



**NARBO WORKSHOP, SRI LANKA**

**PARTICIPANTS STUDY TOUR**

**MAHA OYA RIVER BASIN**

**VISIT TO LOWER REACH BY GROUP C**

# GROUP C: MEMBERS

Group Leader: Mr A M Alam, India

Reporter: Ms Lalitha, Sri Lanka

## Sub-group 1: Organisation & Coordination

Mr Dhali Qauim, Leader, Bangladesh

Mr Dhakal, Reporter, Nepal

Mr A M Alam

## Sub-group 2: Peoples Participation

Mr Mustafa Ujjan, Leader, Pakistan

Mr Prem Kumara, Reporter, Sri Lanka

Mr Mohamed Asif, Afghanistan

## Sub-group 3: Environment and Water Quality

Mr Ghulam Qadir Shah, Leader, Pakistan

Ms Lalitha, Reporter, Sri Lanka

Mr Uma Kanth

# GENERAL.

## THE GROUP VISITED THE FOLLOWING PLACES:

- **BUDDHIST TEMPLE AT YOGIYANA AND DISCUSSION WITH THE PRIEST.**
- **CLAY & SAND MINING SITES AT JANKURUWELA & DUWA ROAD.**
- **RIVER BANK EROSION DUE TO MINING.**
- **DAMAGE TO ROAD.**
- **RECLAIMED AREA BY BACKFILLING.**
- **A DOMESTIC WATER WELL.**
- **DOMESTIC WATER WELL AFFECTED BY MINING.**
- **FACTORY MANUFACTURING ROOF TILES.**
- **DISCUSSION WITH OFFICIALS AT DS DANKATUWA**



# ORGANISATION AND COORDINATION

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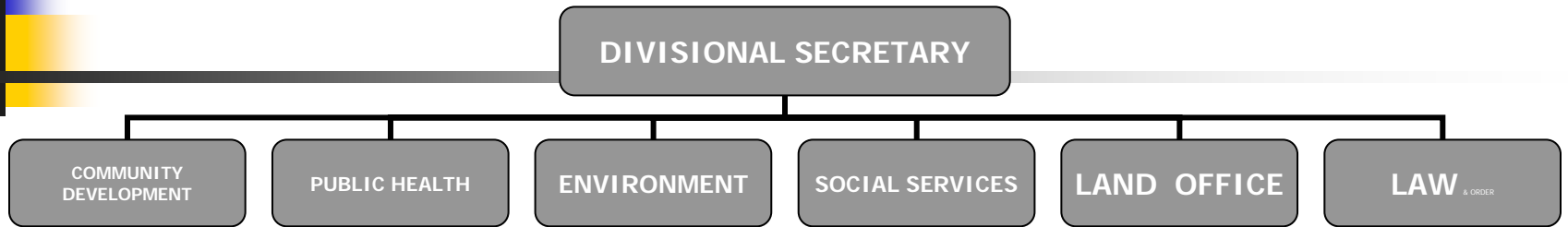
**OVERALL ADMINISTRATION IS BY DIVISIONAL SECRETARY WITH THE SUPPORT OF STATE AGENCIES AND STATE PARASTATAL AGENCIES.**

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES INCLUDING MUNICIPAL COUNCILS PROVIDE SERVICES AND REGULATIONS IN RURAL AND URBAN AREA**

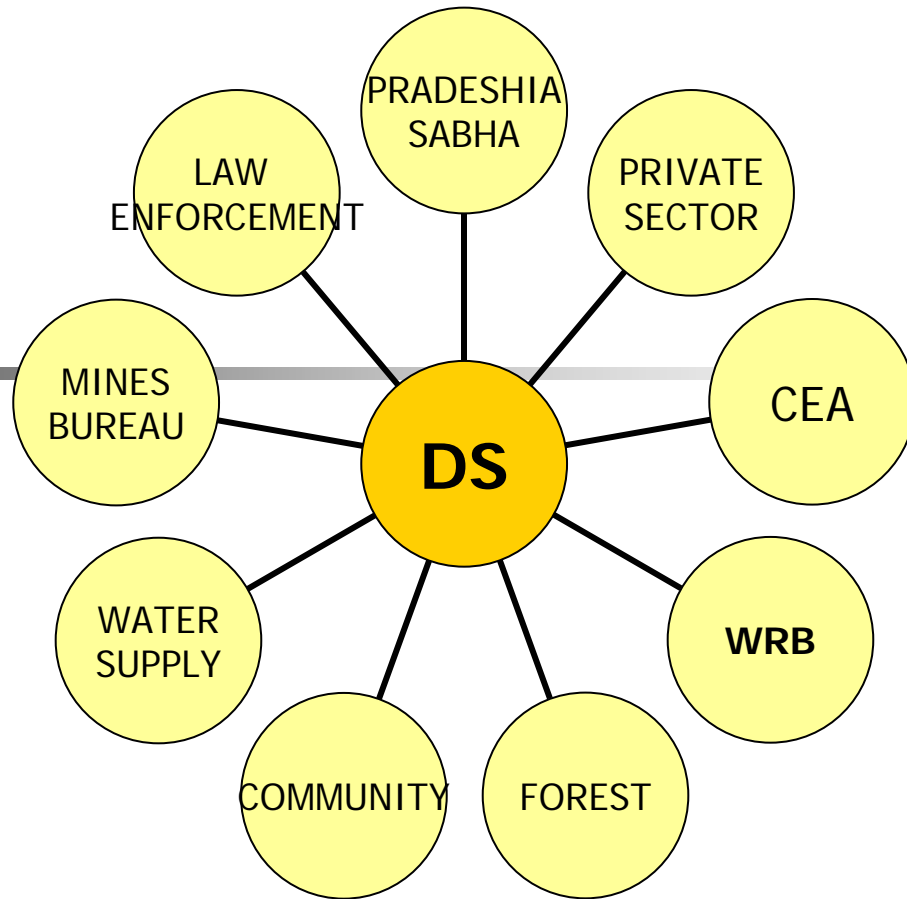
**DIVISIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT TO PROVIDE INTER-SECTORAL COORDINATION.**

**NATIONAL AGENCIES SUCH AS CEA, UDA, MINES BUREAU SUPERVISE CERTAIN LICENSING AND REGULATION ACTIVITIES**

# ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AT DIVISIONAL LEVEL

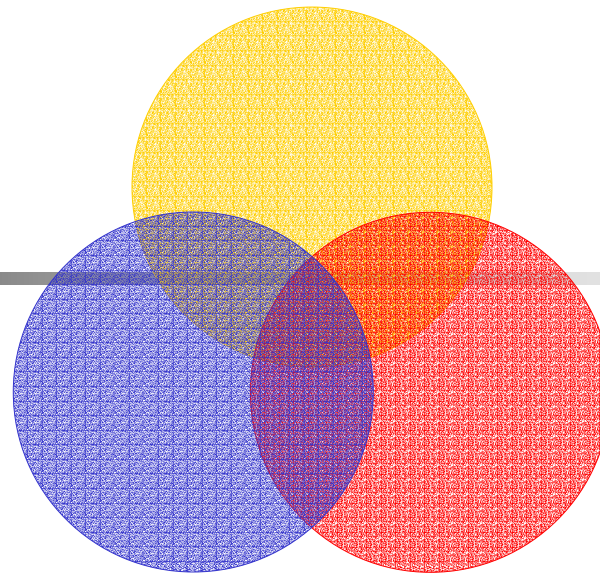


# COORDINATION



# INFORMAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

**DIVISIONAL OFFICE**



**TEMPLE**

**COMMUNITY**



# ORGANISATION AND COORDINATION...

**EXISTING INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT ARE ADHOC AND IT IS UNABLE TO ADDRESS ISSUES AND ENFORCING ALREADY EXISTING REGULATIONS.**

**DUE TO POOR AND INADEQUATE RESOURCES, ITS MONITORING AND SUPERVISION FUNCTIONS ARE ALSO WEAK.**

**AS ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES FOLLOW RIVER BOUNDARIES, COORDINATION BETWEEN ADMIN UNITS BECOME INEFFECTIVE AND ENSURING CONSISTENCY IN ACTIONS BECOMES DIFFICULT.**

**NATIONAL AGENCIES HAVE VERY WEAK PRESENCE IN THE RIVER BASIN.**



# PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

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## MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS ARE

- COMMUNITIES
- INDUSTRIES
- LABOURERS
- GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS
- LOCAL RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

# PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION..

## DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRIEST INDICATED THAT

- **THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES WERE AND ARE AGAINST LARGESCALE CLAY AND SAND MINING IN THE AREA.**
- **LOCAL COMMUNITIES STAGES A NUMBER OF PROTEST MARCHES TO THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.**
- **IN ONE INSTANT, THE MINING SITE HAS BEEN CLOSED AT THE INSTANCE OF AN ORDER BY THE COURT.**
- **COMMUNITY EFFORTS ARE NOT ORGANISED AND ARE CONFINED TO FEW AREA OR VILLAGES.**
- **COMMUNITY HAS NOT ADEQUATELY MOTIVATED.**
- **MINING ACTIVITIES ARE ALWAYS AWAY FROM HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND THE COMMUNITIES ARE NOT FULLY AWARE THE LARGESCALE DAMAGE BEING CAUSED.**

# PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION..

## DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRIEST INDICATED THAT

- **THE COMMUNITIES ARE AWARE OF THE ANY PROCESS BY WHICH ANY MITIGATIVE MEASURES COULD BE OBTAINED.**
- **COMMUNITIES SEE THAT THE GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS ARE PART OF THE PROBLEM RATHER THAN SOLVING THEIR PROBLEMS.**
- **THE RECLAIMED AREA WAS BY THE OWNER HIMSELF FOR DEVELOPING THE LAND FOR OTHER PURPOSE.**
- **THERE ARE NO ADVOCACY GROUPS OR ORGANISATION WHICH COULD CONTINUOUSLY WORK FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITIES.**
- **THE RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS COULD PLAY A LEAD ROLE.**



ENVIRONMENT AND WATER  
QUALITY

## BACKGROUND: SAND-MINING

- Sand and clay mining in the area dates back to early seventies.
- It has grown from a small scale cottage industry to a large scale economic activity in the area. Large scale investments in mechanised mining started in 1988.
- Most of the mining activities is being operated illegally.

## Impacts on soil, landuse & Crops

- Erosion of roads, river banks
- Deepening of river beds and consequently fall in river levels
- Damage caused to structures
- Changes in land use (200 ha were mining pits as per survey conducted in 1992)
- Crop yields declined, for example from 1000 nuts/ tree to 500 nuts / tree in case of coconut.



## Impacts on water

- Formation of wetlands along the river bank
- Falling levels in groundwater.
- Water stagnation – 86 cases of *Dengui fever* reported.
- Community bathing places destroyed.

## Pollution, Health and Wildlife

- Dust and noise pollution
- Dust-borne and vector-borne diseases
- Habitat of *Iguana* and *Porcupine* destroyed  
(Requires further verification from the concerned agencies with regard to species of concern)
- *Gotukola* is disappearing.
- Large quantity of wood is used in Kilns, which may have –environmental impact.
- Garbage is dumped along the river banks.

## Livelihood and safety

- Crop yield reduced (needs verification)
- Area under agriculture decreased
- About 25,000 people associated with clay and sand mining activity.
- Many people rendered jobless due to ban imposed on mining by the court.
- Marginal people impacted most due to the ban.
- Deep pits posing a threat to life, particularly children and elders.

## Regulations/laws

- Laws pertaining to min: distance from road and river bank violated
- Laws regarding re-filling of pits after use not implemented.
- Laws regarding excavation of pits down to water table violated.
- Law permits to mine clay only – no sand mining is allowed.
- No renewal of permits issued.
- Most of the mining activities operating illegally.
- No compliance of social and environmental responsibility by the investors.
- No mitigation measures adopted / compensation paid to the affected people



# OBSERVATIONS

## Observations

- Long-term environmental impact of the activity need to be thoroughly assessed.
- Licensing system is much centralized and this should be made more not transparent and should be in consultation with local community.
- Mechanism for monitoring should enforced for any mid-course correction.
- Coordination should be strengthened at all levels.
- There is need to involve CBOs extensively.
- Community participation in decision-making should be encouraged.

## OBSERVATIONS

- Survey and mapping of the sand and clay deposits needs to be carried out to regulate the activity.
- Authority delegated at local level.
- Coordination committee of the related agencies to provide technical and legal support in decision-making, implementation and monitoring
- Mitigation measures such as, compensation to the affected community through local development (roads, dispensaries drinking water supply)
- Proper reclamation of MINE pits through backfilling.
- Alternate income generation opportunities such as, fish ponds and recreation may be explored

# THANK YOU

