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Landcorp Head Office
Level 2, 15 Allen St
Wellington

8 April 2008

Chris Kelly
Chief Executive Officer
Landcorp Farming Ltd

Dear Mr Kelly

Today, Greenpeace has replanted land at Tahorakuri Forest which Landcorp has converted from plantation forestry to industrial dairy, to start reversing the damage caused by Landcorp. In doing so we are demonstrating that the New Zealand Government and other political parties are talking big on climate change, but have failed to develop any policies to tackle emissions or halt the rapid expansion of the dairy sector.

Landcorp has accelerated Central North Island deforestation to convert pine forests into dairy farms. This will cause a significant increase in greenhouse gas emissions and directly undermine New Zealand's ability to tackle climate change.

Agriculture already accounts for half of New Zealand's total emissions and these emissions have increased by 15 per cent since 1990.

The dairy sector is responsible for this entire increase. There has been a 58 percent rise in dairy cow numbers since 1990. Government figures project that the number of dairy cows in New Zealand will increase by up to 21 per cent by 2010, to 6.4 million dairy cows. We can expect a corresponding increase in greenhouse gas emissions. This is irresponsible when NZ will already struggle to meet its international climate commitments for reducing its greenhouse gases.

Dairy conversion of forestry land functions as a 'double whammy' on the climate as it destroys forests and replaces them with dairy farming which is one of the most greenhouse gas intensive forms of land use.

It is ordinary New Zealanders that will be left with the fallout from these environmentally damaging practices – from the excess climate emissions, to the clearance of our forests, and pollution of waterways. In addition, taxpayers are already subsidising the dairy sector to the tune of \$1.2billion from 2008-2012, for the sector's increase in emissions.

As a state-owned enterprise, and New Zealand's largest farmer, Landcorp should halt its expansion of dairy conversion and instead be leading the way in sustainable land use practices as part of the Government efforts towards climate leadership and environmental sustainability.

Yours sincerely,

Bunny McDiarmid
Executive Director
Greenpeace NZ

Cc: General Manager, Tahorakuri Forest site office