

**THE FUTURE TREND OF FRESHWATER RESOURCES IN SRI  
LANKA - AN URGENT NEED FOR LONG-TERM RESEARCH**

**SHIRANI NATHANAEL AND E.I.L.SILVA**

**Department of Environmental Sciences,  
Institute of Fundamental Studies, Hantana Road,  
Kandy**

**ABSTRACT**

Sri Lanka's freshwater resources depend primarily on the availability of surface and ground water. Since there are no natural lakes in Sri Lanka, the freshwater resources of this island have not only had a profound effect on the development of culture and civilization, but are also a prerequisite for all economic development in the country. Four important sources associated with the on-going developmental activities, namely deforestation, creation of impoundments as causing major impacts on our inland freshwater eco-system. The future trends point to a major crisis arising from the misuse or depletion of this invaluable resources. Therefore, the urgent need for the implementation of environmentally sound policies with long term monitoring and research has been highlighted.