

# **Water Management and Stakeholders Participation**

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## **Abstract**

Water is the prime or key natural resource that supports other natural resources. We all know water is essential, but too many of us think it's unlimited. The reality is, leaving apart the saline water (97.4 %) and fresh water in form of ice caps-glaciers (1.984 %), the rest “human utilizable fresh water” (0.616 %) is a finite resource that is becoming scarce. There are several issues or challenges in water management and numerous programs have been coined to approach the water management. However, the Integrated Water Resource Management, which integrates the key techniques of most of the programs, focuses on stakeholder’s participation in water management. Through a participatory approach, water user’s requirements can be more readily understood, local problems can be discovered and concerned people can assist in solving problems and improving their situation according to their needs. In this context, the participatory management approaches adopted by the Chilika Development Authority (CDA) has enabled effective management of the rapidly degrading conditions of the wetland and removal of the site from the Montreux Record. So this paper tries to demonstrate these participatory water management initiatives of CDA through some examples.

**Key Words:** Water management, Stakeholder, Participatory Approach, Watershed Program