Background

2019 was a very challenging year for SLWP. The seed funding from GWP (Core Budget) continued with the pre 2016, 25% cut with an allocation of Euro 14850/- in addition, the Water and Climate Resilience Programme (WACREP) support reduced to Euro 3,300/- in 2019 as the closing year. Nevertheless, locally raised funds from the continuing activities for Hatton National Bank and Cap-Net Lanka enabled an inflow of over Euro 10,000/- to support the 2019 programme. SLWP was able to increase its reserves over the 2018 level by over 25% and with a savings deposit of Rs. 7.5 M bringing in interest, SLWP reserves now stand at over Euro 42,000, almost 2.5 times the annual GWP budget allocation.

The Work Programme since 2014 has continued to focus on the 3 GWP Goals of Catalyzing Change in Policy and Practice, Generating and Communicating Knowledge and Strengthening Partnerships. Under WACREP the programme activities focused on both the irrigated and plantation sectors, while for the first time programmes were conducted in Tamil in the North with follow up programmes in Jaffna and Kilinochchi. A major part of both the Irrigation and Planation sectors (coconut and export agriculture) have been covered. SLWP will continue to provide climate change adaptation (CCA) knowledge products as part its core activities in the future. As with the Annual National Wetland Celebrations organized by the Central Environment Authority in February at which HE the President participates with SLWP being a continuing partner, SLWP with the University of Colombo, Western Provincial Council and Sri Lanka Land Development and Reclamation Corporation was associated with several associated wetland day activities. Prof Deepthi Wickramasinghe Regional Council Member and Activity Leader on Wetlands received an award at the 1st World Summit on “Leaving No One Behind” in February in Geneva. LWP continued in 2019 with its partner associated programmes for World Water Day, Earth Day, Environment Day and Toilet Day highlighting water conservation, importance of SDG’s especially SDG 6 and need for conservation action and positive environmental behavior.

Programme guidance continued through the SLWP Steering Committee comprising representatives from the Ministry of Irrigation and water Resources, Irrigation Department, National Water Supply and Drainage Board, Meteorological Department, Universities of Colombo and Rhuhuna, Post Graduate institute of Agriculture, Central Environment Authority and IWMI among others. The SLWP Programme Committee which meets regularly supervises the implementation arrangements.

SLWP is happy to note that Colombo has now been recognized as a “Wetland City” under the Ramsar Convention. School and community sanitation/health programmes are another area given priority under the school Water Messenger programme and also Water and Gender programmes.

In 2019 as in 2018 a primary area of intervention has been the estate sector working earlier with the YWCA and Unilever as a partner and currently with Hatton National Bank as part of tea landscape pilot project in the Central Province in close collaboration with the Central Province Education Department on school health and sanitation. This is expected to be a prelude to a follow up programme in 2020.

SLWP has been in the forefront of tackling menstrual hygiene (MHM) and its work in the Central Province with the provincial education, health department and NWSDB has been acknowledged internationally. These programmes have been extensively supported by corporates such as the NDB Bank, HNB, Janshakthi, Brandix etc. under CSR initiatives providing much needed infrastructure support by way of girl friendly school toilets and rainwater harvesting systems for schools to meet water needs. Promoting Young Water Professionals (YWP) is another programme aimed at strengthening networking in IWRM among the water sector agencies. Presently the focal point of the YWP is young engineer of the NWSDB in Badulla. Another cell is to be established in Jaffna in association with the Jaffna University and in 2020 at least another 2 in the Central and Southern provinces.
SLWP also works closely with the NWSDB WASSIP project on water related CCA activities and have published many knowledge products including posters and books for schools and communities as a joint effort. SLWP has also been in the forefront of climate change adaption (CCA) activities since 2009 moving from policy level to field level in 2013 where extensive programmes supported with knowledge products in Sinhala and now Tamil in 2017 have been held. Extensive field programmes for District line agency staff in the irrigated agriculture sector and for farmer leaders and farmers have been conducted with the assistance of the Irrigation Department, Department of Agriculture including its Research institutes at Maha Illupallama, Bathalagoda and Angunakolapelessa, the Department of Agrarian Development, National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB) and the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources These programmes were complemented by the wet zone agriculture and the plantation sector with a joint programme with the Department of Export Agriculture.

Another initiative on CCA initiated in 2017 was with the Hatton National Bank (HNB) on Disaster Risk Reduction in Aranayake the major landslide location in 2016. 10 rainwater harvesting systems (RWH) for vulnerable schools, a catchment conservation programme and community and agency programmes on CCA were implemented in collaboration with the Divisional Secretariat, NWSDB, National Building Research Organization, Lions Club Pilimatalawe and our community Area Water Partnership the Maha oya/ Kuda oya Surakeeme Sanvidhanaya. In November 2019 a follow up programme was conducted in Aranayake. In October 2018 a follow up CSR programme to support school sanitation in 10 schools with rainwater harvesting systems for 6 water short schools in Hatton/Talawakelle was initiated with HNB support. A follow programme has been planned and expected to continue with HNB support in 2020.

Since 2017 SLWP was also associated in promoting the use of a Drought Monitoring Model (SADMS) developed for South Asia by IWMI, GWP and World Meteorological Organization. A consultation with the major water sector agencies and disaster management authorities has been held and it is anticipated that this platform would be adopted by agencies for drought monitoring in Sri Lanka after consideration of its advantages over prevailing platforms.

SLWP in collaboration with the Post Graduate Institute of Agriculture of the University of Peradeniya arranged a symposium on Urban Water and Coastal Zone Management. The Symposium was held at IWMI on 28th November 2019.

GWP has been approved as a Delivery Partner under the Green Climate Fund Readiness Support for the Mahaweli Ministry as National Designated Agency. SLWP is to be the implementing agency for this activity to be initiated in 2020 and draft proposal for downstream water management has been submitted for consideration.

Governance. SLWP held 2 Steering Committee Meetings and 8 Programme Committee Meetings during 2019. RC member Mr Lalith Dassenaike Regional Council Member participated in the 25th Regional Council Meeting of GWP South Asia held on 19th and 20th October 2019 in Thimpu Bhutan.
Goal 01 - Catalyze Change in Policy and Practice

GWP – Core Activities

Wetlands activities

Activity 1 - World Wetland Day celebrations Programme (Event 1)
To mark World Water Day, an interactive workshop titled “CoCCo” (Collective Communities for Conservation) was held at the UoC’s Faculty of Science with the participation of more than 100 undergraduates from Universities of Colombo and Jaffna on 1st February.

The overall goal of this activity was to discuss the Conservation & Management of Wetlands in Sri Lanka providing an opportunity to share ideas and thoughts on Wetland Conservation and Management while promoting ethnic harmony and friendship. The event was started with welcome address by Head of the Department Prof. Deepthi Wickramasinghe stating the importance of Wetlands which was followed by the speech by Dean of the Faculty of Science, Prof. K. R. R. Mahanama emphasizing on importance of conserving Wetlands as a part of environmental conservation. Prof. Partheepan, Head of Agriculture, University of Jaffna spoke about their interests in conserving wetlands followed by many interactive activities participated by students.

Students from both universities shared their views at the event about diminishing of wetlands with present urbanization and how to conserve wetlands while presenting innovative concepts through drama and songs. The program was concluded expanding the positive notion in wetland conservation, among the students of both universities.

Activity 2 - World Wetland Day celebrations Programme (Event 2)
To mark World Wetland Day, an interactive workshop to raise awareness on the importance of wetlands was organized by Sri Lanka Water Partnership in collaboration with Ministry of Local Government, Economic Promotion, Power & Energy, Environmental Affairs, Water Supply & Drainage and tourism of Western Province on 8th February. This event was held at “Diyasaru Park” in Thalawathugoda with participation of 75 school children.

Sri Lanka is a country which is blessed with abundant water bodies as well as with wetlands. Yet, wetlands are facing many pressures due to enhanced unsustainable developmental activities especially in the urban areas.

To mark Word Wetland Day an information booklet was also launched which was prepared by Prof. Wickramasinghe and printed by Western Provincial Council (WPC). This booklet which is in colour with many pictures is to be distributed among school children to raise awareness.
The main goal of this event was to discuss the role of wetlands in climate change mitigation. Thus, SLWP together with WPC provided a platform to raise awareness on the local level issues and to identify appropriate management practices which will ensure the sustainable use of the wetlands and their contribution to mitigate climate change among young generations. School children who are the active members of Environment Pioneers Club from Kalutara district attended to this event. This workshop was coordinated by Professor Deepthi Wickramasinghe of University of Colombo and Ms. Sujeewa Fenando of WPC.

Note: these activities also relate under the RSM / RBO & source area conservation activities in Goal 01.

RSM / RBO Programmes

Activity 1 - World Environment Day Programme
Sri Lanka Water Partnership and Lions Club of Pilimathalawa with the collaboration of Kadugannawa Urban Council and Sri Lanka Red Cross in a tree planting programme for WED, planted 100 Kumbuk trees along Nanu Oya canal on 09th June 2019 at Pilimathalawa, in Central Province. Lions Club of Pilimathalawa and Kadugannawa U.C. will undertake to maintain the trees till established.

GWP – WACREP Activities on CCA

Agency Staff Programmes / New Technology Programme (Activity 2A & 5A)

Activity 1 - Climate Change Adaptation for Improved Export Crops
SLWP in collaboration with the Dept. of Export Agriculture and “Gami Pubuduwa” (Village awakening) program of Hatton National Bank conducted a program on 22nd February at Narammala Divisional Secretary’s office on “Improved Livelihood Security for export crops farmers with climate change adaptation “for 65 participants. The Head of the Narammala Export Agriculture Research Station, Dr HMPA Subasinghe conducted a session on pepper cultivation for export purposes and the impacts of climate change. He gave abroad view of new cultivation technologies and emphasized the need for micro irrigation to support cultivation during the long droughts experienced with climate change.
Mr RADRA Ranasinghe conducted a session on Betel cultivation for export. A Q and A session was conducted with farmers who were very appreciative of the opportunity given. Many queries raised by farmers were on irrigation and pest control issues related to climate change. Officers of the HNB Gami Pubuduwa conducted a session on financial literacy emphasizing the need for savings and reinvestment in business.

**Activity 2 - CCA Programme for Officers / Farmer Leaders in Jaffna and Killinochchi**

A CCA Programme for agricultural field staff and farmer Leaders in Jaffna district was held on 18th March at the Thirunavely Agriculture Training Centre Jaffna. The programme was organized by SLWP in collaboration with the District Secretariat Jaffna with coordination by the District Director Agriculture Jaffna and support of the Chief Secretary NPC. The programme was conducted in Tamil and the Principal Scientist Dr MSM Nijamudeen of FCRDI Mahaillupallama served as the main resource person supported by Mrs S Kaleswaran District Director and Dr T Karunainathan Deputy Director Research from the Agriculture Research Station Thirunaveli. 41 Officers and 18 Farmer Leaders attended the programme. The total number of participants were 64 including the resource persons and officials. The Programme included a field visit/demonstration to view technology options for coping with climate change at the Thirunaveli Research Station. This programme was the first on CCA held for such target groups and all participants showed high enthusiasm. The District Secretary Jaffna, Mr N Vehtanayahan who made the welcome address stayed on till the completion of the programme indicative of the general interest, enthusiasm and commitment of the staff and farmer leaders for such programmes. The technical books on crops and technical options in Tamil with CCA documents were highly appreciated.

A similar programme was held on 19th March at the District Agricultural Training Centre Veddakachchi in Killinochchi also organized by the District Secretary Killinochi and coordinated by the District Director Agriculture. Dr MSM Nijamudeen was the main resource person supported by Mr A Selvarajah District Director Agriculture and staff.

Considering that major irrigation systems were important in the district a special focus on CCA and Irrigation system management was emphasized through a prevention by Eng. S Shanmuahanathan Deputy Chief Secretary NPC Jaffna who had earlier served as Provincial Director Irrigation NP and had long experience in the district.

60 Participants attended the programme among which 27 were farmer Leaders and 28 officers. The same enthusiasm and interest as in Jaffna was seen in this programme as well which the first such programme was held on CCA for field staff and FO Leaders.
Activity 3 - CCA Programme for Field Officers of Irrigation Department of Gampaha and Kegalle District

At the request of ID a CCA programme for field staff of the department serving in the Gampaha DiE Division (Gampaha and Kegalle Districts) was held on 13th June 2019 in Nittambuwa. Mainly field staff of ID comprising Engineering Assistants, Development Officers, and Work Supervisors attended the workshop. A number of Agriculture Department (DA) Instructors too participated. Though a target of 50 participants were planned for 69 attended with 61 participants from ID and DA. The programme covered staff serving in Attanagalu Oya with 36 anicuts and 2 others. Main source of water for 5 large anicuts schemes namely Muruthawela, Panugala, Ketawala, Welikada and Morena in Gampaha District is the Attanagalu Oya which starts from Kegalle District. There are another 31 small anicut schemes in addition to above schemes fed by same water source. The gross command area under 5 major anicut schemes and medium and minor anicut schemes is about 7380 Acres and 89% of the command area is under paddy in both seasons. Major problems faced by farmers and officers under Attanagalu oya are the water shortages in upper part of Attanagalu Oya and floods in lower parts. There are 117 Farmer organizations established in the area.

An evaluation of the Programme by participants was carried out at conclusion. This Programme has partial funding support from CAPNET Lanka.

Activity 1 - CCA Programme for Farmer Leaders of Bathalagoda, Hakwatuna oya and Kimbulwana oya Major Schemes (Deduru oya basin)

A Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) programme for FO leaders of Bathalagoda, Hakwatuna oya and Kimbulwana oya major irrigation schemes on request of the Irrigation Management Division of the Ministry of Irrigation and Irrigation Department was held at the Rice Research and Development Institute (RRDI) Bathalagoda on 22nd July 2019. A total of 81 participated including 63 FO representatives of the above schemes, Development Officers of the 3 schemes and Resident Project Manager Bathalagoda. Dr S Pathmarajah and 4 graduate students from PGIA also attended the Programme which was a joint activity of SLWP and Cap-Net Sri Lanka. Resource Persons included Mr Ananda Jayasinghe Former Director IMD / Irrigation Agronomist. Eng. Malaini Kulasinghe Director Irrigation Kandy Zone and former Director NWP who represented Eng Janaki Meegastenna Director Irrigation and Addl Director CRIP who was on a sudden assignment to Manner and Mr DMM Dissanaike Lecturer Wariapola School of Agriculture and former Deputy Director Agriculture NWP. The programme included a field visit conducted by Mr Rohana Thilakasiri Principal Agriculturist RRDI. SLWP was represented by Mr Ranjith Ratnayake Country Coordinator and Mr UG Abeygunawardena Consultant while the Ministry of Irrigation was represented by Mr RPM Dissanaike Additional Director IMD.
Goal 02 - Generate and Communicate Knowledge.

GWP – Core Activities

Gender and Water / Youth Activities

Activity 1 - Young Water Professional Programme in Jaffna
The first Young Water Professionals Programme in Northern Province held in Jaffna on 19th March at Euroville Hall. The program commenced with the lighting of the lamp. Ms. Kusum Athukorala Activity Leader and Senior Advisor gave an introduction to the SLWP and highlighted the perceived role of the young Water professionals (YWP) as a conduit for community and school engagement, the need for promoting an ongoing dialogue about water conservation in Jaffna, in view of the major challenges faced by Jaffna and the looming threat of climate change, consultation and consensus building is needed for sustainable, equitable solutions. She said there was a need to work at different levels - to see what can be done at school, work and at home to raise awareness and find a means to keep the public attention on the theme going.

Mr Illaangovan Secretary Northern Province (NP) Governor’s Secretariat addressed the gathering and stated that the most critical problem of NP is water.

Mr Bharathidasan, DGM NWSDB gave a broad perspective of water related issues in Jaffna and highlighted some of the ongoing initiatives and possible solutions.

Finally the group then was led in a SWOT analysis by the Activity Leader which also suggested the follow-up activities. 58 Young Water Professional participated the programme.

Activity 2 - MHM Programme in Matale - Improving girl’s access to education through better menstrual health awareness
With support of CSR partners (NDB) and the support of provincial education authorities SLWP/NetWwater commenced a MHM program on July 5th to improve school health through sustainable sanitation focusing on rehabilitation of school sanitation after carrying out a province wide study of school sanitation in Central Province. These studies and subsequent evidence based advocacy activities have highlighted the need for a menstrual hygiene management program to support improved health for girl children and reduce absenteeism among adolescent girls. Poor menstrual hygiene management (MHM) practices was seen as a major cause for blockages and failures in school sanitation systems, thereby depriving the children of access to sanitation especially and crucially during menstruation.

Ms. Kusum Athukorala, Snr Advisor SLWP with Dr Gamini Jayakody /RDHS and Ms. Manel Pushpalatha /SLES acted as resource persons. The program was attended 23 teachers and 423 girls by as well as Provincial and Zonal Education officers. The group included a large number of premenstrual girls. The students were given an opportunity to send written questions after each session and responses were given by the resource persons. A simple questionnaire was verbally administered at the end. The questionnaire was optional and it was observed that students jointly filled in questionnaires...
School Programmes / Water Messenger Programmes

Activity 1 - World Water Day TOT Programme by Lions Club of Pilimathalawa
A training programme for 68 concealing teachers was held on 25th February at teacher’s training center, Pilimathalawa. Awareness of water and sanitation and school sanitation was carried out during this programme. Assistant Director, Department of Education Central Province, A Senior Chemist, National Water Supply and Drainage Board, Programme officer from Teachers Training Centre participated the programme as resource persons.

15 schools agreed to do art competitions, essay competitions and poster exhibitions while other 53 agreed to have an awareness programme at school assembly on 22nd March. Prices of 1st, 2nd & 3rd will be to the 15 schools.

Activity 2 - World Water Day Programme by Lions Club of Pilimathalawa
With the collaboration of the SLWP Partner the Lions Club of Pilimathalawa a World Water Day Programme was organized on 21st of March at Danthure Maha Vidyalaya. The Programmes was an awareness programme on water security for school children. Around 200 students, 12 Teachers and 2 officials from Lions club Pilimathalawa participated the programme. Chief Chemist from National Water Supply and Drainage Board, Central Province participate the programme as a resource person.

Activity 3 - World Water Day Programme by Ma Oya AWP
An Environment Conservation Programme was organized by the Ma Oya AWP to commemorate World Water Day on 15th - 16th March in Gurugoda Oya, Undugoda. This is the second part of the programme (first programme held on 21st February at Molagoda Primary school as an awareness activity), where 43 students and environmentalists did a river clean-up programme around the Gurugoda Oya area. The clean-up covered around 16 kms and it also included observation of illegal construction on the sides of the Nalangana Ella (upper part of the Gurugoda Oya) and conclusions and actions were discussed at the end of the programme as the 2nd Phase.
Activity 4 - World Water Day School Quiz programme
A School Quiz Programme was organized by the Ministry of Environment, Department of Education, Western Province and University of Colombo on 30th March at Sri Lanka Foundation Institute (SLFI), Colombo. 40 schools out of 90 were selected for this programme from the 1st round held in early March. The programme consisted of 3 rounds where a quiz round, art competition and a debate was held and given marks to each school team accordingly. Prof. Deepthi Wickramasinghe, Regional Council Member GWP SAS / Programme Committee Member SLWP took a major role in sections of the winners and arrangement of this programme. SLWP donated school sanitation booklets, posters and water messenger badges for the participants.

Activity 5 - World Environment Day Programme at Kadugannawa Maha Vidyalaya
An awareness programme for school children on air pollution and an art exhibition was organized by the SLWP and Partner Lions Club of Pilimathalawa on 7th June at Kadugannawa Maha Vidyalaya to commemorate World Environment Day. The programme was carried out by the Head of Agriculture section of the school, Mr. Ashoka Ratnayake under supervision of the school principal. Total of 30 students participated the programme and 12 students were selected for best arts.

Activity 6 - Tree Planting Programme by Ma Oya AWP
A tree planting and an awareness programme was organized by the SLWP and Partner Ma Oya AWP (Ma Oya Mithuro) on 05th June commemorating the World Environment Day. The tree planting was done around the BO Ella area with the participation of 60 scouts. There will be an art and essay competition as the second stage of this programme and scheduled to be held in the first week of July.
Activity 7 - Accelerating Climate Action for Youth- a Citizen Science Initiative

Above event was held on 16th December at the Vocational Training Institute, Gannoruwa. This activity was co-financed by HARTI and represented by SLWP SC member Ms Geethani Samarasinha. The vocational trainees had undergone two years of technical training and will join the workforce shortly. A notable fact was the very poor level of awareness of climate change of the trainees stemming from school level. The current VTI training does not include any climate related action. Prof B Punyawardena gave a comprehensive overview of the climate impacts for Sri Lanka. Mr Mangala Rajapakse Hydro geologist NWSDB highlighted the climate related impacts on drinking water in Central Province and stressed the need for improving catchment conservation. Mr Ananda Samarakoon social scientist HARTI discussed the importance of community work. Ms Kusum Athukooral SLWP led the group work where students were urged to present their own responses to the climate challenge. The students who presented were seen to have well understood the challenge of climate change. It is suggested that contact be made in higher echelons of vocational training with a report of this activity to promote a TOT for the vocational training sector. HARTI is willing to support another activity in 2020.

SDG Activities

World Environment Day Programmes

Activity 1 - Environmental Programme by Lions Club of Pilimathalawa
SLWP Partner the Lions Club of Pilimathalawa organized a programme under the topic, “Haritha Purawarak Bihika Bihikaramu” on 8th February. The activity is a part of the work undertaken to build a Green Zone by cleaning posters and banners from Kadugannawa to Pilimathalawa area. The message of clean water for a sustainable eco system is also promoted during this activity. 12 members from the Lions Club of Pilimathalawa and 86 other volunteers participated the programme.

Activity 2 - CCA Programme for the Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind
The Nuffield School is part of the Ceylon School for the Deaf and Blind (CSDB) is governed by the Anglican Church and managed by a Board of Trustees headed by the Bishop of Colombo. The CSDB operates three residential schools, The School for the Deaf and The School for the Blind at Ratmalana, and the Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind at Kaithady in Jaffna.
This programme was held on 18th March and the objective of this program is to improve school children’s health status by imparting a broader awareness and understanding of the issues related to water and sanitation in scenario of climate related changes.

The program covered the themes of climate change, drinking water supply and water quality and the links between sanitation and health. The program included an interactive component on building a school water action plan.

This activity took more time than a normal school activity as the entire program had to be explained to the sign language teachers beforehand. Thus the program was held in Tamil, English and sign language.

The activity started with a dance drama on the theme of deforestation carried out by the older children. Then the SLWP activity leader Kusum Athukorala explained her experience of the impact of Climate Change on water security and the perceived threat to water security of Jaffna.

The Resource person Mr Diwakaran / NWSDB conducted a lecture with photos via power point presentation about the climate change and drinking water issues affecting Jaffna.

Ms. Geethanie Ahangama Steering Committee member SLWP donated painting material and gifts for the competition

Activity 3 Menstrual Health and Hygiene Advocacy Program
Snr Advisor Kusum Athukorala was invited to present at the above programme, conducted for the Metro Colombo Urban Development Project, Battaramulla held on 20th December 2019 at Sethsiropaya. The findings of the MHM program were received with interest as some of the medical issues were unknown to the mainly technical audience. This activity was engendered by interest inspired by the recent media reports on MHM. The other fellow presenters were from the UNFPA and the private sector marketing new MHM products. The audience included engineers who are now planning to follow up with a MHM session for the Women’s Group of the Institute of Engineers SL in 2020.

Goal 03 - Strengthen Partnerships

Private Sector Collaboration

Activity 1 - SLWP HNB Tea Landscape Programme
After successfully completing the construction of the 6 Rain Water Harvesting Tanks in 6 selected school a post construction training programme was held on proper maintenance of the new tanks. The programme was held on 15th February and conducted my SLWP partner/collaborator Mr. Lalith Seneviratne. The programmes were held at each school individually throughout the day.

The Tea Landscape Final report was submitted to HNB on 25th February
Initiatives are underway to expand the tea landscape programme supported by HNB and have Unilever restart the Agra Oya programme that was stopped after the pilot study. Discussions are on with Dilmah to see areas of collaboration under their CSR portfolio.

Activity 2 - Programme on School Water and Disaster Risk Reduction for School Children in Aranayake

SLWP carried out a program a Citizens program in School Water Safety for Disaster Risk Reduction for Schools in Aranayaka Education Zone on 29th November at the Sumangala Vidyalaya- Aranayaka with the support of the WB WASSIP project, Hatton National Bank and the Aranayake Zonal Education Office.

The Inaugural Session and Welcome Address by the Director Zonal Education Aranayake Mr Wijesiri. Mr Hemantha Seneviratna, Hatton National Bank on Sustainability and school children – Challenges and responses.

Dr. Samarasinghe MOH conducted a session on School Health and sanitation with special attention to handwashing for maintenance of school hygiene and prevention of disease spreading in the classroom. Mr Kosala Handapangoda Environmental Consultant WASSIP conducted a session on Water security through school water safety plans. He emphasized the need for catchment conservation following the threat of landslides. Ms. Kusum Athukorala SLWP elaborated on the work done previously by SLWP for the Janashakthi project and the Aranayake DRR project and led the Group work in school groups. The school groups have presented ideas for a School Action plan for water and sanitation for 2020 based on information received from the presenters.

The Presentation of Action Plan by School Groups was postponed since it was the last day of school year and the children were anxious to get back home, one group having travelled 40 km. SLWP undertook to send a draft work plan based on their output to the Zonal education Office and the HNB representative.

Governance

8 Programme Committee Meetings and 2 Steering Committee Meetings held up to November 2019.

Other

a) Meeting with Cargill’s Bank.

A three member team from SLWP had meeting with the CEO of Cargills Bank on 26th March at the bank headquarters on possible collaboration and support under Cargills CSR Programmes. Mr Thiagarajah the CEO was very interested in SLWP activities especially those addressing farming issues and agreed to further take-up with the Food City Chain that had strong links to local farmers.

b) GWP SAS Regional Council Member Prof Deepthi Wickramasinghe receives award at 1st World Summit on “Leaving No One Behind”
Professor Deepthi Wickramasinghe, Professor in Environmental Science, University of Colombo and Regional Council Member GWP South Asia representing Sri Lanka Water Partnership was one of 3 recipients of best exploratory awards for human rights based approaches towards water for all at the 1st World Summit held in Geneva on 7th February 2019. Professor Wickramasinghe has worked for the water sector for many years with a special focus on clean and green water for all, human beings as well as for ecosystems.

The other two awards were went to Columbia and India. Proposal by Prof Wickramasinghe was on “Rainwater Harvesting as an alternative water source for CKDU affected areas in Sri Lanka”. The award carries with it a grant of Swiss Francs 5000/- from WATERLEX a NGO established in 2010 in Geneva to promote human rights to water and sanitation. The pilot project is planned to be carried out in Sri Lanka this year.

c) National Conference on Colombo Wetlands

The Global Environmental Facility/Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP) implemented by UNDP has been initiated and offers and excellent opportunity to protect and conserve Colombo Wetlands which provides a unique value to Colombo metro areas and suburbs. The Centre for Environmental Justice accepted this challenge and has presented a strategic and extensive community based plan and has invited decision makers, state agency representatives, practitioners, academics, developers and general public and other interested parties to this conference.

SLWP Senior advisor Ms. Kusum Athukorala and GWP SAS RC Member Prof. Deepthi Wickramasinghe participated at the above programme on 11th June at the Water’s Edge, Battaramulla.

d) GWP Network Meeting

SLWP participated at the Virtual Network Meeting on 26th June along with GWP SAS RO. SLWP Partners highlighted issues related to GWP Impact Areas of SDG and Climate Change. Need for adequate funding was highlighted as diminishing Core was impacting on rand and visibility affecting leverage of LRF. Need for GWP to partner with dedicated ware expert centers such as IWMI for expert input was recommended. Need for more Gender and Youth focus in GWP programmes was also expressed.

e) 21st International convention of the Soroptimists International

SLWP Senior Advisor Ms. Kusum Athukorala participated at the 21st International convention of the Soroptimists International was held in Kuala Lumpur 19-21st July with more than 1000 global representatives. Ms. Kusum delivered the key note address on the theme Women Water and Food Security” and participated in the subsequent panels on climate change and women’s health. She also made use of this opportunity to meet representatives of the Malaysian Water Partnership.

f) SLWP Senior Advisor Participating at Stockholm Water Week

SLWP Senior Advisor Ms. Kusum Athukorala participated as a presenter and resource person in the full day session on Women and Youth – living apart together. She attended all Asia Focus sessions which had very poor gender focus and commented accordingly. She also went for the training sessions conducted on Facebook and Instagram and visited the booths and had discussions regarding funding by Antea PLC, Nestles, IHE Delft, UNWATER, Australia Water Partnership, Govt of India’s Swach Bharath and BORDA.

She was invited to the IWMI launch, the Women’s networking event and “She Decides” event conducted by WfWP. She had sit down discussions with GWP Exec Secy Monika for collaboration with WfWP. She also had discussions with Monica Ericson, Steven Downey, Colin Herron and Francois Brikke of GWP at which she consistently raised the issues of CWP funding. She was introduced to new GWP Chair Mr Bamsey.

She met with young water professionals including Antonella Vagliente who visited Sri Lanka – this year 25% of participants were youth.
g) ROSA-WASH Climate Resilience Training from 16-19 July in Kathmandu, Nepal

SLWP Country coordinator Mr. Ranjith Ratnayake participated in this programme along with other professionals representing Sri Lanka, including an Addl. Secretary from the Ministry of City Planning, a Senior Assistant Secretary from the Ministry of Environment the Disaster Risk Reduction Programme Officer from UNICEF. The focus was on WASH and climate resilience and GWP involvement was to seek integration of GWP work in SAS with WASH activities in approaching issues of response to climate change. Both resource persons from GWP and UNICEF were well briefed and knowledgeable and competently handled the 3 day programme.

A Technical Brief on integrating climate resilience into national policies and plans, Linking Risk with Response – options for climate resilience and the Strategic Framework for WASH climate resilience was comprehensive and well presented. The one on Risk Assessment was most useful for even non-WASH water persons. The presentations on Financing on the last day on GCF funding was well thought out and the presentation by Lopez Rello on Financing from GEF, Adaptation Fund and GEF was the highlight as it brought in perspectives and key points useful to all proponents of projects to these funds, usually lacking in presentations on third party institutions.

h) Readiness Support to NDA (Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment under Green Climate Fund (GCF).

GWP has been accepted as Readiness Support Delivery Partner to access GCF funds by the NDA. A proposal is being prepared to strengthen NDA and line agencies to monitor commitments under NDC and the Paris Agreement and prepare a pipeline of proposals for downstream water management complementary to the proposal on upper watersheds being undertaken by ICRAF for the NDA. Funding is sought in 2020 from GCF for the above.

25th Regional Council (RC) Meeting of GWP South Asia

The 25th RC meeting of GWP South Asia was held on 19th and 20th October in Thimpu Bhutan. Mr Lalith Dissanaike represented SLWP at the Meeting. The Issue of reduced core funding and impact on performance was highlighted by him and all CWP representatives. This issue to be taken up as priority with GWPO by Chair SAS.

i) Annual Partners Forum of SLWP

SLWP Annual Partners Form was held on 17th December at Hotel Galadari Colombo. Ms. Chiranthi Cooray, Chief Transformation officer and Head of Human Resources, Hatton National Bank was invited as the chief guest for this event. The Audit Report 2018, Financial and Physical Progress Report for 2019 and 2020 Work Plan and Budget was presented at the Forum. Prof. Sirimal Abeyratne of the Department of Economics, University of Colombo delivered the Key Note Address on Water, Agriculture and Development. Dr B Kumarendran Consultant Physician and Senior Lecturer University of Jaffna made a presentation on SDG related issues in the Northern Province. 40 participants including partners and representatives of collaborating institutions were present at the event. The launch of the New GWP Strategy 2020-2025 was part of the programme and the new strategy was presented by Mr Lal Induruwage Regional Coordinator GWP South Asia.
j) Symposium on Urban Water and Coastal Management
The Symposium was organized by Cap-Net Lanka in collaboration with the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, Water Resources Science and Technology and Sri Lanka Water Partnership on 28th November, to provide a common forum to students, researchers, managers, administrators and policy makers to acquire / share the current knowledge on urban water, coastal zone management, and contribute towards management solutions. The programme started with the welcome speech by Dr. Pathmarajah, Country Coordinator, and Cap-Net Lanka. Guest of honor was Dr. Lim Chow Hoc, Manager MyCDNet, and Malaysia. A panel discussion was carried out by Ms. Kusum Athukorala. 55 participated the programme.