

Name of Country: Sri Lanka

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1. Nature of Water Crisis / Status of Water delivery

National Water Supply and Drainage is the national agency for providing water and sanitation facility to the nation.

As per the annual report of the ministry to the finance 2007/p.159, the National water supply and drainage board (NWSDB) is the 3rd largest corporation/board own by the government. National water supply and drainage board as a leading service organizations, is vested the power for providing drinking water service to the nation. The mission of the board is *“Serve the nation by providing sustainable water & sanitation solutions ensuring total user satisfaction”*.

Accordingly the board mainly involved in providing drinking water to the nation. At present 31% of the total population is fed drinking water. The board has targeted to provide drinking water to the entire population in year 2020. In addition to that the board is maintained 5 sewerage schemes at present. That is very little percentage of the population.

The major problem faced by the board is handling customer grievances. The high non revenue water percentage (NRW) is, also a reason for dissatisfaction of customers. The NRW of the board is approximately 35%. This issue has taken up to the national level. The government also considered this as one of the major issues that has to be address by the government.

2. Form of Public Management

The water board is mainly maintained the water supply schemes in the country. In addition to that Kandy municipality is maintained its water supply scheme. Several local authorities are maintained their small water supply schemes. Community based organizations also maintained several water supply schemes in Sri Lanka. Water board is responsible for maintaining the quality of water supply in our country.

Recently Sri Lanka established a Public Utility commission (PUC) for regulating the Water Board, Petroleum Corporation and the Ceylon Electricity board. The PUC is not active due to many reasons.

3. Policies relating to Financial and Tariffing issues.

The water board has introduced a National tariff to schemes operated by the board. Before implementing the tariff the board should obtaining the government approval. The tariff is

prepared with considering the cost of production. The cost of production is about 23 rupees per meter cube. But the general public is provided water with reduced rates. Balance is borne by the government or commercial sector. The schemes operated by other organizations also implemented their tariff. (The board tariff will be distributed at the conference).

4. Law relating to water as part of the Commons.

Our country also recognized that citizen has fundamental right to water. The water board is vested the power to control the ground water extraction in the country. Water is considered as common resource in the country. Water management council has been established for regulating the issues. Irrigation department, Agriculture department, Ceylon Electricity Board and Machiavelli Authority are the major parties who sharing the water in Sri Lanka.

5. History of water conflicts

The ancient Great King, Parakramabahu has ordered not allowed to flow single drop of water to Sea (received from rain) without using.

Note:-

I will send following information's later\

Water and Traditional Practices

(Can you send as many local proverbs, stories, folktales and other literary forms including pictures / pictorial representations, which deal with the subject of water, water conservation, and respect for water and so on?)

A list of traditional water management practices from different regions, including practices which may have disappeared or changed in the last 2-3 decades. Please also describe the social practices underlying such traditional water management practices (as for example any particular community which was traditionally assigned the task of repairing wells or water ways for which they received remuneration from the community.)