



commission for environmental impact assessment

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Directorate General International  
Cooperation  
Mr R.Vriezen  
P.O. Box 20061  
2500 EB THE HAGUE

Royal Netherlands Embassy, Sri Lanka  
Mr P. Kuperus  
25, Torrington Avenue  
COLOMBO 7, Sri Lanka

your reference  
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2000 and 29 November 1999

our reference  
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subject  
Advisory review of the environmental  
impact assessment report of the Coastal  
Resource Management project, Sri Lanka

direct dial  
+ 31 30 234 76 54

Utrecht,  
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By letters dated 29 November and 15 December 1999 and 6 January 2000 you requested, on behalf of the minister for Development Cooperation, the Commission for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to advise on the EIA-report and draft final report prepared for the Coastal Resource Management Project in Sri Lanka.

I herewith submit the advice prepared by a working group of the Commission for EIA. The advice and recommendations have been thoroughly discussed during a debriefing session in Colombo with representatives of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, and with the Netherlands Embassy.

The Coastal Resource Management Project was originally conceived as a project consisting of a number of physical interventions for Coastline Stabilization along Sri Lanka's western and southern coast. At a later stage, the Coastal Environmental Resource Management (CERM), Fisheries and Institutional components were added. The Commission supports this expansion of goals and objectives of the project as Coastline Stabilization should not be executed solely as a technical intervention, but has to fit in a national strategy as described in the National Coastal Zone Management Plan. Most importantly, adequate consideration now has been given to environmental protection, in conjunction with maintaining the productivity of coastal and near-coastal ecosystems on which a large section of the population depends for a living.

As the advice of the Commission proposes a phased approach, the Commission is willing to review environmental information on relevant points in time. For the Coastline Stabilization component, the next phase will be the preparation of detailed designs of sub-projects, including site-specific EIA-reports. The Commission could provide independent review advice on these EIA-reports if this is deemed necessary, before implementation will take

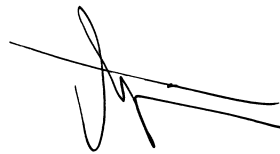
Postal address P.O. Box 2345  
3500 GH UTRECHT, THE NETHERLANDS  
Visiting address Arthur van Schendelstraat 800  
Utrecht. The Netherlands

Telephone +31 30 234 76 60  
Telefax +31 30 230 43 82  
Website [www.eia.nl](http://www.eia.nl)  
E-mail [mer@eia.nl](mailto:mer@eia.nl)

place. Also as far as the CERM-component is concerned, the Commission can act as an independent review body in case interventions proposed in the Special Area Management Plans would be subject to EIA. The Commission suggests that, when required, such follow-up reviews should preferably be performed in close co-ordination with the Coastal Conservation Department and with the Central Environmental Authority in Sri Lanka.

Finally, the Commission is of the opinion that there is a good opportunity to mobilize specific coastal zone management and research expertise available in the Netherlands. This option could be considered during the earliest stages of project implementation. These possibilities for co-operation pertain in particular to supporting studies (sand studies, data base establishment, modelling) but also to training of coastal wetland management personnel.

The Commission trusts to be informed as to what extent the DGIS and the Embassy intend to make use of its advice and recommendations.



Mr J.W. Kroon  
chairman working group  
Coastal Resource Management Project,  
Sri Lanka