

Survival



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Jose C Alvarez
Governor Puerto Princesa,
Palawan
The Philippines

We are the global movement
for tribal peoples' rights. We help
them defend their lives, protect
their lands and determine their

October 16, 2014

Dear Governor Alvarez,

Re: Moratorium on oil palm expansion in Palawan

Survival International, the global movement for tribal peoples' rights, is extremely concerned about the massive expansion of oil palm in Palawan. We are particularly alarmed by the plan to convert between 15,000 and 20,000 hectares into oil palm in the Palawan Man and Biosphere Reserve.

We have received worrying reports that Agumil Philippines Inc. and other oil palm companies are violating the Strategic Environmental Plan and the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA), as well as other laws.

As you will know, indigenous peoples and local farmers have come together, under the Coalition Against Land Grabbing (CALG), to object to this expansion. They have submitted a petition of almost 4,300 individuals from palm oil affected communities who are asking for a moratorium on the expansion of the plantations.

Survival supports CALG's call for a moratorium and calls on you halt the oil palm expansion and to ensure that the land rights of the tribal peoples of Palawan are respected, as enshrined in IPRA and in international law. This means that no oil palm developments should be taking place on the land of Palawan's indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Corry".

Stephen Corry
Director

Cc:

H.E. Benigno C. Aquino III, President of the Philippines
Honorable Dennis Socrates, Vice-Governor of Palawan
Dr. Marlea Pinor Munez, Executive Director, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)
Mr. Ruben S. Bastero, Regional Director RIV (NCIP)
Dionisia Banua, Commissioner (NCIP)
Hon. Ramon Jesus Paje, Secretary Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Hon. Proceso J. Alcala, Secretary Department of Agriculture (DA)
Hon. Euclides G. Forbes and Mr. Carlos B. Carpio (Philippine Coconut Authority - PCA)
Mr. Nelson P. Devanadera Executive Director, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD)
Mrs. Merl Hilario, PCSD Committee on Tribal Affairs
Mrs. Gilda E. Pico, President and CEO, Land Bank of the Philippines