



**COUNTRY PAPER**

# SRI LANKA

## How to Improve the Quality and Impact of Environmental Audit

PRESENTED BY

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# Environmental Audit of Water Pollution in Beria Lake- Colombo

## Background and Audit Planning

- The Beira Lake (BL) was constructed in 1521 by Portuguese
- Consist of four lakes
- Once an economic and esthetic asset
- Seriously degraded the lake water quality

# Objectives

- Management and development of the Beira Lake is the responsibility of the Urban Development Authority (UDA).
- Determine whether the UDA and other agencies have succeeded in meeting established goals and objectives in preventing pollution of the Beira Lake.

# Audit Criteria

- whether UDA and other agencies have monitoring plans, reporting progress against expected results
- whether they have taken remedial measures.
- Our examination and testing included whether proposed ambient water quality standards for inland surface waters have adhered to.

# Methodology

- Report focuses on the management of water quality
- Wide range of sources of evidence, including meetings with managers and staff of the agencies, review of management information.
- Academic and consultancy reports available on this subject and INTOSAI- WGEA Guidelines.

# Findings

- Discharge of unmanaged urban waste
- Bulk of run-off into the lake is provided by the rainfall
- Light green colour of the water and odour emanating
- Number of shanties around the East Lake and the shanty dwellers use the Beira as disposal site for garbage, raw sewage and waste water
- Lack of enforcement of laws and non- enforcement of fines
- lack of public awareness
- Institutions responsible for preventing of waste into the BL and their proper maintenance have not efficiently implemented.

# Recommendations

- UDA and other responsible agencies should focus on reducing pollutant loadings, mainly sewage
- Disconnection of unauthorized sewer lines
- limiting phosphorous use in house hold detergents
- Sediment removable should be made very effective in preventing long-term phosphors released to control algal growth.
- Re -allocation of shanty dwellers
- Effective implementation of environment laws, rules and regulations including imposing fines
- Public awareness programmes should be conducted

## Impact and results

- UDA reported that the main pollution source is unauthorized settler located around the Beria
- Action has been taken to relocate them from these places.
- It has become pollution free and used for Boat riding along the lake, floating restaurant by Five Star Hotel, floating market etc.



# Challenges and barriers

- Obtaining samples in different location of the lake, testing samples by reputed/accepted organizations
- absence of adequate and up-to-date environmental monitoring data for decision making
- deficient monitoring and reporting systems are another barrier.

## Lessons learned

- Need to have proper understanding among the institutions concern about the extent of damage to the environment leading to several problems unless arrest early
- When we undertake this type of audit team should have multi-discipline skills
- Necessary to obtain specialized services from reputed organizations

# **INTOSAI- WGEA Guidelines**

The working group has provided guidelines, extensive information on water pollution and provided effective training on the auditing of environmental issues.

Thank You

