



Sub: Jarawa Tribal Reserve, Andaman Islands

Dear Sri Chaudhary,

I hope my letter finds you in good health.

I am writing to you in the context of a project titled 'Preparation of a dossier on the Jarawa Tribal Reserve that is spread over South and Middle Andaman Islands'. Kalpavriksh has been recently commissioned by UNESCO to put together the dossier. The project is within the framework of the UNESCO's Coasts and Small Islands Platform, and its contribution to the Joint Mainline of Action on Enhancing Linkages between Biological and Cultural Diversity.

The main purpose of this effort is to identify and understand some of the key and intricate linkages between cultural and biological diversity in the islands in general and in the context of the Jarawa community in particular. A more detailed concept note on the project is attached here for your reference.

The project will be undertaken in close collaboration with senior anthropologist Dr. Vishvajit Pandya who has been working in the Andaman Islands for over two decades now.

As part of the project we are hoping that we will be able to draw upon a wide range of diverse experiences, expertise and knowledge that already exists and this is the context in which I write to you.

We are all aware of the fact that some of the best and least disturbed forests in the Andaman islands now survive in only those parts of South and Middle Andaman Islands that have been designated as the Jarawa Tribal Reserve under the Andaman & Nicobar Protection of Aboriginal Tribes Regulation (ANPATR) - 1956.

I am writing to you, therefore, on behalf of Kalpavriksh and UNESCO to request your collaboration and for inputs with information and understanding of the forests that lie within the Jarawa Tribal Reserve. Historical information as well as that based on more recent research and documentation of these and other forests in South and Middle Andaman would be particularly relevant in this context.

Some of the elements that would be relevant and useful in the present context would include among others:

- Maps published in the report 'Biodiversity Characterisation at Landscape Level in Andaman & Nicobar Islands Using Satellite Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System, a project that was jointly executed by the NRSA and the A&N Forest Department.
- An idea of the forest working plans for South & Middle Andaman islands. This could include the details of the present working plan as also the earlier ones.