

monitoring data are required to make confident conclusions'. However, Tahera committed in the Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (WMMP¹) to present '*cumulative summaries of all data collected in the WMMP*' in the annual reports, and discuss the '*effectiveness of mitigation measures*'.

- 2) No wildlife observations and/or any impacts to wildlife were noted at the Tahera mine site, including observations of foxes or avian predators.

Recommendation: Future annual reports should include a more detailed section on wildlife observations around the Jericho site including observations of foxes and avian predators. See commitment made by Tahera on May 19, 2006 correspondence² (*...observations of foxes and avian predators will be reported in the annual WMMP report*).

- 3) In the WMMP and in your May 10, 2006 correspondence to NIRB^{1,2}, Tahera agreed to perform ground-based wildlife sign monitoring of the entire mine footprint on a weekly basis. No summary of this data were presented in the report.
- 4) On page 7 of the 2007 Report, Tahera again mentioned that a problem wolverine was destroyed on December 7, 2005. However, no explanation regarding the circumstances of the kill was presented.

Recommendation: The circumstances surrounding the presence of the wolverine in the vicinity of the camp require some discussion. Was it normally a resident or was it attracted to the site? What was attracting it to the site and can actions be taken to avoid recurrence? See commitment made by Tahera on December 1, 2006³ (*...additional information will be provided in the March 2007 report*).

- 5) A wildlife habitat map was provided in the report dated August 12, 2006, including the total mine footprint (p.7). NIRB recommends that a more up to date wildlife habitat map be included in future reports (i.e. obtained in December). This will provide a more objective representation of the outline of the Jericho project in relation to disturbance of wildlife habitat for the year.
- 6) It was proposed for the 2007 program (p.51) that aerial surveys and ground-based surveys of the Contwoyto Lake and Airstrip roads, including caribou and Muskox encounter monitoring be removed from the WMMP as it is unlikely that sufficient data will be collected by these monitoring methods. No alternatives were suggested.

Recommendation: Instead of dropping these items, GN-DOE recommended further discussion on alternatives and improved methods that could address these issues.

CARIBOU MONITORING

- 1) The highest concentrations of caribou were on the northernmost and southernmost transect lines, which could be a potential indicator of project disturbance to caribou.

Recommendation: Provide rational for caribou observations.

- 2) No mention was made of any monitoring of caribou during winter months.

¹ Golder 2005. Proposed Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan for the Jericho Diamond Project. Prepared by Golder Associates Ltd. For Tahera Diamond Corporation.

² May 19, 2007 letter from Damian Panayi, Golder Associates to Josh Gladstone, NIRB re: Response to NIRB Comments to the Third Draft of the Jericho WMMP.

³ December 1, 2006 letter from Greg Missal, Tahera to Josh Gladstone, NIRB re: Plan of action to address monitoring report findings.

- 3) Variation in the degree of potential disturbance by the survey helicopter or fixed wing aircraft negates and biases the precision and utility of behaviour data.

Recommendation: Consider assessing caribou/ungulate behaviour from ground-based fieldwork.

- 4) No monitoring/tracking of frequency and location of overhead flights in the Regional Study Area (RSA).
- 5) There was not mention of how close the caribou came to the mine site, only that caribou were observed within the wildlife study area.
- 6) There is mention of implementing a calf:cow ratio monitoring program (p. 52). GN-DOE is concerned about undertaking this work from a helicopter. This type of survey requires flying close enough to see the vulva patch to identify females.

Recommendation: GN-DOE recommends ground based fieldwork option instead of aerial survey for less disruption of the caribou.

GRIZZLY BEARS

- 1) No DNA mark-recapture was included in the 2006 report for grizzly bears. NIRB's letter of April 4, 2006 advised Tahera, based on previous comments from the GN-DOE, to conduct DNA mark-recapture to determine wolverine and grizzly bear response to the mine⁴. This was restated in NIRB's letter to Tahera of January 10, 2007⁵. GN-DOE expressed disappointment that the DNA mark-recapture was not included in the 2007 recommendations for changes to the wildlife monitoring plan.

Recommendation: It is recommended that Tahera provide an explanation why DNA mark-recapture technique was not used in the 2006 monitoring activities for Grizzly bears. NIRB is requesting that Tahera immediately initiate a mark-recapture inventory as previously discussed in correspondence by NIRB and GN-DOE.

WOLVERINE

- 1) DNA mark-recapture methodology. Please see comment and recommendation under Grizzly bear section.

RAPTORS

- 1) GN-DOE noted that in 2005, 91% of available raptors nest sites were occupied and 46% in 2006. The decline in occupancy, although based on a limited data set, would seem significant. GN-DOE suggests that a preliminary comparison of inter-year changes in occupancy rate with baseline data collected by Tahera would be useful and that the data will provide Tahera with prior warning of developing issues. In addition, GN-DOE recommends an analysis of changes in nest occupancy relative to distance from the mine site. This could support or refute that these changes in occupancy were as a result of mine related disturbance.

Recommendation: GN-DOE recommends that Tahera undertake an evaluation of their operations and identify possible pathways for disturbance of raptor nests and implement mitigation measure to restrict these pathways.

⁴ April 4, 2006 letter from Josh Gladstone to Greg Missal re: NIRB acceptance of the 3rd draft of Tahera's Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan.

⁵ January 10, 2007 letter from Josh Gladstone to Greg Missal re: Plan of action to address monitoring report findings.

As a result of my review I am recommending that Tahera provide a written response that addresses the above comments. I anticipate receiving your response by June 30, 2007. Please forward your response to NIRB's Manager of Administration, Leslie Payette at lpayette@nirb.nunavut.ca.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at sgranchinho@nirb.nunavut.ca or 867-983-4606.

Sincerely,



Sophia Granchinho

Technical Advisor

Cc: Bruce Ott, Tahera Diamond Corporation
Cheryl Wray, Jericho Diamond Mine
Jericho Distribution List