

# Maha Oya River Basin (Middle Reach)

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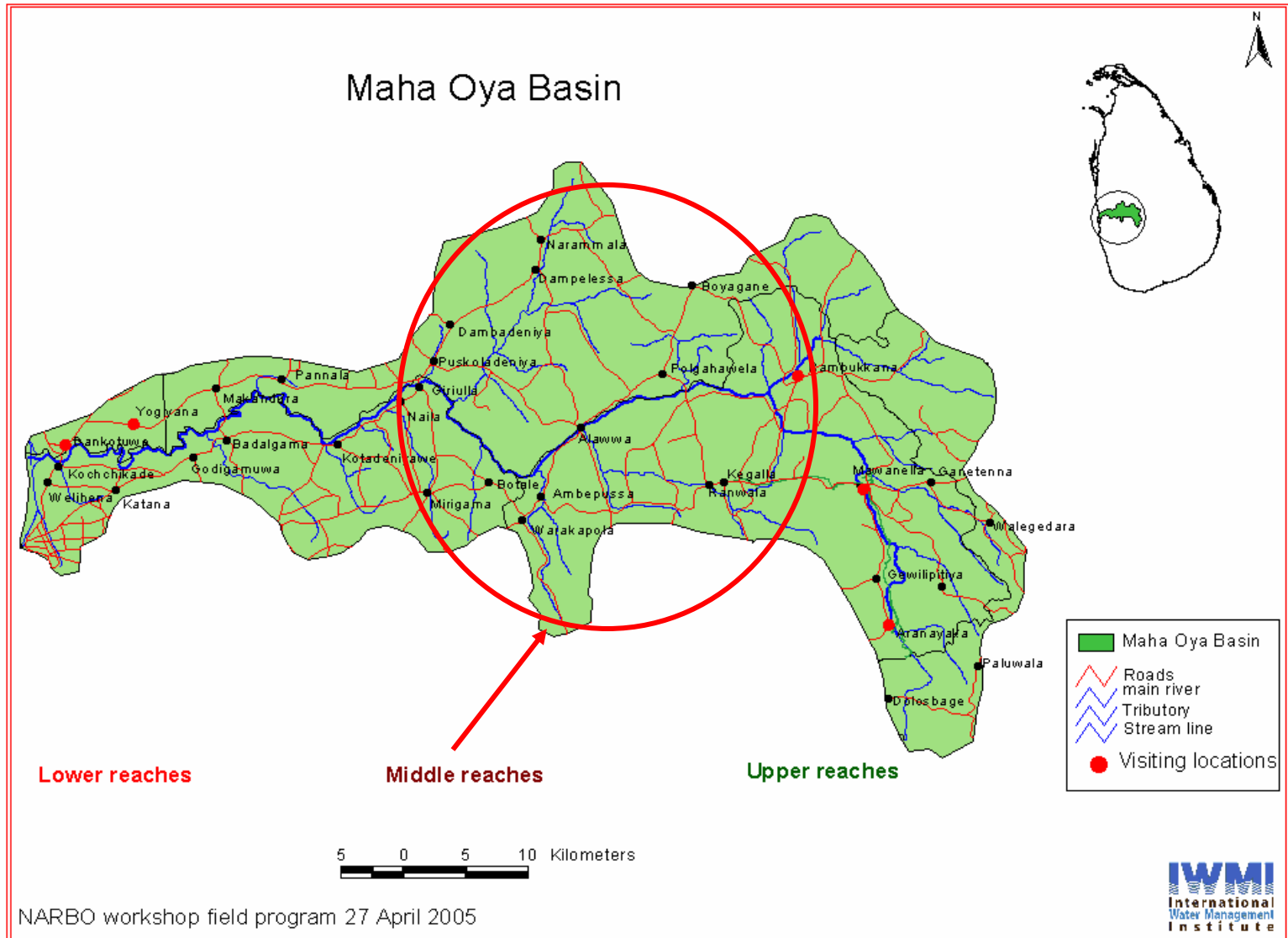
Basistha Raj Adhikari

Gulam Mohamed

Ishimura Sonugu

April 27, 2005

# Overview of Study Area

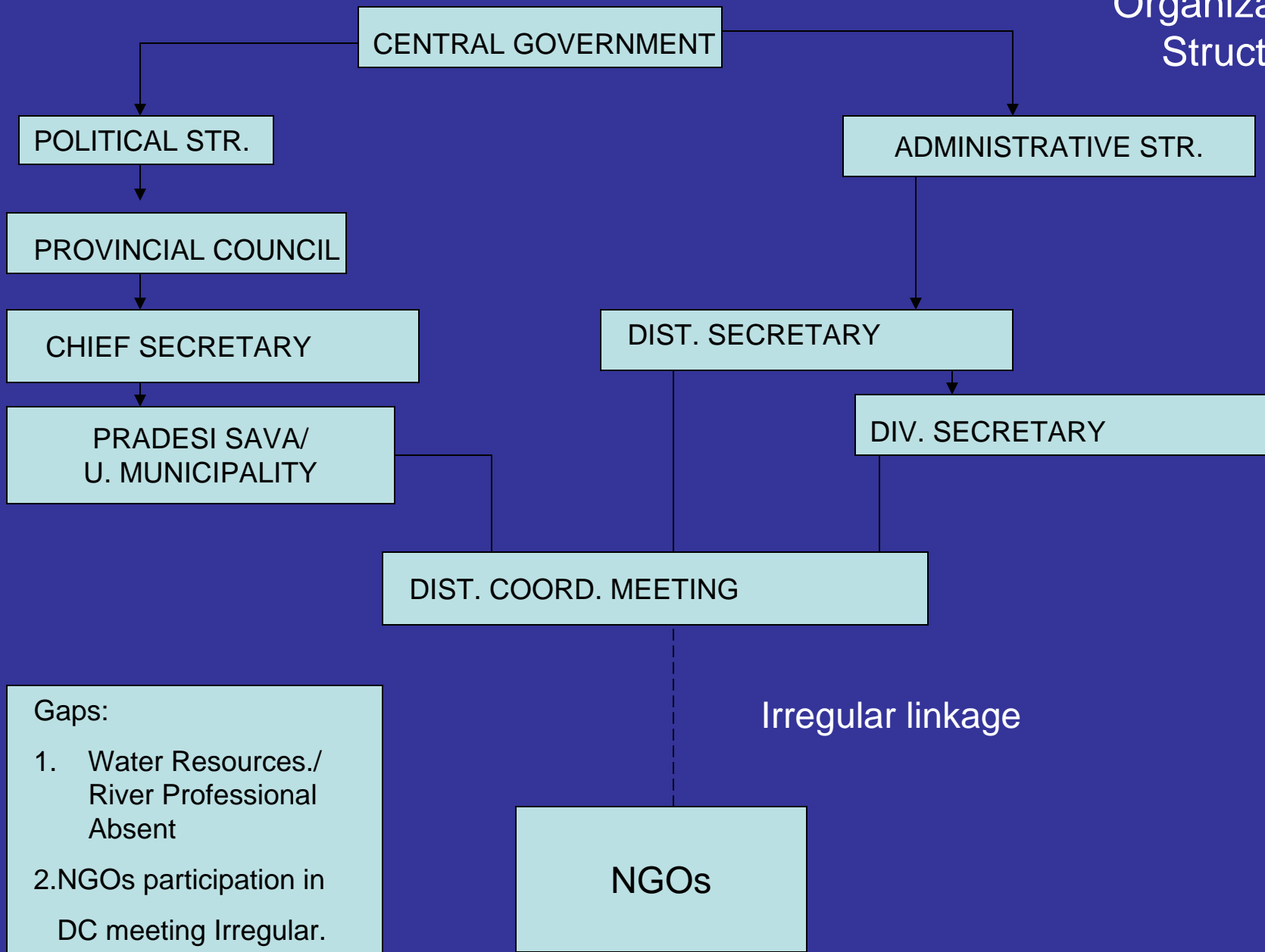


# Sites Visited

Kegalle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Executive Secretary, Shrama Shakti-Foundation (CBO)</li></ul>
Karadagastenna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sand mining</li></ul>
Pinnawala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elephant bathing</li></ul>
Rambukkana Pradesiya Sawa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meeting with Chairman and members, Environmental officers</li></ul>
Hiriwadunna intake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drinking water supply scheme</li></ul>
Pinnawala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Solid waste disposal</li></ul>
Mawanella	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meeting with Divisional secretariat members</li></ul>

ISSUES  
AND  
OBSERVATIONS

# Organizational Structure



## Gaps:

1. Water Resources./  
River Professional  
Absent
2. NGOs participation in  
DC meeting Irregular.  
(lack of coordination.)

Irregular linkage

NGOs

# Issue: Improper management of Sand Mining

## Environmental issues observed:

- River bed lowering resulting to low water table which affects water wells and agriculture (as stated by the sand miners)
- River bank erosion (direct observation)
- Sand miners aware of the environmental problem created but have no alternative for livelihood

## Organizations involved

- Pradesiya Sawa was responsible for issuing permits but recently it is taken by central government (district / divisional secretariat)
- No NGOs or Sand Miners Union exists
- Permits are issued to contractors/agencies and they employ (uncontrolled) labours

## Participation and Coordination

- No/less representation of local institutions
- No coordination between district/division and Pradesiya Sawa in issuing permits
- No monitoring mechanism except some police actions

# Issue: Water pollution due to elephant bathing

## Environmental issues observed:

- Bathing of more than 70 elephants 2 hours twice daily (direct observation)
- During low flow, water pollution occurs (as per the guide)
- Skin disease due to water pollution (as per member, Pradesiya Sawa of Rambukkanna)
- Water is polluted more due to industrial pollution than elephant bathing (as per environmental officer, Pradesiya Sawa of Rambukkanna)
- Water quality is not monitored to provide scientific evidence of skin diseases (as per medical officer, Division Secretariat)

## Organizations involved

- Provincial Government, Central Government
- Ceylon Tourism Board, Hotel Association of Ceylon
- Pressure groups like Shrama Shakti Foundation / Lanka Jalani

## Participation and Coordination

- Less participation of local stakeholders
- Major decisions taken by the central government
- Good coordination between government and tourist board and less coordination with local communities

# Issue: Solid Waste Disposal on River Banks

## Environmental issues observed:

- Small amount of construction waste dumped on the road side

## Organizations involved

- Responsibility is mandated to Pradesiya Sawa, however, due to the lack of budget it could not be implemented
- Pradesiya Sawa members claim that this issue is the responsibility of Health Department
- No NGO is working in this sector

## Participation and Coordination

- No observations made



# Issue: Quality of Water

## Environmental issues observed:

- Water from river is treated for drinking purpose (as per divisional secretariat members)
- The quality of tap water is not good so people prefer wells for drinking purpose (as per the environmental officer, Pradesiya Sawa of Rambukkanna)
- No scientific data available for the quality of water

## Organizations involved

- Hiriwaduwa water purification plant
- Council

## Participation and Coordination

- Do not have monitoring mechanism
- No coordination between health and environment department

THANK YOU