

Survival



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Secretary (Labour/Ind)
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Secretariat

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We help tribal peoples
defend their lives, protect
their lands and determine
their own futures.

Shri Ajay Saxena, IFS, CCF (WL)
Commissioner-cum-Secretary
Tribal Welfare
Secretariat, Andaman and Nicobar Administration
Port Blair
Andaman and Nicobar Islands
744 001

October 21, 2010

Dear Shri Ajay Saxena,

Please allow me introduce myself, my name is Sophie Grig, I work for Survival International, the worldwide organisation working in support of tribal peoples. I don't think we met when I was in the Andaman Islands in 2008. I gave a seminar to members of the Department of Tribal Welfare, AAJVS, and others, about the Jarawa.

I understand that you are the new Director of Tribal Welfare and that you will also remain responsible for the conservation of the forests.

Since Survival was established in 1969, we have worked with many tribes around the world, particularly in Brazil, who like the Jarawa are in the early stages of contact with outsiders. Where these tribes are allowed, by government authorities and others, to control how much contact they have, to make their own decisions about their future, and to choose and control any development projects in their communities, they thrive.

However, where a tribe's lands have not been protected, where contact with outsiders has been unregulated, and where changes have been imposed upon the tribe, large numbers of tribal people have often died of disease, and the survivors have been reduced to dependency.

I have enclosed a summary version of a Survival report, 'Progress can kill', about the often disastrous impact of imposing 'development', however well meaning, on self-sufficient tribal peoples. The full report is available on our website; alternatively I would be happy to send you copies. I have also enclosed a copy of 'There you go!' a cartoon book critiquing such 'development'. Finally, I have enclosed, on a CD, a copy of the presentation I gave during my seminar in the Andaman Islands.

I would be very happy to answer any questions you have about any of the issues, or examples raised in this material. Survival has been working in this field for more than 40 years and we are in touch with experts who have worked with tribal people in

AAJVS
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3. To Whom Marked
4. Remarks
5. Initials of E.S.

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Survival International
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