



commission for environmental impact assessment

Mrs. B.T. Coolman
First Embassy Secretary
Royal Netherlands Embassy Colombo
25 Torrington Avenue
Colombo-7
SRI LANKA

your reference

your letter of
21 May 2001

our reference
046-23/ Sh/lw

subject
Advisory review of the environmental
impact assessment studies of the
Colombo Katunayake Expressway and
related off shore sand mining, Sri Lanka

direct dial
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Utrecht,
26 July 2001 23 juli 2001

Dear Mrs. Coolman,

By email dated 21 and 28 May 2001 the Netherlands Embassy invited the Commission for Environmental Impact Assessment (the Commission) to advise on the environmental impact studies of the Colombo Katunayake Expressway (CKE) and related off shore sand mining in Sri Lanka.

It is my pleasure to submit herewith the advice prepared by a Netherlands working group of the Commission. I would like to draw your attention to the following points:

Given the fact that the road covers and cuts off a small part of the wetland area only, and that stress on the ecosystem through human activities will build up rapidly in the oncoming period with or without the construction of the CKE, the Commission expects the additional *direct* adverse impacts of the CKE to be minimal.

Moreover, the Commission feels that the CKE presents an opportunity to control human encroachment upon the marsh from its eastern frontier.

On balance, our conclusion is that, although negative impacts are certainly to be expected, no major environmental risks are foreseen, which cannot be mitigated. The positive impact of preventing intrusion into the wetland area may even outweigh the negative impacts.

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**Advisory review of the Environmental Impact Assessment studies
of the Colombo Katunayake Expressway and related offshore
sand mining, Sri Lanka**

Advice submitted to the Netherlands Embassy at Colombo, Sri Lanka, by a
working group of the Commission for Environmental Impact Assessment in
the Netherlands.

the technical secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I.A. Steinhauer', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ms. I.A. Steinhauer

the chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.W. Kroon', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr. J.W. Kroon

Utrecht, 23 July 2001