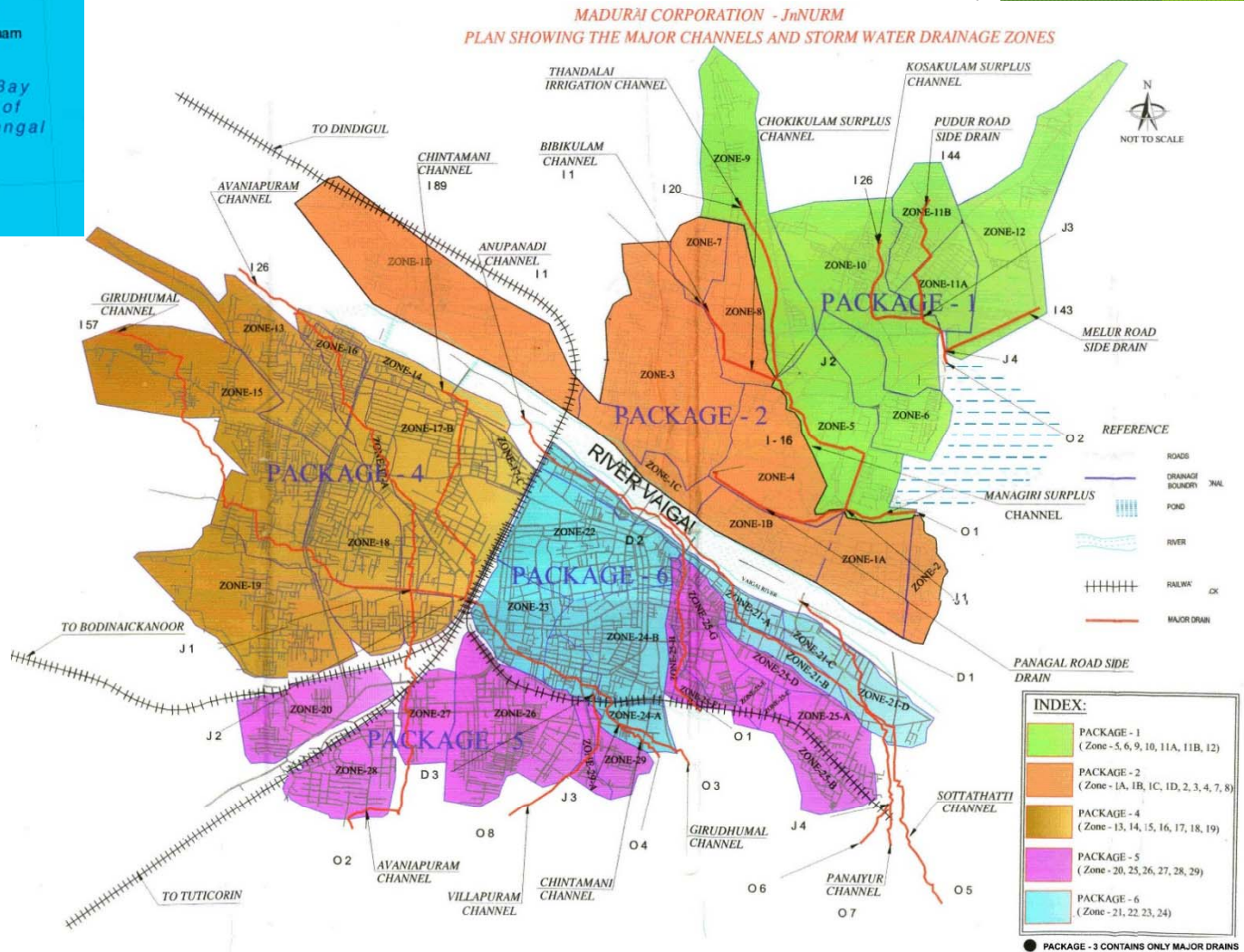


Session - State of Urban Lakes in India: The Crisis

# Madurai City-Water Bodies status and Challenges

## DHAN Foundation's initiatives

N.VENKATESAN, Programme Leader, Madurai



# Status of water bodies at Madurai city

- ▶ Madurai city and surroundings have 46 tanks and distributed 23 are at north bank and 23 more at south bank of the Vaigai river.
- ▶ These tanks were linked to river vaigai as Vaigai water flows to feed these tanks
- ▶ Madakulam and Vandiyur tanks are with significant size and important sources for drinking water and ground water recharges in the City.
- ▶ Many more temple tanks (Madurai is temple city)

# Status and challenges

## Status

- ▶ Encroachment of tanks and their channel networks
- ▶ Waste water drainage and dumping wastes in the networks
- ▶ Weed infestation
- ▶ Delinked network

## Challenges

- ▶ Regular maintenance
- ▶ Health hazard due to pollution
- ▶ Eviction of encroachment
- ▶ Citizen engagement

# Status of tanks

Sl. No	Name of the tank	Present status of its use
1	Beebeekulam tank	Income tax, customs, post office and left out portion is with waste water storages
2	Sorikulam	Radio station, officers residence and PF office
3	Manakiri kanmai tank	Vakboard college and hostel
4	Pudur tank	District revenue officers residence
5	Sambakulam	No evidence of tank
6	Sengulam	Madurai district court
7	Ulaganeri tank	Madurai high court bench
8	Vandiyur tank	Mattuthavani bus stand, flower market and paddy markets are in front portion of the tank bund.
9	Pudukulam	News Reporters city, TWAD BOARD, and government corporation transport workshop.
10	Annuppanadi Chinna tank	Waste water storage place
11	Annuppanadi Periyakanmai	Waster water storage place after treatment

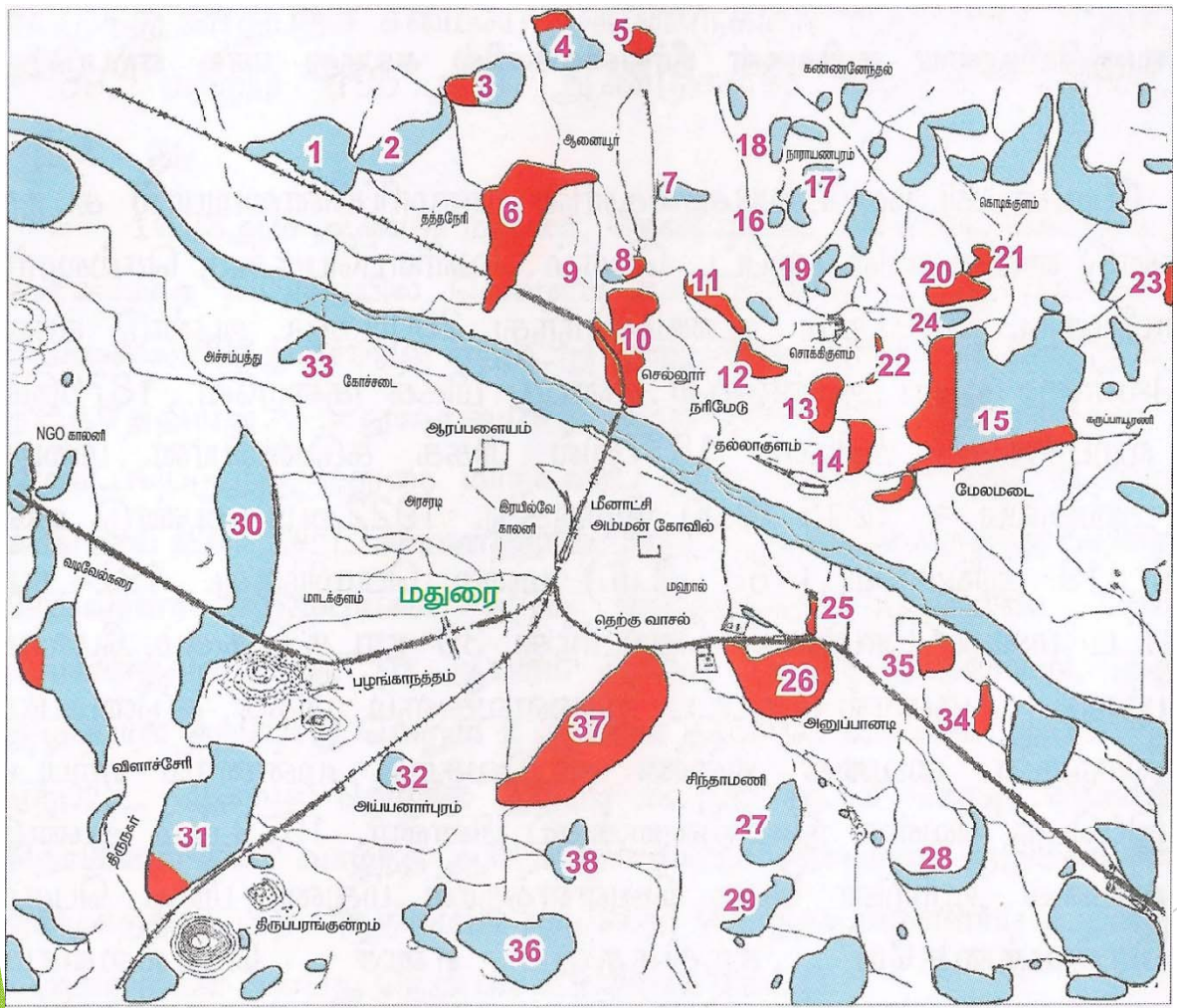
# Status of tanks



Sl.No	Name of the tank	Present status of its use
12	Sinthamani tank	Waste water collection tank
13	Thulipathik tank	Waste water collection
14	Iwathankanmai	Waste water collection tank
15	Madakulam tank	Good condition
16	Thenkal tank	Foreshore tank is encroached with house sites
17	Veeramudaiyan tank	Water harvesting source
18	Kochadai tank	It is deep tank with excavation of soil for construction and for brick kiln
19	Puliankulam tank	Water harvesting sources
20	Thallakulam	Madurai corporation, commercial tax, law college offices and remaining place is allotted for World tamil Sangam building
21	Sellur tank	Southern railway and one portion is with huts of the poor people
22	Naganakulam tank	Water harvesting source
23	Sambandar alankulam	Water harvesting source
24	Anaiyur tank	Foreshore is with constructed house

# Status of tanks

Sl.No	Name of the tank	Status of use
25	Silayerikanmai	Foreshore with constructed houses
26	Virakanur tank	House constructed and waste water storage place
27	Iyravathanallur tank	House construction and waste water collection
28	Ayanpappakudi tank	Waste water collection
29	Villapuram tank	Housing board houses construction
30	Avaniapuram tank	Solid waste collection place
31	Vilankudi tank	Agriculture use
32	Karisakulam	Agriculture use
33	A.Kosakulam	Major portion with houses construction
34	Mudakathan tank	Houses in the bank and waste water collection
35	Thathaneri tank	Housing board houses and southern railway and one small portion is acting as water storage space
36	Narayanapuram tank	Water harvesting sources
37	Athikulam tank	Due to waste water it polluting ground water
38	Thirayathi kanmai	Water harvesting structure

# Tanks (lakes) status in Madurai city



-  Encroached Tanks
-  Water storage in this tanks



# DHAN Foundation's initiatives at Madurai city

## CURE:

The Centre for Urban Water Resources (CURE) is a centre of DHAN Vayalagam Tank Foundation (DVTF), the water thematic collective of DHAN Foundation.

Its main objectives are to protect the urban aquatic environment, to enhance the living conditions of residents with regard to health and hygiene, and to improve livelihoods by securing water resources.

## CURE Working Areas

**Waste water and Sanitation:** providing adequate sanitary facilities as alternative to open defecation, disseminating decentralised wastewater treatment solutions (DEWATS) with integrated and poverty-oriented management strategies.

**Urban Water Bodies:** working on renovating rainwater catchment structures, such as urban and temple tanks, and ensuring appropriate water flow in tank cascades.

**Safe Drinking Water:** working on disseminating household water treatment units as well as on awareness creating initiatives.

## Tales of Madurai Temple Tanks

Water Quality and Major Concerns:  
Cases of Four Temple Tanks in Madurai City



cure | centre for urban water resources



Madurai Marathon 2008  
Run For Heritage Water Bodies



## Neerindri

This book was brought out on the occasion of "Madurai Marathon 2007". This book describes the history of Madurai and its tradition, water bodies and drinking water schemes and steps to save water resources, drainage water system management in Madurai. Water is the very basic need for human being. The book describes about the importance of secure water resources in Madurai. It provides the ways to protect water bodies and save water.

# DHAN Foundation's initiatives at Madurai city

- ▶ Madurai Marathon, first its kind with focus of water bodies conservation, at Madurai city-Neerindri(no water) booklet on status of water bodies in Madurai city published. This event was conducted for two years during 2007 and 2008 with the focus of water bodies conservation and resource mobilization for the cause of water bodies conservation and development.
- ▶ **CURE** listed out 13 urban water bodies, which still serve the population. These tanks are mainly used for groundwater recharge and irrigation purpose.
- ▶ **Renovation of Thengal Tank Supply Channel**-Thenmadurai Kalanjiam Federation contributed Rs. 25,000 to the renovation works. The total project cost was about Rs. 100,000. With the support of the Revenue Department, PWD, Thenmadurai Federation and Thengal Kanmoi Pasana Vivasayikal Sangam, CURE was able to complete the works successfully.

# DHAN Foundation's initiatives at Madurai city

- ▶ **“Tales of Madurai Temple Tank - Water Quality and Major Concerns”** was already released during the Madurai Marathon 2008, a final and overworked version was published. This book captured four temple tanks in details for their quality and concerns.
- ▶ **“Vaigai River Restoration Pageant”** similar to Hudson River Pageantry for conservation and Development of Vaigai river- Collaboration with TCE/Fatima college and other stakeholders
- ▶ The Inmayil Nanmai tharuvar Temple tank has been renovated with the support of temple trust
- ▶ The Tiruparankundram Temple tank renovated with the temple trust support

# DHAN Foundation's initiatives at Madurai city

- ▶ Study of Kridhumal river of Gundar basin at Madurai City for its pollution and what we supposed to do in future
- ▶ Water walk every month to create awareness among the stakeholders - organised by Kalanjiam Federtions
- ▶ Nathivalam "Vaigai river walk" to understand the significance of the river and its usefulness to the community (every full moon day)
- ▶ TCE and Fatima College - Students study on water resources aspects (encroachment eviction, quality of water and pollution status)

# Way forward

- ▶ All welfare associations needs to be engaged in protection of the tanks as it provides the source for ground water recharge
- ▶ Citizen engagement through awareness creation on importance of water tanks and ponds in the city-water walk and Nadhivalam as initiated by DHAN
- ▶ All college students and school children needs to be given education on significance of tanks and water bodies in the Madurai city
- ▶ Special attention by the Madurai corporation and district administration to protect the tanks and water bodies through special order and structure with community and stakeholder participation