

## **SRI LANKA WATER PARTNERSHIP.**

The Sri Lanka Water Partnership (SLWP) in its commitment to the promotion of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) envisions *“A society that values the sustainable use of its water resources to achieve the goal of an environment conducive to balanced social and economic development.”*

As such;

- *We acknowledge the respect for life, both human and nature encapsulated in the saying “The land belongs to the people and all living beings; thou are only the guardian of it “(Mahavamsa circa 223 BC). Thus water is a valuable national resource to be conserved and used for benefit of all living beings with the state as trustee and custodian.*

Thus SLWP;

- Maintains that water resources belong to the country and its people; is a national resource and oppose the involvement of multinationals in the water sector which may erode that right as seen in many other country situations.

-Supports the prerogative of the state to ownership of the country’s water resources and its allocation and management in its role as sole custodian while promoting the decentralization/devolution/outourcing of distribution and support services to local authorities, community organizations and the private sector as appropriate at levels that better serves the nation.

-Asserts that water is a basic human right and unfettered access to water for basic human needs to be ensured with priority accorded for drinking water and livelihoods..

-Maintains that tried and tested traditional water management systems need be supported with the application of modern technology.

-Emphasizes the critical need to maintain the nation’s food security and the related importance of paddy cultivation and irrigated agriculture whilst safeguarding of water sources providing potable water.

-Regrets the declining water quality mainly due to poor social and environmental behavior which is a threat to human well being, ecosystem health and livelihood security and calls upon all stakeholders to redress this.

-Respects intergenerational equity and upholds the need for good water governance towards this goal.

-Supports participatory decision making with the involvement of all stakeholders in water resources management whilst promoting equity, subsidiarity and gender balance with consideration of vital role played by women, in setting up institutional arrangements for integrated management of water resources.