



**Environmental Foundation
(Guarantee) Limited**



The Asia Foundation

Recommendations

1. Industrial Siting

- a. The site clearance for industries by the CEA should be made a legal requirement;
- b. The CEA should participate in the Planning Committees which are at the Local Authority level;
- c. All new industries should be located in designated industrial zones and stand-alone industrial siting should be prohibited;
- d. Locating high polluting industries in ecologically sensitive river basins and water-bodies should be prohibited;

2. Effective compliance monitoring

- a. The present policy and regulatory framework for environmental management is largely adequate, but enforcement needs to be strengthened significantly;
- b. A mechanism for ensuring all industries undertake required environmental assessments (IEE/EIA) and obtain EPLs must be developed;
- c. The CEA should move from reactive compliance monitoring (complaint based) to proactive compliance monitoring (regular monitoring);
- d. EIA clearance condition compliance monitoring should be a part of CEAs proactive compliance monitoring program;
- e. Relevant EIA clearance conditions should be incorporated into EPL approval conditions;
- f. The proactive compliance monitoring program should be combined with strict enforcement of penalties prescribed under the NEA;
- g. CEA should explore alternative mechanisms such as third party independent monitoring and self-regulation for regular compliance monitoring in instances where CEA lacks resources (financial and human);
- h. CEA to develop an incentive framework for encouraging industries to go beyond minimum compliance requirements;

3. Pollution load based standards

- a. Concentration based standards currently used in Sri Lanka makes no distinction between large scale and small scale polluters;
- b. Current standards measure COD and BOD, which do not provide an accurate assessment of the chemical components of the waste water;
- c. CEA should consider introducing Toxicology Assessments;
- d. Wider discussion with the industrial sector is needed PRIOR to finalization of the pollution load based licensing scheme;

4. *Establishment of common wastewater treatment plants for industrial wastewater from small and medium industries*

- a. Common wastewater treatment facilities should be established (outside BOI zones) for treatment of waste water collected and transported from small and medium industries with no individual treatment facilities;
- b. The CEA to initiate the establishment of the common wastewater treatment facilities with independent operation of the plant with CEA ensuring compliance with national standards;
- c. The treatment facility should be an open access facility for use by the public and private sector;
- d. A fee structure should be developed so that the treatment facility would not require a government subsidy; and users bare the related operational, maintenance, and upgrading costs.

5. *Hazardous waste management*

- a. Industries should be required to formulate a long-term strategy for achieving Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC);
- b. CEA should encourage the phasing out of toxic chemical components during the manufacturing and operations activities of industries;
- c. All bio-accumulative chemicals have to be eliminated from the process rather than treatment of wastewater at the end of the process;
- d. Since the quantities of hazardous waste generated by individual industries may be insufficient to make individual hazardous waste treatment plants economically viable, the CEA should initiate the establishment of hazardous waste treatment infrastructure;
- e. The CEA to ensure independent operation of the plant with CEA ensuring compliance with national standards;
- f. A fee structure should be developed so that the treatment facility would not require a government subsidy;

6. *Water audits and water footprints of industries*

- a. CEA should encourage industries to conduct water audits and publish their water footprint data;
- b. Introduce regulations to limit water extraction for industrial use and publicly disclose consumption patterns;
- c. CEA to introduce penalties for over extraction and over consumption;
- d. Provide incentives for reducing overall water footprint benchmarks set by industries;
- e. Encourage the use of grey water for selected domestic purposes such as gardening, washing of vehicles, flushing toilets etc.);
- f. Require best practice examples to be followed in and around the workplace (awareness and skills to avoid water consumption and wastage);

7. *Urban and domestic wastewater management issues*

- a. Unplanned industrial siting encourages unplanned urban settlements, leading to discharge of untreated domestic and sewage into water bodies;
- b. Strain on local water resources in the area with over extraction and over consumption;
- c. Future plans for sewerage systems for the local area;
- d. Increasing public awareness on conservation of water resources, social responsibility, sanitation, health and safety;
- e. Ensuring a “right to information” which ensures information on chemical usage, chemical discharge to local water bodies; and management of household chemicals is available to the public;
- f. Assistance to Local Authorities in conserving and managing water resources;
- g. Ensure Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are complied with in managing/conserving water resources;

8. Industrial accountability

- a. Multinational corporations (MNCs) should maintain no distinction between global and local policies followed. Very often, global policies are not accomplished fully at the local level;
- b. CSR programs should be more directed towards reducing own impacts and footprints rather than attempting to off-set it;

9. Planning and implementation of a pilot program on effective enforcement on the Kelani River Basin

- a. The Director General of the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) to chair a multi-stakeholder committee on planning and implementing an effective enforcement program in the Kelani River basin;
- b. The outcome of the committee should be a plan for a pilot program on improved, proactive enforcement of NEA standards in the Kelani River Basin, with an initial 5 year plan which could be expanded to a long term national plan;
- c. The institutional arrangements for implementation of the pilot program would include public-private partnerships, with the private sector providing technical/research consultations and the public sector ensuring regulation and enforcement;

ACTIVITIES THAT THE CEA HAS NO JURISDICTION

- (I) CEA to initiate the preparation of a National Water Resources Management Plan including a plan for conserving water resources at the local level;
- (II) Incoming water (treated water) into BOI Zones for operations of industries have been found to contain low, but significant, levels of chemical contaminants.