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# INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION STATEMENT

To the CEO, Board of Directors and Stakeholders of World Vision Australia:

World Vision Australia (WVA) commissioned Net Balance Foundation Limited (Net Balance) to provide independent verification of its greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory presented within its 2009-10 Annual Report (hereafter 'the report'). The GHG inventory covers the financial period 1 October 2009 to 30 September 2010 and forms part of WVA's overall commitment to achieving carbon neutral status by the year 2017. WVA was responsible for the preparation of the GHG inventory and the report. This verification statement represents Net Balance's independent opinion on the reliability of information presented within the report on WVA environmental performance. Net Balance's responsibility as an independent verification provider is to WVA's management alone and in accordance with the terms of reference agreed with them. Other stakeholders should perform their own due diligence before taking any action as a result of this statement.

## Verification Objective

The objective of the assurance process is to provide WVA and its stakeholders with an independent opinion on the veracity of the GHG-related data presented within its 2009-10 annual report. This was confirmed through verification of the information at a broad desk-top level and a review of the underlying data management systems, procedures and competencies that support the data collection and management process.

## Verification Level and Limitations

The level of verification provided is moderate as defined by the methodology described in this verification statement. The verification process covered the environmental section of the report and focussed on the underlying data collection processes, systems and accuracy of source data and calculations, with the following limitations:

- the process was undertaken through a 'desk-top' review of data provided by WVA in Microsoft (MS) Excel format.
- the reporting boundary excluded scope 3 GHG emissions from the consumption of electricity, natural gas and mobile fuels. Scope 3 GHG emission included in WVA reporting boundary were limited to air travel and paper.
- the scope of work did not involve analysis of the veracity of data trails for data supplied by third parties. Data provided by third parties was assumed to be accurate and was not subject to the verification process.
- the scope of work was limited to verification of data and statement accuracy only.

## Verification Methodology

The verification process was undertaken in January 2011, and involved:

- a review of the carbon accounting processes used to estimate GHG emissions, including; allocation of scope 1, 2 and 3 GHG emissions, sources and quality of supporting data trails, completeness of data records and unit conversions to carbon dioxide equivalent.
- a review of WVA's key systems and processes used for managing and reporting its environmental performance.
- analytical and other review procedures to detect misstatements in the data.
- collection and evaluation of evidence to support the verification work undertaken.

## Independence and Credentials

Net Balance was not responsible for preparation of any part of the report. Net Balance confirms that we are not aware of any issue that could impair our objectivity in relation to this verification engagement. The verification engagement was carried out by a team of professionals with expertise in environmental, social and economic performance measurement. The team was led by a Lead Sustainability Assurance Practitioner (Lead CSAP) accredited by the International Register of Certified Auditors (IRCA UK).

## Reliability of Performance Information

Based on the verification procedures undertaken, the following represents Net Balance's opinion:

- The findings of the verification engagement provide confidence in the systems and processes used for managing and reporting WVA's environmental performance information.
- The level of accuracy of WVA's GHG inventory was found to be within acceptable limits.
- Data trails selected were easily identifiable and traceable, and in all instances the personnel responsible were able to reliably demonstrate the origin(s) and interpretation of data.
- The environmental performance disclosures presented in the report appropriately reflect WVA environmental performance achieved during the reporting period.

Overall, it is Net Balance's opinion that the information presented within the environment section of the report is fair, accurate and provides reliable account of WVA environmental performance during the reporting period.

## Findings and Recommendations

Based on the findings of the verification engagement, the following key recommendations are made:

- WVA should consider upgrading from MS Excel to a more robust environmental data management system.
- For all offsets purchased WVA should obtain a formal certificate from the offset provider stating the quantity of GHG emission offset by WVA.

On behalf of the verification team
8 February 2011
Melbourne, Australia

Terence Jeyaretnam, FIEAust
Director, Net Balance & Lead CSAP (AccountAbility UK)