

III) The Jarawa Tribal Reserve Dossier

The above indicated relevance and importance of the Jarawa Reserve is known only to a few people who have been working on these issues for the last few years. In most places the information and understanding is scattered. While the anthropologists continue to work and understand the community itself, biologists have just begun to document and understand the rich biodiversity the Reserve supports. The administrators, on the other hand are driven entirely by another set of concerns and priorities, whether it is creation of the Jarawa Reserve, denotification of its parts, or dealing with the issues and conflicts involving the settlers who live along the forests of the Jarawa and the Jarawa Reserve.

Little if any effort has yet gone into looking at and understanding the Jarawa Tribal Reserve as a single sociological-biological unit of extreme international significance that encompasses within itself fundamental issues of cultural and biological diversity.

The proposed Jarawa Tribal Reserve Dossier will be the first attempt at doing precisely this. The dossier will try and put together a range of multidisciplinary inputs and information related to the Jarawa Tribal Reserve, with the aim of facilitating a comprehensive and integrated view and approach of the space that is called the Jarawa Tribal Reserve. It is hoped that the dossier will be the first small step in a process of understanding and working towards a better and more secure future for the Jarawas and the biological diversity of the islands.

The various components that will make up the Jarawa Reserve will include the following:

- a) The legal concept, boundaries and geography of the Jarawa Tribal Reserve as defined by the ANP.ATR
- b) The history of the change in the boundaries of the Jarawa Tribal Reserve and its evolution into what it is at the present
- c) An attempt to understand from some anthropological investigations the Jarawa concepts of movement and space and notion of their own territory as we can construct and interpret it.
- d) An initial documentation of the Jarawa's own knowledge and use of the biological resources that are found in their forests
- e) An articulation and understanding of the perspectives regarding the Jarawa Tribal Reserve of the settler communities that live in areas adjoining the forests.
- f) Studies and documentation of the biological richness of the forests of the Jarawa Tribal Reserve, including the significance of these forests for biodiversity conservation.
- g) Recent satellite and GIS based mapping which provides evidence that the Jarawa Reserve Forests are indeed the last remaining pristine rainforests in these islands.
- h) An attempt will also be made to place the issue of the Jarawa Tribal Reserve within the larger international discussions and possibilities regarding indigenous peoples and biodiversity conservation.

V) Expected output

The expected output is a Jarawa Tribal Reserve Dossier of about a 100 pages that will include multidisciplinary information as explained above in Section III
