

Sri Lanka Dam Safety and Reservoir Conservation Programme

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SYNOPSIS. The history of dam engineering in Sri Lanka dates back some 4,000 years to when ancient Ceylon developed control of the water streams to satisfy the needs of an advanced civilisation. These great works of irrigation are even more impressive, and attract even more interest, than many remains of ancient monuments, palaces and temples. Dam engineering practice in Sri Lanka has been continued to date to include large reservoirs such as Victoria, Kotmale, Randenigala, Samanalawewa.

Under the Dam Safety and Reservoir Conservation Programme (DS&RCP) 32 major dams were inspected and studied by Jacobs GIBB. The scope of the investigations included inspection and technical studies covering seismicity, instrumentation, stability, spillway adequacy and reliability. In addition water quality, sedimentation and catchment land use were assessed. Institutional issues included a review of dam safety legislation, establishment of a data management centre, identification of local research resources and training and skill enhancement for the local engineers.