



Papua New Guinea

26th September, 2003

To Whom it May Concern:

I write to wholeheartedly support the work of the GreenLife Society in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. I have been actively involved with the Society since its inception stage in January 2001 and remain in frequent contact with them to receive updates on their work and to provide technical input. I will be serving as a member of their technical team to assist in analysing the data and reports from their studies to assess the plight of the dugong in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The dugong is recognised as an endangered species worldwide and the population in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands represents one of the least studied, in a part of the world known for its particularly unique and rich marine biodiversity. It is widely held that the dugongs are rapidly dwindling in numbers there, but very few records exist to support this. The work of GreenLife Society will provide much needed, invaluable information about the current status of the dugong in the waters around the Islands, and an assessment of the threats to its survival there. From this they will be able to raise awareness of the situation and develop strategies and responses that will be paramount to protecting the dugong in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. I am willing to lend my assistance in any way I can to the work of the GreenLife Society on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Perks".

Helen Perks, Ph. D.
Environment Programme
United Nations Development Programme, Papua New Guinea