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**HAZARD ZONE-TOURISM POTENTIALS IN SRI LANKA;  
WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON KAHAGALLA MITIGATED  
LANDSLIDE**

I hereby declare that the work described in this thesis was exclusively carried out by me under the guidance of the supervisor given below and I certify that the report on this has not been submitted in whole or in part to any other university or institution for another degree or diploma.



by

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**ABSTRACT**

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Disaster tourism is a new type of tourism based on disasters and its features. As such, the primary goal of this research is to identify the possibility of converting a non-profitable natural hazard mitigation site into a profitable tourist site. A geologic hazard visible in the geological environment is a natural event that occurs within the earth's crust which poses a threat to life and property. One such example is landslides. The Kahagalla landslide area is 3.5ha in size and landslide prevention and mitigation activities have been conducted here as part of a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) project costing millions of rupees. The attractiveness and profitability of this location lie in the availability of different landslide mitigation methods within a single area/site. Located along the Beragala-Hali Ela highway (A16) in close proximity to Haputale and Bandarawela, the site has the potential to attract many local as well as domestic tourists who visit the central hills of Sri Lanka. This was an inductive study using field observations and interviews as primary data and published papers and NBRO documents have been used as secondary data. Qualitative data analysis methods such as content analysis, thematic analysis and stakeholder analysis have been used in this research. The main conclusion drawn based on the results is that there certainly is a possibility of improving this area as a disaster tourism site aimed at foreign and local tourists mainly for educational purposes. The recommendation is to build an information center with the capacity to raise awareness and enhance knowledge about the history of this landslide, the geological quality of the area along with details of the mitigation project. As such, tickets could be issued, and the site arranged into zones from top to bottom while the methods used could be shared with visitors.

Key Words: Hazard tourism, Landslide, Mitigation methods