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சுற்றாடல் நீதிக்கான கேந்திர நிலையம்
Centre for Environmental Justice

20/A, කුරුප්පු පාර, කොළඹ 08.

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Press Release

An appeal to bring Wildlife Department and Forest Department under one Ministry

Colombo, 08 May 2010. Forest and wildlife cannot be separated from each other. Both are important parts of the ecosystems. Bringing Forest Department and Wildlife Department under one house was a more than 20 year old battle which was initially proposed under the Forestry Master Plan in late 80s. Previously Department of Wildlife was under different subject ministries. His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapaksha decided to bring the two Departments under one house under the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in 2005 which is the right decision.

However, we have learned that the Wildlife Department has again separated from the Ministry of Environment and from the Forest Department. As the environmentally concerned citizen's organisation we are disappointed to see this separation.

Most forests and wildlife areas are under threat due to various development activities and illegal encroachment. Forest and wildlife areas are important as ecosystems for the conservation of biodiversity, water and as a solution to climate change. Therefore strict conservation of every tree and animal in the Wildlife and Forest Department areas and throughout the country is very important for a green Sri Lanka. This can be only done by bringing Forest and Wildlife Departments under the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and making plans to keep them sustainable.

Therefore, we urge His Excellency the President to unite Forest Department and Wildlife Department under the Ministry of Environment for the sake of our future generations.

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