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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

EXTRAORDINARY

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Government Notifications

NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES POLICY

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands & Irrigation

Government of Sri Lanka

05.05.2026

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands and Irrigation hereby publish the National Water Resources Policy, effective from 05.05.2026, formulated to precisely identify and address the challenges threatening the sustainability of Sri Lanka's water resources.

Pursuant to Cabinet Decision No. අමස/25/1065/802/017 dated 02nd July, 2025, approval was granted to review the National Water Resources Policy currently in force and introduce the necessary amendments therewith to formulate a new National Water Resources Policy, for which said revised National Water Resources Policy, Cabinet approval has been granted via Cabinet Decision No. අමස/26/0792/808/036 dated 05.05.2026.

K. D. Lal Kantha,
Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands & Irrigation.

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands & Irrigation,
No. 80/5, "Govijana Mandiraya",
Rajamalwatta Lane,
Battaramulla.

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National Water Resources Policy

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National Water Resources Policy

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National Water Resources Policy

Vision :

"Towards a developed nation through the sustainable utilization of water resources, while continuously upholding the tradition of conservation and equitable sharing of water and preserving a balanced environment."

Introduction

1.1 Water occupies a pre-eminent position among the natural resources essential for the survival of humans as well as all other living beings on Earth. Although approximately 70% of the Earth's surface is covered by water, the volume of surface and groundwater suitable for various forms of consumption is relatively minute.

1.2 Although Sri Lanka is considered a "water-rich" nation compared to many other countries in terms of total annual rainfall volume, there is a high degree of variability in both rainfall distribution and water availability due to topographical disparities and variations in monsoon rain pattern.

1.3 The country has successfully overcome the challenge of this climatic variations by developing huge Reservoirs, Anicuts and Ellanga systems with the guidance of the statement of King Parakramabahu the Great. "No single drop of water received from rain should reach the ocean without first serving the mankind" and it could be evident that those ancient irrigation structures still serving the nation for the irrigation, domestic water supply etc.

1.4 The average annual rainfall received by the country is approximately 2,000 mm, with the total resulting water volume estimated at roughly 130 billion cubic meters (BCM). According to the Global Information System on Water and Agriculture (FAO – AQUASTAT - 2023), Sri Lanka's long-term annual renewable surface water resources are estimated at 52 billion cubic meters (BCM), while groundwater resources stand at 7.8 BCM with an overlap of 7 BCM between surface water and groundwater, the total annual renewable water resources of Sri Lanka are estimated at 52.8 BCM.

1.5 Over 90% of the total land area of the country is covered by 103 river basins, while the remaining area is covered by approximately 65 minor coastal watershed areas. Further, except for a few river basins numerous systems comprising tanks anicuts reservoirs and canal systems of varying capacities have been constructed across the remaining basins and water scarce river basins are augmented by inter-basin diversions in addition to the water received from their own catchment areas. Due to the existing interconnections between the river basins covering the majority of the island the entire land area of Sri Lanka can be considered as a single ecosystem.

1.6 Further, among the sectors utilizing water volumes quantitatively, agriculture, urban and domestic water supply and industry are prominent And according to the Global Information System on Water and Agriculture (FAO-AQUASTAT - 2023) out of the total annual water volume of approximately 13 billion cubic meters utilized, approximately 87% is used for agriculture, 6% for urban and domestic water supply and 6% for industry.

1.7 Water usage for irrigated agricultural livelihoods which was historically prominent but subsequently diversified into sectors such as hydropower generation, domestic water supply, industry and services as well as recreation and tourism due to factors such as industrial growth, technological advancement and the improvement of living standards. Accordingly, the demand for developed water resources is currently rising and a network of institutions established from time to time exists for the development and management of water resources required to meet such diversified water demands for future needs while inconsistencies in the scopes and statutory functions of those institutions are also observed.

1.8 Further, the increasing variability in rainfall patterns arising from climate change, alongside disaster situations such as droughts, floods and landslides as well as the depletion of groundwater and the degradation of water quality caused by agricultural, industrial and domestic waste are also escalating issues associated with water resources. Therefore, the identification of specific issues challenging the assurance of the sustainable existence of water resources of Sri Lanka and the implementation of remedies through an urgent policy intervention are essential.

2. Justification

Although efforts have been made from time to time to establish a National Water Resources Policy it has not been possible to bring it into operation to date and therefore it is understood that a National Water Resources Policy must exist to face the following challenges and requirements.

2.1 Although according to hydrological data there is no overall water shortage in the country as a whole, the occurrence of water abundance in certain regions of the country as well as water scarcity in other regions is caused by the variability of monsoon and inter-monsoon rainfall and geographical diversity and the high inter-annual variability of rainfall.

2.2 The ongoing urbanization, expansion of the industrial sector, diversification of agriculture sector, growth of the tourism sector and recreational requirements along with the resulting increase in economic activities are further increasing water demand while diversifying the demand for existing water resources and water body-related uses.

2.3 The planning, development and management of surface water resources aimed at national requirements as well as the optimum utilization of groundwater resources are essential to ensure sufficient fair and equitable access to water for all parties.

2.4 The major challenges our country encountered in the management of water resources which are both a limited resource and an essential factor for the existence of life include;

I. Proper coordination of the complex institutional system established for various institutional objectives, at both national and regional levels, in line with common requirements.

II. Managing the Variability in abundance of water resources arising from climate change (e.g., increased rainfall in the wet zone and further drying of the dry zone).

III. Ensuring food security through the production of food required for the growing population.

IV. Ensuring the right of access to safe drinking water for all.

V. Controlling water pollution arising from urbanization, population growth and industrialization.

VI. Managing the increasing demand for water arising from water requirements such as hydro power generation, industrial development, promotion of tourism activities, expansion of domestic water supply and inland fisheries.

VII. While fulfilling the aforementioned water requirements, an immediate necessity has emerged to maintain environmental balance as well as to protect water sources and catchment areas.

VIII. Accordingly, in order to build Sri Lanka as a sustainably developed nation by effectively utilizing water related potentials, it is established that a comprehensive National Water Resources Policy is required to harness investments directed toward various water sectors in a holistic manner that aligns with the overall national vision, as well as to build sound coordination and understanding among the government, stakeholder institutions and beneficiaries in water resource management decision making, while the necessity for a suitable legal framework to empower such a policy is also confirmed.

3. Scope

The National Water Resources Policy applies to all water resources within the Sovereign territory of Sri Lanka with the exception of marine water.

4. Policy Objectives

1. Ensuring sustainable water resources planning, development, effective utilization and conservation through an integrated approach by appropriately utilizing the ancestral heritage and historical experiences associated with water resources alongside modern technological techniques.

2. Implementing water resource utilization strategies for socio economic development, as well as plans to meet water demands across various sectors for new water resource developments, through a nationally recognized integrated approach.

5. Policy Goals

(1) Ensuring an equitable and rational approach to all current and future water uses.

(2) Protecting, restoring, and strengthening the quality of surface and groundwater, along with the associated environmental systems and water catchment areas.

(3) Developing citizen attitudes, awareness and regulations to prevent the pollution and wastage of water resources.

(4) Strengthening the sustainable development management and conservation of groundwater resources based on groundwater aquifers including the prevention of over extraction and the implementation of water recharge for the sustainable existence of the groundwater resources.

(5) Determining priorities, sharing water, and managing issues and challenges related to water usage in situations where it is difficult to provide a water supply that meets the demand.

(6) Enhancing the resilience of all water-based sectors to the impacts resulting from climate change.

(7) Establishing a national level decision making mechanism along with an operational and monitoring mechanism that adopts an integrated and holistic approach to all water resource related activities, while taking into account national, provincial, and regional requirements.

(8) Establishing a centralized system to facilitate the exchange of sector specific water resource data and information, ensuring decisions are based on adequate and reliable evidence.

(9) Exploring new dimensions through water resources and associated assets, including cultural heritage and traditions, which can be productively utilized for the development of the country.

(10) Amending laws, appropriately applying traditional and modern technologies and reorganizing or strengthening institutions to cover areas such as water resource development, management, utilization and conservation.

6. Policy Principles:

The National Water Resources Policy shall be based on the following principles.

6.1 Water shall be recognized as a renewable natural resource, vital for sustaining life, environmental systems, and human activities, while being inherently vulnerable to risk.

6.2 Water resources belong to the State of Sri Lanka and the government should assume its custodianship.

6.3 It must be acknowledged that sufficient water must exist for the survival of all living species and ecosystems.

6.4 In accordance with the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2010, the “access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation” must be recognized as a fundamental human right.

6.5 To ensure the economic and social wellbeing of the nation, it is imperative to develop new water resources to meet diversifying water requirements and demand, while simultaneously enhancing the efficiency, productivity, and conservation of water resources and water bodies.

6.6 The planning, development, conservation and management of water resources must be conducted in a manner that ensures regional equity, taking into account specific priorities and identities to minimize the arising of conflicts.

6.7 The optimal conservation of all water sources and springs must be ensured by regulating pollution, degradation and over-extraction within their respective source areas and catchments.

6.8 Waste water refinery, purification treatments and re-use will be promoted.

6.9 It shall be considered a national duty to conserve and ensure the long-term security and sustainability of water resources and catchments within rainforests, wetlands, sanctuaries, and historic irrigation systems recognized as World and National Heritage sites.

6.10 Appropriate sectoral and national-level adaptation measures must be implemented to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change on the water resources sector.

6.11 Given the comprehensive nature of water resource management, an integrated and participatory framework supported by a strong institutional system shall be established to ensure all aspects of planning, development, usage and conservation are systematically addressed.

7. Policy Statements

The following policy statements are set forth to achieve the objectives envisioned under this policy.

7.1. Responsibilities and Functions of the Government

To exercise stewardship over water resources on behalf of the entire citizenry and to ensure their optimal planning, development, conservation and management through an integrated approach for the sustainable wellbeing of the public and the ecosystem; this includes providing financial investment, enhancing human and institutional capacity, and enacting the necessary laws and regulations for effective oversight.

To strengthen the responsibilities of government departments, corporations and statutory boards already performing key roles in the water sector and to delegate mandates to state and non-governmental organizations at national, provincial and local levels within statutory legal frameworks, in alignment with domestic and international agreements entered into by the Government.

To implement the National Water Resources Policy in overall alignment with the Directive Principles of State Policy as enshrined in the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and to ensure its periodic update in response to contemporary requirements.

7.2. Responsibilities and Roles of Beneficiaries

All parties utilizing water resources of this country are considered either direct or indirect beneficiaries based on their patterns of consumption and the direct beneficiaries include parties utilizing specific volumes of water for agriculture, domestic consumption, industry and services, as well as those utilizing water potential, water bodies and aquatic environments for hydroelectric power generation, inland fisheries, aquaculture and tourism while the indirect beneficiaries are defined as the consumers and clients of the goods and services produced by the aforementioned direct beneficiaries.

To ensure the efficient and effective utilization of water resources, the prevention of pollution and the regulation of water quality in alignment with modern scientific management approaches, while operating with due respect for the historical and cultural heritage associated with water.

Adopting participatory management models and adhering to mutually agreed protocols to facilitate active contribution toward the operation, maintenance, and overall management of water-related infrastructure.

7.3. Water Use Rights and Responsibilities

Recognition of the right of access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a fundamental human right.

Recognizing the rights to the primary uses of water resources already developed, as well as the rights of water users with existing legal provisions in Sri Lanka, while respecting the traditions and cultural values associated with water in the country and ensuring the right to water use for increasingly diversified needs.

Identifying the minimum water requirements necessary for the survival of all living species and ecosystems and ensuring the equitable supply of water to meet those needs.

7.4. Planning, Development, Management, and Conservation of Water Resources

Taking into consideration the potential of surface water resources as well as groundwater resources and the potential for rainwater harvesting in water resources planning.

To meet national development objectives, water resource planning must incorporate natural hydrological boundaries and evaluate the feasibility of inter-basin water transfers.

In identifying the necessity for new water resources development, action shall be taken to focus on the potential for utilizing developed water resources and undeveloped water bodies with developmental potential with high efficiency and productivity, as well as to minimize the impacts of droughts and floods caused or predicted by climate change, and to encourage processes for rapid damage restoration or adaptation.

To give due consideration to adopting a multi-purpose approach in water resource development, taking into account the variability of water resources and diversifying demand, including the requirements for drinking water and sanitation.

Regulating the environmental pollution associated with surface water sources and catchments, degradation of catchment areas, while optimally conserving all groundwater sources by regulating the over-extraction and maintaining the equilibrium of aquifers.

Performing wetland conservation by incorporating the safety and sustainable existence of water sources as well as flood control.

To implement measures for controlling saltwater intrusion along rivers through the use of technically appropriate structures and hydro-mechanical methods.

Ensuring the appropriate participation of relevant stakeholders in the planning, development, management, and conservation of water resources concerning requirements such as agriculture, domestic, environmental, industrial, fisheries, energy generation and recreation.

7.5. Allocation of water volumes on requirements and on priority basis

Establishing a specific operational mechanism to be carried out with national-level coordination and the participation of relevant stakeholders to provide for diversifying sectoral water requirements.

In instances where it is predicted that the currently available water volumes are insufficient to meet all needs and demands, taking action by arriving for agreements regarding all relevant water requirements as per the situation and equitable manner such a way that mutual priorities are provided, while considering drinking and sanitation water needs, food security, and environmental requirements are treated as priority water needs.

Coordinating the operational mechanisms at various levels of stakeholder organizations to ensure the implementation of decisions and agreements reached under national level coordination.

7. 6. Enhancing the efficiency and productivity of diversified water uses

Implementing and regulating a systematic centralized management methodology and decentralized action plans for increasing the efficiency and productivity of various water uses, preventing the pollution and wastage of water resources and utilizing them with high productivity, by identifying relevant strategic plans prepared with the contribution and agreement of all stakeholders.

Introducing guidelines and performance criteria for that purpose, while establishing a monitoring process at the national level as well as under each individual sector.

7.7. Sharing of conservation, management, operation and maintenance costs

Ensuring the proper operation and maintenance of dams, structures, and other related infrastructure pertaining to the management of developed water resources.

Establishing a mechanism for the recovery of compensatory damages for environmental harm to catchment areas, pollution of water resources and damages caused by over-extraction.

Strengthening the existing contribution mechanisms established for community based organizations to minimize the management, operation, and maintenance costs incurred by the government for rural drinking water supply, irrigation agriculture, and inland fisheries.

Introducing a mechanism to cover the conservation, management, operational, maintenance and regulatory costs incurred by the government related to the use of surface or groundwater for industrial and manufacturing activities conducted for commercial purposes, excluding agriculture and freshwater fisheries that contribute directly to ensuring food security, through investors. *(This methodology, along with the relevant industries, their scale limits, and applicable fees, is to be introduced under the regulations pertaining to the implementation of the policy.)*

Government royalties already being collected under various acts and ordinances will be remained unchanged.

7.8. Data and Information Management

Establishing a centralized database to maintain and compile data and information related to water resources planning, development, conservation, and management at the national level.

Establishing a centralized mechanism for the exchange of data and information related to the individual sectors of water resources, sufficient for taking decisions accordingly.

Developing physical and human resources as necessary for the data and information management of the relevant responsible institutions to enable a data-driven scientific approach when dealing with water resources.

Establishing sound mutual understanding and coordination to ensure that data collection carried out by government institutions or parties is conducted without repetition.

Establishing a mechanism for the exchange of data on surface and groundwater resources, collected by institutions operating in the water resources sector, with other relevant institutions and parties as appropriate.

Establishing a fair and generally applicable charging mechanism to appropriately recover the costs incurred for the collection and processing of data and information when providing such data and information to parties outside the government.

7.9. Research and Development

Exploring the potentials related to water resources, including heritage and cultures, which can be positively utilized for national development.

Strengthening and encouraging research and development activities to be conducted by engaging with local and foreign academic institutions and parties, while following modern scientific research methods to explore new dimensions in the water resources sector.

Promoting and exchanging the results and findings of research conducted in the water resources sector among relevant development planners, users, and researchers as required.

Improving and managing water resources by ensuring the appropriate use of scientifically valid study models and technical tools to identify hydrological and water energy mechanisms.

7.10. Training and Capacity Building

Implementing capacity building by training personnel related to the water resources sector and providing necessary physical resources as appropriate, to enable them to perform their roles efficiently and effectively.

Enhancing the attitudes and the ability of direct and indirect beneficiaries to perform their roles optimally through awareness and capacity building regarding the conservation and efficient and effective use of water resources.

Working to enhance attitudes by providing basic education on water resources conservation and its efficient and effective use through the school curriculum.

8. Implementation Mechanism

Ensuring the implementation of this policy is essential for an integrated national level approach with the participation of institutions responsible for, and other stakeholders related to, the functions and duties of water resources planning, development, management, and conservation. A Committee of Ministers on Water Resources Policy to advise the National Water Resources Management Committee on decision-making by considering technical as well as social and political conditions during specific instances of national impact and disaster situations such as droughts and floods, a National Water Resource Management Committee (NWRMC) for national-level decision-making and a National Water Resources Secretariat (NWRS) under the Ministry in charge of the subject of Irrigation to provide the necessary technical support and coordination for the said committee, shall be established.

8.1. Committee of Ministers on Water Resources Policy

8.1.1 Functions

Providing consultation to the National Water Resources Management Committee for decision-making by considering all technical as well as social and political conditions during specific instances that may have a national impact, as well as disaster situations such as severe droughts and floods that may have a national impact, while also reviewing appeals and grievances to provide final decisions, shall be the role of the Committee of Ministers on Water Resources Policy.

8.1.2. Composition of the Committee

The Committee of Ministers on Water Resources Policy, consisting of the following composition, shall be appointed by the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**.**

1. Prime Minister - Chairman
2. Minister-in-charge of the subject of Irrigation - Member
3. Minister-in-charge of the subject of Agriculture - Member

4.	Minister-in-charge of the subject of Water Supply	-	Member
5.	Minister-in-charge of the subject of Power	-	Member
6.	Minister-in-charge of the subject of Environment	-	Member
7.	Minister-in-charge of the subject of Industry	-	Member
8.	Minister-in-charge of the subject of Fisheries Affairs	-	Member
9.	Minister-in-charge of the subject of Tourism	-	Member
10.	Minister-in-charge of the subject of Disaster Management	-	Member
11.	Minister-in-charge of the subject of Provincial Councils & Local Governments	-	Member

The National Water Resources Secretariat shall provide the necessary facilitation and documentation processes for this committee.

8.2. National Water Resources Management Committee (NWRMC)

8.2.1 Functions

The Secretary to the President shall establish the National Water Resources Management Committee to ensure high-level authority and an integrated approach in making national-level strategic decisions regarding the planning, development, management and conservation of water resources in Sri Lanka.

The National Water Resources Management Committee shall seek the consultation of the Committee of Ministers on Water Resources Policy in determining the manner in which water resources should be managed to mitigate disasters during specific instances of national significance and in the event of severe drought or floods.

8.2.2 Composition of the Committee

(1).	Secretary to the Prime Minister	-	Chairman
(2).	Secretary-in-charge of the subject of Irrigation	-	Secretary & Convener
(3).	Secretary -in-charge of the subject of Agriculture	-	Member
(4).	Secretary -in-charge of the subject of Water Supply	-	Member
(5).	Secretary -in-charge of the subject of Power	-	Member
(6).	Secretary -in-charge of the subject of Environment	-	Member
(7).	Secretary -in-charge of the subject of Industry	-	Member
(8).	Secretary -in-charge of the subject of Fisheries Affairs	-	Member
(9).	Secretary -in-charge of the subject of Tourism	-	Member
(10).	Secretary -in-charge of the subject of Disaster Management	-	Member
(11).	Secretary -in-charge of the subject of Provincial Councils & Local Governments	-	Member
(12).	A representative nominated by the Secretary to the President	-	Member
(13).	Director General of the Water Resources Secretariat	-	Member

8.2.3 Invited Representatives

The Chairman of the Committee shall have the authority to summon Heads of relevant Departments, Heads of Institutions or Subject Matter Experts as required, to obtain such technical assistance as may be necessary in addition to the National Water Resources Management Committee.

8.2.4 Representation on consultation level

In instances where the permanent members of the National Water Resources Committee determine that specialized studies are required on a particular matter, advisory committees or consultancy services comprising high-calibre professionals or university academics in fields such as hydrology, environment, economics, law, and physical planning may be engaged.

8.3. National Water Resources Secretariat (NWRS)

8.3.1. Functions

The National Water Resources Secretariat, established as a division under the Ministry in charge of the subject of Irrigation to support the National Water Resources Management Committee in making national-level strategic decisions with an integrated approach, shall perform the following functions:

- To function as the national-level operational and monitoring mechanism for implementing institutional approaches to water resources through an integrated and participatory approach
- To formulate the short, medium and long-term strategic plans required for the implementation of this policy, in coordination with the relevant institutions.
- To maintain updated data and analysed information regarding the current status of water resources, the nature of their usage and water pollution, in a manner sufficient for making decisions and performing functions with an integrated management approach at the national level.
- To process requests submitted by state institutions and other parties regarding the use of water resources and water bodies and to maintain a database containing information related thereto.
- To holistically analyse technical decisions in instances where requests for the use of water resources and water bodies have been made but have not received the recommendation/ approval of the relevant institutions and to submit such cases to the National Water Resources Management Committee for further appropriate decision-making.
- To act as a mediator in the event of issues arising from the allocation or partitioning of water volumes, water bodies or water potentials and to submit such matters to the National Water Resources Management Committee for decision-making if necessary.
- To facilitate the proposed independent appeals committee process and maintain relevant records
- To provide guidelines in the formulation of sectoral policies related to subjects associated with the water resources sector.
- To communicate the decisions of the National Water Resources Management Committee and to facilitate, follow-up and evaluate the implementation of such decisions.
- To assist the National Water Resources Management Committee in the overall implementation of this policy and to perform all other functions related to the execution of the policy.
- To perform such other functions as may be determined by the National Water Resources Management Committee.

8.3.2. Composition

A senior professional possessing subject knowledge and experience in water resources planning and management, along with communication and negotiation skills, shall be appointed as the Director General on a full-time basis to serve as the Head of the National Water Resources Secretariat.

At least one senior officer with technical or expert knowledge, who possesses experience and proficiency in water resources studies or management or represents key stakeholder institutions maintaining relevant data systems, shall be seconded on a full-time basis to the Technical Services Division of the National Water Resources Secretariat. Such officers shall be released from their other official duties by their respective Heads of Institutions without prejudice to their promotion prospects, based on nominations obtained from the relevant institutions as required.

In addition to the aforementioned staff, a permanent professional staff from other multidisciplinary fields and a support staff shall be appointed as required.

9.0. Appeal Methodology

Any aggrieved party may submit an appeal to the National Water Resources Secretariat within a specified period regarding any recommendation issued by an institution or the National Water Resources Secretariat, or any decision made by the National Water Resources Management Committee, concerning any matter related to the water resources of Sri Lanka.

Each such appeal or request for reconsideration submitted shall be presented to the National Water Resources Management Committee for a decision, having examined the technical and social conditions of the issues concerned as well as the alternative proposals available for resolving such issues, with the support of the relevant institutions.

Parties who remain dissatisfied with the decision reconsidered and issued by the National Water Resources Management Committee may submit a request through the National Water Resources Secretariat to the Ministerial Committee on Water Resources Policy for a final determination. The decision rendered by the said Ministerial Committee upon reconsideration shall be accepted by all parties as the final and conclusive decision.

Appendix

The following are the detailed definitions applicable to the terms used in the content of this policy, which shall be adhered to in its implementation.

1. Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries of this policy statement refers to direct or indirect consumers of water resources, those utilizing water sources for their livelihoods or those utilizing water sources for commercial purposes.

2. Stakeholders

Stakeholders of this policy statement refer to Ministries, Government Departments, Provincial Councils, Local Authorities, Statutory Corporations and Boards or any other governmental, semi-governmental or non-governmental organizations empowered and operational in the planning, development, management, distribution and conservation of water resources.

3. Prior Use

Prior Use in this policy statement refers to the primary benefits intended during the planning and utilization of water resource projects already developed by the government for various requirements, which continue to be enjoyed to date.

3. Riparian Occupiers

Riparian Occupiers in this policy statement refer to landowners residing on the banks of rivers, streams and natural water bodies, who are permitted to utilize such water sources for domestic requirements, livestock and cultivation, subject to the limitations provided under the State Lands Ordinance.

4. Water-Related Traditions

Water-Related Traditions in this policy statement refer to the water usage required for national, religious, and cultural festivals, as well as water practices traditionally accepted and established within the community.

6. Integrated Water Resources Management

Integrated Water Resources Management in this policy statement refers to the consideration of the water requirements of all sectors, namely agriculture, domestic, industrial, tourism and other fields identified in the future, as a whole,

involving the formulation of long-term, medium-term and short-term plans by taking into account the resources of individual or integrated water sources alongside the expected benefits for each sector, disaster management and environmental requirements while ensuring the participation of all relevant stakeholders and further encompasses the implementation of necessary developments for each sector in alignment with those plans as well as the regulation of management activities carried out according to such plans.

7. **Diversifying Sectoral Water Requirements**

Diversifying Sectoral Water Requirements in this policy statement refers to the water requirements of each individual sector (namely agriculture, domestic, industrial, tourism, as well as other fields to be identified in the future). Those are subject to periodic changes based on socio-economic demands.

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