



objective of environmental conservation while actively contributing to global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the principles of the framework of sustainable development and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) .

In the wake of the national disaster caused by Cyclone Ditwah, programmes are being formulated by the Government of Sri Lanka with a focus on the restoration and sustainability of high-altitude ecosystems in the Central Highlands, prioritising the management of upper water catchment areas and activities aimed at long-term resilience. Through these initiatives, ecosystems with natural resilience to withstand future climatic shocks will be established in these areas.

05. Taking the foregoing matters into consideration, a “National Environment Week” is declared in concurrence with the national celebrations of World Environment Day, pursuant to the Cabinet Memorandum titled “World Environment Day Commemoration Programme” submitted on April 28, 2016. Accordingly, the period from 30<sup>th</sup> May to 05<sup>th</sup> June is declared as the “National Environment Week,” and the relevant days are named as follows.

- May 30 Environmental Conservation Awareness Day through Attitude Development
- May 31 Environmental Cleanliness Awareness and Attitude Development Day
- June 01 Climate Change and Air Pollution Impact Mitigation Promotion Day
- June 02 Biodiversity Conservation Day
- June 03 Water and Water Resources Conservation Day
- June 04 Coastal Cleanup Day
- June 05 Tree Planting and Celebration of World Environment Day

06. Accordingly, it is emphasized that environmental conservation programmes should be implemented during National Environment Week, with the participation of the community, steered by the government institutions, schools, the private sector, plantation sector, non-governmental organizations, and civil society organizations, focusing on the following matters.

- I. Awareness raising among all stakeholders on climate change.
- II. Identify environmentally sensitive areas such as water catchment areas, reservations, riverbanks, and wetlands, and implement programmes for their conservation.
- III. Implement programmes for the rehabilitation of degraded lands, soil conservation, and sustainable land management.
- IV. Organize programmes for biodiversity conservation.
- V. Promote renewable energy usage within public institutions.
- VI. Minimize energy consumption within institutions.
- VII. Raise awareness on the efficient use of energy in local authorities island-wide and institutions under their administration.
- VIII. Prioritize wherever possible, to purchase green products (environmentally certified and eco-labelled) in office procurement processes.
- IX. Reduce the use of paper and promote the use of electronic or digital media instead.
- X. Implement and continue programmes by the local authorities island-wide for cleaning the environment, collection of discarded plastics and polythene, waste segregation and waste management within their respective areas.

- XI. Implement programmes to collect discarded plastics from households, offices, and schools and send them to designated waste collection centres.
- XII. Minimize the use of plastic water bottles during meetings and workshops held within institutional premises
- XIII. Enhance coastal tree cover and promote mangrove conservation.
- XIV. Raise public awareness on the importance of environmental conservation.
- XV. Raise awareness on laws related to environmental conservation.

07. All institutions shall prepare plans in advance to implement appropriate environmental conservation programmes as proposed above, during National Environment Week and ensure their execution with the participation of political leadership.

08. In view of the Government's current focus on engaging the youth in environmental conservation initiatives, it is emphasized that actions should be taken, wherever possible, to ensure the participation of youth in these activities.

09. The progress of programmes implemented during National Environment Week should be submitted in soft copy to the Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, via the email address [pedudivision@gmail.com](mailto:pedudivision@gmail.com).

10. You are kindly informed that steps should be taken to incorporate the relevant programmes into the annual plans of respective institutions, districts, or provinces, in order to ensure the implementation of National Environment Week in the ensuing years.

11. Please be informed that all these activities should be carried out in accordance with the policy decisions already taken by the Government and the provisions of circulars issued to date.

Your active contribution and cooperation are expected to create an environmentally sensitive community.

**Sgd./- Dr. N.S. Kumanayake**  
Secretary to the President

Copies:

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|---|---------------------------------|
| 01. Secretary to the Prime Minister       | - for kind information, please. |
| 02. Secretary to the Cabinet of Ministers | - for kind information, please. |