

FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Name: Western Cape International Youth Festival

Project Title: Biodiversity Awareness Raising: Exhibitions and Biodiversity Fieldtrips During Western Cape International Youth Festival.

Project Dates: July 2003-August 2003

Date of Report: June 23, 2004

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

The person in charge of the biodiversity component of the Oudtshoorn International Youth Festival has terminated her services and is now teaching in a remote village. This report will capture as best we can the expenditure of funds received from the CEPF, and it will hopefully reflect on the successes and challenges of the festival, thanks to reports written by the participating partners in this project.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: Awareness raising

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	
<i>At least 25000 will see the exhibition</i>	Much less people saw the exhibition
<i>At least 4000 will participate in 2 field trips</i>	Much less people participated

Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.

The success of this project depended on the number of feet passing through the exhibition space, as well as organizing teams to go on the field trips. The exhibition was dimly overestimated due to reasons given below, but the field trips were quite successful.

The most important thing about the field trips is that Western Cape Nature Conservation Board (WCNCB) now has 2 "pro-forma" field trips that they can take any group to. WCNCB officers have been capacitated to take groups on these field trips, and

information in A4-size about each of these locations has been produced, which will be used again.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Unfortunately, the negative impacts far succeeded the positive impacts. As this was the first International Youth Festival for Oudtshoorn, the organizers thought it best to divide activities into sport, culture, science and biodiversity/conservation themes. The sport was extremely well attended and proved to be a huge success, and the culture (mainly performing arts) activities were also well attended. However, the biodiversity and science activities were so poorly attended, that some of the exhibitors left before the festival had ended.

This was due mainly to geographical logistics. Most of the sport events took place within a radius of 2 kms, and most of the youth was concentrated there. To get to the biodiversity and science exhibitions, they had to make an effort to get there. Even with the Youth Festival office assistance in providing transport to this venue, the teams were either too tired or too disinterested to get in the busses to go to the exhibition venue.

However, the field trips to the 2 locations (Grootkop and Grobbelaars River) were fairly successful. It was evident that an interest for these kind of field trips exists, especially amongst the broader public (and the managers of the sport teams). The number of field trips was cut drastically due to teams not arriving for departure, and general poor motivation of teams to participate in these trips.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs: Enter the project outputs from the Logical Framework for the project

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1:	
<i>Questionnaires completed</i>	Questionnaires were distributed at day 1 and 2, but due to a lack of interest, this was stopped
Output 2:	
<i>Questionnaires taken to WCED</i>	No questionnaires taken
Output 3:	
<i>2 field trips to locations</i>	A limited number of field trips did take place, but some had to be cancelled, due to a lack of interest

Describe the success of the project in terms of delivering the intended outputs.

Outputs 1 and 2 were eventually not addressed. On the first 2 days, attempts were made to distribute questionnaires, but due to the lack of “feet” passing by, it was decided

that it would be a waste of time to pursue this. As a result no questionnaires could be handed over to the WCED.

The 2 field trips had limited success – see above.

Were any outputs unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

Yes, the completion of the questionnaires and the resulting handing over to the WCED to assist them with developing educational materials did not materialize. This was due to a lack of “feet” through the exhibition hall, resulting in the decision not to pursue the questionnaire issue.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

Not applicable.

VI. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT

Describe any lessons learned during the various phases of the project. Consider lessons both for future projects, as well as for CEPF's future performance.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/failure)

Despite proper planning for this event, too few people actually saw the exhibits. This is possibly as a result of this being the first festival of its kind in Oudtshoorn, resulting in various unforeseen circumstances.

The organizers did not take into consideration that the sport events would dominate this festival, and that the science and biodiversity exhibitions could be poorly attended.

One of the most positive results is that WCNCB now has capacity within itself to take groups to 2 biodiversity sites.

Partnerships between various biodiversity organizations were established due to coordinated planning.

Department of Agriculture exhibited in collaboration with SKEP – this proved to be one of the first steps in establishing the now excellent partnership between conservation and Agriculture.

It was proposed that the biodiversity issue be separated from the sport issue at next youth festivals.

Biodiversity issues need to be addressed BEFORE the commencement of this festival – i.e. visiting schools beforehand, doing competitions (drama, essays etc.) – the winners

could then rather showcase their drama etc. at the festival – with the winners going on one of the field trips as a prize.

Project Execution: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/failure)

Despite having booked space at the venue, we could only put the biodiversity exhibition in its “right” place about 3 days after the commencement of the festival, due to a double booking – the SANDF occupied the space allocated to the biodiversity exhibition. By that time, it was evident that the attendance would be poor. However, the exhibition was put in place, was visibly pleasing and drew positive comments from the few people who saw it.

VII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CEPF assistance in setting up this exhibition was much appreciated. Although proper planning for the exhibition was done, communication between the Youth Festival office and the exhibitors need to be strengthened for future projects of this kind.

It is recommended that the Youth Festival invite all relevant parties to a combined planning session for future biodiversity and science awareness raising. This would result in a more cohesive approach and more benefits to the youth who attend this festival.

For more information about this project, please contact:

David McKinnon
Western Cape International Youth Festival
PostNet Suite 5
Queens Lane
Oudtshoorn 6620
South Africa
Tel: (27) 44 279 3261
Fax: (27) 44 279 3271
E-mail: kelmck@mweb.co.za
www.youthfestival.co.za