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December 26, 2013

To:

Mr. K.P. Ariyadasa, Conservator General Forest Department

Senior Deputy Conservator of Forests (Protection & Law Enforcement)

Range Forest Office, Ingiriya

Current Issues threatening the Hora Kele Forest Reserve in Ingiriya

We recently visited Hora Kele in Ingiriya and noticed several issues, that we wish to bring to your attention.

Issue #1 (Photo 1): According to some informed sources, Hora Kele is laden with traps setup by poachers to kill wild boar, mouse deer and porcupine. We noticed several illegal clearings made by poachers to enter the forest.



Issue #2 (Photo 2): Some of the forest boundary markers have been damaged.



Issue #3 (Photo 3): Boundary markers are completely missing at the edge of forest on Batugampola road. The forest here may have been cut down.



Issue #4 (Photo 4): The entrance board greeting visitors to the forest is in very poor shape with rust damage and is not readable.



We sincerely urge you to take steps to address these issues in a timely manner. Being close to Ingiriya range forest department, we believe this should be a relatively easy task. Please do let us know if assistance is needed.

Thank you

Sriyantha Perera

Jayantha Wijesinghe

(Rainforest Protectors of Sri Lanka)