

EVOLUTION OF THE MUTHURAJAWELA SWAMP - A GEOCHEMICAL STUDY

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About 80 soil samples from 10 boreholes have been collected at different depths of the Muthurajawela Swamp. These samples were analysed physically and chemically and the data obtained have been evaluated statistically. The vertical and horizontal distribution patterns of some major (Al, Fe, Ca, Na, Si, Org, C., S) and trace elements were used to interpret past bio-geological environments which prevailed during the filling-up process of the Negambo lagoon. The following palaeoenvironments were identified in chronological order.

Intertical----Marsh----Uplifted marsh----Forest----Submerged
forest --Present day swamp.