

PERMANENT REFERENCE



**THE APPLICATION OF "PSR" METHODS TO ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS
OF LEGAL MEASURES AIMED AT THE PROTECTION OF BOLGODA LAKE.**

A Dissertation by

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ABSTRACT

Despite the fact that a substantial amount of laws are available regarding the protection of the environment, the continued pressure on the environment questions the effectiveness of those existing laws and the overall legal framework. This increased pressure imposed by the human population are causing damages which are evidently irreversible. This is particularly true for the urban wetland habitats in Sri Lanka. A framework based on the casualty such as Pressure-State-Response (PSR) method has shown to be effective in many cases involving continued large scale human activities affecting a specified environmental zone. If considered in this sense, the Bolgoda Lake Environmental Protection Zone is a war zone between the environmental law and the society and might make a good case to test the PSR method of State of the Environment (SoE) and its effective applicability in the environmental legal framework in Sri Lanka. This study accordingly, with the use of the doctrinal research methodology, discusses how the basic PSR method could be utilized to conserve the Bolgoda Environment Protection Area and in what manner the existing legal framework be utilized to facilitate the application of these concepts and principles. The discussion is founded basically upon the modern theories including Human Rights and Environmental Law, Principle of Sustainable Development, Polluter Pays Principle, Precautionary Principle and the Principle of State Responsibility, before it moves to the discussion towards the application PSR methods. Accordingly, this study designs a set of environmental indicators based on the OECD core set of environmental indicators and provide a framework to assess the pressure, state and response in the area and finally suggests a statutory framework which enables the authorities and the general public to have a clear picture in the environmental issues in the Bolgoda area by introducing a mandatory State of Environment reporting system through a responsible Administrative Authority in Sri Lanka.

Key Words—PSR model, SoE reporting, Bolgoda wetland, eco-systems, protection of the environment, environmental law