

46 RSK
59(1W) 22/10/06

4291

KALPAVRIKSH



Environmental
Action Group

Sri Ram Kapse
Lt. Governor,
A&N Islands
Port Blair - 744101

January 17, 2006

Sub: Jarawa Tribal Reserve, Andaman Islands

Dear Sri Kapse,

It is with great pleasure that I would like to inform you that Kalpavriksh has been commissioned by UNESCO for a project for the 'Preparation of a dossier on the Jarawa Tribal Reserve that is spread over South and Middle Andaman Islands'. 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 by the undersigned 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. The basic purpose of the project is to create a document that has a wide range of multidisciplinary information related to the Jarawa Tribal Reserve that has been created under the provisions of the Andaman & Nicobar Protection of Aboriginal Tribes Regulation (ANPATR) - 1956. It is hoped that the document will become an useful tool and information source for planning, policy and decision making in matters related to the Jarawas and the Jarawa Reserve.

We are seeking the co-operation of a multitude of agencies including the Anthropological Survey of India, the National Remote Sensing Agency, various NGOs and independent experts, and also the various relevant departments of the A&N Administration including, prominently, the Forest Department, Tribal Welfare, the Medical Department and the Police. Since there are various agencies involved in various aspects related to the Jarawas and the Jarawa Reserve, the idea is to bring all relevant information and perspectives in a single place.

Noted below in brief is an indicative list of inputs from the various departments that would be very useful in making the Dossier complete and relevant for future use:

Forest Department: Information on the flora and fauna of the forests in and around the Jarawa Reserve and of the basic management regime being prescribed for the forests as part of the Working Plans (including the changes that have come about historically).

Police Department: In case of the Police Department, the input sought is regarding the present policy and approach of this law enforcement agency in relation to the Jarawa

PTO