

UNDP / UN-Habitat - Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP)  
Sustainable Colombo Core Area Project (SCCP II)

# PROFILE

## Moratuwa Municipal Council

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- UN-Habitat (SCP)
  - Government of Sri Lanka (Western Provincial Council)
  - Moratuwa Municipal Council
  - SEVANATHA – Urban Resource Centre (Local Partner Institution)

## Introduction

This city profile was prepared as part of the requirement of the Sustainable (Sri Lankan) Cities Programme (SCCP II) which is being implemented in the Colombo urban area during the time period of 2001 – 2002 involving eight urban local authorities (i.e. Colombo Municipal Council, Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte Municipal Council, Dehiwala Mt. Lavinia Municipal Council, Moratuwa Municipal Council, Negambo Municipal Council, Kolonnawa Urban Council, Wattala Mabile Urban Council and Panadura Urban Council). The primary purpose of preparation of a city profile is to understand the current status of environmental resources in the city, the development activities and the nature of interaction between these two factors. It is neither scientific investigation nor a high profile technical report but it is a simple document, which tries to highlight the current problems relating to city development in the concerned area. It also emphasizes on a participatory decision making process to solve the identified problems in the city. This city profile can be further updated and improved continuously whereby the local authority staff would be able to improve their skills in preparing documents such as these, which are essential for decision making at city level and influencing the policy making authorities above them. In this context, this city profile may be considered as a first step towards developing a proper database for Moratuwa town supporting towards better management of its future development activities.

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## Basic Fact Sheet of Moratuwa Municipal Council Area

1.0	Province	:	Western Province of Sri Lanka
1.1	District	:	Colombo
1.2	Local Authority Status	:	Municipal Council
1.3	Year of Establishment	:	January 1998 (Formerly an Urban Council since January 1930)
1.4	Location in Relation to Colombo City	:	Moratuwa is located on the Southern direction about 24 km away from Colombo City
2.0	Extent of the Authority Area	:	23.6 sq.km
2.1	No. of Council Wards	:	17
2.2	No. of Council Members	:	29
2.3	Population (2001)	:	177,190
2.4	Average Population Density	:	78.09 p/ha
3.0	Total Approved Cadre (2000)	:	768
3.1	Total Cadre in Place	:	-
3.2	Total Retable Properties	:	
3.3	Percentage Rate for Residential Properties	:	10%
3.4	Percentage Rate for Commercial Properties	:	16%
3.5	Total Budget Income (2001)	:	Rs.
3.6	Total Budget Expenditure (2001)	:	Rs.
3.7	Surplus(2001)	:	Rs.

*Source: Budget Report 2002, Municipal Council, Moratuwa*

## 1.1 Introduction to the Town

### History of the Town

Moratuwa has been recognized as the birth place of a national hero known as 'Puranappu' who led a rebellion against the British colonial domination in the middle of 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is also a birth of a large number of scholars, religious leaders, businessmen and well-wishers who not only supported the people of Moratuwa but serve the entire country. Moratuwa has been an influence area of foreign colonial rulers who left its mark in the landscape of Moratuwa as manifested in many churches and schools of Christian denomination. Moratuwa is traditionally known for its skilled carpentry work and furniture industry, which provides employment opportunities in this reputed sector.

From 1908 to 1930 Moratuwa town had been administered by a Local Board. It received Urban Council status on 01<sup>st</sup> January 1930. It was elevated to the level of a Municipal Council on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1998.

It is one of those towns, which came under the impact of industrialization move, which took place in Colombo during the 1970s. It forms part of the Ratmalana industrial area, which has a wide variety of modern industries providing employment for the population of its hinterland areas. The Western coastal belt of this town had been traditionally a fishing settlement although its character is presently under going change particularly after the construction of the new coastal road parallel to the railway line. The location of one of the premier technical universities in the country namely the University of Moratuwa and the Arthur C. Clark Centre at Katubedda provide a new dimension to the modernization and technical advancement for this area as well as for the country. Moratuwa is one of the nearest urban centres of Colombo city where the impact of Colombo's development was felt strongly.

### Geographical Location

Moratuwa town is located in the Colombo District of the Western Province on the Southern direction of City of Colombo. It is bounded by Dehiwala-Mt.Lavinia Municipal Council to the North, Indian Ocean to the West and Bolgoda river to the South and to the East.

Total extent of the municipal area is approximately 23.4 sq. km. The Municipal area is divided into 17 wards and their population distribution is as follows.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Ward</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Area (Ha)</i>	<i>Density</i>
1.	Angulana	7072	53.6	132
2.	Kaldemulla	12652	105.6	120
3.	Soysapura	3274	50.0	65
4.	Thelawala	9198	97.0	95
5.	Borupana	6879	164.0	42
6.	Luxapathiya	14087	135.0	104
7.	Katubedda	26555	276.0	96
8.	Rawatawatta	10474	135.0	78
9.	Idama	1641	88.0	19
10.	Uyana	9776	123.0	79
11.	Moratuwella	21011	160.0	131
12.	Koralawella	12005	177.0	68
13.	Katukurunda	13239	167.0	79
14.	Egodauyana	6095	102.0	60
15.	Moratumulla	11753	143.0	82
16.	Indibedda	3560	140.0	25
17.	Villoarawatta	7919	153.6	52
Total		177190	2269.8	78.09

Source: Population Census – 2001

According to the above data, the Moratuwa Urban Council area has a fairly high density distribution of population, which was 78.09 person per / ha. In four council wards i.e. Angulana, Kaldemulla, Luxapathiya and Moratumulla have recorded over 100 person per / ha which needs to be given serious considerations in the context of service availability, environmental condition and public health aspects in such high density locations.

### **Relative Importance of the Town**

Moratuwa is one of the five Municipal Councils coming within the Colombo Metropolitan Area. Its importance lies mainly due to the following factors.

- A town with some modern industrial activities
- traditional carpentry workshops and timber industry
- fisheries activities
- Educational and religious centres of a higher order
- Service activities particularly related to tourists industry
- Residential suburbs of Colombo

In view of its demographic, social and economic importance, Moratuwa has been identified as a sub-regional center in the Regional Structure Plan prepared for the Colombo Metropolitan Region by the Urban Development Authority in 1998.

## **1.2 Details Regarding the Population**

Moratuwa Municipal Area presently has a population of 177,190 and is one of the sub-urban areas of the Colombo Metropolitan region, which had been growing at a very high rate as evident from the population data of the town during the last 5 decades. Its population, which was only 50,698 in 1946, has increased by over 350% by 2001, which is quite unprecedented in the Colombo District. It reached its peak of 4.0% growth rate in 1981 largely due to attraction of migrant workforce by its industries and service sector activities and urban sprawl from Colombo and Dehiwala- Mt.Lavinia Municipal Council. areas. At present, the growth rate has got stabilized at about 2.5% per annum.

Growth of Population in Moratuwa Town

Year	Total Population	Annual Increase
1946	50,689	0
1953	60,215	2.68
1963	77,833	2.92
1971	96,267	2.09
1981	134,826	4.00
2001	177,190	

Source: Census of Population Reports

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## The racial composition of the population

The racial composition of the population in Moratuwa as per 2001 census of population is indicated in the following table.

Race	Population	Percentage
Sinhalese	168324	95.0
Sri Lankan Tamils	4433	2.5
Muslims	2452	1.4
Burghers	734	0.4
Tamils	375	0.2
Others	872	0.5
Total	177190	100

Source: Reports of the Divisional Secretary, Moratuwa

As per above data, it is evident that Moratuwa has a predominantly Sinhalese population with Sri Lankan Tamils and Muslims being the two noticeable other racial groups living in Moratuwa.

## Religious Composition of the Population

The religious composition of the population is shown in the following table.

Religion	Population	%
Buddhists	124505	70.2
Catholics	33883	19.1
Christians	11806	6.7
Hindus	3367	1.9
Islam	3311	1.9
Others	318	0.2
Total	177190	100

Religious composition of population indicates that a majority (70.2%) consists of Buddhists while Catholics and Christians constitutes the second highest religious group (25.8%) . Hindus and Islam religious represent together only 3.8% of the total population. The above religious composition is significantly reflected in the landscape and cultural activities of the town.

## Age Profile of the Population

The interim report of the 2001 population census provides the age profile of the population only according to two age groups as follows.

<i>Age Category</i>	<i>No. of Persons</i>	<i>Percentage of Total</i>
18 yrs & less	51004	28.78
Over 18 yrs	126186	71.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>177190</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The above data indicate a large percentage of the population is in the school going age. This necessitates careful planning for meeting the needs of a large youth population in the city in near future.

## Population Distribution according to Income Categories

Data is not available to identify the population of the town according to different income levels. However, the families who receives Samurdhi benefits indicates about 8,278 families which is a substantial percentage (26.7%) of the city population who are considered to be economically poor.

### Samurdhi Beneficiary Families by Municipal Wards

<b>Name of Ward</b>	<b>No. of Samurdhi families</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
1. Angulana	764	9.3
2. Kaldemulla	113	1.3
3. Soysapura	52	0.6
4. Thelawala	219	2.6
5. Borupana	95	1.42
6. Luxapathiya	428	5.12
7. Katubedda	599	7.2
8. Rawatawatta	214	2.6
9. Idama	169	2.0
10. Uyana	548	6.6
11. Moratuwella	876	10.6
12. Korlawella	1123	13.6
13. Katukurunda	842	10.2
14. Egoda Uyana	1189	14.3
15. Moratumulla	264	3.1
16. Indibedda	382	4.6
17. Willorawatta	401	4.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>8278</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Adopted from the data available at Divisional Secretariat Office, Moratuwa, 2001

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High concentration of Samurधि beneficiaries were found in Egoda Uyana, Korawella, Moratumulla and Angulana where most of the low income settlements are located. This shows that there is a significant relationship between the poor income and poor housing condition of the people.

According to the data available at the Municipal Council office, the following low income settlements / gardens are located within Moratuwa Municipal area.

**Details of Existing Low Income Settlements in Moratuwa – 2001**

Name of Settlement	No. of Families	Land Owned by	Improvement Needed
1. Soysawatta	46	NHDA	All basic amenities
2. Bolgoda Siripura, Idama	36	MMC	Storm water drains
3. Lucky Sevan Pura, Katukurunda	68	Govt.	-do-
4. Fisheries Houses, Uyana	39	NHDA	Access roads and drains
5. Janajayapura, Korawella	36	MMC	-do-
6. Puwakgahatutupola watta	47	MMC	All basic amenities
7. St. Antony pura, Moratumulla	29	MMC	Drinking water, storm water drains
8. Maithree Petumpura, Indibedda	52	NHDA	-do-
9. Dandeniya watta, Katubedda	195	Govt.	All basic amenities
10. Samagipura, Borupana	270	Govt.	Access & drains
11. Fisheries Watta, Egoda Uyana	82	Dept. Fisheries	All amenities
12. Lansiyawatta, Egoda Uyana	24	Govt.	Access roads & drains
<b>Total</b>	<b>924</b>		

When compared to the situation in Colombo Municipality and Dehiwala Mt. Lavinia, the problem of low income settlements in Moratuwa seem to be not that critical. However, since many of these low income settlements do not have basic amenities intervention of the municipality for improving their living conditions would be considered important.

### 1.3 Urban Utility Services

#### Water Supply

The total water requirement of the municipal area has been estimated as 700,000 gallons a day at the rate of 40 gallons a day per person by the National Water Supply & Drainage Board. Although 24 hour water supply is being provided for the town area, some areas such as Katubedda, Devale road etc are experiencing water pressure problems and interruption of supply during certain parts of the day. Out of the total of 26,064 water connections provided by the middle of the year 2000, 24,919 are residential connections while the balance 1145 are commercial. The National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWS&DB) has

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provided 512 stand posts within the Municipal area for the benefit of low income communities and the general public.

Due to the high density of population and pollution of ground water due improper discharge of industrial waste in most parts of the Municipal area, ground water cannot be used for drinking purpose, therefore, people have to rely on pipe born water. At present the entire municipal area is covered by pipe borne water. However, individual connections are not available within some of the low income settlements.

## **Drainage**

Of the total of 104,950 l.ft. of road side drains nearly 97,000 l.ft of drains are cement or concrete rendered. The balance consists of earth drains.

The overall drainage is a problem in Moratuwa Municipal Council area due to the existence of low-lying areas at the periphery of Bolgoda Lake and Lunawa Lagoon. During heavy rains many areas at the edges of Bolgoda Lake and Lunawa lagoon get inundated. Sri Lanka Land Reclamation and Development Corporation has introduced controls regarding development activities in the areas subject to flooding. Furthermore the existing drainage network including road side drains and culverts are not properly maintained by the concerned authorities and hence a large number of access roads in residential areas get inundated during rainy season..

## **Solid Waste Disposal**

Solid waste disposal is one of the important functions of the local authority. This task is carried out under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector. About 170 metric tons of solid waste is generated daily of which 155 metric tons are being collected and disposed of by the Municipality in a low-lying area at Dandenyawatta, Thelawala, which is in close proximity to Weras Ganga (Bolgoda Lake). The above site may not be environmentally suitable for the use of solid waste disposal in view of its low-lying nature and proximity to the river and the importance of the water body in the city's eco-system.

At present, the Municipality has 22 vehicles and 285 employees to attend to the task of disposal of solid waste. The Municipality has launched several programs during the past few years to promote making of compost from bio-degradable waste and recycling of some of the non-biodegradable waste such as polythene. It is also understood that saw dust generated from saw mills and carpentry workshops are disposed of to Bolgoda lake and to the sea shore due to lack of a proper disposal method for timber industry related waste. Part of the lake has already been reclaimed for construction purposes by reclaiming illegally. This matter has now being discussed by the municipal council for finding proper alternatives.

### **Issues Related to the Current System of Solid Waste Disposal**

- Lack of an environmentally acceptable solid waste disposal site and sanitary land fill practices.
- Pollution of Bolgoda Lake resulting from the disposal of saw dust and industrial waste.
- Pollution of beach area due to dumping of solid waste.

## **Health and Sanitation**

In order to provide a satisfactory level of health and sanitation services for the people of Moratuwa, the following facilities have been provided by the municipality and the government.

- A district hospital and an Ayurvedic dispensary at Lunawa.
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- 16 health clinics at Katukurunda, Egodaunya, Korawella, Modera, Moratuwella, Soysapura, Indibedda, Luxapathiya, Angulana, Katubedda, Thelawala, Rawatawatta Molpe etc.
- 39 private dispensaries
- 2 central dispensaries at Angulana and Korawella
- 11 private Ayurvedic dispensaries.
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Following programs are being carried out by the Municipal Council to promote community health and sanitation in the town.

- Launching of special programs for eradication of mosquitoes particularly in areas where cases of Dengu fever have been reported;
  - Taking of blood samples for the detection of Filaria cases and medical treatment for affected cases.
  - Regular inspection of places of production and sale of insanitary food items and prompt destruction of such items;
  - Special awareness programs for the prevention of Aids.
  - A Program has already been initiated by Sri Lanka Land Reclamation and Development Corporation for environmental conservation and improvement of living conditions of the inhabitants living around of the Bolgoda Lake and Lunawa lagoon. This programme will be implemented as a participatory development programme involving the government, the municipality, the community and other civil society organizations.
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## 2.1 Nature of Urban Development:

Existing land use pattern is a good indicator of the nature and extent of urban development of the area. The land use plan prepared by the Urban Development Authority (UDA) for the municipal area, which is in the final form at present, is based on a survey carried out in 1993. Therefore a land use survey has been carried out by the UDA in 2001 in order to update the land use plan but the data are not available in its final form. Therefore it was considered appropriate to make use of the 1993 land use data in order to illustrate the city's general land use pattern.

### Land Use Pattern of Moratuwa Municipal Area - 1993

Land Use	Extent (ha)	Percentage
Residential	1095	55.5
Commercial	43	2.2
Industrial	160	8.1
Public uses	116	5.9
Religious	21	1.1
Parks & play grounds	6	0.3
Roads	174	8.8
Total: Developed area	1615	82.0
Vacant/marshes	85	4.3
Cultivated land	37	1.9
Water bodies	235	11.9
Total	1972	100.0

## 2.2 Problems of Existing Land Use Distribution

The above classification of land uses does not provide a detailed insight into the activities carried out in each zone. For example, there are many areas where mixed land uses prevail and the character of land uses are complex. Therefore a careful analysis of ward wise land use pattern and related issues need to be carried out in order to understand the area specific problems of the development. However, the following broad issues were identified through presently available information.

- **Existence of Land Use Conflicts**

Land use conflicts are evident in many areas, particularly due to the location of many obnoxious and polluting industries in the midst of residential areas. The existence of saw mills in residential areas has created many problems of noise and air pollution in residential areas. The lack of proper zoning plan and enforcement of zoning regulations have contributed to aggravate the land use conflicts within the municipal area.

The encroachment of environmentally sensitive areas such as Bolgoda Lake, Weras Ganga and Lunawa Lagoon as well as several islands of high environmental quality and bio-diversity by squatter settlements as well as by the businessmen for non-residential activities has already threatened the existence of these vital natural resources.

- **Lienier Development of Commercial and Service Activities along Road Corridors**

Like in many other cities in Sri Lanka, the major commercial and service activities have been located along the busy main roads which runs through the town. In Moratuwa town, this type of lienier development activities are found located along old Galle Road as well as new Galle Road. Since many of these commercial and service activities have direct access from the main road it has naturally contributed to traffic congestion, rising road accidents as well as a continuous inconvenience to the passengers. This situation has further aggravated due to lack of proper vehicular parking facilities forcing the motorists to park their vehicles along the already congested main roads.

- **Inadequate Reservations, Parks, Playgrounds and Open Spaces**

Only about 06 hectares of land is available as open spaces for a population of 177,000, which is completely inadequate from any planning standards. Therefore, a large majority of city population do not have access to recreational facilities in the areas where they live. Though no proper studies has been carried out to access the consequences of inadequate amenities in the town it may be considered that inadequate urban amenities and residential facilities wold contribute to deteriorate the living standards of the city population.

### 3.1 Main Environmental Features of the Town

The main environmental features of the town can be listed as follows.

- A beach front extending over a distance of 11.7 km forming the Western boundary of the local authority area.
- Bolgoda Lake (Weras Ganga ) together with its immediate environs including several islands with their unique aquatic and marine life.
- Lunawa Lagoon and the wetland which are polluted and encroached upon.
- The canal network that connect the above water bodies.

The above mentioned environmental resources have not been utilized in a environmentally sustainable manner, primarily due to lack of controls and guidance on development activities in the city as well as lack of understanding the adverse impacts of their utilization..

Beach front including the coastal reservation is utilized by shanty settlements and some non-residential activities such as saw mills, vehicle service stations, restaurants etc. foregoing the opportunity to utilize it as an amenity for leisure and recreation.

The wetlands fronting Weras Ganga and Bolgoda Lake are subject to dumping of garbage and discharge of industrial effluent including saw dust resulting in the pollution of ground water as well as water in the river. There is no adequate protection of the plant and aquatic life of the wetland areas.

Lunawa Lagoon is the most polluted water body in the town as its feeder canals passes through high density low-income settlements and industrial areas. In addition to industrial waste, domestic effluent from the shanty settlements in the canal banks is discharged into these water bodies.

Associated with increasing industrialization and uncontrolled development of the above wetlands, environmentally significant eco-systems are subject to considerable pressure of destruction.

### 3.2 The Nature of the Existing Conflicts between Environmental Resources and Development

Developers who are motivated mainly by consideration of short term gains with no consideration given to the long term consequences on the environment and its sustainability results in obvious conflicts with the interests of developers and the future generation of the city who require the preservation of the environment for their existence. Therefore the Government intervention is essential with the backing of the environmentalists to protect existing environmental resources in the interest of the entire city population.

### 3.3 Natural Disasters

There are many parts of the town which are subjected to regular flooding due to the reduction of the retention capacity for storm water in the canal network and water retention areas, resulting from unregulated land reclamation and lack of maintenance of the canal and drain network.

The incidence of water borne diseases are very common in areas subject to environmental pollution in wetland areas. The breeding of mosquitoes result in Dengue fever. The Lunawa hospital has reported the highest number of cases of respiratory diseases, virus flu. etc. from Lunawa area, which is subject to severe environmental pollution. Therefore, the pollution of water bodies and other environmentally sensitive areas and its consequences on the city population needs to be given serious attention by the Municipal Council.

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## 4.1 Particulars Regarding the availability of Resources and Systems for Environmental Management

### Measures/Plans already Adopted

The Environmental Committee of the Municipal Council meets every month under the chairmanship of the Mayor and the committee was mainly involved in the issue of Environmental permits. During the year 2000 the council has issued 97 environmental permits within the town for small scale industries and other enterprises.

The council has conducted an Environmental Awareness workshop for about 100 children from two schools in Moratuwa with the participation of Divisional Secretary, Wildlife Trust and Boralesgamuwa Community Development Society in the year 2001. There are no significant measures or plans already adopted by the council to deal with the environmental issues which require more technical and funding support. However, there is scope for the local authority to initiate public awareness campaigns regarding the need for environmental protection with the participation of local communities, schools and agencies such as the Central Environmental Authority. In addition to the above an Environmental Awareness and Health Improvement Project is being implemented during the year 2001/02 by a local NGO called National Forum of People's Organization (NFPO) with the funding assistance from Community Environmental Initiative Facility (CEIF). Project The project covers 10 Grama Niladhari Divisions within the municipal area and is expected to benefit over 2000 families. The project is implemented jointly with the municipality, NGO and the concerned communities.

At the National level there are two projects which are in the early stage of commencement which would contribute to improve the city's environment and the living condition of the urban poor.

- i. Lunawa Lagoon Rehabilitation and Improvement Project funded by JBIC ((Japanese Bank International Corporation) which is being implemented jointly by the Urban Low Income Improvement Project and the SLLR&DC ( Sri Lanka Land Reclamation and Development Corporation). This project involves the dredging and cleaning of the lake, improvements of its canal network and relocation of families living along the banks of the lagoon within the area itself. There are about 200 families in the neighbourhood living in about eight settlements who are not directly affected by the canal improvement but would be benefited. The project also involves the improvement of health and sanitary conditions of these families by the provision of drinking water, toilets, roads etc. Community Development Councils will be established in these settlements and it is proposed to implement this project with the active participation of the Moratuwa Municipal Council.
- ii. The Coastal Resources Management Project which is implemented by the Ministry of Fisheries involves basically the provision of sanitary facilities and improvement of their houses for the fishing communities living along the beach. This project is also implemented with the active participation of the concerned communities and the Municipal Council.

## 5.1 The Main Environmental Systems of the Urban Area and their Significance for the Present and Future Sustainable Development

The main environmental systems of the urban area can be identified as follows.

- Beach related environment
- Weras Ganga and its immediate surroundings.
- Bolgoda Lake and the islands in the lake.
- Lunawa Lagoon and its immediate surroundings

### Beach Related Environment

#### Problems

- Pollution of the beach due to discharge of industrial effluents and solid waste from shanty settlements.
- Poor public accessibility of the beach due to the existence of temporary fisheries house and squatter houses in the coastal reservation area and the pollution.

#### Possible Strategies

The young generation of the area, most of whom are educated, secure jobs outside the traditional sector and move out of the area. The traditional employment activities such as capacity can not support the increased population who are compelled to seek other jobs in industry or trade. Therefore their life styles also have changed. The construction of the new Galle road parallel to the railway line has accelerated this process. New houses, shops and industrial buildings etc have been constructed facing the new road which have provided them with new job opportunities. These changes in the built environment are a reflection of the fundamental socio-economic changes that are taking place in the urban area.

What will be the impact of these changes on the sustainability of the beach related environment? Diversification has to take place, but in an environmentally friendly manner. The quality of the beach environment needs to be improved, to provide for more hygienic and pleasant environment. This needs the participation of the young generation who could play the lead role in the community involvement to improve the quality of the beach environment and utilize a substantial part of the beach area for tourism and recreation based activities. Such activities should not be in conflict with fishing activities. Improvement of the quality of housing, provision of toilet facilities to the community, provision of adequate set back to the beach in the construction of new permanent housing, could help to create a sustainable and pleasant beach environment. The Urban Low-Income Housing Project which is to be implemented by the Ministry of Fisheries could be a catalyst in this transformation of the built environment.

### Weras Ganga and its Immediate Surroundings

#### Problems

- Pollution of the river and its environs.
  - Encroachment of the river banks and its reservation area
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Weras Ganga is located on the periphery of the Ratmalana and Moratuwa industrial areas. Many polluting industries have been located in these industrial areas, which discharge their effluent into the river without proper treatment. Some of the industries are located on reclaimed low lying lands which form the drainage basin of the river. Depletion of the drainage basin and discharge of pollutants have contributed to increasing pollution of Weras Ganga.

#### **Encroachment of the reservations**

The reservation of the Weras Ganga which basically form its flood plain is encroached upon by the construction of houses and other development activities. Many of these structures are unauthorized. There may also be authorized development activities that are taking place in the area as the planning authorities may not have a clear definition of the boundaries of the reservation of these water bodies.

#### **Strategies to overcome the problems**

The Regulatory authorities such as the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) and Urban Development Authority (UDA) in collaboration with the Municipal Council could exercise more stringent controls in regard to the approval of industries and other development activities in this area. These organizations must carry out regular monitoring of the pollution levels of the effluent discharged into the water body and take prompt action to cancel the permits issued such polluting industries. Although this has already been made a condition of the annual permit granted by the CEA the regular monitoring may not be taking place as required.

It is therefore essential that following remedial measures should be adopted.

- Revision of land use zoning plans and zoning regulations to protect the reservation of the river from the location of polluting industries.
- Demarcation of the river reservation by identifying exact boundaries to facilitate enforcement of regulations to prevent the encroachment of reservation.
- The authorities must be more vigilant not only regarding the establishment of new industries but also the conversion of existing industries and other activities which create adverse impacts on the environment.
- The annual permits issued by the CEA must be based on the performance levels of the industries in regard to the discharge of pollutants and their commitment to protect the environment.

#### **Bolgoda Lake and Islands**

Bolgoda Lake is the same water body of Weras Ganga which is located towards its Southern end. The area has a rich bio-diversity and environmental quality, which is presently deteriorating due to uncontrolled human activities.

#### **Problems experienced**

- Destruction of vegetation cover affecting the bio-diversity of the lake and the islands.
  - Reclamation of the edges of the lake for construction activities.
  - Dumping of saw mill dust in the lake
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### **Destruction of vegetation cover affecting the bio-diversity of the lake and the islands**

Private developers making advantage of the scenic habitats of both the lake and its surroundings and the islands promote housing and tourist development activities with little consideration given to the sustainability of the environment in the area. Construction close to the edge of the water body and high density development make the buildings more prominent than the natural environment in the area destroying the character and the quality of the lake environment.

### **Reclamation of the edges of the lake for construction activities**

Increasing use of land for construction activities in the area of the banks of the lake is taking place which is not only harmful to the environment, but could aggravate the flooding problems of the area as the retention capacity of the lake and the surrounding area has been reduced. Some of the available paddy fields and wetlands have being reclaimed for housing and other construction purposes by land owners. These activities have further reduced the storm water retention capacity in the area.

### **Dumping of saw mill dust**

There are several saw mills located at the edge of Bolgoda lake and the logs which are brought from the upper reaches of the river are sawn to be sold to timber merchants. The large quantities of saw dust resulting from this operation are dumped in the river and used as a fill material to reclaim edges of the lake to be used for the construction of structures. This practice has been identified as one of the serious environmental problems in the town by the municipality.

### **Strategies**

#### ***Short term***

- Take effective preventive measures to stop the above practices by strict enforcement of regulations.
- Setting up of a committee of all related law enforcement agencies such as the Municipality, Urban Development Authority, Western Provincial Council, Central Environmental Authority, and Sri Lanka Land Reclamation and Development Corporation and the community organizations to take the lead role in controlling and guiding these development activities
- The committee to take prompt and collaborative actions against all violations of environmental regulations.

#### ***Long-term measures***

- Preparation of a detail development plan outlining specific measures to be adopted to restore the environment of the areas concerned in a sustainable manner.
  - Local area specific projects may be based on municipal wards be formulated to deal with current and future problems.
  - Formation of development projects which can be implemented in partnership with the private sector for sustainable management of the natural resources in the town.
  - Private legal and institutional space for the participation of all stake holders including the Community organizations for the effective implementation of projects.
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## Recipients of Samurdhi Benefits in Moratuwa Area

<i>Grama Niladari Division</i>	<i>No. of Samurdhi food stamp holder families</i>
Angulana North	357
Angulana South	407
Kaldemulla	71
Soysapura North	32
Soysapura South	20
Dahampura	42
Thelawala South	94
Borupana	95
Thelawala North	125
Luxapathiya South	188
Luxapathiya North	53
Luxapathiya Central	141
Katubedda	187
Molpe	160
Kuduwamulla	90
Moratumulla North	162
Idama	169
Uyana South	240
Uyana North	308
Moratuwella South	308
Moratuwella North	68
Moratuwella West	457
Uswatta	292
Koralawella North	372
Koralawella South	291
Koralawella East	93
Koralawella West	367
Katukurunda	399
Katukurunda South	443
Egodauyana North	376
Egodauyana Central	294
Egodauyana South	519
Rawatawatta East	119
Rawatawatta West	69
Rawatawatta South	26
Moratumulla East	85
Kadalana	65
Moratumulla West	114
Indibedda West	206
Indibedda East	171
Willorawatta East	176
Willorawatta West	225
<b>Total</b>	<b>8573</b>

Source: Divisional Secretariat Office, Moratuwa