighting the importance of catastrophe risk reduction and resilience in the educational system.

The National Housing Policy (Ministry of Housing and Construction, 2017) aims to provide affordable, decent and sustainable housing to all Sri Lankans. Examining how this policy corresponds with other policies that address relevant concerns, such as urban planning, land use and infrastructure development, is one method to assess policy coherence.

The NHP emphasizes the need to improve access to land and housing for low-income and vulnerable populations, including women-headed households and individuals with disabilities. The NHP highlights the importance of incorporating environmental and social sustainability considerations into housing design and construction. It is consistent with the general building regulations provided by the urban development authority in Sri Lanka which emphasizes the need for sustainable and inclusive urban development that promotes social equity and environmental protection.

Improving the standard monitoring and evaluation in policy coherence in SDGs, CCA and DRR in Sri Lanka requires a comprehensive and integrated approach that involves developing a coordinated monitoring and evaluation system: This includes developing a uniform system for monitoring and evaluation policy execution relating to CCA, SDGs and DRR, as well as building procedures for data and information exchange among various government departments, civil society groups and the commercial sector/private sector.

5.2.4 Increase community involvement

The NAP for Climate Change Impacts in Sri Lanka: 2016–2025 and the CCA Strategy for Sri Lanka: 2011–2016 intend to foster community-based adaptation and local community engagement

to manage climate change risks via a variety of initiatives such as raising public awareness and education and assisting in the creation of community-based adaptation plans (Ministry of Environment, 2011).

The draft of the National Policy and Strategy on Sustainable Development recognizes the need to engage communities in the formulation and implementation of sustainable development policies and programs and emphasizes the importance of participatory decision-making processes and the integration of community perspectives in policy development (Sustainable Development Council of Sri Lanka, 2017).

The National Policy on Sustainable Consumption and Protection: 2018 emphasizes the importance of empowering and engaging communities in sustainable consumption and production practices, including waste reduction, energy conservation and promoting sustainable lifestyles (Government of Sri Lanka, 2018).

Communities have an important role in disaster risk mitigation and response, according to the National Policy on Disaster Management: 2013. It highlights the significance of community-based disaster management measures, such as building community-based DRR strategies and encouraging community engagement in disaster preparedness initiatives (Ministry of Disaster Management, 2013a, 2013b).

The Sri Lanka National Disaster Management Plan: 2013–2017 also emphasizes the importance of community involvement in DRR and response activities. It includes provisions to enhance plans for community-based DRR and strengthen community-level disaster preparedness and response capacity (Ministry of Disaster Management, 2013a, 2013b).

The National Housing Policy: (Ministry of Housing and Construction, 2017) recognizes the need to engage communities in developing housing policies and programs. It emphasizes the importance of participatory approaches in developing housing plans and promoting community-based solutions to housing challenges (Ministry of Housing and Construction, 2017).

The following approaches might be taken to enhance community participation in policy coherence for CCA, SDGs, and DRR in Sri Lanka,

1. Increase public awareness and participation: Community-level awareness campaigns can be carried out to inform and educate the public on the relevance of policy coherence in CCA, SGDs, and DRR. The community should be encouraged to participate in creating and operating these policies.
2. Strengthen local institutions: The government should strengthen local institutions such as local authorities and community-based organizations, which play a crucial role in community involvement in policy coherence.
3. Cooperation and collaboration among public entities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community-based organizations (CBOs) can increase community participation in policy coherence. Stakeholders should collaborate to develop and execute policies that represent the community's needs and concerns.
4. Provide capacity-building training: Capacity-building training should be provided to the community to enhance their knowledge and skills on policy coherence and its importance in CCA, SGDs, and DRR. As a result, they will be able to actively engage in the establishment and execution of policies in these areas.
5. Promote transparency and accountability: Transparency and accountability in policymaking can promote community involvement and trust in the government. The government should ensure that the community is informed about policy decisions and their reasons.
6. Historical and traditional expertise and procedures should be included in CCA, SGD, and DRR policymaking. It will aid in developing policies/plans that are socially appropriate and responsive to the community's requirements.

5.2.5 Increase the validity of the coordinated framework for the development of DRR and CCA risk assessments.

There is no coordinated framework for developing Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) risk assessment in Sri Lanka for several reasons. The main reason is the lack of coordination and cooperation among relevant stakeholders, including the government sector, private sector, local communities, and civil society organizations, which leads to fragmentation and duplication of efforts in risk assessment.

The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Sri Lanka: 2011-2016 acknowledges the need for a coordinated framework for risk assessment. However, it recognizes the lack of a comprehensive institutional mechanism to address the issues. The draft of National Policy and Strategy for Sustainable Development highlights the importance of coordination among various stakeholders to implement sustainable development measures, including DRR and CCA, but does not provide a clear plan for developing a coordinated framework for risk assessment. The National Policy on Disaster Management: 2013 and Sri Lanka National Disaster Management Plan :2013-2017 provides guidelines for disaster management, including risk assessment, but do not specifically address the need for coordination with CCA measures.

Moreover, the lack of technical capacity, inadequate resources, and limited data availability are other significant challenges that hinder the development of a coordinated framework for risk assessment.

Although the reviewed policy documents recognize the importance of a coordinated approach to risk assessment, they lack clear plans and strategies to address the issues.

It is possible to adopt the following steps to strengthen the validity of the integrated framework for development risk assessments in policy coherence in CCA, SDGs, and DRR in Sri Lanka,

1. Integrating DRR and CCA into national planning: Incorporating DRR and CCA into national planning will ensure that policies and strategies are based on accurate risk assessments and that plans represent the country's goals. It can be accomplished by establishing a national forum for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation that gathers consultants/stakeholders involved in DRR and CCA to provide a place for debate, information exchange, and coordination.
2. Improving data collection and analysis: Reliable data collection and analysis are critical for developing accurate risk assessments. The government should prioritize collecting and analyzing data on hazards, vulnerabilities, and exposures and make this data publicly available. This can help create a more comprehensive and up-to-date picture of the risks communities face.
3. Incorporating new technology: Applying new technology, such as remote sensing and geographic information systems, can increase the reliability of identifying risks. These tools can help to identify and map hazards, assess vulnerabilities, and provide information

on exposure. This information can be used to develop more accurate and targeted risk assessments.

5.5.6 Improve implementation strategies

The policy documents in Sri Lanka, which address climate change adaptation (CCA), disaster risk reduction (DRR), and sustainable development goals (SDGs), often lack a coherent implementation strategy. There are several issues related to the implementation of policy coherence within CCA, DRR, and SDGs in these policy documents, including:

The policy documents often do not provide clear implementation plans and guidelines to achieve their objectives. The NAP for climate change impacts in Sri Lanka: 2016–2025 lacks a clear implementation plan, resulting in inadequate action to mitigate climate change effects (Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, 2016a, 2016b).

Another issue is the inadequate budget allocation to implement the policies. It leads to insufficient resources to implement the policies and achieve targets. For instance, due to inadequate budget allocation, National Policy on Disaster Management: 2013 was ineffective in the execution of the policy (Ministry of Disaster Management, 2013a, 2013b).

There is a need for a coordinated and integrated approach to policy implementation, with clear guidelines, adequate budget allocation, and a vital monitoring and evaluation system to address issues. There is also a need for greater collaboration and coordination among stakeholders to avoid duplication of efforts and waste of resources.

5.5.7 Stakeholder management

The NAP for climate change impacts in Sri Lanka: 2016–2025 emphasizes the value of stakeholder engagement and consultation to achieve its goals. The policy intends to include relevant parties, such as the public sector, private sector, commercial sector, academics and society, in developing and implementing adaptation plans (Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, 2016a, 2016b). For instance, the plan calls for involving local communities in identifying and prioritizing adaptation measures appropriate for their specific contexts.

Similarly, the CCA strategy for Sri Lanka: 2011–2016 recognizes the importance of stakeholder engagement and participation in ensuring effective implementation. The strategy outlines a

participatory approach to adaptation planning involving stakeholders from various sectors and levels, including the public, private and society (Ministry of Environment, 2011). For example, the strategy highlights the need to involve local communities in developing early warning systems and emergency response plans to address the impacts of climate change.

The draft of National Policy and Strategy on Sustainable Development also emphasizes stakeholder participation as a critical component of its implementation. The policy aims to promote sustainable development in Sri Lanka by addressing social, economic and environmental issues through a participatory approach that involves all stakeholders (Sustainable Development Council, 2020). For example, the policy outlines the need to involve stakeholders in developing sustainable land use plans and promoting sustainable tourism.

The National Policy on Sustainable Consumption and Protection: 2018 also recognizes the importance of stakeholder participation in promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns. The policy encourages sustainable consumption by involving stakeholders from different sectors, including government agencies, civil society and the private sector (Government of Sri Lanka, 2018). For instance, the policy calls for engaging with the private sector to promote eco-friendly products and services and to encourage sustainable waste management practices.

Stakeholder involvement and participation in DRR are also emphasized in the National

Policy on Disaster Management: 2013 and the Sri Lanka National Disaster Management Plan: 2013–2017. These policies acknowledge the need to incorporate communities, local governments and other stakeholders in DRR activities to ensure their needs and opinions are considered (Ministry of Disaster Management, 2013a, 2013b). The National Disaster Management Plan urges communities to build community-based DRR strategies/plans and encourage disaster preparedness and response.

The National Housing Policy (Ministry of Housing and Construction, 2017) highlights the need for stakeholder participation in promoting sustainable and affordable housing. In promoting sustainable housing practices, this policy aims to enhance the engagement of government authorities with private divisions and the community (Ministry of Housing and Construction, 2017). For instance, the policy calls for engaging with the private sector to promote green building practices and to provide affordable housing options for low-income communities.

One of the main issues is the lack of inclusiveness and participation of all stakeholders in the policy development process. It leads to a lack of ownership and support for the policies among stakeholders, which affects implementation of the policies.

In order to weigh efficiency and practicality of the policies, a mechanism for stakeholder feedback and monitoring of policy implementation is needed. The absence of such a mechanism generates complications in implementing and improving policies. Moreover, there is a lack of collaboration and coordination among stakeholders across sectors, resulting in duplication of efforts, conflicting priorities, and inefficient use of resources.

For example, the Sri Lanka National Disaster Management Plan: 2013-2017 does not provide a clear stakeholder engagement and feedback framework. It lacks clarification of the responsibilities and tasks of consultants and stakeholders in policy development and execution.

Establishing a more inclusive and participatory policy development process with clear roles and responsibilities for stakeholders is essential. A mechanism for stakeholder feedback and policy implementation monitoring should also be implemented. Additionally, there should be increased collaboration and coordination among stakeholders across sectors, focusing on identifying synergies and avoiding duplication of efforts.

6.0 Conclusion

Sri Lanka has been affected by various environmental disasters, including floods, landslides, droughts, and extreme weather events, which have been linked to climate change. As a result, Sri Lanka has been actively creating policies to build resilience and alleviate the effects of these tragedies. However, there are issues with the coherence of various policies of SDGs, CCA, and DRR, which are developed by different authorities, leading to duplication of efforts, conflicting priorities, and limited impact.

The study examined the coherent approach of CCA, SDGs, and DRR in Sri Lanka through a comprehensive literature study. The issues in policy coherence are identified by content analysis of seventeen policy documents, and the pathways for policy coherence are identified through semi-structured interviews with government representatives and practitioners. The study used NVivo software for data analysis.

Policy coherence refers to coordinating and aligning policies to achieve common goals. The frameworks of CCA, SDGs, and DRR are interlinked, and coherence between them is essential to achieve sustainable development goals resilient to climate change and natural disasters. A coherent policy approach involves the integration of these frameworks to identify the overlaps and gaps and to ensure that policies are implemented effectively.

There are several issues with the coherence of policies in Sri Lanka, including the fragmented approach, lack of integration, inadequate coordination, limited resources, and lack of monitoring and evaluation. International frameworks inspire the policies, and local implementations are not focused, leading to inadequate implementation of policies. The lack of development cooperation for innovative approaches, such as climate-resilient infrastructure and environmentally friendly solutions for CCA and DRR, further aggravates the situation. Another concern is the lack of land use management and responsibility for developing physical infrastructure for disaster risk reduction integration with climate change adaptation. It has been discovered that there is a lack of community engagement, which is critical in policy implementation.

The study explores pathways for policy coherence, such as enhancing strategic and conceptual coherence, promoting community involvement, encouraging stakeholder participation, developing multi-sectoral approaches, and strengthening monitoring and evaluation. The study recommends that policymakers and practitioners work towards improving policy coherence in Sri Lanka to enhance resilience to climate change and natural disasters, achieve sustainable development goals, and meet international obligations.

While the imperative for policy integration is acknowledged on a global scale, Sri Lanka, like many other countries, confronts challenges in achieving this alignment effectively. In more developed systems in countries such as the Netherlands and Canada, mechanisms for cross-sectoral collaboration, data sharing, and resource allocation are well-established, supporting a harmonized approach. For example, the Netherlands has crafted comprehensive strategies that seamlessly blend Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), aided by dedicated institutions overseeing coordination and monitoring. Canada's National Adaptation Strategy also seamlessly integrates climate change adaptation with broader policy frameworks, encompassing DRR and sustainable development objectives. These international examples underscore the need for Sri Lanka to adopt more coordinated, all-

encompassing, and inclusive policy-making approaches, allowing it to fully exploit the benefits of integrating CCA, SDGs, and DRR. By addressing the identified challenges and following the recommended pathways for policy coherence, Sri Lanka can move towards greater alignment with the global trend of embracing integrated approaches to tackle these pressing issues more effectively.

Recommendation

Based on the findings, several recommendations can be compiled, such as,

1. Combined national plan development for DRR and CCA to accomplish SDGs; A collaborative national strategy for DRR and CCA should be prepared, including the strategies, policies, and activities necessary to accomplish the defined goals and objectives. The strategy should be prepared in consultation with all important DRR and CCA stakeholders in Sri Lanka, including government agencies, non-government organizations, academic institutions, and the corporate sector. The following stages may be performed to build a Joint National Plan for DRR and CCA in Sri Lanka:
 - i. A thorough examination of present policies, plans, and tactics,
 - ii. Identification of the priorities and goals for DRR and CCA; and
 - iii. Development of a joint national plan.
2. Conduct more research: The study identified a need for more policy coherence and difficulties implementing international policies in Sri Lanka. Further research can help identify the root causes of these problems and provide more insights into potential solutions.
 1. Increase community and professional involvement: To improve the coherence of policies, it is essential to involve professionals and the community in the policy development process. It can help ensure policies are relevant to local conditions and have greater stakeholder buy-in.
 2. Increase capacity building: Capacity building is essential for improving policy coherence. The study can inform capacity-building efforts, such as training programs for government officials and stakeholders, to better integrate CCA, DRR, and SDGs in their policies and practices.

3. Strengthen international collaboration: As a signatory to international agreements, Sri Lanka should strengthen its international collaboration to improve policy coherence. Collaboration with international organizations can help Sri Lanka learn from the experiences of other countries and adopt best practices.
4. Foster multi-sectoral collaboration: Given the cross-cutting nature of CCA, DRR, and SDGs, multi-sectoral collaboration is critical for improving policy coherence. The study can foster greater collaboration between sectors and stakeholders to address these complex challenges.

To further augment the impact of these recommendations, a comparative study involving Sri Lanka and countries that have effectively implemented coherent policies in the domains of CCA, DRR, and SDGs could provide valuable insights into best practices that Sri Lanka can adopt. Additionally, examining strategies to enhance public awareness and how it can contribute to improved policy coherence is a promising avenue for future research. By implementing these recommendations in conjunction with the respective policy pathways, the study aims to have a lasting impact on policy coherence for resilience in Sri Lanka and make a significant contribution to the achievement of sustainable development goals.

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