

## **SRI LANKA WATER PARTNERSHIP SIX MONTH JOURNAL**

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### **Goal I: Promote Water as Key Part of Sustainable Development**

#### **Activity 1**

The Second Phase of a survey of River Sand Mining Sites (3 Basins) in Ratnapura District was conducted in August with the assistance of the University of Colombo and NetWwater. Areas of high mining were mapped and extraction levels against approved limits monitored. Report prepared to be made available for District Secretaries Annual Meeting with Heads of Agencies / Ministers. Hitherto while spot checks and incidents have been reported and discussed, this is the first time reliable data is being presented at this vital meeting.

#### **Output**

Expected that reforms in issue, regulation, transport and monitoring of sand mining, especially in major water supply rivers will be further improved, based on findings. Decentralization and delegation of central control by regulator is already taking place. Survey provides information for continuing evidence based advocacy / lobbying on RSM by SLWP.

#### **Activity 2**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting / Workshop of the Uva Water Resources Committee set up for managing and resolving water supply, allocation and water quality / pollution issues in Uma Oya and Bomuruella Reservoir which supplies drinking water to Welimada was held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

#### **Output**

Action Plan has been developed and effective coordination among water stakeholders takes place. Forum for discussion and resolution of conflicts / disputes is available. RBO programme is reinforced by this development. A video on pollution of Uma Oya has been prepared for use in awareness creation.

#### **Outcome**

Change in operational strategy by water sector institutions in Uva Province observed. Will be expanded to other Basins / Provinces where especially drinking water issues are a major concern. National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB), SLWP Partner, has proposed that SLWP / NWSDB sign a formal MOU to work together, thus recognizing its role and contribution. When given effect will enable SLWP to expand its programme and interact at an official level in the drinking water sector.

#### **Activity 3**

The River Pollution Mitigation Programme in Nanu Oya in Central Province initiated with a Road Show in 2009 has now gained momentum. A follow up programme was organized on 24<sup>th</sup> October in collaboration with NetWwater, University of Peradeniya, Lions Club of Pilimalatalawa and the Local Trade Chambers. The Bogambara Prison Authorities supported by sending a contingent of prisoners to take part in the clean up process.

#### **Output**

Marked reduction in dumping of garbage in town premises by traders noted. Bio Cell technology by major private sector firm being considered for introduction as measure to support programme and reduce sewerage dumping in river. Extension programme on this was held on 28<sup>th</sup> October on Illukwatte canal, a major tributary of the Nanu Oya. Cooperation and interaction between local trade chambers and local authorities have improved significantly.

## **Goal II: Coping with Critical Water Challenges through Partnerships to Secure Mutual Goals**

### **Activity 1**

Climate Change Adaptation. Two Provincial Climate Change Dialogues and Awareness Programmes were held earlier in Southern and North Central Provinces for middle level technical staff of the related agencies. This was to be followed by a National Dialogue on CCA. The Climate Change Adaptation National Dialogue planned for 2011 was held on 30th November at Hotel Galadari. This Dialogue which is a joint activity with the Centre for Climate Change Studies of the Department of Meteorology, the Disaster Management Centre and the Ministry of Disaster Management is the follow up national level activity to the two regional activities undertaken with respect to the Southern and North Central Provinces of Sri Lanka earlier. The Dialogue was Chaired by the Secretary to the Ministry of Disaster Management Ms. Marina Mohammad and Chief Guest was the Minister in Charge of Disaster Management Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera. In all, over 50 participants attended, representing the relevant main agencies and Ministries. The Hon. Minister appreciated this initiative of SLWP linked both to the provinces and to national level and encouraged future dialogues as well. His Ministry and agencies would support continuation of this programme in future. Adaptation to Drought and Flood Management were two areas needing urgent attention and clear policy requirements had to be articulated for the future. A Drought Policy was in the making.

### **Output**

A core recommendation of the Dialogue was the need to establish a strong coordination arrangement to access and share hydrological data and on water and climate change related issues. This highlights the fact that though an Integrated Water Policy which had this recommendation as well is on the backburner due to mainly a lack of political commitment these issues are now resurfacing because of the impact of disasters and environment related issues and will be addressed in other ways. Similarly issues related to rivers (impacts of sand mining) and ecosystems are now being addressed through environmental issues. Therefore while such issues would have been better served and addressed in an integrated manner through focus on an integrated water policy, they have now to be addressed through linkages to disasters and negative environmental impacts.

### **Activity 2**

Promoting RBO. RBO activity was linked to the Uva Province Water Resources Committee activity in Uma Oya under Goal 1. This was also linked to a downstream linked basin, the Menik Ganga Basin, where a 3-stage activity including resource mapping, land use planning, land degradation assessment and prevention programme was initiated in February. The programme covers both the upstream and downstream areas of many major and minor reservoirs. As part of the second stage the Agency Coordination Committee for the downstream areas centered around the Buttala Division meets regularly to discuss and resolve allocation and pollution mitigation issues especially the release of large quantities of effluent from the major sugar industry that was affecting drinking water supplies and even agriculture in the area.

### **Output**

The sugar industry has constructed minor reservoirs for water storage for its own use though its water use and discharge, especially during low flows continue to affect other users in the basin. The agency committee which meets at least every quarter has resolved many inter-agency disputes and become a forum for other stakeholders to express views for consideration and resolution.

### **Activity 3**

#### **Regional Programmes.**

a) SLWP participated in the GWP-SAS Regional Consultation on Integrated Drought Management held from 24th to the 26th of July in Colombo. In addition to participation by Chair, SLWP and a paper presentation on behalf of SLWP by Prof. Champa Navaratne, 4 experts nominated by SLWP participated in this consultation which developed policy options for drought management and a pre proposal for submission to donors.

b) SLWP participated in the Water Integrity Network (WIN) and GWP-SAS organized Training Workshop and Dialogue held in Colombo on 27th, 28th and 29th of July in Colombo. In addition to Chair and Vice Chair there were 5 partners from Sri Lanka. An MOU with WIN was developed and the use of tools such as Integrity Scans was used to impart training at this workshop.

c) SLWP and WIN organized a workshop for orienting SLWP Partners and WIN Members in Sri Lanka at IWMI on 30th July. It was expected to develop a programme and pursue building a coalition against water corruption. WIN appreciated the RSM programme undertaken by SLWP in 2008 which had recorded good results.

#### **Goal III: Reinforce Knowledge Sharing and Communications, Capacity Building**

With SACOSAN due, the focus was creating awareness and supporting issues related to health sanitation. The Central and Southern Provinces were main target areas as these areas had major issues on health sanitation. This was carried out in an integrated manner at AWP level, under the SLWP schools programme and under the Gender and Water Dialogues.

#### **Activity 1**

A school sanitation survey was carried out for the first time by SLWP with the assistance of NetWwater, Nilwala AWP and University of Ruhuna in the Matara District. The survey highlighted the poor state of school sanitation infrastructure within the schools in Matara in August. The findings were highlighted in the national press and given wide publicity.

#### **Output**

Response was positive by the education authorities of the province, who agreed to undertake a planned programme of improvement.

#### **Activity 2**

The Upper Mahaweli AWP with the Nation Builders Association, a major partner held an awareness programme with the assistance from the health authorities of the Gampola Urban Council and other agency staff on 10th August. This was to reinforce the Central Province programme under SACOSAN and related schools programme.

#### **Output**

Relevant Local authority and agency staff now aware of issues that need resolution. Agreement to better coordinate among local authorities and local agency staff.

#### **Activity 3**

A Sanitation Leaflet for schools was drafted at a workshop in Kandy held on 19th September. All health sanitation agencies in Central Province were represented.

#### **Output**

5000 Copies of the leaflet in Sinhala have been printed. Cost of printing was sponsored by partner, Brandix Limited. Tamil translation underway, to be followed by English version. 1000 copies of sanitation poster to be displayed in schools in Sinhala has also been printed, English / Tamil versions planned for early 2011 in time for SACOSAN.

#### **Activity 4**

Two Rainwater Harvesting tanks were financed by SLWP to be installed at Nugawela Girls Central College as part of support for the sanitation programme and continuous link under the Schools programme by this school.

#### **Output**

Adequate water is available for sanitation and related needs of the school from this system.

#### **Activity 5**

Gender and Water Dialogue. A Gender and Water Dialogue for women in the Central Province (Nuwara Eliya District) was held in Nuwara Eliya on 30th and 31st August. Resource persons were from SLWP, NetWwater, University of Colombo and Hatton National Bank. 36 women from agencies and NGOs participated in this 2 day programme and received training / awareness on not only IWRM, Health / Sanitation but also on Climate Change Adaptation. This is a continuing programme like the schools program of SLWP.

#### **Activity 6**

Blog and Podcast Training for young Environmentalists. The 3rd Two Day Training Programme for new youth and as a refresher follow up for some already trained, was undertaken on 30th and 31st October. 20 Youth were trained. This programme is in great demand and 8 blogs are now functional.

#### **Output**

Real-time posting has resulted in marked improvement in agency response to water / environmental issues highlighted. Improved and quick sharing of information and reduced negative behavior of some who pollute / mine river sand illicitly, etc.

#### **Activity 7**

Other AWP Activity. The Menik Ganga AWP in the Southern Province organized its annual campaign for a Clean River during the July religious festival where pilgrims and traders tend to heavily pollute the river. This Programme since 2004 has enabled reduction of direct pollution to a large measure by pilgrims arriving from other areas. This programme handled in conjunction with the temple authorities, local authority and the AWP has gained tremendous support especially in the Sella Kataragama area for its efforts.

#### **Output**

This has helped the Water Board in providing better quality water from its intakes. Use of banners, leaflets and public address systems at strategic places throughout the festival week has brought good results. The major participants and supporters have been the youth of the area.

### **Activity 8**

A “*shramadana*” (voluntary labour contribution) to clean up Bowella Area under the continuing programme of pollution mitigation being undertaken by the Maha Oya AWP was held on 31st August. This was a follow up programme to one held on 6th June. 100 school children, 20 teachers and 20 AWP Members participated in this clean up campaign. A brochure (1000 Nos.) in Sinhala is being printed for the next programme. The intent is not only clean up but to make this area a special environmental zone with planting of medicinal plants and as a park area.

### **Output**

Support from the school and AWP members has enabled progress to be made. Planting of medicinal plants planned for 2011.

### **Goal IV: Build a More Effective Network**

#### **Activity**

Chair SLWP and Programme Coordinator participated in the IWMI / Sri Lanka Consultative Committee Meeting with the IWMI 25th anniversary celebrations on 21st September 2010.

SLWP held its 3rd Steering Committee Meeting on 15th November. Chair GWP Dr. Letitia Obeng and Network Officer Dr. Mercy Dikito Wachtmeister participated in the Meeting which evaluated progress to date and approved the Programme and Budget for 2011. In all, 3 SC meetings were held in 2010.

SLWP held 5 Programme Committee Meetings during the period July to December 2010. 11 PC Meetings were held during 2010.

The Annual Partners Forum was held on 14th December. 66 Partners and collaborators were present. Ho. Tikiri Kobbekaduwa Governor of Central Province and Chair Upper Mahaveli AWP was Chief Guest. Election of New Chair and Vice Chair took place at the Partners Forum. Ms. Kusum Athukorala was elected Chair while former RC Member Mr. S Elakanda was elected Vice Chair of SLWP.

Chair SLWP and RC Member Ms. Mallika Samaranayake attended the 16th Regional Council Meeting in Karachi on 12th and 13th November. Ms. Swarna Sumanasekera was nominated RC Member for period 2011- 2013 as Ms. Samaranayake’s term ended on 31st December 2010.

New Partners. 6 New institutional partners have applied for SLWP / GWP Partnership. 4 have been processed and sent to GWP the other 2 are being processed for submission.