

APPENDICES

**With the advisory review of the environmental
impact assessment studies of the Colombo
Katunayake Expressway and related offshore sand
mining in Sri Lanka**

(appendices 1 to 6)

APPENDIX 1

Letters from the Netherlands Embassy at Colombo, Sri Lanka, dated 21 and 28 May 2001, in which the Commission has been asked to submit an Advisory Review.

May 21, 2001

Dear Mrs. Steinhauer,

Following our telephone conversation today, 21 May 2001, I would like to ask the Dutch EIA Commission to send a mission to Sri Lanka in June to study the environmental impacts caused by the construction of the Katunayake express-way. This research is needed following a request by dredging company Boskalis for ORET funding. To the Embassy, it is a sensitive situation as DGIS has been involved in funding a project specifically aimed at the conservation of the marsh and lagoon through/along which the road is planned, for the past ten years.

What we would like to know is:

- Which negative environmental effects would the construction of this road have on the ecosystem?
- Which one of the causes can be put right by mitigation?
- Which environmental impacts are unavoidable and which ones are likely to happen?

This road will be build sooner or later and the route and design of the road are determined.

So the question is not, how to plan a better route which will cause less social and environmental effects. This is a no longer the issue. Our question is: would it be a responsible move to fund the construction of a road which might harm previously made investments into wise-use and nature conservation? The Negombo Lagoon is, as a matter of fact, one of the coastal ecosystems which was also funded by us via the ABD CRMP project. So there is a clear direct connection between our Development co-operation/ environmental programme and the road construction.

Kind regards,

Bea Coolman
First Secretary Environment and Rural Development
Embassy Colombo

APPENDIX 2

Project Information

Proposed Activity: The need for a high speed transport link between the city of Colombo and Katunayake has been long recognised. The proposal to built such a highway with a length of almost 25 kilometers between Katunayake international airport and the city of Colombo was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers in 1998.

The project proponent is the Road Development Authority. According to Sri-Lankan law, and Environmental Impact Study (EIS) has to be conducted in accordance with Terms of Reference for the EIS. The EIS for the expressway, in which several traces have been studied and a final trace was selected, was approved by the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) in 1998. However, the EIS did not cover the exploration for and mining of offshore sand. Therefore, an EIS for this part of the project was prepared and finalised in December 2000. This EIS has been approved as well.

The Netherlands Government has been approached to become involved in the sand mining component through a request for ORET¹-funding by a Netherlands firm. At the same time, the Netherlands Embassy in Sri Lanka has been involved financially for more than 10 years in the biodiversity protection and sustainable management of natural resources of the Muthurajawela marshlands and Negombo lagoon. The proposed expressway will run across and along these wetland areas.

The Netherlands Embassy in Sri Lanka invited the independent Netherlands Commission for Environmental Impact Assessment to review the Environmental Impact Studies and other relevant documents with the following specific questions:

- have potential negative impacts on Muthurajawela and Negombo wetlands been described sufficiently and correctly in the EISs and related studies?
- are mitigating measures addressed sufficiently?

Categories: DAC-CRS codes: dredging 71210, landreclamation 91082, road infrastructure 71191

Project numbers: Royal Netherlands Embassy 21-05-01, Commission for EIA 046

Procedural information:

Request from the Netherlands Embassy at Sri Lanka: 21 and 28 May 2001

Visit to Sri Lanka: 9-16 July 2001

Advisory review submitted: 23 July 2001

Significant details: The Commission is of the opinion that sufficient care has been taken, in terms of environmental conditions set in the approvals and monitoring structures currently in place, to warrant an environmentally sound construction of the road and related sand borrowing and sand stockpiling. Mitigation measures already included in the designs are according to

¹ Export Transactions relevant for Development

APPENDIX 3

Working programme during the visit 9-16 July 2001

July 10	16.00	Briefing with Mrs. Coolman and Mr. Bandulla, Netherlands Embassy, and with Mr. Samarakoon, Team Leader Integrated Resource Management Project (IRMP)
July 11	08.30- 20.00	Field Visit to Muthurajawela Marsh and Negombo Lagoon 09.30: Meeting at Visitor's centre with Mr. Samarakoon (IRMP), Mr. Weerasinghe (Director CKE), Road Development Authority (RDA), Mr. Wirasinhe (ECL), Mr. Gowers (Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation (SMEC), Mr. Gangoda (RDA), Mr. Perera (Coast Conservation Department), Mr. ... (IRMP and CEA representative). Review trace: 3 stops at Dandugam Oya, near Airport Hotel and Liyanagemulta accompanied by IRMP and RDA. 15.00: Discussion with 15 representatives of Negombo Lagoon Management Authority and with Negombo Lagoon Fisher People Organization at IRMP centre
July 12	09.00 11.00 15.00 20.00	Meeting with Mr. Vithanage, Director Environmental Foundation Limited Drafting of advice Study of documents Meeting at Road Development Authority with Mr. Weerasingha, Director CKE, Road Development Authority and Mr. Marshall, Mr. Gangoda, and Mr.... Study of documents, drafting of advice
July 13	09.00 10.45 12.15 13.45 15.00	Meeting with Mr. Jayakody, Director General and Mr. Rajasuriy and 2 other experts, National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA) Meeting with Ms. Shiranee Yasaratne and Mr. Bambaradeniya, IUCN Meeting with Mr. Jayawardena and Mr. Wijesundera, Sri Lanka Land Reclamation and Development Corporation Meeting with Mr. Jayasinghe, Director General, Central Environmental Authority and Mr. Samarakoon and Ms. Salila Debriefing at the Embassy, with Mr. Kuperus, Ms Coolman and Mr. Bandulla
July 14	07.00- 16.00	Boat trip with fishermen and Mr. Samarakoon. Inspection of some critical sites of Negombo lagoon, shore line and parts of Muthurajawela marsh, fishing practices and prawn farming along Hamilton canal. Boat trip along Old Dutch Canal, route trace and site visit to area where sand stockpiling will take place
July 15	09.00	All day drafting of final report

APPENDIX 5

List of key documents

Documents available prior to site visit:

- Central Environmental Authority, Conservation Management Plan Muthurajawela
- GCEC, Environmental Profile
- Ministry of Transport and highways, Ministry of Finance and Planning, Colombo-Katunayake Expressway, Volume V, Annex 8, EIA report, Road Development Authority 1997
- Ministry of Transport and highways, Offshore sand mining for the Colombo Katunayake expressway project, Road Development Authority, December 2000
- IUCN, A report on the Status of Biodiversity and Critical Habitats in the Muthurajawela wetlands sanctuary, March 2001

1. Letter – Hans van Zon to Boskalis, 10 May 2001
2. Internal note Embassy, Environmental Aspects, B. Coolman
3. Report of the ORET meeting, 9 May 2001
4. Memo Dr. Samarakoon (Euroconsult), 8 June 2000
5. Fax of CdP Colombo to NIO/ORET, Mr Vriezen, 29 May 2001
6. Memo Hein Princen, 21 May 2001
7. Memo R. Vriezen to Hein Princen, 14 May 2001
8. Memo, TD-ML to HOS, 1 February 2001
9. Fax Boskalis to Mrs. van Norren, Neth. Embassy, 19 January 2001
10. Cabinet decision, 6 July 2001
11. Memo Kuperus to L. Huybens, 14 June 2000
12. Letter Boskalis to Daewoo, 30 July 2000
13. Letter to the president HE Chandrika Kumaratunga Bandaranayke of Friends of Muthurajawela
14. Minutes meeting with the president, 9 June 1997
15. Letter Environmental Foundation to Minister of Transport, 25 July 1997

APPENDIX 6

List of abbreviations and definitions

CEA	Central Environmental Authority
CKE	Colombo Katunayake Expressway
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Study
ISO	International Organisation for Standardisation
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
NARA	National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency
ORET	Ontwikkelings Relevante Export Transacties (Development Related Export Transactions)
RDA	Road Development Authority
TSHD	Trailer Suction Hopper Dredge