

Chapter 7

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAMME

The implementation of an effective Monitoring program is a needed component of a project. Yet, most monitoring programs do not meet the specified standards and require a more comprehensive outlook. The Project Proponent is the critical figure in a monitoring program and his priority should be to incorporate and carry out an effective program from the start of the project. Economizing on such measures should be avoided, and the proposed mitigatory measures that are important for environmental protection should be strictly followed. A committee which represents the key stakeholders / agencies should be formed in order to facilitate and coordinate the monitoring program. The committee will work on identifying the specific aspects of the suitable monitoring program for the project. Additionally they will monitor the changes and implementation of mitigatory measures to reduce the adverse impacts and increase the viability of the proposed project. If the proposed activities are unsuccessful or found to be impractical, the committee will take the required actions to re-orient the planned activities, so that the adverse impacts are reduced.

The following personal are proposed as the members of the monitoring committee:

- Director , Sabaragamuwa province , Central Environmental Authority (CEA), or his nominee (Chairmen)
- Project proponent , or his able representation
- An officer to represent relevant Divisional Secretaries Rathnapura
- An officer nominated by the Pradeshiya Sabha both from Rathnapura
- An officer representing NBRO
- An officer representing Irrigation Department
- An officer representing Department of Wildlife conservation
- An officer representing Forest Department

- Restoration /Ecology Expert (whenever necessary)

Ensuring implementation of all mitigatory measures should be done by the monitoring Committee. Any obstacles that may arise during the course of implementation of the project will be forwarded to the relevant person / authority by the monitoring committee. The project proponent will bear the cost of monitoring.

The state of the parameters identified in the monitoring plan and implementation of mitigatory measures to minimize adverse impacts will be conducted by the monitoring committee. During the construction phase, the frequency of monitoring would be once in two months. In instances where complaints are made by an acceptable party, either public and/or government agency, immediate remedial actions should be taken. The frequency of monitoring during the operational phase will be basically random as once in six months. Inspection should be carried out without delay in a response to any complaint made by an acceptable party.