



Rainforest Protectors of Sri Lanka

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To: Mayor, City of Kandy

Kandy Municipal Council

Kandy World Heritage City Council

Mahaweli Authority

Non-biodegradable waste pollution in Kandy Lake and Mahaweli River

We wish to bring to your immediate attention, the growing and unsustainable non-biodegradable waste pollution around Kandy Lake and Mahaweli River that is posing a severe threat to the World Heritage City and the health of its residents and visitors. We hope you will take note of the issues below and take timely action.

1. Trash pollution around Kandy Lake

Despite notice boards installed around Kandy Lake advising the visitors to keep the City clean, a sizable number of visitors still throw trash to the lake or nearby. The pollution is creating a stench and eyesore in the World Heritage City, that is a deterrent to both local and foreign tourists and the fly's attracted to the trash create potential health hazards among the residents. Therefore, we urge the Mayor and Municipal Council of Kandy to immediately setup an Environmental Police with violators brought to court and issued a fine as well as required to do community service to cleanup the City.





2. Non-biodegradable waste pollution in Mahaweli River at Lewella

During the dry-season when the water levels of Mahaweli River drop down to a trickle at Lewella, Kandy, a visitor is greeted with the unpleasant sight of thousands of plastic and polythene bags hanging from branches of trees and shrubs. Carried downstream by the gushing waters when the river runs strong, the non-biodegradable plastic and polythene bags are exposed when the river runs dry. Tourists are turned away at this eyesore and the pollution causes ecosystem collapse in the river as fish, birds and other wildlife consume these non-biodegradable waste which accumulate in their digestive systems over time. Therefore, we urge the Mahaweli Authority and the Mayor/Municipal Council of Kandy to collaborate on addressing this issue. A recurring (minimum twice-annual) public/private cleanup effort should be organized along with dispatching PHI's to educate the residents living in the environmentally sensitive river banks to keep the river clean.



Video clip of the polluted Mahaweli River is available on the Internet at <http://tinyurl.com/qb6z7ef>

Thank you

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