

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Regalis Environmental Services CC

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): *Veld and Flora of the Little Karoo*

Implementation Partners for This Project: Regalis Environmental Services, Botanical Society of South Africa & CapeNature

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): August 1, 2007 – December 31, 2008

Date of Report (month/year): March 23, 2009

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

The main deliverables of this project (named photographs and edited text for 1 430 plant species and the 20 major habitat types of the Little Karoo region) have been completed.

A publisher for the guide was also secured. The Publications Committee of the Botanical Society of South Africa agreed to publish the guide. The completed text has been edited by two editors and was submitted to the Botanical Society during January 2009.

The text and species identifications are currently undergoing a final (scientific and technical) edit by two independent scientists appointed by the Botanical Society.

The Botanical Society is currently preparing a formal contract between the authors and the Society and we aim to release the guide before December 2009.

III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

To prepare a field guide to enable landowners, managers and tourists to better understand the major habitat types and the flora of the Little Karoo region.

2. Did the objectives of your project change during implementation? If so, please explain why and how.

The objectives did not alter.

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

Since the guide has not been published yet, I cannot comment on the success of the project in terms of the desired outcome, to increase awareness about the richness and vulnerability of the local flora.

The project has undoubtedly been a great success in terms of teamwork between civil society, scientists and the project team to prepare the text. All landowners and managers gladly allowed us access their land to photograph the plants. Members of the local CREW team (Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers) were most helpful to comment on initial drafts of the text (to establish an acceptable style of writing) and to test the text and the key to the families in the field. Members of the Botanical Society (Prof. Moll) and local society (Mr. Rabie, a retired editor of a local newspaper) were most helpful to do linguistic edits of early drafts and provided many useful comments on the content. Several specialist scientists were most helpful to identify problematic species and to provide additional information. Even the managers of the website Aluka supported the project by granting free access to restricted information (for 3 months) to check material against type specimens and for recent changes in nomenclature.

Measured by the number of phone calls we already received (to establish when the guide will be released), it is clear that word-by-mouth advertisement already created a keen market for the guide.

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.

The greatest failure of the project is the delay in the envisaged publication date. Part of the reason for missing the deadline is the participative process that was followed. The final product will now be released at a later date (perhaps even a year late), but it will certainly be a more useful product to the end-users.

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.

The only potentially negative lesson learned is that one has to be patient when dealing with volunteers and NGO's. One cannot put pressure on non-paid individuals to deliver comments and products to meet your own deadlines.

On the positive side, these non-paid individuals truly care and have immense resources that can only improve your own product.

The lesson learned: "Utilize NGO's and volunteers to improve the quality of your product, but add a year to the envisaged deadline of the product".

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

From the onset of the project we wished to include in the guide a useful hard copy map showing the distribution of the 20 major habitat types in the Little Karoo. We already applied to two other donors for support in this respect, but our applications were rejected. We are currently preparing a 3rd application. Ideally the map will be adequate to enable landowners and managers to see which habitat types occur on their specific

properties. These data are electronically available, but few landowners are able to use the electronic data and prefer a hard copy map.

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

This project is an ongoing commitment by me and my wife to promote the Little Karoo region as a region of special concern. We will continue to work towards gaining support from civil society towards the conservation of the local biodiversity. We believe that the guide will improve awareness and help towards the more sustainable use of resources in this biodiversity hotspot.

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.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Botanical Society of SA	Project co-financing to publish the guide.	\$51 500-00	Calculated at the rate of funds received from CEPF (\$1:R 8.74). This will cover the cost of printing 2 000 copies of the guide.

****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.)*

V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

My wife and I remain very grateful for the support by CEPF to prepare the basic text for the guide. Without your support this would not have been possible.

We are embarrassed by the delay of the release date of the guide, but it is part of a process that is largely out of our hands. The Botanical Society of SA reassured us that they will publish the guide.

VI. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. One way we do this is by making programmatic project documents available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these in our newsletter and other communications.

These documents are accessed frequently by other CEPF grantees, potential partners, and the wider conservation community.

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