The Twenty-eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG28)
on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)
24-26 November 2026, Niigata, Japan

CONSIDERATION OF SRI LANKA'S INTEREST IN JOINING EANET

I. BACKGROUND

1. On 28 June 2024, the Secretariat received a letter (dated 26 June 2024) from the Secretary of the Ministry of Environment of Sri Lanka signifying their intention to explore the possibility of becoming a member of the EANET to further improve their technical capacity and knowledge on acid deposition and air quality management (**Annex 1)**. The Ministry also acknowledged the obligations associated with becoming a Participating Country in EANET and confirmed its willingness to meet these obligations.

2. The possibility for Sri Lanka to become a member of EANET was discussed at the Working Group Meeting in 2024 (WG2024) held on 20-21 Aug 2024 (online). As stipulated in Paragraph 28, (i) c. of the WG2024 Report of the Session (EANET/WG2024/10), "*The Secretariat confirmed it would seek the guidance of the IG26 on this matter and proposed to prepare possible options on how to respond to Sri Lanka, for consideration of the IG26*."

3. At its Twenty-sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the EANET (IG26), that was held from 27-28 November 2024, the Secretariat provided four "*Proposed option in response to an application by a country from outside East-Asia for participation in EANET* (EANET/IG26/10/1)", including the applicable legal framework and legal implications, based on guidance from the UNEP Law Division. The proposed options are set out in **Annex 2**.

4. The Twenty-sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the EANET (IG26) further "*tasked the Secretariat to follow up with interested countries to find more information on the monitoring data and capacity of the interested countries*" (EANET/IG26/12). As tasked by IG26, **Annex 3** provides an overview of the status and scope of air quality monitoring in Sri Lanka.

5. The Overview of Air Quality Monitoring in Sri Lanka (EANET/SAC25/14/1) was presented and discussed during the Twenty-fifth Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting (SAC25) on the EANET, held from 20-22 October 2025 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

6. The discussions during SAC25 were included in the Report of the SAC25 (EANET/SAC25/15) as follows:

   (i) "A country suggested that the EANET has primarily focused on Northeast Asia due to the historical context of acid deposition. It was mentioned that modeling conditions would differ in the case of Sri Lanka, which currently does not conduct acid deposition measurements. Therefore, cooperation with Sri Lanka could focus on air quality–related activities. It was

further noted that, given the current limitations in capacity building and budget within the EANET, Sri Lanka could be invited to engage through project-based activities rather than as a full member.

(ii) A country noted that from the scientific point of view, wind conditions in Sri Lanka have some influence over certain EANET Participating Countries.

(iii) The NC reminded that Sri Lanka is part of the Malé Declaration and recommended the current activities of the Malé Declaration should be explained as reference information."

7. The Recommendations from the SAC25 to the IG27 on the request from Sri Lanka mentioned the following (EANET/SAC25/15, Annex 2):

"On the Air quality monitoring overview of Sri Lanka, the SAC25 recommends that IG27 consider Sri Lanka's request to join EANET, taking into account the discussions held at SAC25."

8. The Intergovernmental Meeting on the -EANET held its Twenty-seventh Session (IG27) from 27-28 November 2025, in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Decisions of IG27 EANET/IG27/12/Annex 2/VI. mentioned: *"On the Air quality monitoring overview of Sri Lanka*

a. Task the Secretariat to conduct an analysis on financial implication of inviting Sri Lanka to join as a full member of the EANET.

b. Invite Sri Lanka to join the SAC26 meeting as an observer to present their interest to join the EANET online."

9. As such, **Annex 4** provides an overview of the financial implication of inviting Sri Lanka to join as a full member of the EANET.

10. In addition, the Secretariat for the EANET reached out by email to Sri Lanka on 11 September 2026 to re-confirm their interest to join the EANET and invited Sri Lanka to join the SAC26 online to deliver presentation supporting their request. Sri Lanka delivered a presentation online on 22 October 2026 during the SAC26. The presentation is available in document EANET/SAC26/14/REV.

II. ACTIONS REQUIRED

11. Recalling the discussions described above during WG2024, IG26, SAC25, IG27 and SAC26, and considering the *Proposed option in response to an application by a country from outside East-Asia for participation in EANET* (EANET/IG26/10/1) presented in **Annex 2**, the IG28 is invited to consider the document "Consideration of Sri Lanka's Interest in Joining EANET (EANET/IG28/10)", and may wish to discuss, consider, and decide on the next steps, as appropriate.

ANNEX 1

පරිසර අමාත්‍යාංශය
சுற்றாடல் அமைச்சு
Ministry of Environment

"සොබාදම් පියස", අංක 416/සී/1, රොබට් ගුණවර්ධන මාවත, බත්තරමුල්ල, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව.
"சொபாதம் பியச", இல. 416/சி/1, ரொபர்ட் குணவர்தன மாவத்தை, பத்தரமுல்லை, இலங்கை.
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ඔබේ අංකය / உமது இல / Your No:
දිනය / திகதி: 26.06.2024

Mr. Bert Fabian
Coordinator of the Secretariat of the EANET
United Nations Environment Programme, Asia and the Pacific

Subject: Membership to EANET

Dear Mr. Bert Fabian,

On behalf of Sri Lanka, we would like to congratulate EANET on its achievements as the only regional cooperation initiative in East Asia focused on acid deposition and air pollution. The high-quality data collected and the platform provided for sharing common understanding over more than 20 years are highly appreciated.

Sri Lanka addresses air pollution issues under the National Environmental Act (NEA) to implement air quality monitoring, management, and regulatory functions under the supervision of the Ministry of Environment. The Ministry of Environment, as the national focal point, has formulated the National Environmental Policy and National Environmental Action Plan, including strategies for air quality management in the country as well as published regulations under NEA. As the operational focal point, the Central Environmental Authority, under the provisions of the NEA, has imposed several regulations to protect and maintain ambient air quality in the country.

Furthermore, both entities are involved in controlling air pollution in the country either in making policies or implementing them. Therefore, the Ministry of Environment would like to explore the possibility of becoming a member of EANET to further improve its technical capacity and knowledge in acid deposition and air quality management.

We understand the obligations associated with becoming a Participating Country in EANET and are prepared to meet these commitments.

Thank you very much, and we look forward to potential cooperation in the future.

Sincerely,

B K Prabath Chandrakeerthi
Secretary

Copy: Director General, Ocean Affairs, Environment and Climate Change Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs — For your information

"මේ මහතොළව සහ ගහතොළ මිනිසාට මෙන්ම අහසේ පියාසරන සියොතුන්ට ද මිනිමත සරන සිවුපාවුන්ට ද සියලු සතුන්ට ද එකසේ අයිතිය"
"இப் பூமியும், மரஞ் செடி கொடிகளும் மனிதனுக்கும் பொன்றே வானில் பறந்து திரியும் பறவைகளுக்கும், பூமியில் வாழும் உயிரினங்களுக்கும், தனைத்து விலங்குகளுக்கும் ஒருமித்துச் சொந்தமானது"
"This great earth and the flora on it equally belong to the man and the birds flying in the sky, the quadrupeds and all creatures living on earth"

ANNEX 2

Twenty-sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG26) on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)

The current document sets out the applicable legal framework (see A.) and legal implications (see B.) related to the four "Proposed option in response to an application by a country from outside East-Asia for participation in EANET (EANET/IG26/10/1)"

A. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

1. Instrument for Strengthening the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET)

Item 15 ("Revisions or Modifications")

1. Any revisions or modifications to any part of this Instrument may be proposed in writing by any Participating Country to be considered and adopted by the IG in consensus.
2. Subject to the official written consent by all Participating Countries, the revision or modification adopted by the IG will form part of this Instrument

Item 17 ("Participation of Other Countries")

Countries in East Asia, which includes Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia, not participating in the EANET, may subsequently submit to the Secretariat an application for participation, which is subject to approval by the IG.

2. Rules of Procedure for EANET

2.1 Rule 1.1 of the Rules of Procedure

Countries in East Asia (including Northeast and Southeast Asia) that is not originally participating in the Acid deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), may subsequently submit to the Secretariat an application for participation, which is subject to approval by the Intergovernmental Meeting.

2.2 Rule 9.1 of the Rules of Procedure

These Rules of Procedure may be amended by the Intergovernmental Meeting.

B. PROPOSED OPTIONS

Option 1: Participation in Selected EANET Projects/Activities

- This option requires a **legal basis** in the format of a "cooperation agreement" or similar instrument, to be **endorsed by the IG through a specific decision**.
- Sri Lanka would be permitted to **participate in one or more EANET projects/activities**.
- Sri Lanka's participation would be **in conformity with** the conditions laid down in the **agreement**, as well as the **existing legal framework**, i.e:
  1. The Instrument for Strengthening the [EANET] (The Instrument);
  2. The Rules of Procedures for EANET (The RoPs); and
  3. The EANET Project Fund and Project Guideline.

- Sri Lanka would have to cover its **own costs** for participation in the agreed projects and activities.
- Procedurally, this option would require a IG decision mandating the Secretariat to negotiate an agreement, for adoption at the next IG meeting.

Option 2: Grant Observer Status

- The **Instrument and RoPs do not currently provide for** the possibility of granting **observer status** to third countries.
- Both texts would thus **need to be amended**, in accordance with their applicable provisions: Item 15 and Rule 9.1, respectively.
- Rule 9.1 requires the IG to take a decision on the amendment of the Rules of Procedure.
- As for the amendment of the Instrument, in accordance with Item 15, the IG would need to **adopt by consensus a written proposal submitted by any Participating Country** to revise the provisions of the text as needed. Such a revision would then require the **written consent** of all Participating Countries.
- The IG would have to mandate a Participating Country to make a formal submission with a view to prepare draft amendments of the Rules of Procedure and the Instrument to enable States from outside East-Asia to participate in EANET, for adoption during the next IG.

Option 3: Decline the Request

- The IG may instruct the Secretariat to formally notify Sri Lanka that Item 17 of the Instrument and Rule 1.1 of the RoPs **limit membership and participation of other countries to countries in East Asia**, thus precluding the country's request from being accommodated.

Option 4: Accept as a Participating Country

- Pursuant to Item 17 of the Instrument and Rule 1.1. of the RoPs, **membership is limited to countries in East Asia**. This option would therefore require **amendments to both the legal texts**, following the same procedure outlined under Option 2.
- Upon completion of this process, **Sri Lanka could be admitted as a Participating Country** to EANET and would accordingly be **subject to the existing rules on financial contributions.**
- The procedural implications are identical to the ones under Option 2.

ANNEX 3

OVERVIEW OF AIR QUALITY MONITORING IN SRI LANKA

Overview

1. In Sri Lanka, there are several government agencies, semi-government and private institutions which are involved in the air quality management sector in different ways including direct air quality monitoring, policy development, enforcement and technical services providers. The institutions that are involved in air quality monitoring have air quality data collected for national programs as well as research programs. Some of these monitoring programs are continuous for several years and most of them are short term for research activities, project-based activities to comply the legal requirements.

Historical Background[1]

2. The first comprehensive continuous air quality monitoring program in Sri Lanka was started in 1997 by continuous measuring criteria air pollutants at two selected locations in Colombo with automated air quality monitoring system. The system collected data in every 5-minute data of criteria pollutants Sulphur dioxide (SO2), Nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), Carbon monoxide (CO) and ground level ozone (O_3) along with meteorological parameters and 24-hour PM_{10} data for every seventh day. In addition, air quality in other selected cities were monitored from time to time using similar mobile air quality monitoring stations.

3. This air quality monitoring system was halted in 2005 due to the unavailability of spare parts and financial assistance for the maintenance. At the same time, the National Building Research Organisation (NBRO), a national government research and development institute established in 1984, developed passive sampling technology in 2001 for SO_2 and NO_2 levels in ambient air and established an air quality monitoring network with 16 locations in and around Colombo to collect monthly average exposure levels. The program was continuing from 2001 to 2009.

4. Later in 2012, with the financial assistance of the Vehicle Emission Test Trust Fund (VETTF), the monitoring program was started again with 19 locations at Colombo urban area and the program was extended to other major city areas of Gampaha, Kaluthara, Galle, Horana and Rathnapura. The passive monitoring network was further expanded to cover urban area of Kandy in 2014, Kurunegala and Anuradapura in 2015 and Putttalum in 2018. With the passive sampling monitoring system, monthly averages of SO_2 and NO_2 were collected. Later, monitoring of fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) was started in November 2017 at above cities in monthly basis.

[1] https://env.gov.lk/web/images/downloads/biodiversity_division/completed_projects/air_quality_assessment_report_of_the_project_on_air_quality_assessments_for_health_and_environment_policies.pdf

Air Quality Monitoring by the Central Environmental Authority (CEA)

5. The Central Environmental Authority (CEA) was established in August 1981 under the provision of the National Environmental Act No:47 of 1980. The objective of establishing the CEA was to make provision for the protection, management and enhancement of the environment, regulation, maintenance and control of the quality of the environment and prevention, abatement and control of pollution.

6. The CEA monitors the ambient air quality using **two automated reference-grade real-time ambient air quality monitoring stations** (fully operational in March 2019) fixed at Battaramulla (urban site) (Colombo district) and Kandy town (urban site) (Kandy District) that were donated through the government's vehicular emission testing program and sensor-based equipment donated by UNEP installed in some areas in the island. **Parameters monitored** include PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$, SO_2, NO_2, O_3, and CO. The Air Quality Index (AQI) is also disseminated for the public daily available in the newly launched National Air Quality Platform (https://www.aq.cea.lk/).[2] The monitoring facility of **meteorological parameters** such as wind speed and wind direction, relative humidity (RH) and temperature were also integrated with monitoring stations as meteorological data are essential for data analysis and interpretation of results.

7. CEA also has low-cost sensors installed across the country. CEA is operating 12 low-cost sensors from IQAir, covering $PM_{2.5}$ which started in 2025. CEA integrated the low-cost sensors operated by NBRO in the national air quality platform (https://www.aq.cea.lk/). **Human resources:** There are about 7 team members within the CEA leading work on air quality, noise and vibration monitoring.

8. The CEA developed and recently launched software to facilitate data integration of air quality monitoring data and dissemination for public awareness, called **National Air Quality Platform** (https://www.aq.cea.lk/), with financial support of the Vehicle Emission Test Trust Fund (VETTF).

Analysis of Air Quality Data by the Central Environmental Authority (CEA)

9. To evaluate the air quality levels, CEA uses monitoring data received from the National Building Research Organization (NBRO) (around 14 low-cost sensors-based equipment) and University of Peradeniya (around 20 TSI Blue sky low-cost sensor-based equipment), and modeling and satellite information and weather conditions.

10. According to the monitoring data, **particulate matter (PM_{10} & $PM_{2.5}$) was identified as the primary criteria air pollutant** and during past years it is observed that the country's air quality stays majorly within the national ambient air quality standards but exceed in few major occasions during October to March periods due to the transboundary phenomena.

11. Annual averages of PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ at Battaramulla and Kandy monitored using Automated air quality

[2] https://www.cea.lk/web/images/pdf/airqulity/AQI-SL_Calculation_Guideline_CEA.LK_V1.0.pdf

monitoring stations (AAQMS) were shown in the Figure 1 and 2 and result of air quality monitoring during the Month of January 2025 monitored using AAQMS and low-cost sensor-based equipment were shown in the Figure 3.

12. The elevated $PM_{2.5}$ levels during the monitoring period as shown in Figure 3 are likely influenced by the transboundary effect, a common phenomenon during this season, where pollutants from neighboring regions are transported by wind patterns (Figure 4 & 5).

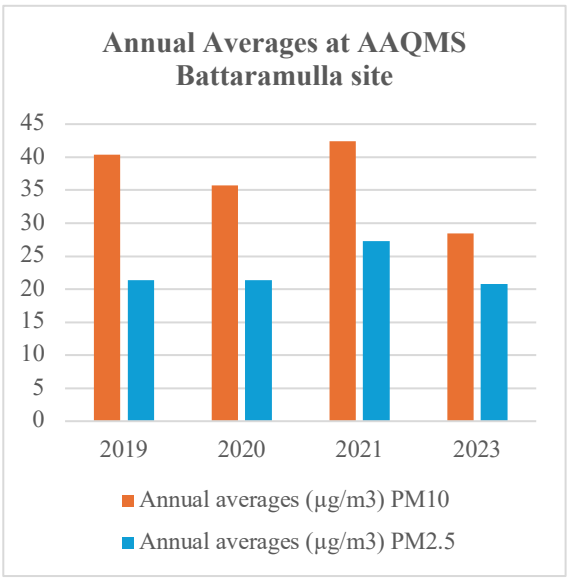

Figure 1: Annual Average of AAQMs – Battaramulla

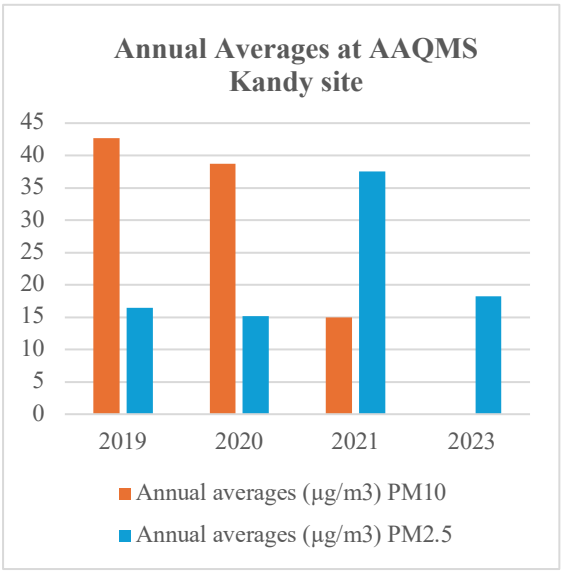

Figure 2: Annual Average of AAQMs-Kandy

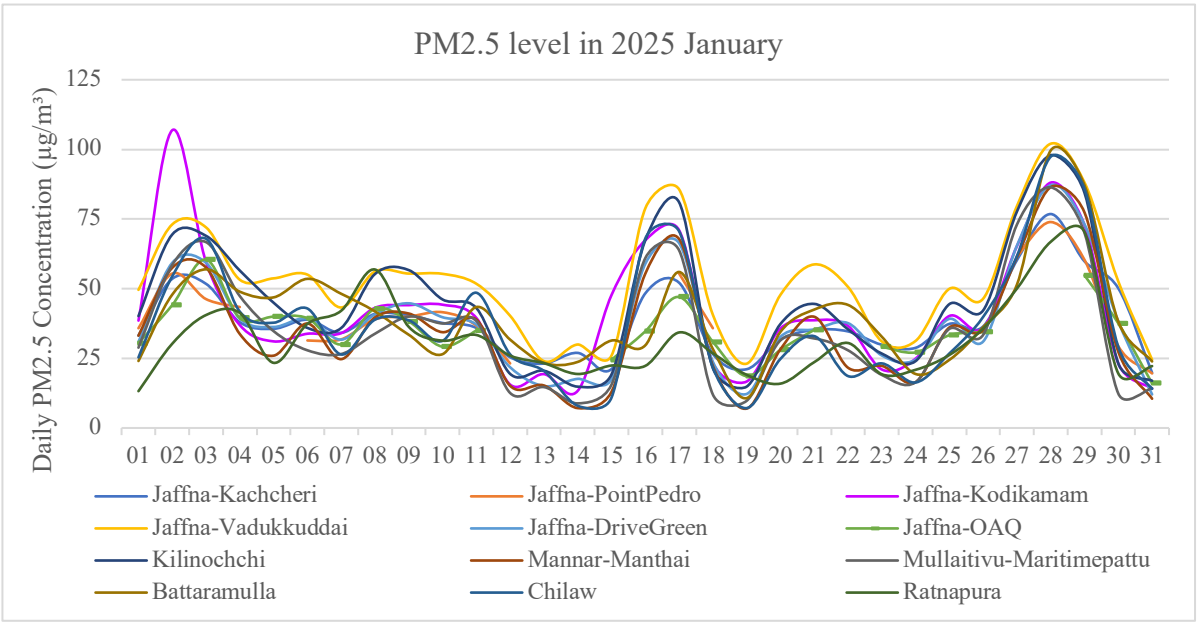

Figure 3: $PM_{2.5}$ level in 2025 January (low cost sensor air quality data)

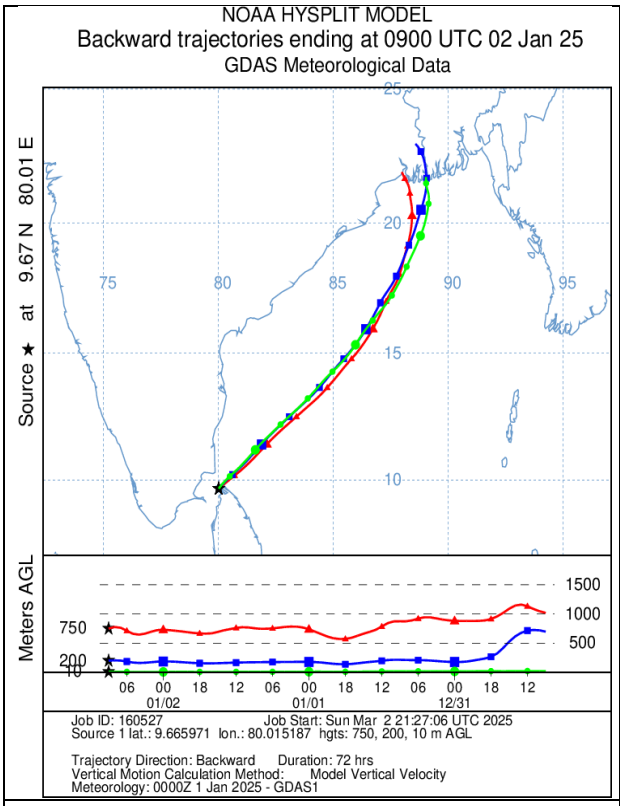

Figure 4: Modeling data 02/01/2025

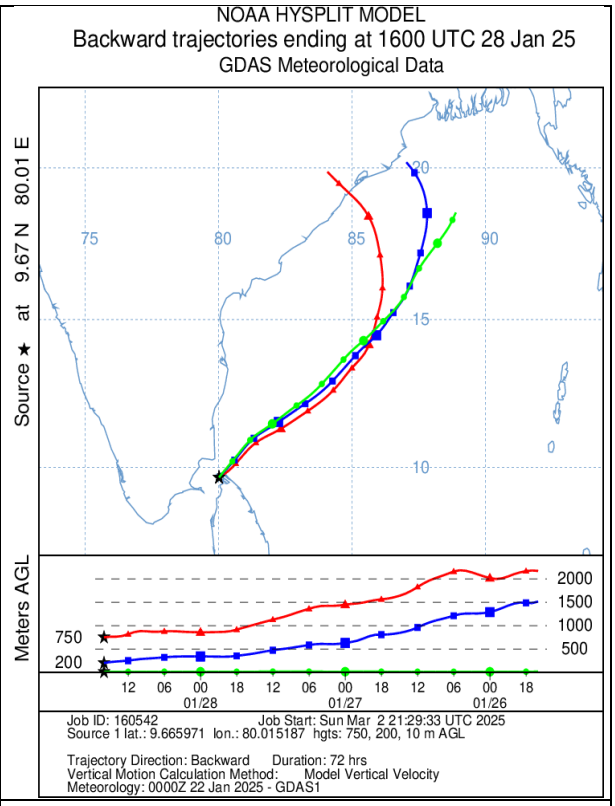

Figure 5: Modeling data 28/01/2025

Overview of air quality management in Sri Lanka

13. **National Environmental Act and establishment of Central Environmental Authority in 1981:** The Central Environmental Authority (CEA) is the main regulatory institute established to implement the National Environmental Act. Under its powers and functions, CEA is involved for conservation, protection and management of the country's environment including air quality management and monitoring.

14. **Clean air action plan:** Clean air 2000, 2015, 2025, 2030 action plan for air quality management was established by the Ministry of Environment with collaboration of all stakeholder agencies.

15. **Establishment of The Air Resources Management Centre (AirMAC):** The Air Resource Management Center (AirMAC) was established jointly by the Ministry of Environment and Central Environmental Authority in partnership with all stakeholder agencies to provide leadership, guidance and facilitation to manage the country's air resources by mitigating the air pollution in order to enhance the health and well-being of the public and air quality of our environment .

16. **National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) 2022-2030:** NEAP introduced 10 thematic area considering clean air to be essential, not only for human health and wellbeing, but also for the integrity of the biosphere. The action plan for the thematic area on Air Quality Management has following ten strategies.
    a. Strategy 1. Effectuate a sound institutional framework for integrated AQM, while fostering

advocacy, governance and stakeholder participation.

b. Strategy 2. Manage air pollution from mobile sources.
c. Strategy 3. Manage air pollution from stationary sources.
d. Strategy 4. Manage indoor air pollution issues.
e. Strategy 5. Prevent air pollution due to unethical, unintentional, unprofessional and harmful actions.
f. Strategy 6. Reduce air pollution by deploying environmentally sound technologies, processes and cleaner fuels.
g. Strategy 7. Establish comprehensive and integrated air quality monitoring and modelling facilities, with a centralized data sharing platform.
h. Strategy 8. Encourage information and knowledge management, including citizen science, for better air quality.
i. Strategy 9. Foster innovation, research and development for effective AQM.
j. Strategy 10. Enhance global participation and collaboration for furthering AQM.

17. **The National Environmental Ambient Air Quality Regulations:** According to provisions of the NEA, CEA has established the National Environmental Ambient Air Quality Regulations introducing maximum permissible level for six criteria air pollutants {particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10}), sulfur dioxide, ground-level ozone, carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide} in 2008. Furthermore, in order to maintain better ambient air quality in the country, the following regulations were cited furthermore considering the control of main air pollution sources.

    a. **The National Environmental (stationary source emission control) regulations:** The National Environmental (stationary source emission control) regulations were established by CEA for control industrial air emission. Industrial air pollution is mostly managed and regulated through the Environmental Protection Licenses (EPL) scheme and Environmental Impact Assessment procedure with the provisions of the National Environmental (stationary source emission control) regulations by the CEA.
    b. **The National Environmental (vehicle air, fuel and importation) standards:** The National Environmental (vehicle air, fuel and importation) standards to control air emission from transport sector and it was Amended 5 times and upgraded compatible with euro 4 standards Sri Lanka Vehicle Emissions Testing program (SVETP) was established to implement the National Environmental (vehicle air, fuel and importation) standards cited under the provisions of National Environmental Act.
    c. **The National Environmental (prohibition of burning of plastic waste) regulations:** The National Environmental (prohibition of burning of plastic waste) regulations was established by the CEA to control the air emission (dioxin & furan) from open burning of solid waste. Further CEA is involved to manage and regulate the air emission from burning of solid waste including plastic and polythene in order to prevent the emission of dioxin and furan with support of Sri Lanka Police.

18. **Contingency Response action plan:** CEA has prepared a Contingency response action plan (CRAP) with participation of stakeholder agencies in order to control local air pollution and reduce the exposure of citizens in any air quality deterioration events.

ANNEX 4

Table 1. Estimated Voluntary Financial Contribution of Participating Countries including Sri Lanka to the Secretariat & Network Center Core Budget for the EANET

Participating Countries	UN scale of assessment for 2026-2030 (%) ***	Scale of EANET burden sharing (%)	Estimated Annual Contribution (US$)	
			Secretariat	Network Center
Cambodia*	0.008	0.024	147	152
China	20.004	60.534	367,561	383,483
Indonesia	0.579	1.752	10,639	11,099
Japan	6.930	20.971	127,335	132,851
Lao PDR *	0.006	0.018	110	114
Malaysia	0.326	0.987	5,990	6,254
Mongolia*	0.004	0.012	73	76
Myanmar*	0.010	0.030	184	190
Philippines	0.198	0.599	3,638	3,795
Republic of Korea	2.349	7.108	43,161	45,029
Russia	2.094	6.337	38,476	40,145
Sri Lanka	**0.038**	**0.115**	**698**	**729**
Thailand	0.341	1.032	6,266	6,538
Viet Nam	0.159	0.481	2,922	3,046
Total	**---**	**100**	**607,200**	**633,500**

** Minimum amount for the voluntary financial contribution is US$ 200*

*** Estimated 5-year flat amount of annual voluntary contribution based on MTP for the EANET (2026-2030)*

**** UN Scale of Assessment 2026-2030: https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/79/249*

The estimated annual voluntary financial contribution from Sri Lanka to the EANET Core Budget is **US$ 1,427**, comprising US$ 698 for the Secretariat and US$ 729 for the Network Center, as calculated in accordance with the proposed EANET burden-sharing formula based on the United Nations Scale of Assessment (2026–2030) (Table 1). The inclusion of Sri Lanka as a Participating Country would result in a corresponding adjustment to the estimated annual voluntary contributions of the existing Participating Countries under the burden-sharing formula.

For reference, Sri Lanka has consistently supported UNEP's Environment Fund through voluntary contributions since 1981, with contributions generally meeting or closely aligning with its Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions (VISC), indicating a sustained commitment to multilateral environmental financing.

Table 2. Estimated Travel Costs for Participation in EANET Annual Meetings

Estimated Cost (2 representatives)	SAC (3 days)	STM (2 days)	IG (2 days)	Total (US$)
Round-trip airfare from and to Colombo, Sri Lanka	1,000	1,200	2,000	4,200
Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA)	2,576[1]	1,776[2]	1,620[3]	5,972
Total Estimated Cost	**3,576**	**2,976**	**3,620**	**10,172**

[1]*DSA rate: US$ 259/day – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for SAC26 (UN rate as of 1 July 2026).*

[2]*DSA rate: US$ 212/day – Jakarta, Indonesia for STM27 (UN rate as of 1 July 2026).*

[3]*DSA rate: US$ 186/day – Niigata, Japan for IG28 (UN rate as of 1 July 2026).*

In terms of expenditure, EANET would be expected to provide financial support for the in-person participation of two eligible representatives from Sri Lanka in the annual meetings including the Senior Technical Manager's Meeting (STM), the Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting (SAC), and the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG), in accordance with the existing practice for Participating Countries and the UN travel rules and regulations. As the locations of these meetings vary from year to year, the actual expenditure would depend largely on the meeting venues, applicable travel costs, and prevailing Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) rates.

Based on the current meeting arrangements for 2026, the estimated annual expenditure **is US$ 10,172**, covering round-trip airfare and Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) for participation in the STM (2 days) in Jakarta, Indonesia, the SAC (3 days) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and the IG (2 days) in Niigata, Japan, as presented in Table 2.