



Kelani Nadee Yatra – A journey for climate justice



Action by



Main Organizer

Goal

A Journey along Kelani River is to increase environmental consciousness to combat climate change at Grass root level in Sri Lanka through Youth participation.

Why a river journey?

Climate Change issues are still not discussed at Grass root level in Sri Lanka. People are not aware of adaptation and mitigation strategies. National Level awareness campaign and sensitizing younger generation is timely needed. Therefore Kelani Nadee Yatra is designed with youth participation targeting grass root level awareness through a media campaign.

These 20 youth ambassadors who gain experience while travelling along the river with professional environmentalists and expertise will be ready for leadership at the end of the programme who will learn environmental issues through living experience.

Objectives of the programme

1. To make the youth as change agents in creating consciousness on climate change among the public.
2. To get the community participation on climate change adaptation and BD conservation along the river bank.
3. To protect the BD of one of Sri Lanka's longest rivers by enhancing awareness among the communities who are exploiting it for their livelihoods.
4. To use this opportunity as an advocacy campaign to present the evidence to policy makers in order to make the decisions on environmental conservation and climate change adoption.
5. To introduce basic actions towards energy saving and using of green energy.
6. To initiate a massive, long term tree planting campaign Island wide.
7. To empower local environmental organisations to continue and monitor the tree planting campaign and energy saving actions started with river journey.
8. To offset carbon among the travelers to Sri Lanka and the Asian region and other people who do care about nature.

Project methods / activities

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Pre Journey

1. Identify the route of travel along Kelani River and get permission and support from stake holders.
2. Organizing several media campaigns, publicity programmes mainly targeting the selected route of travel.
3. Selecting 20 youth ambassadors representing all 9 provinces of Sri Lanka and make them ready for 12-15 days of travel along the river (145km) as messengers of combating climate change and protecting BD by giving a residential training for 3 days on related subjects (ECO-V staff and some invited resources personal will conduct this training).

Above this residential workshop “SEALS’ conduct

- Path finding Technique & Terrain Navigation
- Trekking, Hiking, & Mountaineering Technique
- Survival Techniques, ISS/ISDA/IOF Safety Signals Handling
- Eco-Camping Principals & Seven Low of the Wilderness

On Journey

1. Starting the campaign with religious activities at starting point of Kelani River which is a sacred mountain to 4 main religions of Sri Lanka (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kelani_River)
2. The whole travel will be done as segments with stopovers by using a bus (rented) push bicycles, rafts and walking at pre determined places.
3. Once the travel started, several awareness work shops for the community with presentations, film shows and discussions will be organised at seven deferent stations where we decide to stay overnight.
4. All the participants and organisers will maintain an environmental friendly life style during the river campaign and the carbon foot print will be minimized.
5. Local environmental groups will be empowered by sharing information where we take breaks.
6. Tree planting campaigns (100 trees at each stop) will be organised at those stations with the support of local governmental agencies.
7. Energy saving bulbs and water saving tips will be introduced at the same stations where local environmental groups can continue promoting them even after.
8. Final day gathering will be held at Kelaniya Temple where the experienced will be sharing with the government officers, and various stake holders.

Above this on journey "SEALS' conduct

SEALS - KNY

2 night & 3 days / 21st 22rd & 23th

KITHULGALA "SEALS" ECO-ADVENURE CAMP

SEALS / KNY

DAY 1	<u>1030 hrs</u> ~ Arrival at Polpitiyagama ~ Welcome drink ~ Treasure Hunt & White Water Rafting, Tent allocation ~ Course Introduction ~ activity/safety briefing and demonstration ~ Interaction ~ <u>1200 hrs</u>	
K	Snack break - Ice breakers ~ Team dynamic ~ <u>1300 hrs</u> ~ Lunch	2
I	<u>1400 hrs</u> ~ Low rope & Obstacle Course ~ Aerial rope ~ <u>1600 hrs</u> ~ Pre Historic Caving <u>1730 hrs</u> Snack break Dip in the River ~ Buffet dinner	
T	~ Bonfire ~ Night Line Orientation & Forging ~ <u>2200 hrs</u> ~ Go to Bed	N
H		I
U		G
L	DAY 2	H
G	<u>0700 hrs</u> ~ Morning tea ~ Mild physical exercise ~ Thought for the day ~ <u>0800 hrs</u> - Breakfast ~ Raft Building/Sliding & Confidence Jump -	T
A	<u>0130 hrs</u> Lunch ~ Improvise Water Crossing / knots Handling / Climbing Technique & Gear Identification ~ <u>1630 hrs</u> Snack break ~	&
L	How To Used IOF Symbols & Safety Signals Dip in the River ~ Dinner	
A	~ Bonfire ~ Entertainment ~ <u>2200 hrs</u> ~ Go to Bed	3
L		
A	DAY 3	D
	<u>0700 hrs</u> ~ Morning tea ~ Reverine Nature Meditation ~ Thought for the day ~ <u>0800 hrs</u> - Breakfast ~ Nature Trail & Bird Watching ~ <u>1030 hrs</u> Snack break ~ Pre Historic Caving ~ <u>1300 hrs</u> ~ Lunch ~ <u>1430 hrs</u>	A
	ISDA & ISS Auditing Closing ceremony ~ Tea ~ <u>1530 hrs</u> departure	Y
		S

EXPERIENTIAL OUTCOME ~ Safety consciousness ~ Attitude of gratitude of Nature ~ Team spirit ~ leadership skill ~ Compassionate ~ Creativity.

SPRIT & ECO-ADVENTURE LIVING SQUAD

Post Journey

1. A community action plan and a final report of the outputs will be prepared by 20 youth with the support of ECO-V and will be presented to the Environmental Minister/President of Sri Lanka soon after the journey.
2. Each youth should initiate a project related to climate change issues at local level and the best project will be selected and rewarded after 15 months.
3. Necessary guidance, support will be given by ECO-V till end of 15 months from end of journey.

Outputs, Outcomes of the River Journey.

1. 20 youth eco-ambassadors/sustainable thinkers across the country who are well trained and more aware of issues and solutions related to climate change and Biodiversity.
2. Report containing issues, predictions, and possible solutions related the health of the river and climate change.
3. 10 plots of (100 trees at each stop) trees in main cities along Kelani river.
4. Posters, leaflets and stickers containing an education message related to climate change.
5. News paper articles
6. Documentary film produced with the clips of river journey for future awareness campaigns.
7. Final report to disseminate among universities, policy makers, libraries and NGO's

This journey will take place from 18th to 30th of August 2011 starting from Sri Pada and ending at Wattala when the Kelani River meets sea. Target audience are 20 youth travelers, communities live along Kelani River, people in Sri Lanka and the Asia pacific region when we start post project activities.

