

**A CASE STUDY ON SUSTAINABLE RESTORATION
APPROACH FOR CASCADE POND SYSTEMS IN
JAFFNA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AREA FOR
EFFECTIVE FLOOD MANAGEMENT**

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Degree of Master of Science

Department of Civil Engineering

University of Moratuwa

Sri Lanka

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Thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of
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DECLARATION OF THE CANDIDATE AND SUPERVISOR

I declare that this is my own work and this thesis does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a Degree or Diploma in any other University or institute of higher learning and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgement is made in the text.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to my parents whose love, unselfish support and example over many years laid the foundation for the discipline and perseverance essentially required for me to complete this work successfully.

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I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my research supervisors Dr. R.L.H.L. Rajapakse and Dr. T.M.N. Wijayaratna for their guidance, suggestions and encouragement throughout this research for me to overcome the obstacles which I had to face in the completion of the case study and also for the knowledge that I gained by working under their guidance.

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ABSTRACT

A Case Study on Sustainable Restoration Approach for Cascade Reservoir Systems in Jaffna Municipal Area for Effective Flood Management

A unique characteristic of dry zone rainfall is its higher peak rainfall, even though the annual rainfall is relatively low. Jaffna peninsula is located in the northernmost part of Sri Lanka and faces these critical storm events during the second inter-monsoon. The pond system in the area was acting as the major water retention body, however due to the lack of awareness and proper rehabilitation, their retention efficiencies have severely been reduced.

Research methodology was developed to check the effect of reservoir connectivity for flood mitigation. HEC-ResSim computer simulation application was used to model Paalkulam and Nayanmarkaddu kulam pond cascades in the Jaffna Municipal Council region. Model results were used to quantify the flood affected area and the results were validated based on a water balance model. Daily rainfall data of year 2017, pond survey (contour) maps, canal network and natural stream network were used. Two scenario analyses were followed to identify the reduction in inundation area after the inclusion of reservoir cascade behaviour and the two rehabilitation approaches for sustainable pond restoration.

HEC-ResSim modeling was continued for scenario analyses, considering the insignificant deviations (6~8%) with the water balance model results. During the 2017 flood hazard, 27.5% of Paalkulam cascade catchment area out of total 156.7 ha was flooded and it was found that the affected area could have been reduced to 13.2% saving 21.73 ha area (14.3% of the Cascade land area), had the cascade connectivity been restored. The bund raising and bed dredging approaches showed a flood area reduction of 4.5 ha (20.2%) and 7.2 ha (33.3%) for downstream reservoirs and 5.8 ha (26.4%) and 3.9 ha (17.2%) for upstream reservoirs.

Furthermore, the second scenario analysis for rehabilitation approaches confirmed that the most suited rehabilitation approach for upstream and downstream reservoirs are reservoir bund raising and reservoir bed dredging, respectively.

Therefore, for a sustainable pond rehabilitation approach, proper accounting of the cascade connectivity is vital. Moreover, the best pond rehabilitation approach highly depends on the corresponding pond location in the cascade.

Key words: *Flood Mitigation; Water Balance Approach; HEC-ResSim; Reservoir Prioritization*

TABLE OF CONTENT

Declaration of the candidate and Supervisor	i
Dedication	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
Abstract	iv
Table of content.....	v
List of Figures	viii
List of Tables.....	x
List of Abbreviations.....	xii
1 Introduction.....	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Study Area	5
1.2.1 Ponds in the Jaffna Municipal Council Area	6
1.2.2 Topography and Drainage.....	7
1.2.3 Pond Characteristics.....	8
1.3 Research Problem.....	10
1.4 Overall and Specific Objectives	11
2 Literature Review	13
2.1 Introduction	13
2.2 Comprehensive Review.....	14
2.2.1 Pond Restoration and Rehabilitation Approaches.....	14
2.2.2 Tank/Reservoir/Pond Cascade Systems.....	16
2.2.3 Water Balance Approach	20
2.2.4 Jaffna Groundwater System	31
2.2.5 Stormwater Management and Flood Mitigation Approaches	34
2.3 Research Gap.....	38
3 Materials and Method	40
3.1 Background	40
3.2 Study Area: Paalkulam Cascade and Nayanmarkaddu Kulam Cascade	40
3.2.1 Paalkulam Cascade.....	41
3.2.2 Nayanmarkaddu Kulam Cascade	43
3.3 Data and Data Checking.....	44
3.3.1 Pond and Catchment Data Collection	44

3.3.1.1	Rainfall Data	45
3.3.1.2	Evaporation Data	48
3.3.1.3	GIS Data	48
3.3.2	Data Checking.....	49
3.4	Methodology Development.....	49
3.4.1	Methodology Flow Chart	49
3.4.2	Catchment Analysis	51
3.4.2.1	Runoff Calculation.....	51
3.4.2.2	ArcGIS Flood Analysis.....	51
3.4.2.3	Cascade System Identification.....	52
3.4.2.4	Area Capacity Curve Generation.....	54
3.4.3	Flood Analysis Using the Water Balance Approach	55
3.4.4	Flood Analysis using HEC-ResSim Simulations.....	57
3.4.4.1	Introduction to the Application.....	57
3.4.4.2	HEC-ResSim Simulation Application for Water Storage Calculations.....	60
3.4.5	Methodology for Scenario Analysis I	63
3.4.5.1	Introduction.....	63
3.4.5.2	HEC-ResSim Model Set up and Simulation.....	64
3.4.5.3	Data Processing.....	67
3.4.6	Methodology for Scenario Analysis II.....	68
3.4.6.1	Introduction.....	68
3.4.6.2	Upstream Pond Rehabilitation	69
3.4.6.3	Downstream Pond Rehabilitation	75
4	Results and Discussion	80
4.1	Pond Storage Analysis using Water Balance	80
4.1.1	Monthly End Storage Values of Nayanmarkaddu Kulam Cascade	80
4.1.2	Monthly End Storage Values of Paalkulam Cascade.....	81
4.2	Pond Storage Analysis using HEC-ResSim Simulation.....	82
4.3	Results Comparison between Water Balance Approach and HEC-ResSim Simulation	84
4.4	Pond Prioritization using the Average Storage Index (ASI).....	86
4.4.1	Pond Prioritization of the Nayanmarkaddu Kulam Cascade.....	86
4.4.2	Pond Prioritization of the Paalkulam Cascade.....	87

4.5	Scenario Analysis I: Cascade Behaviour for Flood Mitigation.....	88
4.5.1	Individual Pond Behaviour	88
4.5.2	Holistic Behaviour of Seven Ponds	88
4.5.3	Results Comparison of Cascade Behavior Vs Individual Pond Behavior	89
4.6	Scenario Analysis II: Rehabilitation Approaches for Flood Mitigation.....	90
4.6.1	Upstream Pond Rehabilitation: Raising of the Bund Levels	90
4.6.2	Upstream Pond Rehabilitation: Pond Bed Dredging	90
4.6.3	Downstream Pond Rehabilitation: Increasing the Bund Levels	91
4.6.4	Downstream Pond Rehabilitation: Pond Bed Dredging	92
4.7	Result Analysis and Discussion	93
4.7.1	Water Balance Approach	93
4.7.2	Scenario Analysis I: Cascade Behaviour for Flood Mitigation	95
4.7.3	Scenario Analysis II: Rehabilitation Approaches for Flood Mitigation	97
4.7.4	Limitations of the Study.....	100
5	Conclusions and Recommendations	102
5.1	Conclusions	102
5.2	Recommendations	103
	REFERENCE.....	104
	Appendices.....	110