

Field Visit Report
Karawdigana Wewa Rehabilitation (Phase II – CSIAP)
Southern Province

The World Bank financed Climate Smart Irrigated Agriculture Project (CSIAP)
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation



21/05/2025
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FIELD VISIT REPORT

KARAWDIGANA WEWA REHABILITATION (PHASE II – CSIAP)

Date of Visit: 20/05/2025

Location: Karawdigana Wewa, Babawa Cascade

Project: Climate Smart Irrigated Agriculture Project (CSIAP) – Phase II

Contractor: Gamage Builders

Start Date of Work/ contractor mobilized: 21st April 2025

Visited by: Dr. Sithara Attapattu (World Bank), Ms. Sharmila Shanmuganathan (PMU), the Safeguard Team, and the Technical Team of the DPDO/SP&UP.

Purpose of the Visit: The field visit was conducted to monitor and assess the ongoing rehabilitation activities under Phase II of the Karawdigana Wewa rehabilitation project. The visit focused on progress review, compliance with environmental and social safeguards, and consultation with stakeholders including contractor staff, community members, and Farmer Organization (FO) representatives.

Overview of Ongoing Works: Both upstream and downstream interventions are being undertaken at the tank. The key activities observed during the visit include:

- Desilting operations
- Spill repair
- Bund rehabilitation

The site is located adjacent to a Forest Department boundary.



Desilting and Management of Dredged Material

Desilted (dredged) material is being temporarily stored in the contractor's yard and will be managed by the implementing agency in line with departmental procedures. Due to the large volume of dredged soil, it will not be distributed to individual farmers, in order to:

- Prevent unauthorized commercial use or sand mining
- Avoid potential misuse by individuals for business purposes

The soil has been tested by the implementing agency and determined to be unsuitable for bund rehabilitation due to its clay composition.



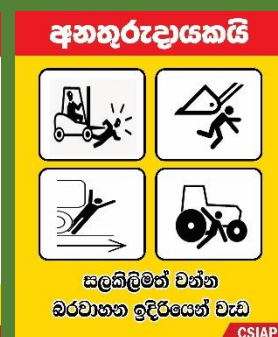
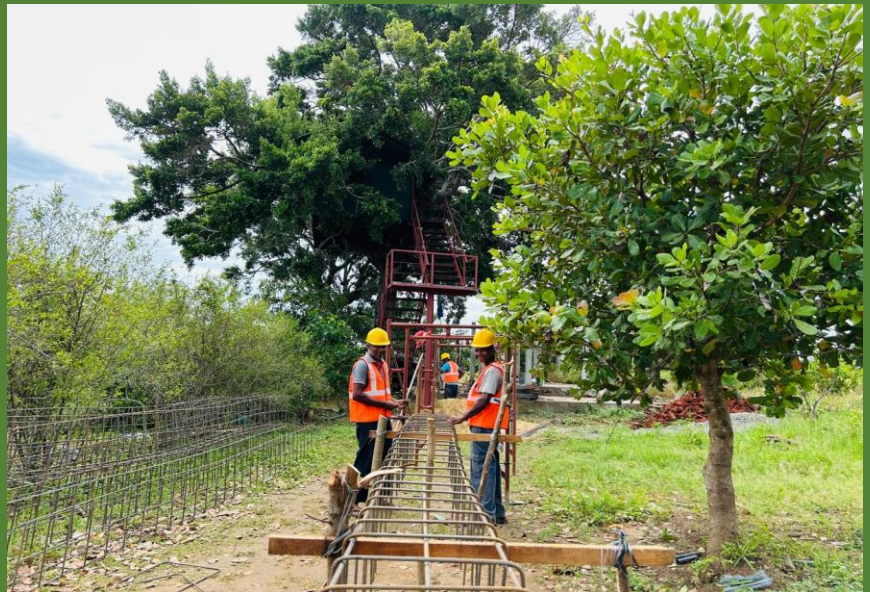
Work Progress

- **Downstream canal rehabilitation** and **bund rehabilitation** were actively ongoing at the time of the visit.
- **Stripping work** was not yet initiated.
- **Seven laborers** were present on-site, supervised by the site supervisor and contractor.
- The **Social Audit Committee (SAC)** members and **Farmer Organization representatives** were also present.
- Work commenced on 21st April 2025 and has continued consistently, except for a pause on the previous day due to heavy rainfall.



Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)

- Adequate safety measures and warning signboards were observed at the site.
- The contractor and workers were complying with standard OHS protocols.



Water Drawdown and Farmer Compensation

- An **artificial drawdown of tank water** had been conducted prior to the visit, with the consent of local farmers.
- Farmers agreed to forego **Yala season cultivation** as part of the drawdown strategy. They had already harvested **Maha season paddy** (15 acres cultivated by 15 farmers).
- The farmers requested **green gram seeds as compensation** to utilize the mid-season for cultivation. They expect delivery by June 2025.



Community Participation and Labor Engagement

- The contractor reported hiring **14 local laborers** and **11 tractors** from the village for project activities. This was confirmed by SAC members and demonstrates effective community engagement.
- The SAC consists of **5 rotating members**, who regularly monitor and record project progress.
- Site-specific **logbooks and documentation** are maintained in an organized manner.



Environmental Considerations

- The area is frequented by elephants; hence, **no night stays** are allowed at the worksite.
- An existing hut is used during the day but not for overnight accommodation.
- The contractor plans to plant **at least 50 trees** in collaboration with the Farmer Organization as part of environmental conservation efforts.

Site Facilities and Good Practices

- No separate labor camp is established on-site due to the wildlife movement.
- From the **main road to the sub-road**, safety signage was properly displayed, indicating good practice in traffic and safety management.



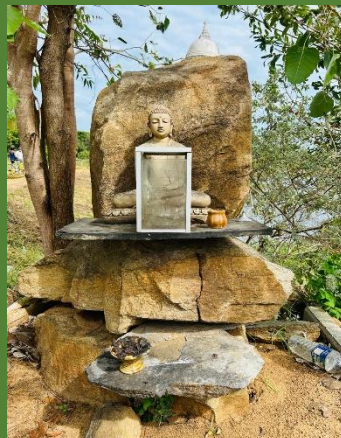
Challenges and Delays

- Heavy rain on the previous day delayed some site activities.
- Although the contractor initially planned to complete the work by the **end of May**, due to weather interruptions, it may extend into **early June 2025**.

Material storage was observed at the site.



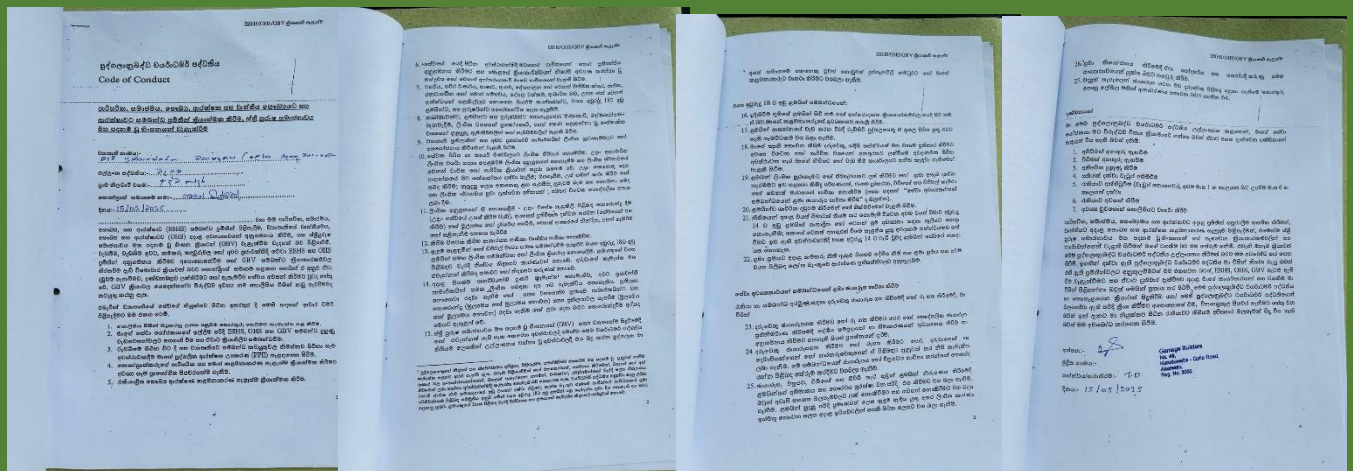
No damage to cultural properties was caused by the contractor or workers during the rehabilitation work.



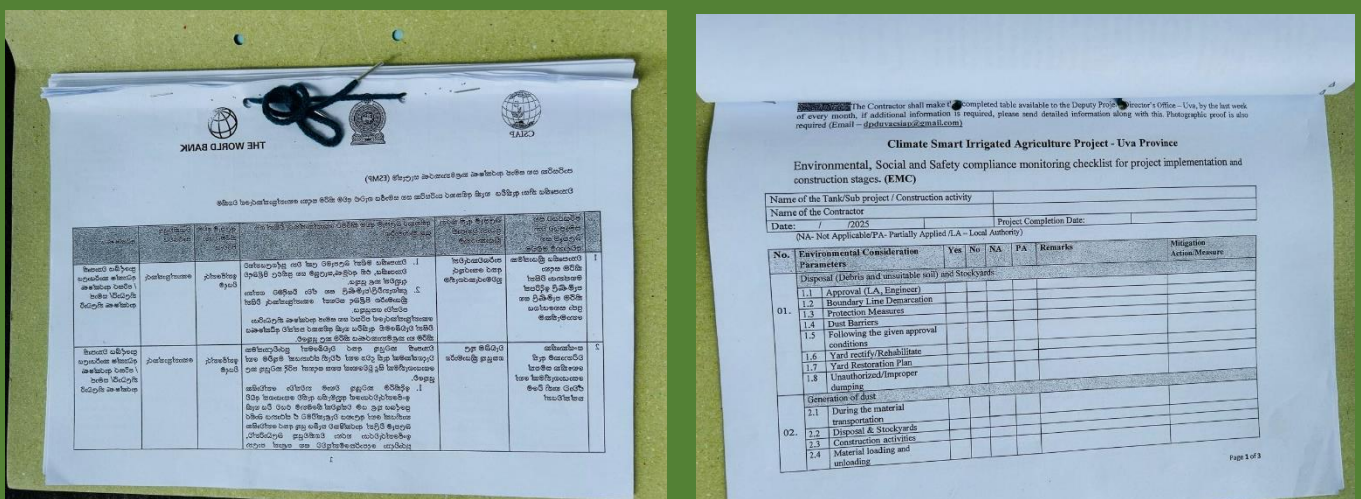
Maintaining of the log book was also observed at the site.

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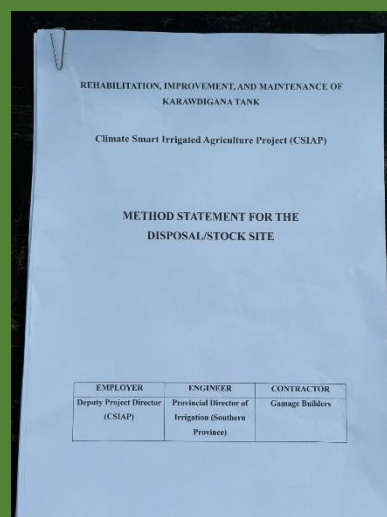
The implementation of the Code of Conduct (CoC) for the prevention of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) was observed at the site.



Instructions were given to the contractor regarding compliance, and the site-specific checklist for Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) was also available at the site.



The supervisor was present at the worksite during the inspection.



Recommendations

- Expedite delivery of green gram seeds to farmers before mid-June.
- Ensure continued community participation and documentation through SAC engagement.
- Maintain strong coordination with the Forest Department and IA.
- Monitor safeguard risks due to wildlife and adopt adaptive work schedules.
- Contractor to formally document tree planting efforts and report to the DPDO and PMU.
- The contractor must display the subproject name board at the site to ensure public awareness and accountability of the works.

Risk Level Assessment

Taking into account that the **work is currently underway**, it is important to note that the **tank is located within a protected area**, and the **required approval for rehabilitation** has been obtained from the Department. The **tank rehabilitation activities** were initiated with the **full agreement of the farmers to forego cultivation** during the Yala season of 2025. **Potential weather-related delays** are considered **low**, although **minor challenges in material transportation** may occur during the **rainy season**. Since the **proposed interventions** are confined to both **upstream and downstream areas**, the site is categorized as **low-risk**, with a **high likelihood of completing the rehabilitation on or before 30th September 2025**.
