

**SUCCULENT KAROO ECOSYSTEM
PROGRAMME
(SKEP)**

EVALUATION REPORT

SUB-REGIONAL ACTION PLANNING WORKSHOPS

JUNE 2003

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SUCCULENT KAROO ECOSYSTEM PROGRAMME (SKEP)

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Programme (SKEP) is an initiative of Conservation International (CI), with the purpose of conserving the biodiversity of the Succulent Karoo Hotspot, one of only 25 globally recognised biodiversity Hotspots – the only arid hotspot in the world. Through a highly participatory and rigorous scientific process, a Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Profile was compiled and accepted by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). As a result of this, CEPF has made a block grant of \$8 million available to assist with projects within 7 of the 9 geographical priorities, as identified in the Ecosystem Profile, which will ultimately result in biodiversity conservation of this special hotspot.

Concurrently with SKEP, another CI initiative, namely Cape Action for People and the Environment (CAPE) unfolded. The focus of this initiative is the Cape Floristic Kingdom, another one of the 25 internationally recognised biodiversity hotspots in the world. The idea of identifying 3 so-called mega-reserves resulted from the CAPE process, and 2 of the CAPE identified mega-reserves lie in transitional areas within the Succulent Karoo Biome. These areas are areas rich in fynbos and succulents as well as thicket, and would in some cases, like the Gouritz area or the Cedarberg area, fall within the Succulent Karoo biome boundaries and/or be adjacent to Succulent Karoo geographical priority areas.

After the acceptance of the Ecosystem Profile by CEPF, a series of Action Planning workshops were held in the 7 identified geographical priority areas. One of these workshops incorporated the CAPE identified Gouritz megareserve, and a separate workshop was held for the CAPE identified Cedarberg megareserve. The purpose of these workshops were:

- To actively engage civil society/local stakeholders in designing and implementing a 5 year conservation strategy for the specific priority area
- To identify 'n suite of projects that need to happen per area to ensure sustainable development and biodiversity conservation in the specific priority area
- To enable local stakeholders to develop partnerships and submit CEPF project proposals that reflect the priorities identified in the Ecosystem Profile strategies

The purpose of this Evaluation report is to evaluate the success of the workshop in terms of its goals. It would give background on the methodology use, it would comment on basic perceptions and also look at the facilitators' and attendants' feedback with regards to the workshops. In closing it will make recommendations based on the feedback from the co-ordinators and the participants.

2 Methodology

Questionnaires (see attached Addendum A), which were developed by the SKEP team of coordinators and assistants at a Training Week session in Sutherland (1 – 6 July

2003), were distributed to an approximate 10% of workshop attendees. The distribution was done to reflect approximately 10% of each of the sectors represented at these workshops.

The attendees lists of the 7 workshops are attached as Addendums B– H.

Addendum I outlines the process through which an approximate 10% candidates were representatively, yet randomly chosen to complete the questionnaires.

The results of these questionnaires were collated and incorporated in this report. (Addendum J and K consist of ALL the feedback from the questionnaires, as well as the names of the attendants who responded.)

In addition to this, the coordinators participplanned lessons-learnt at a training workshop in Sutherland. The results of this evaluation feedback session is also incorporated in this document.

General feedback from attendees, project implementers etc, as relayed to the co-ordinators and facilitators personally, via e-mail or per telephone, were noted and are incorporated in this report as well.

3 Report

3.1 Facilitators / Co-ordinators feedback and recommendations

The following aspects are worth mentioning:

3.1.1 Pre planning process

A different approach wrt some aspects of workshop pre-planning would be done if future workshops were to be held. The following would have to be considered:

- More awareness about the workshop could be raised, with the purpose to attract more public sector participation
- The methodology of the above should involve cheap means to raise awareness within civil society not previously involved with SKEP. It was evident that expensive (half page to full page) advertisements in local newspapers did not attract a significant number of stakeholders to warrant the expense.
- More sectors should be involved – especially more stakeholders representing civil society
- A field trip or two could be arranged – this should be done ahead of the time and participants should confirm their attendance ahead of time too.
- Pre-workshop material should be distributed – timeously
- The budget should be used more creatively in order to cut on workshop expenses.
- Stakeholder capacity needs to be evaluated before the workshops.
- Sectoral participation needs to be carefully planned. It was mentioned that more civil society groups perhaps should have been involved.

3.1.2 Logistics

Although the logistics of organising a workshop did not conjure up significant problems, the following were noted:

- Venue:
 - The venue needs to be scrutinised before commitment.
 - There needs to be enough wall space for participiplanning
 - It is preferable that one “big” hall is used and that breakaway groups (small group discussions) discuss their themes in the hall itself.
 - It was also noted that doing the workshop in a hotel, goes against the SKEP vision.
 - If breakaway groups need to be accommodated in a different venue, wall space again is important.
 - Aspects such as the availability of extension leads, the position of wall plugs, enough white wall to act as a screen for presentations etc need also be considered.

- Seating arrangements
 - The seating arrangements are also important – especially where “small groups” are concerned.
 - Groups should not be seated too near to each other as this is detrimental to concentrating on ones own group.

- Refreshments
 - A refreshment table needs to be available at all times. As each small group works at a different pace, it was felt that participants could rather fetch themselves refreshments at their own leisure and re-join the group while having tea/coffee.
 - This leads to the continuation of the group discussion and less intervals – whereafter it is sometimes difficult to get the small groups to cohes and concentrate again.

- Economics and admin
 - Value for money needs to be considered
 - Accommodation should preferably be handled by the participants themselves.

3.1.3 Effectiveness of Action Planning process

The co-ordinators differed in opinion about the effectiveness of the Action Planning process, and the desired outcomes. It was felt that it is too early to comment on this, as the LOIs that will be developed and the roll-out of the project design and implementation process, will answer questions as to the effectiveness of this process.

However, questions were asked as to how “real” the projects are that were identified at the workshops. Some facilitators felt that there was a lack of logical sequence of actions which negates the effectiveness of the process. Others again felt that such problems will be underpinned by rigorous follow-up communication/visits to prospective project applicants.

Another concern that was raised, was that the projects that were identified, represented projects that were identified by specific people who had the benefit of

attending the workshop. Great care has to be taken to include more stakeholders and to introduce them to the SKEP methodology in order to encourage them to also submit projects or partner in projects aligning with the SKEP strategy and CEPF funding directives.

3.1.4 Challenges/shortcomings during the Action Planning process

The most significant challenge the facilitators faced during (and after) the workshops, was the language barrier, especially in the northern regions of the Succulent Karoo. As Afrikaans is most of the participant's mother tongue, they expressed the need to have the workshop questions as well as the presentations in Afrikaans **as well** – it was suggested that the initial presentation of CEPF/SKEP should perhaps have been done in Afrikaans. (It was also noted that, after the workshops, when the participants started developing projects and proceeded to the phase where LOI's needed to be submitted, the language barrier seemed to be a major challenge, especially again in the northern parts of the Succulent Karoo Biome.)

As for the workshop methodology, the following were perceived to be significant shortcomings:

- Time frames
 - Too little time was spent during the Action Planning workshops on identifying lead agents. (If they were identified at these workshops, the follow-up communication and roll-out of project development and design would be easier and less time consuming.)
 - The time frame given for budget breakdown was too little – more time should be allocated to this aspect of the workshop. However, it was also noted that this breakdown will never amount to more than a guideline, therefore time should not be wasted on this aspect.
 - Not enough time was given between the various workshops. This posed to be a problem only because the facilitators cross-pollinated and assisted at each others' workshops. This resulted in reports not necessarily being as 100% accurate as they could have been, as capturing of the information was in some cases not done directly after a workshop. Therefore it needs to be stressed that a summary document should be prepared immediately after a workshop has ended, and before embarking on facilitating another workshop. (It was also noted that, as the facilitator's skills develop, this might pose less of a challenge in future.)
- Stakeholder's participation, expectations and understanding
 - More care should be given wrt expectations that have been created – although Action Planning with the aid of Participlan is a creative way to get people involved/included in biodiversity conservation issues, focus should perhaps fall on the “how” projects need to be developed.
 - It was mentioned that the “old” paradigm wrt biodiversity issues still persists, and that it should be taken into account when working with groups, especially groups related to the LED (Local Economic Development) sectors. It should be recognised that stakeholders still have a limited capacity to integrate and come up with biodiversity projects.
 - A pre-planning workshop (perhaps an early morning session) with stakeholders who had not attended SKEP workshops prior to this one could be considered.

- Participants should have gotten more clarity on boundaries of kinds of projects, suitcase words should be unpacked clearly (language needs to be simplified), funding directives should be explained clearly and stronger facilitation would assist stakeholders to integrate biodiversity into their thinking.
- Facilitators should cater for different capacity and needs of stakeholders

It was also perceived to be of extreme importance to share the results of this workshop with other development agencies – with the purpose of linking existing projects to others with a biodiversity focus, and to ensure partnerships which would ensure sustainability of projects.

3.1.5 Successes during the Action Planning process

Positive feedback from the facilitator/coordinator group, included the following comments:

- Team work
 - Coordinators understand each other and work well as a group. (Team work in this regard was perceived to be highly effective.)
 - Concurrent to the above, the facilitators all experienced a positive learning curve.
- Biodiversity conservation networking
 - Excellent networking was done through the workshops wrt biodiversity concepts.
 - SKEP/conservation was promoted in regions – participants' interest in biodiversity were stimulated and motivated
- Methodology
 - All coordinators felt that capturing the information in summary report format clarified the participian method. Participian could only be done effectively if you know how to utilise the information in the reports.
 - All co-ordinators agreed on the success of the Participian methodology – it works.
 - It is perceived to be a highly effective tool in generating ideas and to manage information
 - Participian galvanised the participants into thinking creatively and generating new ideas
- Stakeholder participation and representation
 - Participants were enthusiastic as their interests were stimulated
 - Although there were differences in opinion about stakeholder representation, the general feeling was that there were broad sectoral involvement and good, effective representation of stakeholders
 - Public participation was perceived to be very good
- Local economic support
 - Local economic support was provided by doing the workshops in a sub-regional manner
- Outcomes
 - LOIs were thought of and conceptualised
 - Stakeholders agreed on the need to limit funding expectations and recognised the need for co-funding.

- The workshop provided a framework for donors to evaluate projects based on people's prioritisation from within each region

3.2 Attendants' feedback

Personal feedback

Feedback given to the co-ordinators after the workshops, were mainly positive, ranging from compliments wrt the workshop facilitation and presentation, the enthusiasm of the SKEP team, to general positive comments related to the content – the identification of projects (“good projects were identified) - and the visibility of everyone's input. The fact that the workshop was purposeful was perceived to be very positive, and the expectation that something will actually happen after the workshop, has been generated.

Negative feedback included questions relating to language – there was a need, especially at workshops towards the northern half of the Succulent Karoo, that more Afrikaans needed to be spoken, or that presentations needed to be available in Afrikaans if presented in English. The language barrier also carries through to the submitting of LOI's. Some prospective project proposal leading agents expressed difficulty in communicating their needs in English and requested to complete the LOI in Afrikaans and having the co-ordinator translating it back to English. Requests regarding logistics also generated some negative feedback – ie the set times for coffee breaks. It was requested that coffee/tea be available at all times, as small groups each had breaks at different times.

Unclear as to workshop content and outcomes were also expressed – there were indicators that some participants were unclear (and requested specific answers) about the time frame as to *when* money will be available, as well as about the *types* of projects that needed to be submitted and the *amount* of money that could be applied for. Questions related to linkages of specific projects to specific funding directives were also asked – it was evident that follow-up visits need to be made to specific project leaders to clarify things said in the workshop and to directly relate them to specific projects. There were also requests that co-ordinators visit the projects to assist them in LOI writing. (One project leader stated that he was “waiting for feedback from the SKEP office” before he started developing and submitting a project.)

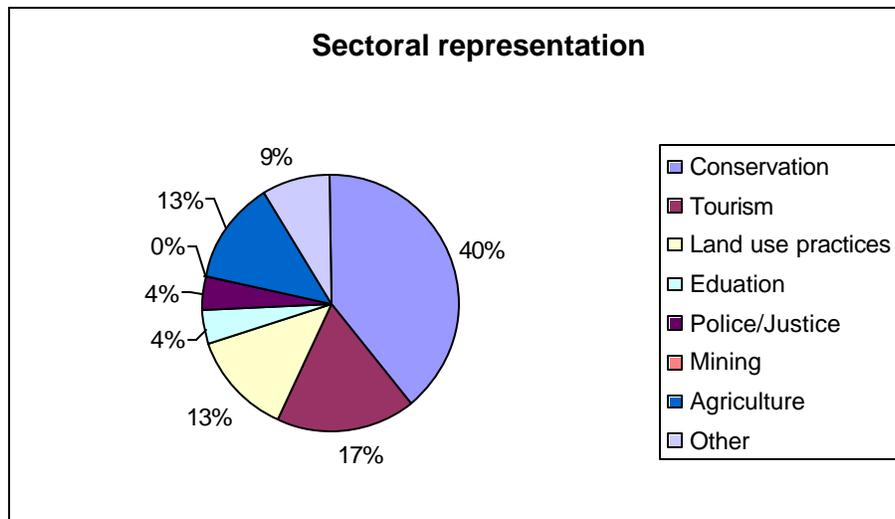
Expectations were raised at these workshops about money being available for projects, but much guidance need to be given to applicants, as the main question seems to be: Will CEPF give money for our project?

Evaluation questionnaire feedback

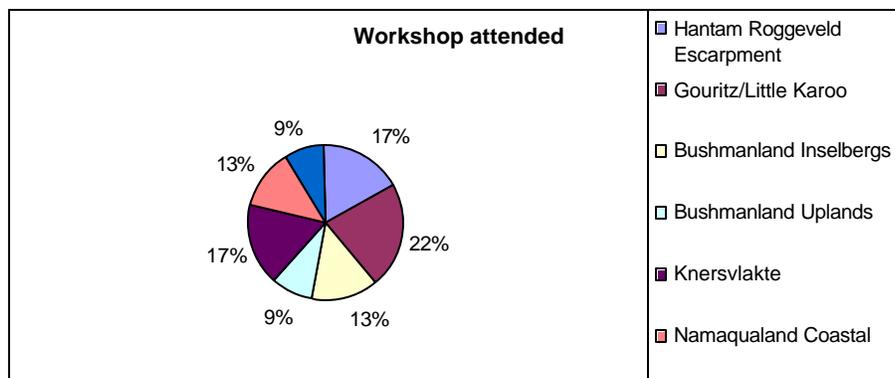
Of the 32 questionnaires that were sent out for completion, 21 were completed and returned, representing a 66% of total attendees. The co-ordinators were asked to assist with distributing the questionnaires to the identified stakeholders after questionnaires had been e-mailed and faxed to the stakeholders. This resulted in the cut-off date being extended with approximately 3 weeks, which resulted in limited questionnaire feedback from the stakeholders.

The reasons for the non-return of the some of the questionnaires vary. Factors contributing include the lack of commitment by the co-ordinators to assist in the quest to get the questionnaires back, participants who do not have access to e-mail or faxes, participants who have changed jobs after attending the workshop etc. It must be stressed, however, that every endeavour was made to contact those who had not returned their questionnaires.

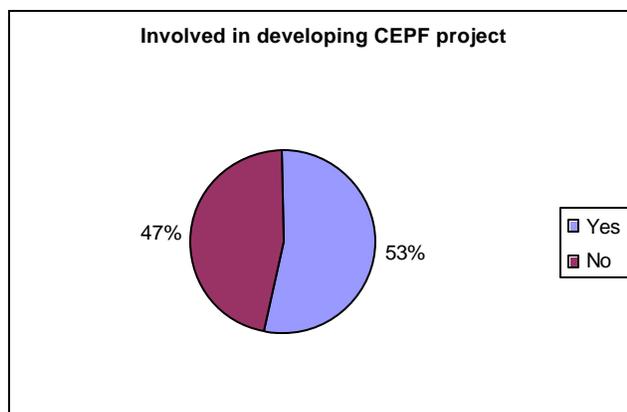
The following chart shows the sectoral breakdown of people returning the questionnaires. The majority of questionnaire feedback came from the conservation community (40%) and the tourism (17%), agriculture and land use practices sectors (13% each). No feedback came from the mining community, 9% from Other sectors, and 4% each from Education and Police.



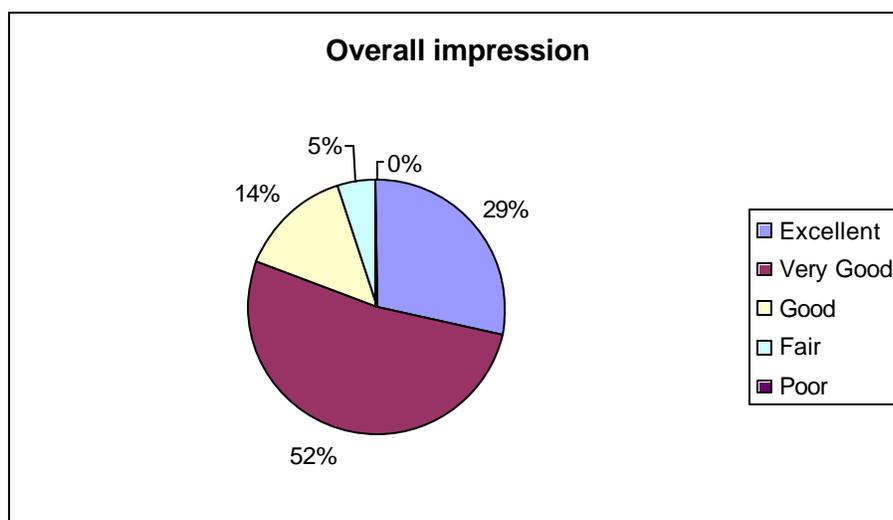
Of these, Gouritz/Little Karoo represents 22% and Hantam Roggeveld and Knersvlakte represents 17% each. Other region's representation lie between 9% and 13%.



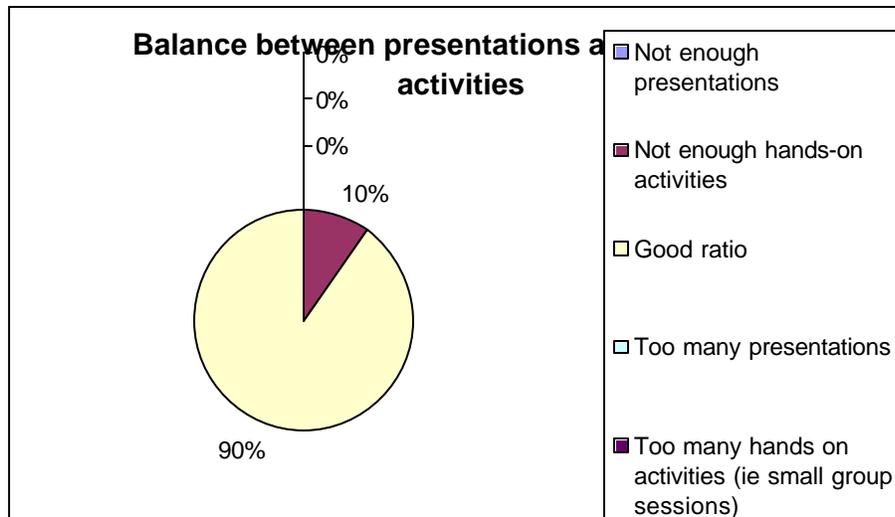
Slightly more than half of the respondents were involved in developing a CEPF project proposal, and the other half not. One respondent's LOI application had been rejected and she felt that she would not again apply for funding, as she does not have time, energy or monetary funds to do more research and/or hold more community meetings.



The majority of respondents rated the workshop to have been “excellent” or “very good” (81%). 14% rated it as “good”, with only 5% rating it between “fair” and “poor”. Positive comments on the overall impression of the workshop included statements such as “it was helpful and insightful”, it was a “valuable opportunity to expand network and link up with people who share a common vision”. More negative comments addressed the methodology – “important issues were rushed while team-building exercises were stressed. This left no time to discuss important issues like budget allocation and project priorities.” A recommendation to include field trips and the identification of succulent species was received from one respondent.

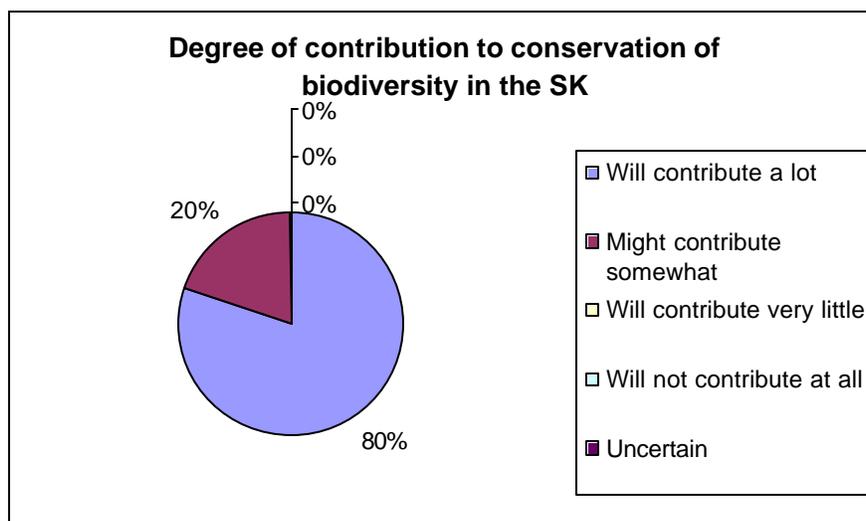


The balance between the presentation and hands-on activities were perceived to be very good. Only 0% felt that there were not enough hands-on activities, while the rest reported a good ratio. Suggestions included the inclusion of a field day, the addition of another day to the workshop to “action plan” the identified projects, and strategising the time management of the workshop, to take more time to allocate budgets to projects and to synergise projects which overlapped between groups.



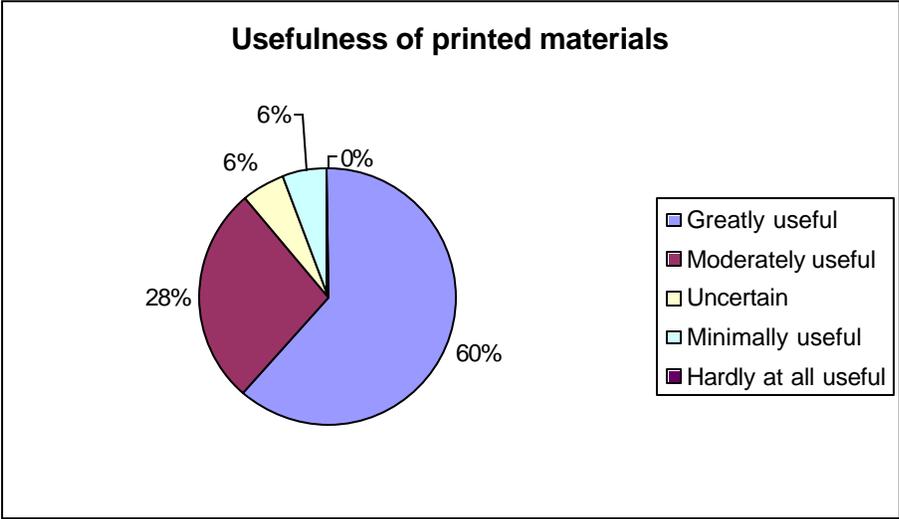
All respondents agreed that projects identified will contribute to the conservation of biodiversity in the Succulent Karoo – 80 % thought it would contribute a lot, while 20% thought it would contribute somewhat.

Positive comments included the appreciation that historically disadvantaged communities will be involved and the fact that job creation was addressed through many of the projects. However, an imbalance in the project proposals was reported as it was perceived that not enough attention was given to baseline conservation, and too much emphasis was placed on training and small-scale business in an area which has not been inhabited by many people. The word “sustainable” also has different meanings to different people, and clarity on that was lacking. Another concern was that CEPF (in America) can only imagine the circumstances in South Africa, and that their funding directives do not necessarily align with South African realities. South African inhabitants identify the projects, which will be implemented by them, but CEPF does not know the specific circumstances of some (most?) of the project applicants, ie no access to Internet, telephones or faxes. Another comment was that a lot of education about SKEP needs to be done to local people so that they can understand what biodiversity means.

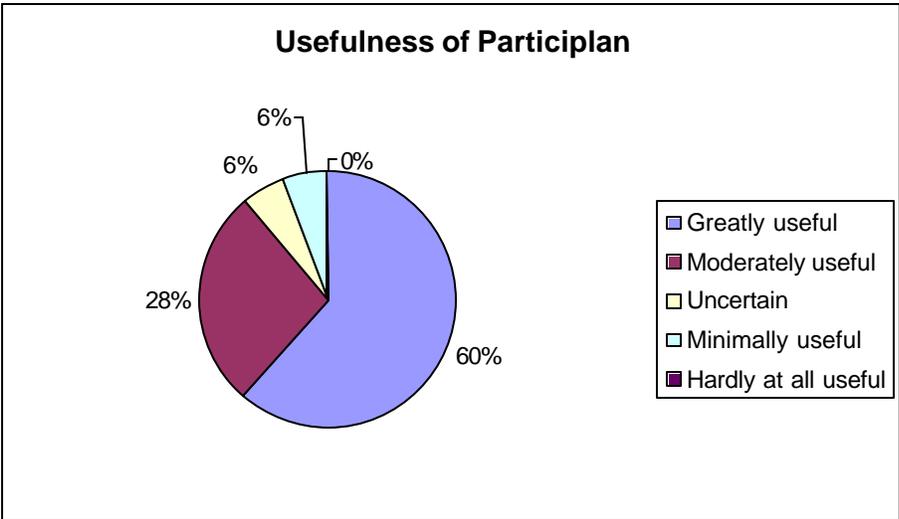


Only 12% of respondents felt that printed material distributed at the workshops would not really be useful or they were uncertain as to the usefulness of the material. One respondent noted that, at the time of their workshop, the material had not been available. Another respondent would like to see guidelines for organisations to assist them in how to apply for CEPF funds, while another commented on the need for a detailed plan of the SKEP/priority areas which includes the location of towns and small villages to assist in facilitating planning. Two respondents commented that they enjoyed reading the SKEP 20-year brochure and that a lot was learnt about biodiversity through the printed material.

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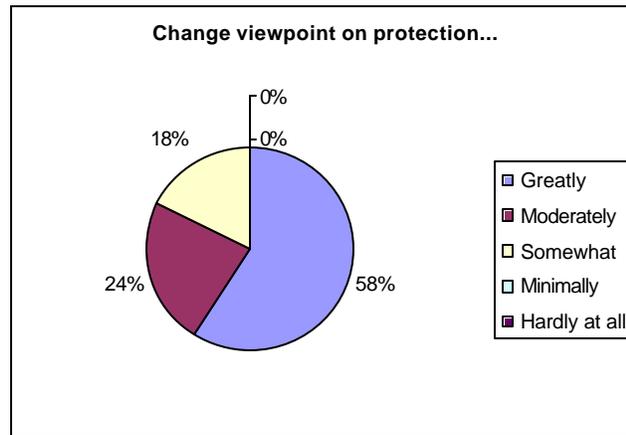


On the effectiveness of the workshop methodology (Participlan), 88% of respondents gave positive feedback. Comments included: “The SKEP team was excellent and supported the groups,” “The methodology made the process more understandable” and “excellent time management, precise directions/instructions resulted in the achievement of impressive products (envisaged projects)”



All of the respondents indicated that this workshop had given them new viewpoints and insights on the protection of biodiversity and the importance of the Succulent Karoo Hotspot – more than half of them felt the workshop had “greatly” changed their point of view, whereas the 42% reported a “moderate” and a “somewhat” change in

viewpoint on this matter. One respondent clearly stated that it certainly clarified priority issues, and another commented that the fact that overseas money is invested in “our” biodiversity changed his viewpoint.



All respondents reported that their interests were fairly represented in the workshops, with only 1 qualifying that not enough attention was given to unemployment. Another one responded that – even though he felt government’s interests were fairly represented - government desperately needed funding for the protection of the hotspot. The fact that conservation and other sectors (especially agriculture, education and tourism) worked together and that ideas generated were very similar, was perceived to be positive. The fact that the workshop was participatory and the good insight of parties towards economic development was also perceived to be positive.

On the question whether participation in this workshop had changed respondents views on their own and other sectors, the only significant response was that on mining, where a 18-82 ratio (Yes it changed my view/No it didn’t change my view) was recorded. This could perhaps be ascribed to the fact that not all regions entertain mining as a significant sector – the relevance of this ratio seems minimal. For the rest of the sectors, the ratio never varied more than 62-38, which is fairly insignificant. Individual responses to this question were:

No responses – “because I was already aware of the given information”. “we have been conservationally aware and sympathetic to nature”, “I was already aware of the importance of conservation, tourism and education in order to ensure a more sustainable environment” and “I am a conservator and aware of all these aspects”.

Yes responses – “because my views were expanded by improving insight”, “saw that conservation and agriculture’s ideas are very similar”, and “interest into succulents and the role they play has grown considerably”.

Interesting was one comment that the absence of police/justice and communal agriculture was perceived to be a bad sign.

On the question what the respondents liked the most about the workshops, by far the most answered response pertained to the good spirit, willingness to help, general and active participation of everyone, the fact that anyone’s input was recorded and listened to, the enthusiasm and excitement that developed between the stakeholders during interaction with each other and group work. Comments were also made on the integrated approach and the effort involved for sustainable environs, as well as on the relevance and purpose of the workshop. Some commented positively on the fact that networking could be done, especially from “fellow conservation types”, and the fact that agriculture and conservation (“2 competing land uses) agreed on so many

conservation priorities. The fact that everyone was open to the views of other stakeholders was also perceived to be positive. One respondent also commented on the good presentations and facilitating skills of the facilitators.

The least useful about the workshop was perceived to be land classification of SKEP (what is meant by a mega reserve and where does it fit into the legislative framework), the fact that government would not have direct access to funding, the (lack of) involvement from the rural communities, too much time being wasted (poor time table/allocation of priorities), confused facilitators and poor attendance at some workshops.

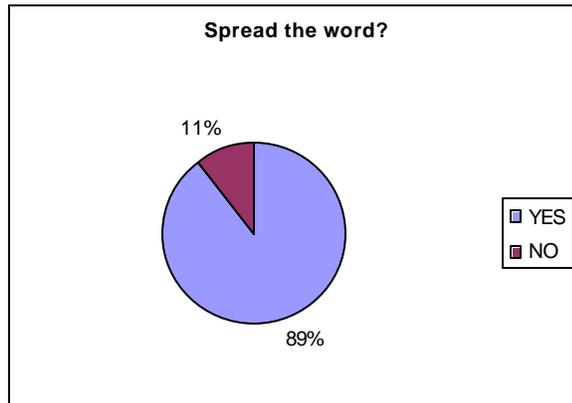
Respondents were asked to comment on what they would change if they had the chance to re-do the workshop. 27% indicated that they would change nothing. Others indicated that they would add time to the workshop in order to design short and long term action plans, to make it less rushed (cut out some of the team building exercises and concentrate on the important things), to workshop through the projects and to prioritise the projects identified for funding. One indicated that sectoral (tourism) talks/group work would be done with the aim to reduce unemployment. Some felt that they would pay attention to the attendance of more community and tourism groupings as well as commercial farmers, and others commented on the lack of field work and hands-on work. One respondent commented on the confusion of the facilitators – they ought to be briefed better in terms of directing group work. Most concerning however, was a comment about being more specific about what the CEPF really want to achieve and/or approve – and NOT to bring the participants under the impression that it will be a grassroots decision.

Respondents were also asked what they felt they contributed to the workshop. Some responded regionally and project specific (“to make people aware of the importance of the threats to the Gouritz estuary”, the importance of the conservation of “wilde rog” and that we could supply some seed”, “stressing the importance of the coastal belt on the patterns and processes of the Succulent Karoo ecosystem in the Sperrgebiet”, “to represent the Eastern Cape, to ensure attention towards the Eastern Cape”). Others felt that they contributed sectorally – “drawing attention to the need for capacity building amongst school teachers in terms of learning support materials, mentors and workshops”, “being able to integrate conservation ideas into/with agricultural ideas”, “experiences of community working, knowledge of communal farming and land use practises and IDP knowledge”, “the mindset change towards economic development in the region”. Others felt that they contributed to the identification of the projects, and that they added to the enthusiasm and possible implementation of ideas, and that projects identified and supported by group meant that communities would benefit.

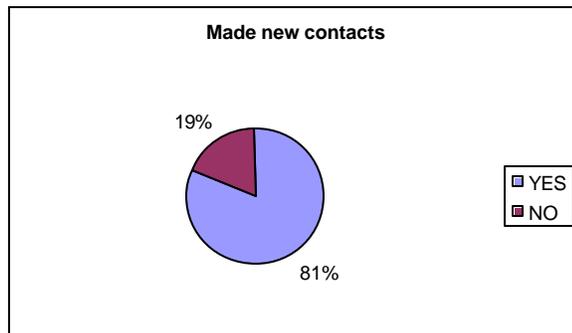
What was learnt by the participants about the sectors they themselves represented? Answers to this question included the realisation that land use planning is still a contentious issue, the fact that workable ideas can work, that there is enthusiasm to support schools, that awareness about protected areas was raised, that sectors can work in harmony with SKEP, the important role of conservation in different sectors of economy, that succulents play an important role in the plant kingdom and that many of them are threatened with extinction, that there are still gaps in knowledge and understanding of the Succulent Karoo if we want to conserve the area properly and that sectors can't work on their own – networking needs to be done.

What was learnt by the respondents about other sectors? Answers to this question included that land use planning and conservation are still very difficult to integrate, but that they need to go hand in hand and co-operation is essential. On the same note it was learnt that holistic and practical suggestions from other sectors were a comfort – all sectors basically deal with the same problems - and that visions do not differ much. It was also specifically noted that agriculture and conservation ideas are actually extremely similar. Also noted was that the mining sector is also pro conservation.

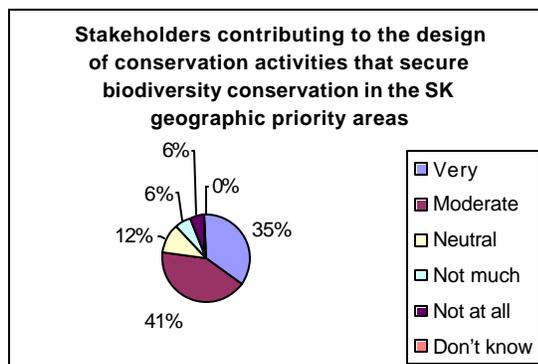
Of all the respondents, 89% had “spread the word” about SKEP and CEPF funding. (A list in this regard will be found in the document *Questionnaire samevatting.doc.*)

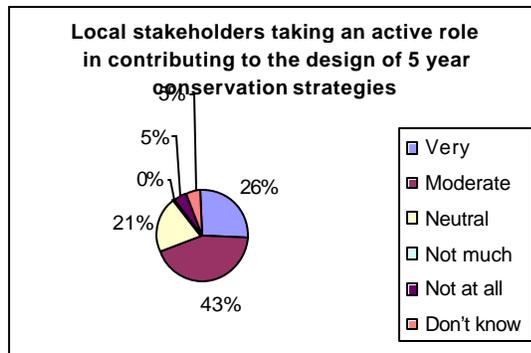


81% of respondents also made new linkages as a result of participation in the workshops. (A list in this regard will be found in the document *Questionnaire samevatting.doc.*)

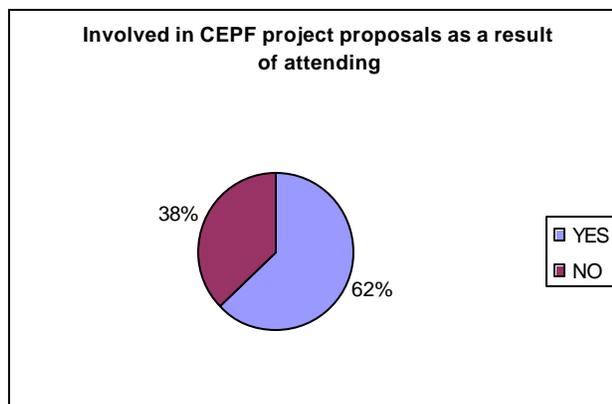


With regard to the expected outcomes of the workshops, a significant 76% felt that stakeholders were contributing to the design of conservation activities that secure biodiversity conservation in the Succulent Karoo geographic priority areas, 69% felt that local stakeholders were taking an active role in contributing to the design of 5 year conservation strategies, and 60% felt that local stakeholders were developing partnerships and submitting project proposals reflecting the priorities identified in the 5 year strategies.





62% of respondents noted that they were involved in CEPF project proposals as a result of attending the workshops – 1 respondent noted that she had been involved.



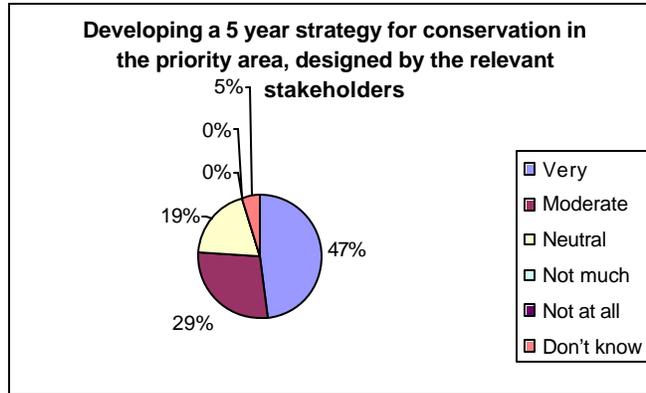
Six of the respondents have submitted project proposals and 6 have not, and 82% (9 out of 11 who answered this question) of the respondents indicated that they are partners in project proposals driven by someone else. Nine of the 11 respondents also indicated that the SKEP team was supporting them in their project development.

Specific guidelines that the workshop had provided towards project design, included the security that CEPF's line of thought was the same as the project applicants, the necessity to include various stakeholders, and that projects with clear conservation outcomes and regional benefit needed to be identified.

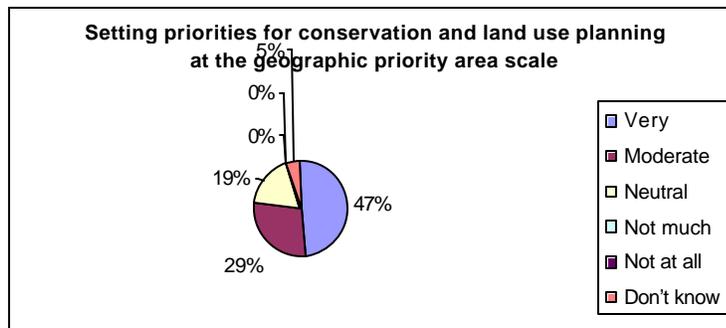
Eleven respondents indicated that they were aware of other people/organisations who are involved in the design and implementation of project proposals for CEPF as a result of attending the workshops, 3 noted that they were not aware of such

people/organisations. One indicated that he would like to obtain a list of organisations involved in projects.

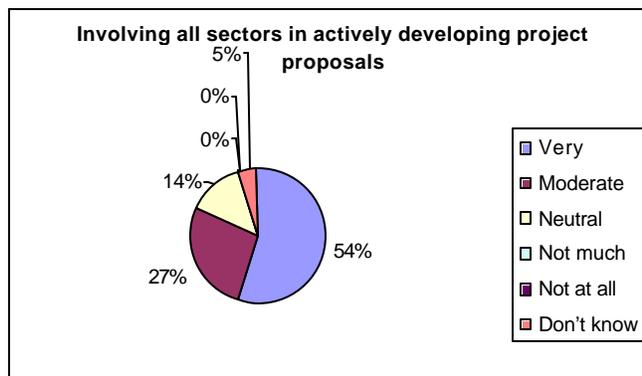
As for developing a 5 year strategy for conservation in the priority area, designed by the relevant stakeholders, 76% of the respondents indicated that the workshop was successful (47% indicated “very” and 29% “moderate”) in achieving this objective.



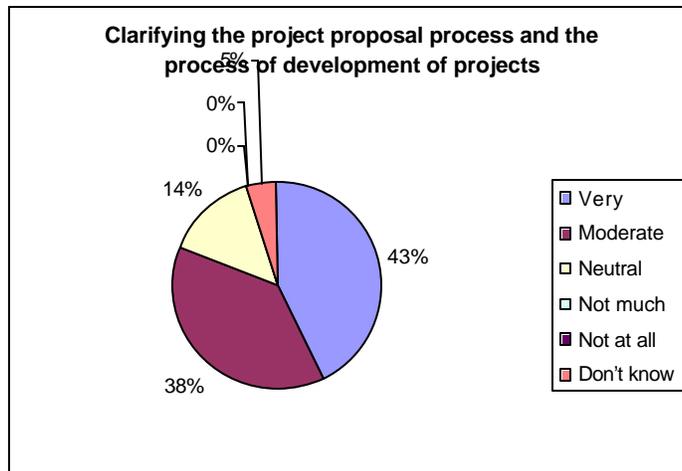
The same percentage felt that priorities were successfully set for conservation and land use planning at the geographic priority area scale.



A significant 81% felt that all sectors got involved in actively developing project proposals.



81% indicated that the workshops clarified the project proposals and the process of development of projects.

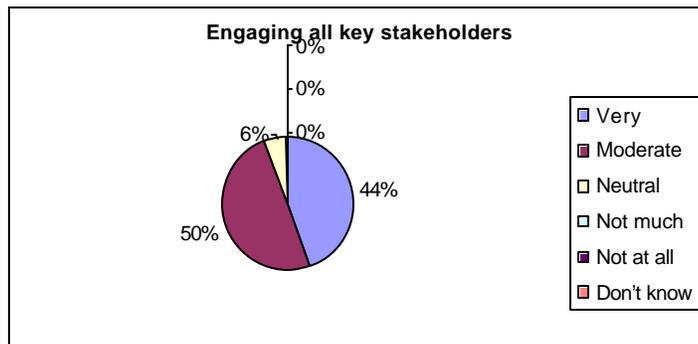


Some concerns were raised as to the workshop outcomes, such as being unclear about what a mega reserve is (versus a biosphere reserve), not having all stakeholders on board (a lack of input from residential community leaders was noted) and the lack of a printed concise action plan and clarity on CEPF funding procedures.

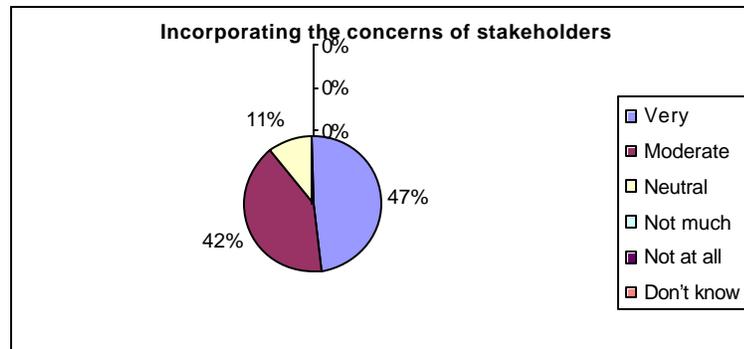
Recommendations to stakeholders to utilise a 5 year strategy for conservation in the priority are in project design, included

- making people aware of things that could not be achieved in the last 30 years
- designed projects should be to the benefit of conservation for as long as possible (in perpetuity)
- partnering, networking, open communication lines are important
- practising what is preached

94% of all respondents felt that all key stakeholders were involved in the workshops.



89% of respondents felt that the workshops incorporated the concerns of the stakeholders.



However, the following concerns of stakeholders needed to be addressed as well:

- such workshops need to be supplemented with informal “indabas”, such as open discussions with community leaders in the numerous villages. Manpower will be needed for this
- the rural communities, police/justice and commercial agriculture should be incorporated more
- Areas have encountered (seen them start up and be unsuccessful) various poverty relief and other upliftment projects in the past. The money always seem to be up-surged by salaries, meetings and various other ineffectual processes with the result that the actual project is left with very little funding or that the money never reaches to project it was initially intended for. Thus, most of the stakeholders were extremely pessimistic about the tangible outcome of the entire SKEP funding process.
- As most people are Afrikaans, they would like to be addressed in their mother tongue

On a positive note, one responded indicated that this workshop was the best SKEP workshop he had attended and that he left the workshop feeling positive about conservation in the area.

4 Recommendations

In general, it seemed that the workshops served its purpose well, and that more positive than negative feedback was generated. However, cognisance need to be taken of all concerns raised in this document. Of special importance to the organisers/co-ordinators, the following should receive special care:

- Venue and logistics
- Time frame in line with outcomes
- Stakeholder involvement, especially commercial farmers, rural communities and police/justice
- Language – make sure that Afrikaans is incorporated in the proceedings
- Expected outcomes – to be communicated clearly to the stakeholders
- Effective use of budget for planning the workshop

CEPF should also take cognisance of the fact that not all people/organisations who wish to be involved in a project, have the necessary facilities, like e-mail and faxes – this however does not make them incompetent. Unrealistic goals and time frames might hamper these people’s ability to deliver on the project outcomes, and mechanisms should perhaps be built into logframes to address this.

INFORMATION SHARING

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Yes

If yes, please also complete the following:

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