Negombo, SRI LANKA

12-12-2012

Please pass this onto the Senate Inquiry for me, thanks

Dear Mary,

As a person who visited Australia in 2009 my interest in reading news about Australia has alerted me to the destruction of Toolangi forest which has been taking place over an year from now.

Since I spent most of my holiday at the Centre for Ecology and Spirituality in Glenburn I love Tooolangi for its richness in biodiversity. I can never forget the magnificence of the forest with its Wattles, Candle Balks, Mana Gum and other trees as well as the shrubs, ferns, Kangaroo grass and other grasses which provide a wonderful lush green habitat for Wallabies, wombats, Possums, Achindas and rabbits; the Cockatoos, Kookaburras, King Parrots, and Swallows frequenting the surrounding of the Centre for Ecology.

Every moment I spent there was so healthy with the breeze that brought the aro9ma of the forest, and to see the animals and birds in their natural habitat was such a joy every day. You know better than me that many other animals and birds like the lyre Bird which is endemic to Australia live in the interior of the Toolangi forest.

To read and hear of the logging that takes place in Toolangi owing to the development projects of your Government is a very sad situation indeed because it looks to me that Development has overridden the Conservation of Natural Environment and its resources. When Natural resources are destroyed can Development be sustained and for how long? Toolangi is rich with several Creaks - it is a pity to lose them in the future.

I saw to myself the aftermath of the destruction brought by fire on Black Saturday in 2009. It is up to your Government to allow the fresh vegetation to grow instead of logging. In the long run, your country might lose even the beautiful Murundidi Cascade.

Many countries try to proceed with Development Unlimited. Many countries that try to pacify the cry of environmentalists' concerns by introducing captivity breeding processes have failed because it is not an effective and long lasting solution. The forest animals, birds and insects need natural habitat to keep up their population. Forest Conservation is essential to humans too for the sustenance of healthy living.

Therefore I endorse your efforts in voicing the need for protecting Toolangi and I wish you Every success in this worthy endeavour. May God Bless You!

Yours faithfully,

Marie Hilarina Fdo. R.G.S.