



Mr David Nussbaum,
Chief Executive Officer,
WWF-UK
Panda House
Weyside Park
Godalming
Surrey GU7 1XR

7th December, 2007

Dear Mr Nussbaum,

Re: “Deeper Luxury”

I thank you for the opportunity for the telephone conversation we had on Wednesday, 4th December, 2007, to discuss the major concerns the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices (CRJP) has with the recently released WWF-UK report on sustainability and the luxury goods industry, entitled “Deeper Luxury.”

I write this letter to formally register with WWF the CRJP’s profound disagreements with some of the contents of, and omissions from, the report and the resultant strong recommendation that WWF withdraw the report until such time as its errors of commission and omission are rectified.

The CRJP believes the report and WWF-UK, as its publisher, deserve the strongest condemnation for the completely undeserved and unwarranted criticism the report contains regarding a number of CRJP Members and, indirectly, the entire “brand” of gold and diamond jewellery.

The CRJP believes the scoring methodology used in the report is fatally flawed, based as it is on a seemingly perfunctory review of company and media websites, with no actual direct consultation with the companies named in the report. The CRJP is very concerned that none of its Members named in the report were consulted by the report’s authors prior to publication. A simple phone call, letter or email to the CRJP or any one of its Member jewellery companies would have revealed the nature and value of the work being done with WWF and others to progress the professed agenda of “Deeper Luxury.”

The CRJP can only wonder as to the unprofessionalism, or perhaps motives, behind the many glaring omissions in the report relating to the work being done by the CRJP’s membership in the gold and diamond jewellery sector – often in collaboration with WWF - to address the very sustainability issues raised in the report. The CRJP was founded to advance responsible practices in the gold and diamond jewellery industry from mine through to retail. CRJP Members are publicly committed to ensuring that the provenance of gold and diamond jewellery meets consumers’ expectations regarding responsible environmental, social and ethical performance.

Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices, Ltd

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The CRJP is profoundly concerned that WWF, a NGO previously respected by the CRJP and its Members, would publish something with the exceptionally unprofessional content and tone of this report. At the same time, the CRJP is bitterly disappointed that this report will undoubtedly adversely reflect on the professional capacities of WWF as an organisation and those WWF staff who are both blameless for the content of this report and who have intelligently and honourably collaborated with the CRJP, its Member companies and other NGOs in a number of fora to address responsible practices in the gold and diamond jewellery industry.

The CRJP believes the report to represent a classic example of an “own goal” by WWF, in that it severely damages the WWF brand because of its demonstrably poorly conducted research, research that comprehensively failed to acknowledge the exemplary collaborative work being undertaken by industry and civil society, including NGOs such as Earthworks, Oxfam and Conservation International, to achieve sustainability in the gold and diamond industry. It would be laughable if it wasn't so tragic that much of this work has been in partnership with - and often led - by WWF.

The report makes no mention of the proactive role the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices' Members (including Bulgari, Cartier, LVMH and Tiffany & Co. amongst others) have taken, together with WWF, through the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA) <http://www.responsiblemining.net>, the Madison Dialogue <http://www.madisondialogue.org> and the Diamond Development Initiative <http://www.ddiglobal.org> to achieve sustainability in the gold and diamond industry. It also fails to acknowledge the fine work WWF has pioneered in this area through the Framework for Responsible Mining <http://www.frameworkforresponsiblemining.org> and the Mining Certification Evaluation Project http://www.minerals.csiro.au/sd/SD_MCEP.htm

These omissions also deny the report the opportunity to effectively compare and contrast between the pro-sustainability initiatives evidenced by the gold and diamond jewellery sector in collaboration with WWF and other NGOs, as against a general failure to progress the sustainability agenda in other consumer goods sectors. If the report had contained such information it would have been far more useful to WWF as a campaigning tool to advance the adoption of sustainable practices in the other sectors of the luxury industry.

The CRJP views WWF as an important stakeholder in the Council's efforts to ensure responsible practices in the gold and diamond jewellery industry – from mine to retail. To that end, this letter is copied to senior WWF officials, including the WWF-International Secretary-General and the CEOs of WWF-USA, WWF-Australia, WWF-Sweden and WWF-Denmark. The letter has also been copied to the CRJP's partners in IRMA, the Madison Dialogue and the Diamond Development Initiative and posted on the CRJP website.

In conclusion, I reiterate the CRJP's strong recommendation that WWF withdraw the report “Deeper Luxury” until such time as its errors of commission and omission can be rectified. In preparation for the rewriting of the report, WWF should direct the authors to consult with all relevant WWF staff members engaged in efforts pertaining to the sustainability of the gold and diamond industry, particularly in IRMA and the Madison Dialogue. The CRJP and its Members look forward to being consulted by the authors.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Rae,
Chief Executive Officer

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