

Madola a perennial rivulet of the Holuwagoda canal, which is a tributary of Gin Ganga. Madola is 12 km in length. It's catchment spreads over 32 Km². The sub basin is located on southern part of the basin. Hiyare reservoir is located on upper part of the cathment. The reservoir covers 22 ha and 10m in depth. It is a main water source of domestic water for Galle town. This study was conducted to identify water-related problems in the Madala cathment area. The basic field research consisted of gathering information from local people, field level officers, field observation, air photo interpretation and mapping.

About 74 percent of respondents reported that they have noted the gradual drying of several streams in the area. Deforestation, low rainfall and unsustainable farming

practices were identified as causes of the process. Sedimentation of the Hiyare of soil conservation measures in using encroached stream reservation is the major cause for sedimentation.

Majority of the people use ground water for drinking. However over 50 percent of the wells were not utilized due to deterioration of water quality. Respondents believe that water has become acidic so it is unusable. Also 25 percent of people use tube wells for drinking water. However, the source is underutilized due to lowering the water table.

According to above mention factors, it can be concluded that natural environment in the Madola catchment has degraded substantially. This process is likely to continue in the future leading to irreparable damages. Therefore it is recommended that suitable environmental conservation measures should be taken to arrest the situation.