

Work plan (July 2006 – July 2007)

Submitted to

**Cap-Net Network Mangers Meeting
Delft**

14th – 21st October, 2006

by

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Introduction

CapNet-Lanka, a key partner of the Sri Lanka Water Partnership(Lanka Jalani), continues to work with other networks associated with the promotion of IWRM. The CapNet-Lanka was able to bring together a diverse group of professionals through its capacity building programmes and continue to work with them in numerous ways. The members find that the synergy of working together has helped to strengthen the linkages which were established through the CapNet-Lanka. The students and the teachers of training institute, especially the IWRM programme at the PGIA, have also benefited immensely through the improved access to teaching materials made available by the global Cap-Net and Cap-Net Lanka. With the experience gained and the credibility established through its activities during last two years, the Cap-Net Lanka expects to expand its activities based on its objectives and to make a visible impact in years to come. The main objective is to extend the IWRM capacity building to a wider section of the community through various training programmes and activities.

The specific objectives of the CapNet-Lanka are to;

- Increase access to education, training and research in IWRM.
- Enhance co-ordination among capacity building institutions through activities.
- Facilitate efforts of network members to strengthen their capabilities in delivering capacity building services.
- Stimulate interaction among water professionals.

In this respect the activities in the present proposal are basically focused on the following agenda.

1. **Organized and programmed education and training on IWRM:** This will strengthen the capacity of institutions while improving the network among the institutions. The trainings will be expanded on main thematic areas in the IWRM such as Institutional linkages, Research formulation and Gender & water dialogue.
2. **Coordination and facilitation in implementation of IWRM:** This brings the ownership of the national issues in water management to the relevant institutions and improves the institutional arrangements in implementing IWRM. e.g: Sand mining dialogue, water quality monitoring programmes etc.
3. **Documentation and dissemination of IWRM related materials:** Documentation of case studies and translation of the existing materials into local languages: The idea is to pool and disseminate the knowledge & know-how generated in IWRM and to localize the material used in the regional and global training programs.

All activities are in collaboration with Government and Non-Government organizations for logistic and other supporting services. Postgraduate students following IWRM at Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA), University of Peradeniya are directly involved in all activities.

Activities:

1. Development of Database & Website and maintain the website

A database on institutions involve in water related activities in Sri Lanka will be created for strengthen the network as well as for the public usage.

The website is aimed for more publicity to CapNet-Lanka and its past and future activities for a wider audience. The website also will serve as the source for IWRM related materials particularly for local conditions in local languages. It also will have linkages with other institutions for an effective network. This activity will improve access to information and knowledge.

Dr. M.I.M Mowjood, Coordinator will be responsible for this activity since it is based at the secretariat of the CapNet-Lanka. A web master will assign for updating the website regularly on request.

Website: www.capnetlanka.org

2. Awareness programs for schools, NGO's, Government and other relevant sectors in IWRM- 4 programs

The capacity building in IWRM across the society is greatly felt. The awareness programs on IWRM for school children and teachers in selected tributaries are considered as a long term strategy to produce next generation with the knowledge, skill and attitudes towards water management. Similarly, CapNet-Lanka will coordinate half a day programs for GO and NGO at their premises. CapNet-members who have been trained at the previous ToT programs will serve as resource persons. This would be a kind of in-situ training programs explaining the key principals and themes of IWRM and discussing the problems faced in implementing the IWRM concepts.

Two core group (CG) members, Dr. P.V.R Punnniyawardene (Department of Agriculture) and Mr L.L.A Peries, a chartered engineer (National Water Supply and Drainage Board) will coordinate this activity. Two schools programs and a program for the staff of National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB) and another program for a NGO (Plan Sri Lanka) will be conducted in this year.

3. Water quality awareness and monitoring for school children (Pinga Oya & Nanu Oya)-one year

Pinga Oya and Nanu Oya are two tributaries of Mahaweli River in the central hilly area of the country.

Pinga Oya and Nanu Oya flows through the highly populated muliti ethnic areas. This cathment has a diversity of economic activities including industries which cause pollution. There are also considerable encroachments of the Mahaweli reservation along Pinga Oya which is heveily built over. Raw sewage is discharged into the river during the rainy season. It is a major health hazard since the same water is used for bathing and washing

in the down stream. Uncontrolled pollution result in over 100 cases of typhoid in one year. In order to face this problem in Pinga Oya, NetWwater mobilize the community to understand the problem and to take initiatives in 2004. Several “Jala Hamuwa” (Water Meetings) were held with different stakeholders and it was found that the school children responded very positively on this issue.

As a continuation of this program CapNet-Lanka keen to train the school children in water quality monitoring program in both tributaries. Four schools, two from upper stream and two from down stream will be selected in each tributaries and the training will be given at the laboratory of the university using water quality test kits. Technical assistance will be obtained from the laboratory of National Water Supply and Drainage Board. The data will be displayed along the river for public. This activity will be conducted in collaboration with the Zonal Director, Education Office, NetWwater and National Water Supply and Drainage Board.

4. Compilation and provision of materials and providing human resources for IWRM programmes

It is important to document the case studies related to IWRM at national level for using as teaching material in future training programs. A workshop will be conducted on “Development Initiatives in Water Sector: Lessons Learnt by NGOs” at the end of the year 2006. The NGOs have been working individually and in collaboration with the GOs to eliminate the rural poverty and to uplift the standard of living of the marginalized communities right across the country. In that pursuit, they have been instrumental in addressing the emerging needs of the rural poor in many ways. One of the aspects that brought credibility to the NGOs in the recent past was their interventions in water sector. The interventions have been target oriented, and the outputs, effects and impacts at various levels have been monitored and documented to satisfy the donor’s needs. However, such findings, or the lessons learnt from such interventions have not been disseminated to the other actors and stakeholders in the water sector in the country in a systematic manner.

CapNet-Lanka views that the NGO’s interventions as participatory research initiatives, and values the outputs as beneficial beyond the NGO circle. Therefore, we strongly believe that sharing the lessons learnt could benefit a wider community. Dr. S. Pathmarajah, a member of the CapNet-Lanka will coordinate the workshop and compilation of the case studies.

Providing human resources: With the initiation of our participants of the previous ToT programs, IWRM becomes one of the agenda in their routine staff training programs of their institutions. CapNet-Lanka is pleased to provide resource persons for their programs on request. Transport and the honorarium will be paid to the resource person.

5. National ToT in IWRM (4 days)

ToT in IWRM is one of the key program for CapNet-Lanka. The second National ToT workshop will address many different aspects, themes and principles of IWRM as well as

innovative skills needed for effective training and education of water sector professionals and practitioners working in various aspects of water resources management. The National ToT is structured on the experience of Global ToT in Neuchatel in June 2003, the Regional ToT & National ToT in Sri Lanka in November 2004 & June 2005 respectively and the lessons learnt from those workshops. The training materials developed globally/regionally and nationally will be discussed and made available to the participants of the ToT.

The main objective of the ToT workshop in IWRM is to strengthen the capacity of trainers in Sri Lanka by providing them with up-to-date knowledge on the principles of IWRM and equipping them with innovative training skills. It will be used as a platform to strategize actions for the training of decision/policy makers and water sector professionals.

Through this ToT workshop, CapNet-Lanka can increase the membership and the involvement of members, in all the activities for capacity building in IWRM. The workshop will bring together people from various government and non-government institutions to initiate some linkages to work in partnership. The ToT workshop will be a 4 to 5 days event with 20-30 participants from all across the country. The participants will be charged Rs. 10,000.00 if their institutions has financial allocations for training, otherwise fellowships will provided for the selected participants.

6. Dialogues on National Issues - River Sand & Clay Mining in Deduru Oya – 3 Programs

The issue of unregulated river sand and clay mining is rapidly progressing to a national threat to the rivers, ecosystems, health of communities and their well being in addition to the damages to the infrastructures such as bridges, irrigation, water supply systems and roads. On the other hand, the construction industry contributing over 8% to GDP requires over 7 million cubic meters of sand annually with additional expanded needs due to construction in Tsunami affected areas. National policy on sand mining, legal provision for regulation and institutional and administrative arrangement appear inadequate to meet the requirement. Ad hoc prohibitions on mechanized mining and banning due to pressure from local communities have not been able to meaningfully overcome the problem. No integrated effort has been yet made to resolve this issue.

CapNet-Lanka initiated a national dialogue on River Sand and Clay Mining on last April, 2006 in collaboration with Sri Lanka Water Partnership (Lanka Jalani) and Network of Women professionals (NetWwater). Hon. Prof. Tissa Vitarana, Minister of Science and Technology and other representatives of various institutions were participated. The media reported the activity in the national papers.

The CapNet-Lanka feels to continue this dialogue (3 follow-up programs) with various stakeholders at local level and to bring a common consensus and understanding of the interest of various sectors. Technological innovations to meet the supply gap also will be sought. Ms. Kusum Athukorala, a CG member and vice chair of Sri Lanka Water Partnership, will coordinate the activity.

7. Gender & Water Dialogue-GWD (in Sinhala and Tamil) – 3 programs

The lack of a trained cadre to promote gender in the water sector has been a constraint to mainstreaming. Therefore the Gender and Water Alliance together with CapNet conducted a South Asia Regional TOT Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in Integrated Water Resource Management at IRMA, Anand in February 2004. This programme is a follow-up of the Global TOT programme held by the GWA at Bangkok during June-July 2003 with the objective of creating a suitable cadre of trainers for mainstreaming gender concerns in IWRM.

NetWwater, which sent three trainees for the above activity, has already organized a series of IWRM workshops in 2004 for community women activists through whom it is planned to gain entry into relevant networks. In the previous programs it is clearly seen that the grassroots level participants understand and appreciate the need for IWRM even more than officers who may be constrained by organizational imperatives. Therefore it is planned to conduct a series of provincial gender and water dialogues leading to two national TOTs for women water professionals and women community activists, as well as the preparation of a IWRM resource book for community use(in Sinhala and later in Tamil).

The proposed GWDs will be carried out in different provinces/sectors. These will serve to provide the information normally provided with a separate training needs analysis through the trainers interaction with the participants from the various regions and an end of activity questionnaire. Southern, North central, Eastern, North Western, Western, Central should be covered - Tamil GWDs should be carried out in the North East and Central Highlands (in the estate sector). To date NetWwater in partnership with Lanka Jalani ,Capnet Lanka and National Council of Women has carried out three provincial dialogues in North Western ,North Central and Southern provinces. All three trainees sent to Anand are centrally engaged in this activity.

Ms. Kusum Athukoralla(CG), Dr. S. Pathmarajah(M) and Ms. T. Mukunthan (CG) will coordinate the activity in collaboration with Sri Lanka Water partnership, NetWwater and National Council of Women.

8. Training Course on Institutional Linkages (3 days)

Institutional reforms and linkages are necessary to implement the concept of IWRM. Water resource management in Sri Lanka has been largely dependent on sectoral agencies such as Department of Agriculture (DOA, Irrigation Department (ID), Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka(MASL), Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB), National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB) etc., The coordination among these agencies and with other Education and Training Institutions are not clear and sometime make confusion. The needs for institutional reforms are realized at all levels of all institutions. However, the types of reform that support the implementation of the IWRM are yet to be discussed. The changes whether in hardware or software has to be discussed and formulated for each institution individually and collectively. However, these processes are new for us. The experiences from other part of the world and in the region shall help to formulate course

content and the methodology. Regional or global CapNet support in terms of experts to organize such a workshop is requested.

9. Research proposal formulation on IWRM (3 days)

IWRM needs research activities in addition to the training and other extension activities. The young scientists have many opportunities to get research funding by formulating good proposals and submitting those to funding agencies. This will help the young scientists to apply IWRM principles in research and gain capacity building and training in research on IWRM. However, the young scientists from the region are lacking the experience on the formulation of a good research proposal for a competitive funding.

The International Foundation for Science (IFS), Sweden supports developing country scientists' research relevant to the renewable utilization of the biological resource base including water and IWRM. The applicant for the grant should be at the beginning of their research career with a minimum academic degree of a MSc/MA and younger than 40 years.

The grants by IFS and other funding agencies are highly competitive so that the young scientists should possess good proposal writing skills. A national workshop is proposed to be conducted in early December to train about 20 scientists to get the needed proposal writing skills. The IFS, CapNet-Bangladesh and Bangladesh Center for Advanced Studies (BCAS) organized an international workshop on the same aspect in Bangladesh in April, 2006 which was attended by three participants from CapNet-Lanka including Dr. MMM Najim and Dr. NDK Dayawansa both from University of Peradeniya who will be coordinating the proposed national workshop in Sri Lanka.

10. Translation of IWRM learning materials into local languages (Sinhala and Tamil) and Publication

Currently the main constraint in IWRM training is the total lack of material in national languages. NetWwater has already translated the GWP- IWRM book into Sinhala, the only such material available but this is more suitable for use by academics and professionals. Therefore a shorter version in Sinhala and Tamil, which will be useful for Area Water Partnerships, Water User Associations, Farmer Organizations, Environmental Organizations, Women's Organizations and school groups will be prepared.

The IWRM material produced at various global and regional training programmes needs to be localized. TOT program which has to be conducted in a national language calls for substantial background material to be translated in the form of a Resource Manual.

Dr. (Ms) C. Shanthi De Silva, CG member will coordinate the Tamil translation while Sinhala translation will be coordinated by NetWwater.

Summary of the work programme and the tentative budget (July 2006 – June 2007)

	Activities/Description	Month
1	Development of Database & Website and maintain the website	August, 2006
2	Awareness programs for school teachers, NGO's, Government and other relevant sectors in IWRM- 4 programs	One program/3 months
3	Water quality awareness and monitoring for school children (Pinga Oya & Nanu Oya)-one year	Pinga Oya – Aug. 2006 Nanu Oya – Oct. 2006
4	Compilation and Provision of materials and human resources for IWRM training	December, 2006
5	National ToT in IWRM (4 days)	September, 2006
6	Dialogues on National Issues - River Sand & Clay Mining in Deduru Oya – 3 programs	
7	Gender & Water Dialogue (in Sinhala and Tamil) – 3 programs	
8	Training Course on Institutional Linkages (3 days)	February, 2007
9	Research proposal formulation on IWRM (3 ays)	December, 2006
10	Translation of IWRM learning materials into local languages (Sinhala and Tamil) and Publication	