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வன பரிபாலனத் திணைக்களம்

FOREST DEPARTMENT

ප්‍රධාන කාර්යාලය, සම්පත්පාය, කැ. පෙ. 3, බත්තරමුල්ල, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව.
தலைமை அலுவலகம், "சம்பத்பாய", த. பெ. இல. 3, பத்தரமுல்லை, இலங்கை.
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මගේ අංකය } SF&E/03/UN-REED
எனது இல. }
My Ref. }

ඔබේ අංකය }
உமது இல. }
Your Ref. }

දිනය } 07.09.09
திகதி }
Date }

UN-REED Secretariat

Dear Sir /Madam

Request for UN-REED Membership- Forest Department, Sri Lanka

Forest Department is responsible for management of about 20% of the land area or about 60% of the total forest area in the country. Most importantly, more than 80% of the rain forests found in the wet zone of the country is under the purview of the Forest Department. Conservation is the prime objective for the management of this land base.

Main goal of the forestry programmes executed by the FD is to achieve the three National Forest Policy objectives namely; i) conservation ii) increase tree cover and iii) enhance contribution of forestry to welfare of the local people living adjacent to the forest areas. Apart from the forest conservation, most of the forestry interventions such as tree planting in abandon lands, tree planting in homegardens, rehabilitation of degraded tank catchments, and protection of existing forests from wild fires could directly impact in the mitigation and adaptation of the climate change.

Despite, all protection efforts by the Forestry Administration, the forest cover in Sri Lanka, as seen in most other countries in South and South East Asia is declining in an alarming rate. Pressure from villagers looking for new shifting cultivation land, illegal exploitation of timber, damage from periodic wildfires and the conversion of forest land to other uses has continued over the decades. Poverty is the main root cause for many natural resource destructions especially unsustainable land uses which leads to the destruction of forests. Without assistance of the communities living in adjacent to those forests, it is impossible to implement any successful forest conservation programme..

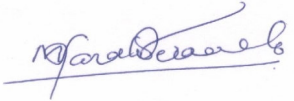
Therefore, obtaining the membership for UN-REED programme will strengthen our forest conservation and development programmes, and also facilitate to obtain assistance to development of capacity, new

knowledge inputs and engagement to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Accordingly, on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka, I would like request the UN-REED Secretariat to consider in granting the membership for the Sri Lanka Forest Department to participate for this important programme.

Your co-operation in this regard is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M.P.A.U.S. Fernando', is written over a horizontal line.

M.P.A.U.S. Fernando
Conservator General of Forests