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Regional water reservoirs development plan for some river basins In Hambantota and Moneragala districts

The paper identifies the water resources availability and potential for development and proposes a strategy for stage development plan to be undertaken in future. When the development of water resources on the basis of "River Basin Concept" is discussed there is an ambiguity regarding the transbasin water transfers. When land resources available in a particular basin is compared with the water resources in the same basin it can so happen that the inter relationship between these two resources for development do not match each other. If water is surplus, extra water has to be transferred to an adjoining basin if there is a demand for land development. Otherwise water has to be diverted in to the basin if there is a water deficiency in that basin. Therefore regional development of water and land resources on the basis of the availability of water in the river basins of the region is a more realistic approach. In order to develop water and land resources in the area within Kirindi Oya, Menik Ganga and Kumbukkan Oya river basins options available are revived on the basis of the above concept. For this purpose seasonal water balance is carried out with available hydrological data to understand the potential for development.

Following stage development strategy for the water resources development for these river basins is proposed.

1) Construction of Kuda Gal Amuna and 5 miles long feeder canal.
2) Construction of 20 MCM Hanguna Ara reservoir across Hanguna Ara.
3) Construction of 100 MCM reservoir at Weheragala across Menik Ganga for down stream releases and augmenting Lunugamvehera reservoir.
4) Construction of 100 MCM reservoir across Kumbukkan Oya at Nakkala and diverting water to Lunugamvehera reservoir via Menik Ganga reservoir.
5) Construction of a reservoir across Uma Oya at Welimada and then diversion of water through a tunnel of 23 km length to Kirindi Oya at Wellawaya.