



ENVIRONMENTAL  
FOUNDATION  
(GUARANTEE) LIMITED

# ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

## Our Mission

Conservation and protection of the natural environment through legal & scientific means

## Introduction

Environmental Foundation (Guarantee) Limited (Henceforth, referred to as: “EFL”), is a premier non-profit public law group, with a dedicated director board and team of passionate environmentalists, which fights for environmental and social justice in Sri Lanka. The portfolio of EFL could be divided into three major categories, which are:

### 1. Legal

EFL carries out legal action, within the judicial system of Sri Lanka, to safeguard the fundamental rights of ecosystems and human-systems of Sri Lanka.

### 2. Projects

EFL conducts various projects, which are primarily focused on improving biodiversity, ensuring and enabling sustainable resource management and disseminating awareness on conservation issues.

### 3. Investigations

EFL conducts investigations on environmental destruction and degradation in Sri Lanka, and compiling detailed accounts of the impacts for recommending mitigations and for taking legal action.

EFL was founded in 1981 by a team of dedicated lawyers and activists to act against the growing environmental injustices occurring in Sri Lanka.

Since 1981, EFL has grown as an organization, acquiring an experienced and dedicated team to become a premier firm dealing with environmental law and policy in Sri Lanka. The team has and continues to be guided by a dynamic, dedicated and experienced board of directors.

EFL is a uniquely placed organization to combat environmental injustices in Sri Lanka, as the team of EFL is empowered to solve a problem through both legal and scientific approaches.

The human resources of EFL have been divided into three main categories: 1) the ‘team’ of EFL, 2) the board of directors, and 3) a team of advisers. The team of EFL, comprises of all permanent staff, interns and volunteers. The team is responsible for the day-to-day management and operation of EFL, and in ensuring that such operations ally with the environmental policy. The main functions of the board of directors are to oversee the operation of the team, provide guidance and expertise to the team of EFL, and to ensure that the operation of EFL as a whole, is in accordance to the environmental policy of EFL. The

advisors of EFL are external experts, whose assistance is often sought after by EFL, to guide, review, and provide expertise in the technical and legal operations and functions of EFL.

## Policies to Ensure Environmental Protection

EFL being a premier environmental conservation organization in Sri Lanka, is committed to carrying out its operations and functions in a manner which is sustainable and environmentally non-destructive, yet allowing all objectives to be met. Therefore, all operations of EFL have been designed in compliance with the following policy frameworks:

Environmental policies followed in daily operations, projects and legal cases,

- EFL operates using processes and procedures to ensure that environmental risks are reduced and opportunities for environmental improvement are duly identified and acted upon.
- EFL operates in a manner which prevents or minimizes pollution:
  - Travel is minimized and done collectively as much as possible, and undertaken only when necessary.
  - Minimizing waste production and maximizing the reuse and recycling of materials. Furthermore, EFL has a culture of deliberately avoiding environmentally damaging materials such as polyethylene.
  - Minimizing the usage of paper in daily administrative tasks, operations, legal cases and other activities carried out by EFL.
  - Procurement goods and services which are environmentally responsible.
  - Usage of biodegradable chemicals when required.
  - Minimization of the usage of electrical energy. The minimization of energy usage is promoted daily, even in small steps. As an example, the EFL office mostly depend on natural light, as opposed to artificial light.
  - Minimizing the environmental impact of the events held by EFL considering the above commitments and implementing our environmental event guidelines

## Policies to Promote Sustainable Business Practices

EFL is committed to carrying out clean business. To fulfil this commitment, EFL has extremely strict criteria in the selection of business partners and investors.

- EFL would not partner with or invest in organizations whose objectives and operations significantly conflict with, or detract from the objectives of our organization.
- EFL would not partner with or invest in organizations whose objectives and operations are detrimental to global and local environmental and social wellbeing.

EFL is a non-profit guarantee limited organization. Therefore, EFL is indebted to the generosity of sponsors for its operation. However, EFL has strict criteria on the acceptability of sponsors and strictly screens its sponsors with the following criteria to ensure that EFL utilizes only 'clean' monetary resources:

- All prospective organizations that sponsor EFL should have:
  - objectives and operations which align with the objectives of our organization.
  - objectives and operations which are not detrimental to global and local, environmental and social wellbeing.
  - have not been involved in unlawful business practices.

Furthermore, EFL attempts to screen the customers, investors and business partners, of prospective organizational sponsors to ensure integrity.

EFL is a leader in the field of environmental law and policy in Sri Lanka. Therefore, it is the policy of EFL to meticulously research all allegations of environmental justice before filing a case with the judicial courts. This due diligence is carried out so as to ensure that EFL always champions the victim, without carrying out the agenda of environmental and social oppressors.

## Policies to Ensure that all Employees of EFL, Nurture and Grow Environmental Sensitivity

EFL will always strive to:

- Promote participation and communicate our commitment to responsible environmental management by promoting environmental responsibility among our employees; providing the necessary training and support to enable them to implement this policy; and soliciting input from our employees in meeting our environmental goals.
- Evaluate environmental performance of employees through monitoring and reviews.

## Managing and Reporting Environmental Impacts

Monitoring and management of the environmental impacts of our activities is a regular and important activity carried out by the team of EFL.

## Engagement

This environmental policy is available to all interested parties via our website. We communicate this policy, on our environmental performance and other relevant



environmental information to our staff. We will consider staff suggestions to improve environmental performance and the implementation of this policy, where practicable.

Furthermore, interested parties are welcome to review, and offer suggestions for improvement where necessary. We shall welcome constructive feedback regarding our environmental policy. Parties with such feedback could contact us by sending an e-mail to: [mail@efl.lk](mailto:mail@efl.lk).

## Contact Information:

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