

"HOW DOES LAND USE PATTERN COULD EFFECT TO MITIGATE THE FLASH FLOODS"

Kaushal Jeevaka Attanayake

ABSTRACT

The watersheds are the home for our key natural resources. "Badulla River" is one of the main watersheds in Sri Lanka extend about 1400sq.km with high steep lands. It mainly represents tea estates and agricultural lands with a weak land use pattern due to poor maintenance and unsuitable human involvements. This situation has resulted frequent floods in lower catchments areas of Badulla River even in a small precipitation causing widespread damages to community live in lower lands. Hence, an initial project was started on surface water management, soil conservation and livelihoods development to control the frequent floods highlighting the urgent actions for an optimal land use management with support of field experts. Improved surface water drainage and soil conservation are the main options that might lead to mitigate the flash floods. Efforts were sharpened by integrating GIS Mapping for such initiation to enhance the effectiveness of the design.

PALAVRA-CHAVE: Watersheds, Land Use, Land Management, Floods, Mitigation, Risk