



KAHANDA KANDA
GALLE, SRI LANKA

Responsible Tourism Policy

At Kahanda Kanda we are committed to operating responsibly and sustainably. This means that our entire business is accountable not only economically but also socially and environmentally.

We aim to minimize the negative impacts and maximize the positive impacts we have on our triple bottom line. In simpler terms this means that we aim to create a better place for people to live and a better place for people to visit.

We take our responsibilities to our staff, the local communities, environment, guests, travel agents, tour operators, suppliers and business partners very seriously. We don't claim to be experts at all and we realize we have a long way to go before we have achieved our objectives. For us this is a journey and we believe that the time has come when everyone has a responsibility to make a difference by the way they act.

We welcome you to be a part of our journey and value your feedback to assist us along the way.

It is our objective to:

- ✓ Ensure that the local people benefit economically from Kahanda Kanda and from tourism in the area
- ✓ Enhance the well being of people living within the local communities around Kahanda Kanda
- ✓ Minimize the impact that we have on both the cultural and natural environment
- ✓ Provide more enjoyable experiences for our guests through more meaningful connections with our local environment and local communities

The Process:

In order to develop our responsible tourism policy we completed an in depth analysis of the triple bottom line issues (economic, socio-economic & environmental) that existed. We used the 2002 Cape Town Declaration as a key reference and followed the triple bottom line guiding principles

Note: The Cape Town Declaration is the most seminal tourism declaration made by over 200 representatives of the tourism industry from over 20 countries in 2002.

In addition we also used a multi-stakeholder approach obtaining input from all staff members, the local community and local government authorities.

Our Economic Responsibility

- ✓ We aim to invest 10% of KK's Gross Profit back into the local community by FY09/10
- ✓ We currently work with local travel agents who employ local people wherever possible.
- ✓ We provide travellers with pre-travel suggestions of local services that provide local community benefits (e.g. restaurants, guides, shops, craft markets)

Sustainable Employment Practices

- ✓ We are dedicated to creating a work environment which is supportive, educational, friendly, empowering and fun
- ✓ All of our staff are employed from the neighboring villages
- ✓ All staff have formal written contracts, are all paid above the minimal wage and are entitled to holiday and sick leave etc...
- ✓ All staff are employed full time and their contracts are for 12 months of the year
- ✓ All staff are eligible for gratuities and service charge
- ✓ We offer flexible working hours to all staff
- ✓ All staff meals are provided daily
- ✓ All staff undergo an annual review
- ✓ We offer an interest free loan facility to assist staff members where needed
- ✓ We offer English classes to all staff in the low season
- ✓ In 2010 we will run an education programme on Responsible Tourism for all of our staff. Each staff member will be trained in understanding the fundamentals of Responsible Tourism.
- ✓ Our responsible tourism policy will be translated into Sinhalese and distributed amongst all staff
- ✓ We will actively encourage our staff to live responsibly at home and within the community.

Our Social Responsibility

The Local Community

In order to write this policy we have held many discussions with the local community to gain an understanding of their needs as well as strengthening their voice in shaping the future of responsible tourism in the community.

Choosing Suppliers

- ✓ We obtain as many goods and services from the local area. There are a number of services that we can not get from the local community so we obtain these from the Galle. If Galle can not provide then we obtain them from Colombo.
- ✓ All of our menus are developed using as much local produce as possible and using goods that are in season
- ✓ We use the following services from the local village of Kahanda
 - Bread – we make ourselves or purchase from the local kade in Kahanda
 - Curd – from the local farmer next door to KK
 - Vegetables and fruit – we grow ourselves or purchase from the fruit and vegetable marketing in Galle.
 - Carpenter – we use from the local village of Kahanda
 - The Tailor
 - The Carpenter
 - Tea – we sell our tea to the local tea co-operative
 - Meat and Fish – all come from Galle
- ✓ Our breakdown of goods and services is:
 - 90% of goods & services are from the local village or Galle area
 - 9% of goods & services are from Colombo
 - 1% of goods & services are imported

Nurture understanding

To Guests:

- ✓ We email all of our guests with pre-travel information to best prepare them for their visit to KK and the area.
- ✓ We encourage guests to off-set their carbon foot print of travelling to KK by supporting a local tree planting initiatives.
- ✓ We encourage guests to explore the local villages on bicycle
- ✓ We provide guests with information to raise awareness of local and environmental issues and we encourage feedback from our guests with regards to our responsible tourism practices
- ✓ We provide guests with our recommended initiatives that they can offer long term support to.

To Travel Agents:

- ✓ We provide similar information to all travel agents as we do to guests
- ✓ We are working with travel agents to ensure they distribute pre travel information all guests staying at KK
- ✓ We ensure that the travel agents have a copy of our responsible tourism policy and we aim to work with those suppliers that have a mutual understanding in this area
- ✓ We ensure that all local travel agents we work with use local guides & employ local people

Benefiting Communities

- ✓ We are currently working with the residents, schools and community groups from the two local villages of Kahanda and Angulugaha to identify what their needs and issues are and a develop a prioritized plan addressing some of these needs and issues. The plan will be completed by November 2009.
- ✓ We will develop education evenings on Responsible Tourism for the local community by April 2010.
- ✓ We support the local temples on an annual basis
- ✓ We actively encourage other boutique hotels in the area to engage in Responsible Tourism Practices by leading via example
- ✓ We currently support two community projects:

Tittagalla Sunday School Project

Buddhism is the dominant religion in Sri Lanka followed by 70% of the population. It plays an extremely important role in the country both spiritually and culturally. The villages surrounding Kahanda Kanda comprise of 99% Buddhists. Sunday School is an essential part of life for children from the surrounding villages. The Tittagalla Temple supports 200 families from 6 neighbouring villages accounting for 600 students aged from 4 – 18 years old. Classes comprise of about 30 students per class and run from 8am – 11.30am every Sunday. All classes are held in Sinhalese as very few speak English. From June 2009 the team at KK has been involved with this project supporting the construction and development of a Sunday School building with the aim of raising US\$10,000 to construct a class room building by the end February 2010 as well as providing books and computers to the school. The staff at KK provides educational environmental awareness training sessions once or twice per month. Perhaps you would like to join in. We encourage all of our guests to visit the Sunday School and interact with the children and teachers. It is a truly wonderful experience and will give you an insight into life and the education system in Sri Lanka.

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A Carbon Philanthropy Initiative

Talathaduwa Monastery - Koggala Island Sacred Grove Carbon Project

The Talathuduwa Monastery and temple was established over a century ago and is located on a 24 acre island on the Koggala Lake. The monastery is an important point of education for young monks from all around the country who are initiated into the Ramanya Nikaya, one of the two prevalent Buddhists sects in the country. The sect is very much monastic in style and one which is closely linked to the natural forest systems. The monks living here are the custodians of some of the last remaining mangrove forests and threatened biodiversity on the island. The local community has historically relied much on the now dwindling mangrove forest resources. Non timber forest products such as traditional medicinal plants, fruits and fiber were extracted from the forest and were an essential part of the identity of the lagoon community. Due to loss of the lagoon edge there is now significant erosion affecting community lands and homes.

There is also a significant decrease in the biodiversity in the lagoon due to the disappearance of the mangroves.

Some of the mangrove species are also on the verge of extinction from Sri Lankan waters.

KK is supporting the Sacred Grove Carbon Project which aims to re plant the forest area & regenerate the threatened mangroves through carbon credits for KK's carbon footprint. The project will monitor the biodiversity of the island. It will also educate the community on how to respond to such environmental issues and provides them with leadership skills to overcome the problems and make changes to the way they interact with the local ecosystem. The island also houses a nursery which is maintained by the local (lay people) community. Money from the nursery also benefits women from the community directly.

The programme is a partnership between Rain Forest Rescue International, Kahanda Kanda and The Conservation Carbon Consultancy.

This is a wonderful project to visit – the temple truly authentic & the island is a magical place to experience.

We encourage all of our guests to contribute to improving the livelihoods of the Koggala Lake community by purchasing carbon credits that will be locked away for 40 years whilst the forest rejuvenates and at the same time guests will make their trip to Sri Lanka and/or to KK carbon neutral.

Our Environmental Responsibility

Energy Consumption & Saving

- ✓ Electricity to KK is provided by coal power station using the lowest grade of brown coal. In addition an estimated 23% – 27% of electricity is lost as it travels down the line. The less coal powered electricity KK uses the better.
- ✓ By 2010 we will have implemented our energy consumption measurement systems to monitor energy consumption on a regular basis
- ✓ We use energy saving light globes
- ✓ We use solar power for all of our hot water systems in all bedrooms except one (Tamarind Suite which is shaded by beautiful large trees)
- ✓ We aim to convert to 90% solar power for all of our energy needs by November 2010
- ✓ Unfortunately due to many local villagers illegally tapping into the mains power in the evening at KK we do not get enough voltage to operate the hotel. In order to make up for this loss in power we have to use diesel run generators every evening. To reduce the use of diesel as mentioned above we are aiming to achieve 90% solar power by November 2010. In addition we are researching the use of biomass energy¹ from within Sri Lanka to replace electricity provided by coal powered stations.
- ✓ We turn off all of our computers and office equipment overnight
- ✓ We encourage our guests to turn off the air-conditioning in their rooms when they are not in there and when it is not needed
- ✓ We designed the rooms to ensure maximum cross ventilation
- ✓ Guest's bath towels & linen are replaced every 3 days and dried on the line daily
- ✓ All laundry is washed on site using two energy efficient washing machines and all linen drying is done on the clothes line outside rather than using electric tumble dryers

¹ <http://www.saaraketha.com/index.php?action=focus-areas&id=3#top>

Waste Management

- ✓ We aim to reduce the amount of waste generated by purchasing as many durable and dry products in bulk. Also refer to responsible purchasing.
- ✓ No plastic bags are issued to staff and guests. We aim to be plastic bag free by April 2010

Recycling

We live by the principles: **REDUCE, RE-USE then RECYCLE.**

- ✓ All hotel areas use grey water recycling and have porous soak aways
- ✓ Glass, Plastics and Tin are taken to Habaraduwa² Council Depot where there are separate recycling bins for each item.
- ✓ To improve on this by end Jan 2010 we will be using a local recycling company to recycle paper, glass and plastics. This will ensure 100% recycling. At the moment it is difficult to ascertain what % of the waste taken to Habaraduwa is recycled and what % is used for land fill.
- ✓ Our glass will soon be given to the local recycling company that specializes in glass recycling
- ✓ We no longer burn any paper or waste – all paper, plastic and cardboard is given to a local recycling company
- ✓ Our Kitchen has grease traps. The waters drains through the traps and into soak aways feeding back into the tea estate.
- ✓ All vegetable matter is used for compost on the garden and tea estate.
- ✓ We are currently researching ways to improve our compost system by June 2010 to be able to also recycle paper and cardboard.
- ✓ We aim for a paperless office, except for essential documents
- ✓ We print on both sides of the paper

Chemical Usage

- ✓ KK does not use any chemicals on the tea estate – no herbicides or pesticides. We do use a very small amount of fertilizer which contains small residues of Dolomite
- ✓ Bleach is used in limited proportions for cleaning purposes. There are certain months (the monsoon) of the year (the monsoon) that we use bleach due to avoid dampness and mould
- ✓ Our swimming pool uses fresh water with minimal amounts of Chlorine. Our long term goal is to have a chlorine free swimming pool

Water consumption

- ✓ We aim to monitor and evaluate all of our water consumption by implementing meters on the pumps by End December 2009. Once we have monitored 6 months of water usage we will set reduction goals and objectives
- ✓ We only plant native plants that do not require additional water
- ✓ Guests bed linen and towels are washed every 3 days unless requested otherwise

Water Storage

- ✓ We have a price for a 3rd water tank to capture all run off from rainfall from the property. This water will be used to water the tea estate when needed. We aim to include this in our FY10/11 capital expenditure budget.

Active Participation in Nature Conservation and Biodiversity

- ✓ Within a 50km radius of KK there are a number of precious ecosystems that are reported as being threatened. Just one example is Hindiduma Rainforest, Galle where illegal encroachments³ are threatening its existence.
- ✓ We actively support Rainforest Rescue International. www.rainforestrescueinternational.org

² Habaraduwa is approximately 7km South East from Kahanda Kanda.

³ <http://www.dailynews.lk/2009/01/17/fea11.asp>

Ethical and Responsible Purchasing

- ✓ We purchase 90% of our goods and services locally, 9% from Colombo and only 1% from abroad
- ✓ We grow our own organic vegetables and some fruits. By Dec 2010 we aim to increase production by 50%
- ✓ We purchase dry items in bulk
- ✓ We do not use any imported meats in our menus, only local seafood, chicken and pork
- ✓ We do not purchase lobsters at certain times of the year to ensure that they are given the opportunity to grow to full maturity and avoid over fishing
- ✓ We tailor our menus towards seasonal produce
- ✓ We purchase all of our curd from the local farmer next door to KK

Reducing our Carbon Footprint

- ✓ We aim annually to offset all of our staff travel to and from work and all business travel including travel for goods and services for the hotel using the Sacred Grove project at Koggala Lake.
- ✓ By end Dec 2009 we will offer all guests a Sri Lankan carbon philanthropy program via the Sacred Grove Project so that they can ensure their holiday in Sri Lanka and stay at KK carbon neutral.