

# CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Legal Name:** Western Cape Nature Conservation Board

**Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement):** A Feasibility Study for the Establishment of a Succulent Karoo Biodiversity Resource and Conservation Center with Satellite Information Centers

**Implementation Partners for This Project:**

**Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):** November 1, 2004 – February 28, 2005

**Date of Report (month/year):** August 2005

## II. OPENING REMARKS

**Provide any opening remarks that may assist in the review of this report.**

Although such an envisaged centre is very much needed by civil society and biodiversity conservation implementing agencies the present political situation in South Africa indicate that the financial priorities in this country are basic social upliftment. Biodiversity information availability, research and sharing research results with the civil society of the study areas are sadly lacking and this is emphasised again and again at all public participatory meetings. The proposed centre is an attempt to address this issue.

## III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?
  - a) To investigate whether similar resource/research centers are/were self-sustainable on the long-term – what worked and what did not.
  - b) To determine what information for such a centre, and in what format it was needed by local people and decision makers.
  - c) To determine the best location for such a centre.
  - d) To determine the financial implications for setting up such a center including an annual budget for long-term sustainability.
  - e) To determine what institution/company/department would be the most viable to run such a center.
  - f) Investigate funding opportunities for the centre
  - g) If feasible, prepare a business plan for a centre
  - h) If feasible, commitment in the form of Memorandum of Understandings obtained from the identified potential partners.
  - i) A report on the needs, placing and viability of satellite Information Centres.
  - j) If such a centre is feasible, submit a LOI to CEPF for funding.
  
2. Did the objectives of your project change during implementation? If so, please explain why and how.

Objective b) above proved to be difficult as it was envisaged to hold workshops and also to involve the Department of Communications, Knowledge Management Section to help with the investigation. The time period in which the feasibility study was to be done, proved to short to do this. Informal discussions with stakeholders were held to determine the needs.

Objective h), commitment in the form of Memorandum of Understandings from institutions and departments, could not be obtained from the identified potential partners, as again they needed a business plan, but also they needed to know funding was already obtained which was not part of the feasibility study. However verbal commitment and support to such a centre was given as they all see their own need for such a centre.

Objective i) was not investigated because the study soon showed that the centre from which these satellites would work from, needed to be established and working before satellites could even be contemplated.

Objective j) was not completed. A LOI was prepared but after discussions with SKEP they indicated that the LOI should be kept back until they have decided on their revised funding policies.

### 3. How was your project successful in achieving the expected objectives?

Objective a), the investigation into similar centres was achieved. There are no exactly similar centres in South Africa and even elsewhere in the world as the concept of this centre is the combination of information, resource, environmental education and research centres into one centre and it will not be run by one specific established department or institution, but by a non-profit making company with many institutes, departments and local people on the executive and advisory boards. The individual types of centres were investigated and the only comparable similar-type of self-sustaining centres are environmental education centres. Historically they have proven to be self-sustainable only because of an individual's drive and commitment. In the present day, newly established centres are indicating that they have only just, or are almost reaching their goal of self-sustainability in the new social and economical environment in South Africa. The problem with the success of a centre being dependant on an individual is real and certainly will be so in the establishment of a centre, but it can be addressed in the management plan by in-house training of one, preferably two, local persons who will carry on the management under the direction of a board and advisory committees. The success of the centre (=use of the centre by locals, education institutes as well as provincial and local governments) would be the inspiration to the local people to ensure management sustainability in the long-term.

Objective b) was only partly achieved. Information needs were determined on an informal basis and not through workshops as envisaged by the proposal. This was due to underestimating the time and complications to arrange these workshops.

Objective c) was obtained. The best location for such a centre was determined to be in a disused school hostel in Kamieskroon because of accessibility (number of people closest to centre and how easily they will be able to reach the centre) and available infrastructure.

Objective d) was achieved. Real and possible financial needs were determined and a 5 year budget to achieve long-term sustainability was compiled.

Objective e), to determine what institution/company/department most viable/suitable to run such a centre, was achieved. It was determined that a non-profit making company managed by a CEO and staff trained in-house for long-term sustainability under the supervision and guidance of an executive as well as advisory boards would be viable. No established institute or department would be able to run such a centre due to the present political climate in South Africa and therefore financial priorities.

Objective f), investigating funding opportunities was done. Only possible funders were identified because those that were approached indicated they need business plans and this was only finalised at the end of the study period.

Objective g), a business plan for such a centre was prepared and given in a separate report.

Objective h), commitment in the form of Memorandum of Understandings from institutions and departments, could not be obtained from the identified potential partners, as again they needed a business plan, but also they needed to know funding was already obtained which was not part of the feasibility study. However verbal commitment and support to such a centre was given as they all see their own need for such a centre.

Objective i) was not investigated because the study soon showed that the centre from which these satellites would work from, needed to be established and working before satellites could even be contemplated.

Objective j) was not completed. A LOI was prepared but after discussions with the SKEP team, they indicated that the LOI should be kept back until they have decided on their revised funding policies.

4. Did your team experience any disappointments or failures during implementation? If so, please explain and comment on how the team addressed these disappointments and/or failures.

It was disappointing, even though not unexpected, that no institution or department was prepared to commit institutionally to such a centre. They are however not only supportive of the centre, but need such a centre. The centre should actively seek funded projects by these institutes and so become a part of, or a "satellite" of such institutes in practice, if not officially.

5. Describe any positive or negative lessons learned from this project that would be useful to share with other organizations interested in implementing a similar project.

Be prepared to go through emotional highs and lows during a feasibility study.

6. Describe any follow-up activities related to this project.

With the guidance of SKEP and CEPF submit a LOI to CEPF. Also submit funding applications to other funders. Seek funded projects for the centre from relevant stakeholder. Provide minimal services to locals and students until funding is obtained.

7. Please provide any additional information to assist CEPF in understanding any other aspects of your completed project.

#### **IV. ADDITIONAL FUNDING**

***Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.***

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Type of Funding*</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>
WCNCB	Project co-financing	?R20 000	Salary, administrative support, telephone and fax funding.

**\*Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:**

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*
- B** *Complementary funding (Other donors contribute to partner organizations that are working on a project linked with this CEPF project)*
- C** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*
- D** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Provide details of whether this project will continue in the future and if so, how any additional funding already secured or fundraising plans will help ensure its sustainability.

Funding applications and soliciting of funded projects for the centre is being prepared. The deciding factor for the starting of the centre will be whether 80% of the salary for the CEO (R385,000.00) can be funded for at least the first 2 years. It is fairly confident that with this start-up funding (indicating commitment to the centre by WCNCB and one or two other funders), the additional funding and projects can be obtained.

## V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## VI. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF aims to increase sharing of experiences, lessons learned and results among our grant recipients and the wider conservation and donor communities. One way we do this is by making the text of final project completion reports available on our Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and by marketing these reports in our newsletter and other communications. Please indicate whether you would agree to publicly sharing your final project report with others in this way.

Yes

If yes, please also complete the following:

**For more information about this project, please contact:**

Name: Annelise le Roux

Mailing address: CapeNature, Scientific Services, Private Bag 5014, STELLENBOSCH 7599,  
South Africa

Tel: +27-21-8668027

Fax: +27-21-8665123

E-mail: [rouxa@cncjnk.wcape.gov.za](mailto:rouxa@cncjnk.wcape.gov.za)