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Global Conservation Program Cooperative Agreement

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*Performance Monitoring Report
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for

World Wildlife Fund

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Terai Arc Landscape FY07 Narrative

Indicator 1: Improved Management

Within the Terai Arc Landscape's 2.1 million hectares under improved management, a total of 12,183 ha were brought under community based forest management by working at the national, landscape and local levels in FY07, including:

- 5,363 ha of community forests handed over to 37 newly formed Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs). Technical and financial support allowed CFUGs to prepare operational plans for community forest management and facilitated effective coordination with the District Forest Office (DFO) for handing over the community forests to the CFUGs. CFUGs are managing the resources through grazing control, regulated harvesting and silviculture practices and are improving the management of the forests in Terai Arc Landscape.
- 6,820 ha of degraded forest patches were put under restoration through natural regeneration and plantation. Efforts at forest restoration have increased community ownership of the forests, reduced grazing, illegal logging and encroachment. Community mobilization and participation in restoration activities have been instrumental in promoting community stewardship of forest resources.

Indicator 2: Improved Biophysical Conditions

Preliminary analysis based on the satellite imagery has shown both increase in the forest cover and improvement in the forest quality. Such analysis of forest cover change in Khata and Basanta corridor revealed a net gain of 1,705 ha forest between 2001 and 2006. The net gain of 1,705 ha forest is attributed to restoration interventions and community forestry.

Similarly, an assessment of the change in canopy cover has estimated an improvement of forest quality in 6,299 hectares of forest in Basanta Corridor and 1,883 hectares of forest in Lamahi Bottleneck. For this analysis canopy cover below 30% was regarded as degraded forest and above 30% were regarded as good forest. The reported area under improved forest quality changed from a status of less than 30% in 2001 to more than 30% in 2006. Similar analysis for the other corridors and bottleneck needs to be conducted.

For more detailed biophysical change assessment in the project areas there is a plan to conduct vegetation analysis in restoration sites in coming years. A baseline on vegetation analysis already exists for the restoration sites.

In addition, while we cannot report the specific number of hectares under improved biophysical conditions, we have noted the following improvements:

Due to the program's successful interventions in restoration, control of illegal activities and other conservation initiatives, the movement of flagship and mega-fauna species has been recorded in the corridors. Flagship species such as tigers and rhinos, newly sighted in these corridors, are being regularly monitored and their presence indicates that the corridor forests are still suitable

for dispersion. Currently, 34% of the corridor forests are considered tiger habitat and the presence of ungulate species in the corridors is increasing.

In addition, the local communities have perceived improvement in supply of forest products such as thatch grass, fuel wood and fodder as a result of community forests and protection of national forests. This also indicates an improvement in the status of the forests. Likewise, the local communities in Khata have reported that an increased number of birds from the corridors are eating pests, such as Aphids, that were previously destroying their crops. This indicates restoration activities are improving environmental services for communities.

Indicator 3: Improved Policy

There were two major policy successes in the Terai Arc Landscape:

Terai Arc Landscape Included in 3-year Interim Plan (2007 – 2009) of Government of Nepal

Government of Nepal has included Terai Arc Landscape in the government's 3-year Interim Plan (2007 – 2009) acknowledging its importance to natural resources management, biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

Rhino Conservation Action Plan for Nepal Endorsed

Government of Nepal has endorsed Rhino Conservation Action Plan for Nepal. WWF Nepal had supported preparation of the action plan.

Indicator 4: Funds Leveraged

TAL leveraged \$1,449,800 of which \$346,319 went towards match.

Indicator 5: Number of People Trained in Natural Resource Management

- 723 members of CFUGs and CFCCs were trained in account keeping, forest management, Conservation-Livelihood Linkage Impact Measurement survey, cooperative management and good governance in forest management respectively. 20 local resource persons were mobilized to teach good governance practices in forest management. These training activities were instrumental in enhancing technical and institutional capacity of CFUG and CFCC members and have improved overall forest management. As a result of the CBOs enhanced capacity, they were able to deliver 98% of the target of community forest operational plans and activities supported by TAL.
- 750 households benefited from community-managed veterinary services and support in improved livestock management.

Indicator 6: Number of People Experiencing Increased Economic Benefits

2,627 households benefited from NTFP enterprises and 400 from micro-credit schemes. Of the 2,627 households which benefited from NTFP enterprises, 1,200 households earned approximately \$116,000 through enhanced marketing in the income generating activities of non-timber forest products. Within six months, these households earned approximately \$100 - equivalent to that of a *yearly* household income in the region. Since the target group of NTFP activities is the household, the ratio of male and female beneficiaries is unknown.