

AN ECOLOGICAL APPROACH TO PLANNING FOR CITY GROWTH : THE CASE OF KANDY

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It is now widely recognised in human settlements planning that the city is not an independent entity capable of existing on its own; but is in dynamic equilibrium with its surrounding environment. Changes related to city growth will impact upon this delicate balance and need to be controlled by proper environmental planning if the sustainability of the city is not to be affected.

This paper is based on a research study related to the development and growth of Kandy, a major hillside city, which is presently undergoing rapid expansion. Development is predominantly residential. The city centre, on the valley floor is saturated; and residential development is encroaching further into the surrounding hills, affecting many important natural systems.

The study focusses on the relationships or linkages of the multiple city communities with their respective surrounding ecosystems. The methodology is based on an assessment of living areas in the city through weighting the impacts resulting from the relationships of communities with their natural environment.

The study results in identifying the localities in the city where the impacts are most felt. Through the identification of such localities environmental inputs will be provided into the Development Plan of the city of Kandy.

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