

# REPORT ON FIELD VISIT TO UPPER REACH OF THE MAHA OYA BASIN

## GROUP A

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## Formation of field strategy and Working Teams

- Team I – Coordination and Organization
- Team II – Community Participation
- Team III – Environment & Water Quality

Team I	Team II	Team III
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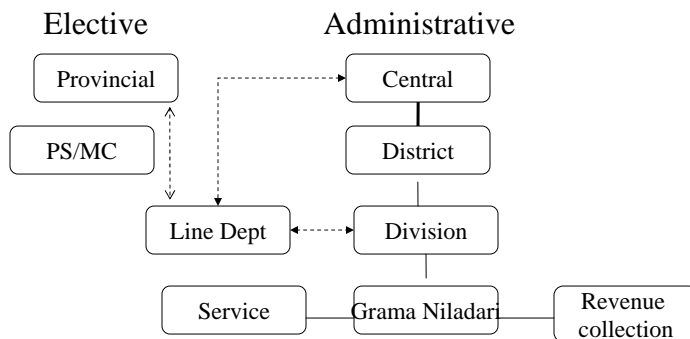
## Observations

### Co-ordination & Organisation

- Different types of Authorities
- Private sector agencies
- NGO's & beneficiary organisations
- Lack of effective co-ordination

## Different types of Authorities

### Existing organizational structure



## Co-ordination & Organisation

**Private sector agencies**

**NGO's & beneficiary organisations**

**Lack of effective co-ordination**

## Observations

### **Community participation**

- Lack of adequate people's participation
- Non-functional CBO's
- One Youth Group "Soba Thurunu Society"
- NGO

## **Community participation**

- Non-functional CBO's
- CBO's are being formed
- Key members have an adequate knowledge about the issues of the river basin
- Community at large are unaware of the importance of issues such as direct garbage dumping
- Expectation of external help to organise and implement awareness programmes

## **Community participation**

### **One Youth Group "Soba Thurunu Society"**

- Youth of the area are forming into societies by them selves
- Are interested in doing projects (identification of rare species of fish)
- Established links with other such groups even outside the basin

## **Community participation**

### NGO

- Fairly active NGO “maha Oya Mithuro”
- Interaction with Govt. authorities (DS level) at satisfactory level
- Have identified problems of the river and it’s surrounding
- Proposals and solutions are also identified
- Financial constraints

## Observations

### **Environment & Water Quality**

- No baseline data available in all the relevant fields
- Soil erosion in the catchment
- Urban pollution
- Industrial waste
- Negative impacts of Mini hydro-power projects
- Lack of concern for aquatic bio-diversity

## **Environment & Water Quality**

### **■ Soil erosion in the catchment area**

- ✓ Soil erosion exist in the area
- ✓ Unplanned settlement on the banks as well as encroaching waterways
- ✓ Illegal felling of trees at upper part of catchment
- ✓ No tree plantation to compensate deforestation
- ✓ Pine tree plantation causing degradation of upper catchment

## **Environment & Water Quality**

### **■ Urban Pollution**

- ✓ Unplanned urbanisation
- ✓ Disposal of untreated sewerage water into the river
- ✓ Encroachment of river banks
- ✓ No mechanism of monitoring ground water quality

## **Environment & Water Quality**

### **■ Improper Industrial Waste Disposal**

- ✓ Disposal of industrial waste into river without adequate treatment
- ✓ standards fixed for treatment of Industrial effluent are less stringent than international standards
- ✓ No system of monitoring river water quality
- ✓ Treatment plants installed in industrial units are at preliminary stage, even not working in some places

## **Environment & Water Quality**

### **■ Negative impacts of Mini-hydro power plants**

- ✓ Problems exists with insufficient water flow for drinking water supply abstraction during dry weather flow.
- ✓ Absence of proper EIA & SIA
- ✓ Illicit felling of forest has become accelerated due to easy access

Thank you