

Status of Surface Water Quality in Sri Lanka

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With 1 figure and 5 tables

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Abstract

This paper gives an overview of the available information on the status of water quality in Sri Lanka and addresses the direct and indirect factors affecting water quality. In addition to natural factors such as the prevailing geochemistry in the catchment area and the climate conditions, land use pattern also affect water quality. Faecal contamination is a common feature in the surface water, while loading of phosphorus and nitrogen species from agriculture lands, live stock and human settlements with poor sewerage treatment facilities have promoted hypereutrophication. Pollution by trace elements is confined only to the surface waters intercepting major cities and urban centers.