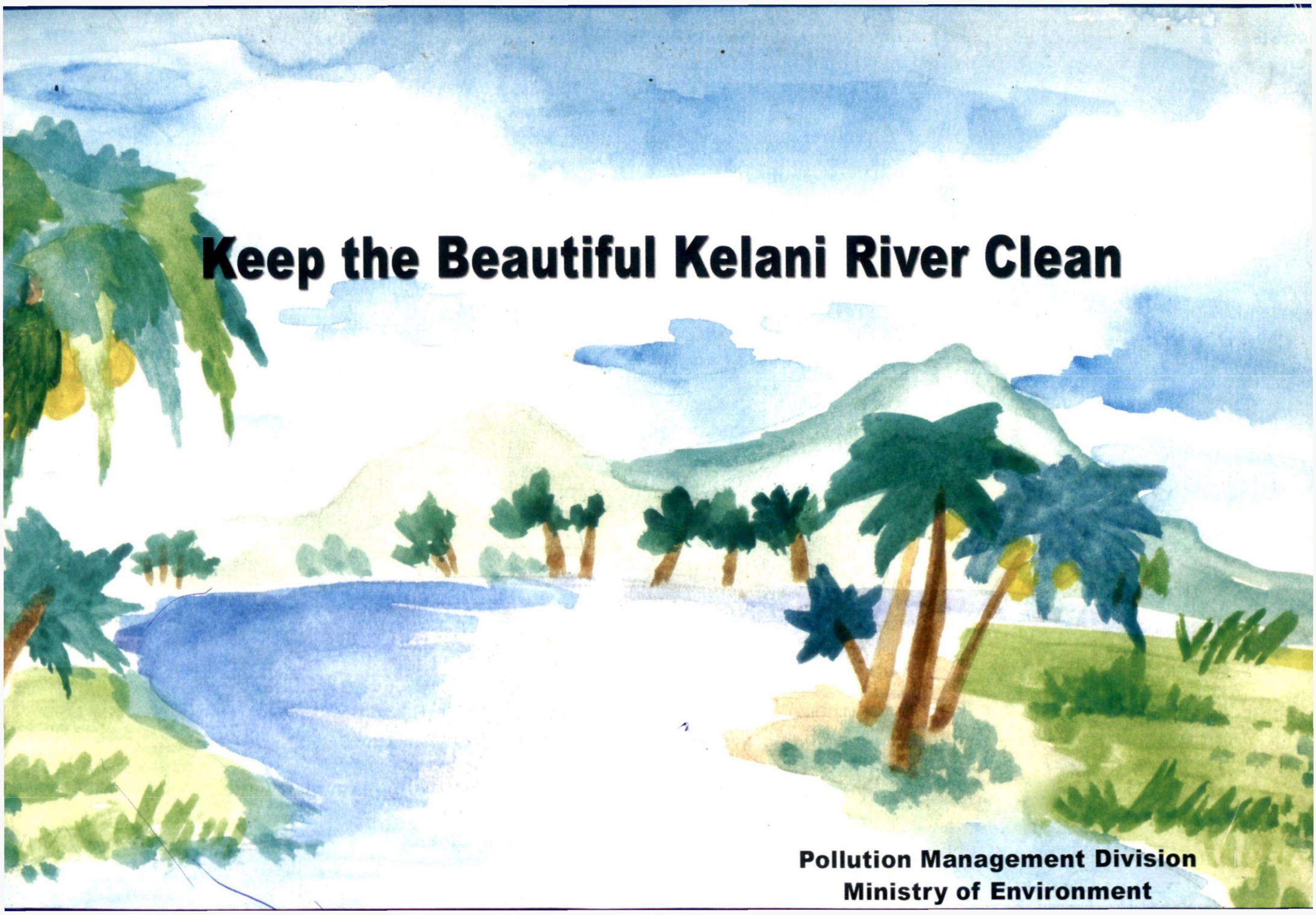


A watercolor illustration of a tropical landscape. In the foreground, a blue river flows from the left towards the center. The banks are green with various plants. Several palm trees with green fronds and brown trunks are scattered throughout the scene. In the background, there are rolling green hills and mountains under a blue sky with soft, white clouds. The overall style is soft and artistic, typical of watercolor painting.

Keep the Beautiful Kelani River Clean

**Pollution Management Division
Ministry of Environment**

Keep the Beautiful Kelani River Clean

Introduction

Rivers and streams nurture our lives.

The pure water of the Kelani River which commences flowing from the Samanala Mountain Range is subjected to pollution in the lower sections due to various human activities. These activities pose a threat to the conservation of fragile ecological systems in the down-stream coastal areas.

The main objective of this booklet is to secure active participation of school children in carrying out various activities of the Pavithra Ganga Pilot Project, which was established for the purpose of protecting the Kelani River, which flows across the Western Province. This booklet explains in simple terms the importance of conserving the extremely sensitive ecological systems such as perennial rivers and how students can initiate activities to contain them at household levels.

By involving the active participation of school children in this project, it is intended to build up their capacities to understand the problems and issues and overcome the challenges they will have to face in protecting the environment while achieving economic progress.

In the same manner, it will promote active involvement of their parents in identifying the sources of pollution; and thus facilitate to minimize pollution of the Kelani River.

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Ministry of Environment

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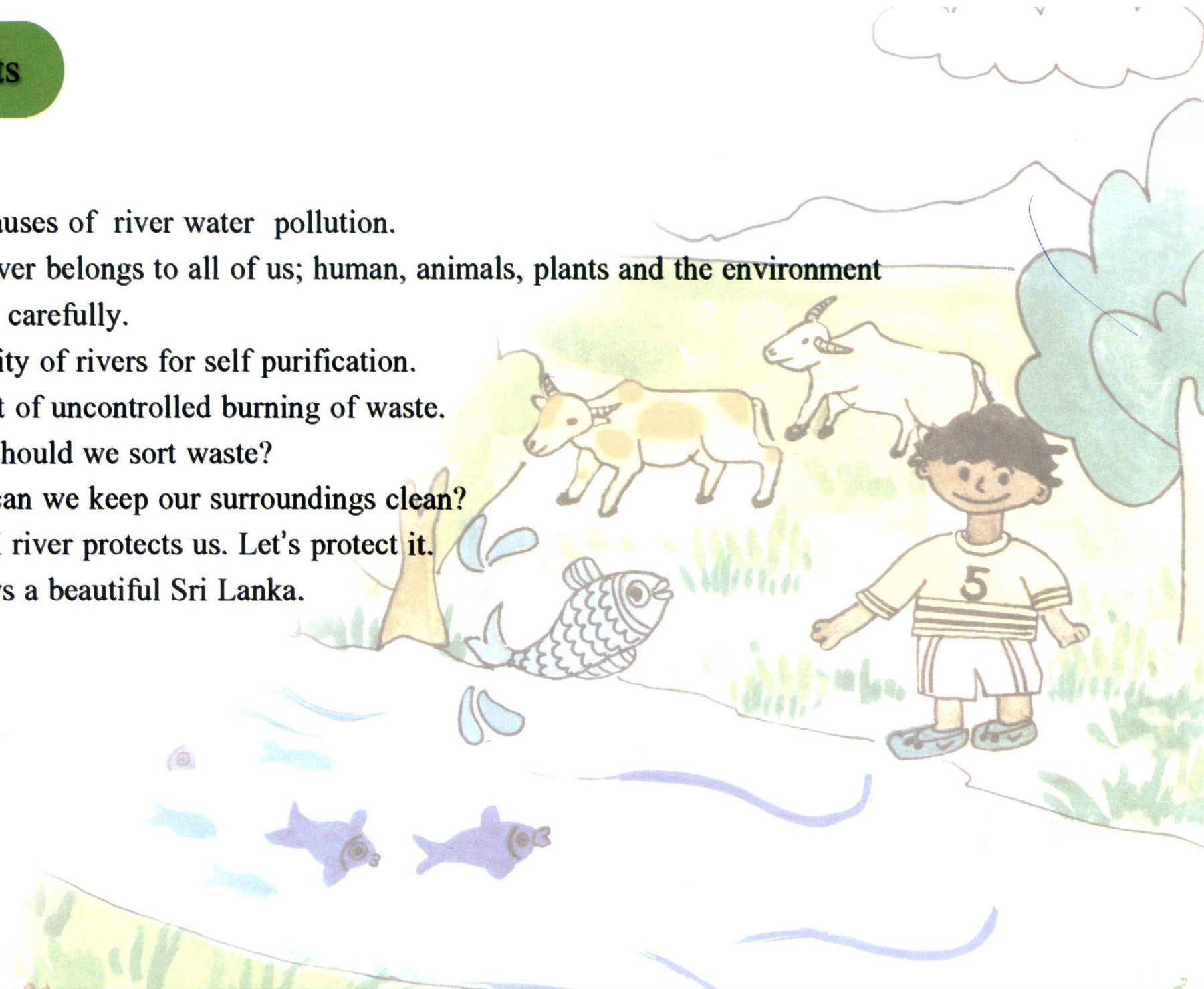
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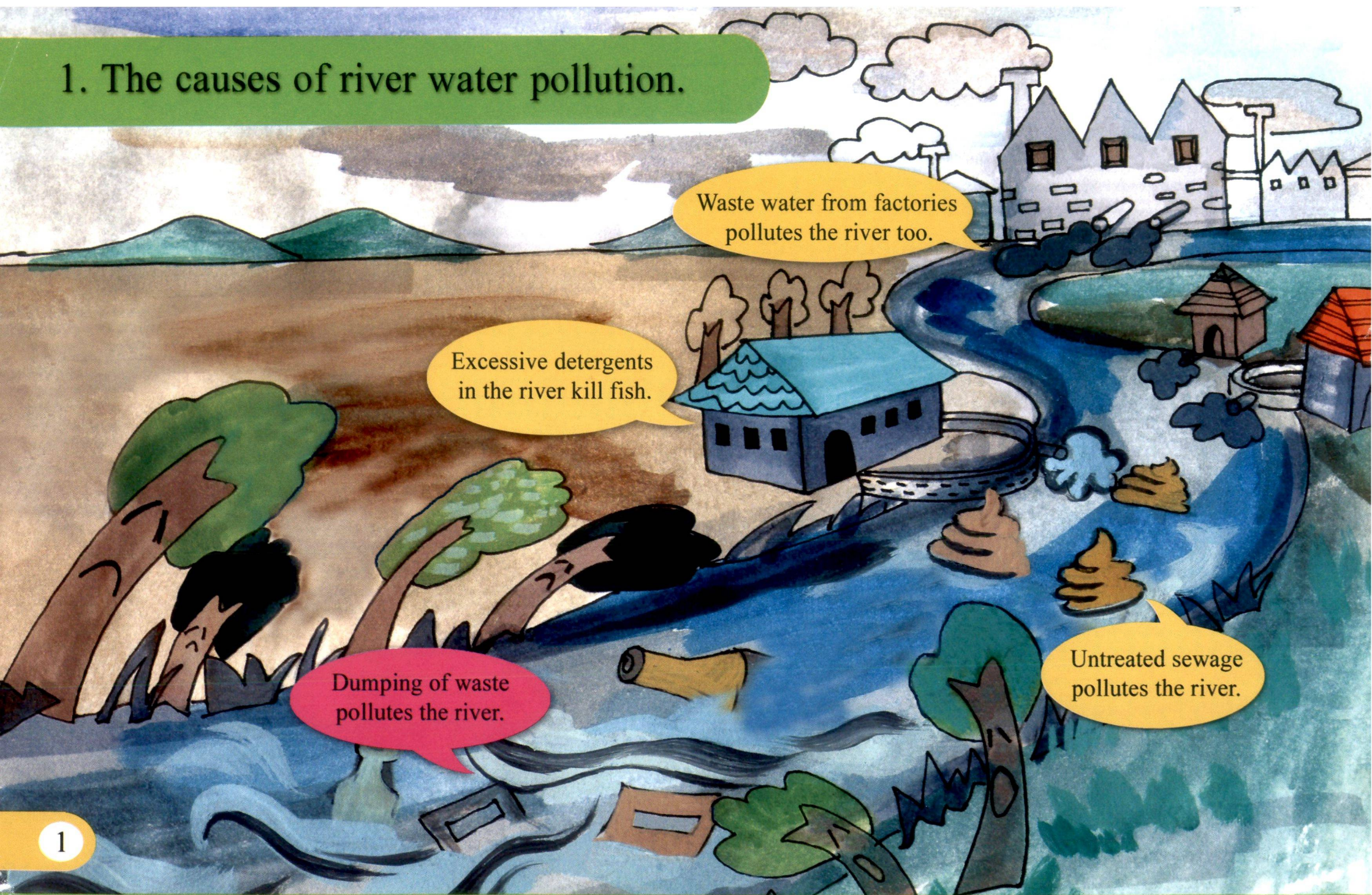
Sponsored by : The Netherland Funded Project on Institutional
Strengthening & Capacity Building for Environmental Programme

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4. Impact of uncontrolled burning of waste.
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6. How can we keep our surroundings clean?
7. Kelani river protects us. Let's protect it.
8. Always a beautiful Sri Lanka.



1. The causes of river water pollution.



2. The river belongs to all of us; human, animals, plants and the environment.



Animals too need to drink clean water.

If the river is clean, we can bathe and swim.

Use the river carefully.

3. Capacity of rivers for self purification.



4. Impact of uncontrolled burning of waste.



Inhaling that air can make you sick.

The illustration depicts a scene of environmental pollution. On the left, a fire burns out of control, consuming a pile of waste. Thick, dark smoke billows upwards from the fire. In the foreground, a river flows, its surface reflecting the smoke and the surrounding environment. To the right of the river, two children, a boy and a girl, stand looking distressed. The boy is coughing into his hand, and the girl is holding her head, appearing to be in pain. A small dog is also present, looking towards the smoke. In the background, there are trees and a fence, suggesting a residential or semi-rural area. The overall tone is somber and cautionary, highlighting the health and environmental consequences of improper waste disposal.

Let's think about the atmosphere and our neighbors' health and stop burning solid waste.

If you burn waste near your house, near roads or rivers the ashes and toxic gases pollute the air and water.

5. Why should we sort waste ?

Sorting waste at home helps reuse and recycling them in the factory.

When disposing waste, separate them into paper, glass, plastic and food.



6. How can we keep our surrounding clean?

- * Use a compost barrel for degradable waste.



- * At least use a Bio-Protection for degradable waste.



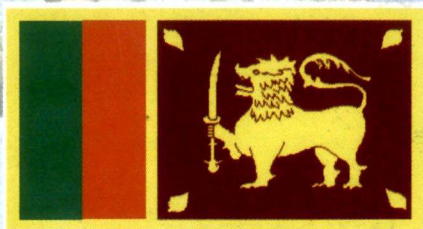
- * Keep the garden clean.
- * Separate nondegradable waste for recycling.
- * Support UC to take remaining waste, and safe disposal.
- * Prevent discharging sewage directly to river.
- * Keep drainage systems clean and support neighbors to do it.

7. Kelani river protects us. Let's protect it.



8. Always a beautiful Sri Lanka.





Ministry of Environment