



# Improving water security in Jaffna Peninsula through integrated water management

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# Jaffna Peninsula water context

- **Shallow aquifers - Only water source for all needs**
- **Threats**
  - **Over extraction & pollution**
    - Agriculture/ Residential/ Industrial/ Increasing urbanisation
  - **Sea water intrusion**
  - **Shortages (during dry season)**
- **Health impacts:**
  - Chronic kidney disease (CKD)



# Governance challenges and context

- Weak or **non-existent policies/regulations**
- **Fragmented** institutional sectors
- **Conflicting** and **over-lapping** roles
- **Lack of data** to inform decision making
- Level of co-ordination is **ad-hoc and unclear**
- Influenced by **post-civil war legacy**



Characterises a  
'wicked problem'



**Water reform processes are successful when they are context driven, inclusive of direct and indirect users of water, take a whole of water cycle approach to reform and deeply consider multiple societal outcomes**

# Supporting Sri Lanka's IWM capacity

- Delegation in 2016, 14 people: 'Sustainable groundwater management through **integrated water management**'.
- **Diversity** of organisations (National & Provincial gov., research and academic, politicians)
- Strong **leadership** within the group
- Result = **recognition** that a co-ordinated policy was lacking and **commitment** to utilise **existing expertise** to commence a policy planning process.



# What was the action?

- ‘Change Project’: *Developing a Draft Proposal on Regulatory Measures for Groundwater Management in the Jaffna Peninsula*
- It looked at **Institutional, Technical and Policy** aspects
- **Draft Policy** for Northern Province developed by Jan 2017, proposing:
  - **Overarching water authority**
  - Communication mechanisms for **collaboration and communication** between stakeholders



# Institutional aspects

- Develop **coordination** for knowledge sharing
- Compile **evidence** on groundwater quality and quantity
- Assign the proper **role and responsibilities** of all related institutions
- Develop **context specific** and sustainable arrangements within the given institutional context



# Policy aspects

- Establish **alternative** water sources and **sustainable sources** for multiple uses
- Establish **institutions** and **coordinating mechanism** among water related organizations and departments.
- Establish **provincial government control over groundwater**

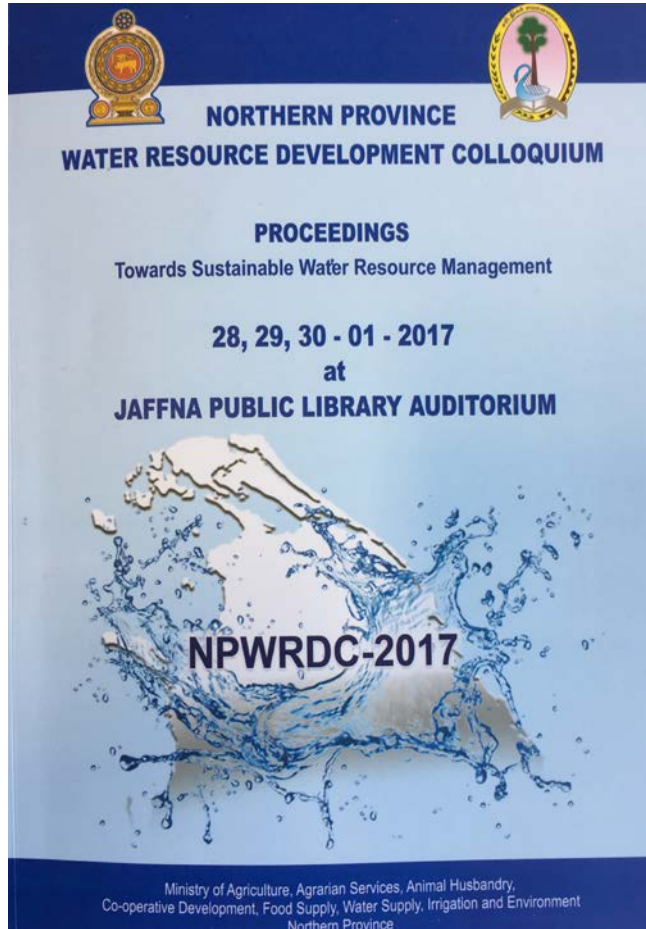




# Technical aspects

- Develop a groundwater **well inventory**
- Establish automated **monitoring network** in high risk areas
- **Rehabilitation** of lagoons and Salt Water Exclusion Schemes
- Application of **water efficient technologies** in agriculture





# Consultation and participation

A **multi-stakeholder colloquium** with over 70 participants (government, politicians, researchers, various stakeholders and international delegates) was carried out to get feedback on the **draft policy**.



Raise **awareness**

Call for papers and **share** experiences

Facilitated workshops for **feedback**



# Overall outcome

Application of more **integrated approaches** to improve **water security** in the Jaffna Peninsula:

- **Shared** recognition of the issue
- **Participatory** approach to understand and document roles and responsibilities and gaps in knowledge
- Improved **collaboration** pathways within and across organisations
- **Context-specific** draft policy
- Push for better data systems and monitoring for **evidence-based decision making**



# Ongoing barriers/challenges

- Transitioning to **implementation** – policy is undergoing government approval
- **Inertia** of current institutions and governance frameworks – will require **strong leadership**
- Very **politized** water sector - water is a sensitive issue in Jaffna.
- Further **research and capacity** development needed regarding coordination of institutions in **post-conflict situations** and the role of IWM theory in this context.



# Lessons and conclusions

- Building **capacity in IWM** can help initiate improvements to water security and promote integrated and improved outcomes for communities.
- A critical component was **strong leadership** from key staff combined with having the contextual knowledge and capacity to drive the process.
- Reflections on the **impact** of short capacity building programs (if the right pieces are in place, great things can happen)



Please get in touch! 😊

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Collaboration for Universal WASH

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