F Y I

The banned limestone sand mining on Kei Besar Island in east Indonesia has been going on for quite some time. The problem is that the central government, supports it. At least this is suggested. A law passed last year prohibiting mining on small islands in the archipelago. On Kei, there are supporters and opponents, both pros and cons. The supporters almost all come from the same political party and are easily influenced with money. The opponents hardly dare to protest. And they keep quiet. When it started on Kei Besar, the multinationals arrived by ship and large trucks.
Our working group in the Netherlands wants to make a statment and coolaborate with trusted NGO's there. We have been contact with Greenpeace Ntherlands, Greenpeace Indonesia, Konmas HAM, AMAN, EL Masrum in Langgur and a large umbrella NGO.

We are concerned that this prohibited activity is damaging the ecosystem on Kei Besarand will Alsohave consequences for Kei Kecil. The consequences have been visible for some time nowdue to the flooding on Kei Besar. The fact is that this is due to logging. The Kei community working group in the Netherlands feels solidarity with the contretemps. They are concerned about the future of our descendants. Silence is therefore not an option.
The land there belongs to our ancestors and is not intended for trade. We are aware that from the Netherlands, we probably cannot make any concrete dents in anything that would bring about visible change. But at the very least, we can make a statement of solidarity.

We have already met twice. The first time in Helmond and last week in Nijmegen. The next meeting is the weekend after December 10th, International Human Rights day. For the time being, our secretary will act as chair of our meetings.
We all work unpaid. However, at my initiative, the working group members must have at least a higher professional education (HBO) degree or university background. This is purely about basic negotiation skills at a minimum HBO level.

Regards,
INED Projects board