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Chapter VII Recommendations for Follow-up

The present study, within its limited timeframe and budget, has brought together a considerable amount of information on forestry and key watersheds in Asia. It has also revealed an urgent need to carry out additional studies on the role of forestry at altitudinal zones between 300 and 3,000 metres. Two different approaches are recommended.

- i) Assessment of the extent of forest cover and the role of forests in **Key Asian Watersheds** between 300 - 3,000 metres

By focussing on this particular zone, a clearer picture can be obtained about the relative importance of forestry in these areas. Differentiation by three altitudinal zones can be carried out and criteria established for guidance on which subzones would require specific attention from the forestry sector. More detailed analysis of satellite imagery and demographic data would have to be carried out.

- ii) Analysis of the role of forestry in selected meso-watersheds originating from the Tibetan Plateau

The purpose of this study would be to review the different roles that forestry plays in watersheds with different rainfall and socioeconomic patterns. For this purpose, in each of the six watersheds described in this report, one to three watersheds, with areas of from 5,000 - 20,000 sq.km., that are representative of major land-use patterns in this region, will be selected. Forest cover assessments will be carried out and socioeconomic relationships between forests and local development will be described.