

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Dr. Shirley Pierce Cowling

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Co-authorship of a Book Entitled: East of the Cape - Conserving Eden

Implementation Partners for This Project: N.A.

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): January 1, 2005 – December 31, 2005

Date of Report (month/year): Feb 2006

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

This project has funded the co-authorship, with Prof Richard Cowling, of a book on the biologically-rich south-eastern region of South Africa. It is a companion volume to the two very successful publications *Fynbos: South Africa's Unique Floral Kingdom* and *Namaqualand: A Succulent Desert*. A draft of the entire book has been written and is presently undergoing final edits as well as reviewer input. It comprises six chapters, each of 8000 – 9000 words in length. David Rogers, a well-known photographer will be providing the bulk of the photos but many will be sourced elsewhere. We are aiming for publication towards the end of this year.



Its contents are as follows, with more detail provided for Chapter 6 which is about conservation:

CONTENTS

Foreword, Preface, Acknowledgements

Chapter 1. Discovering Eden Introduces Eden – its geography, natural history and its people, from the birth of humankind to the start of the Industrial Age in South Africa

Chapter 2. Into the thick of it Describes the plants, animals and habitats of Eden's endemic biome – subtropical thicket – the natural history focus of this book.

Chapter 3. Thicket at work Explains how the various plant types cope with the thicket's physical and biological environment; the key role played by animals (both large, such as elephants and rhino, and small, such as dung beetles), and how thicket ecosystems work.

Chapter 4. Evolution of Eden Tells the story of the evolution of Eden's physical and biological features, describing the forces that have shaped its scenery, climate, and plant and animal life.

Chapter 5. The human footprint Documents human impacts on Eden's natural environment since the 1860s with the rise of the Industrial Age in South Africa, and how, despite this abuse, some 72 per cent of the land remains in an ecologically healthy state.

Chapter 6. Back to the Garden Provides a blueprint for conserving Eden for nature and for people through the encouragement of ecologically sustainable land management across its realm.

Planning for nature and people Describes the blueprint as a deeply consultative process that identifies conservation priorities, seizes opportunities such as the growth in wildlife farming and ecotourism enterprises, and uses this information to develop a conservation vision and strategy. Reveals how the blueprint is built on the Cape Action for People and Environment Plan (C.A.P.E.), and the Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Plan (SKEP), and Subtropical Thicket Ecosystem Planning Project (STEP). Explains that implementation and success will depend largely on the extent to which people are persuaded to place real value on the services provided by healthy ecosystems.

Managing nature for conservation Portrays how implementing conservation actions will require the establishment of institutions to enable landowners, officials and researchers to learn and apply best practice; how protected areas will need to be well managed and expanded into areas of very high ecosystem value; why incentives must be found to stimulate the restoration of degraded areas; and the urgent need for people to reconcile their lifestyles with the requirements for a sustainable future.

In praise of progress Concludes by pointing out the considerable progress that it being made with implementing conservation action throughout Eden, emphasizing the ambitious and large scale Gouritz Initiative (CEPF and Cape Nature), Garden Route Initiative (GEF and SANParks), Baviaanskloof Megareserve Project (GEF, CEPF and EC Parks Board), Addo Elephant National Park (GEF and SANParks), and the Fish-Kowie Biodiversity Initiative (SANBI and E C Parks Board).

[Acronyms : SANParks – South African National Parks; SANBI – South African National Biodiversity Institute; EC Parks Board - Eastern Cape Parks Board]

III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

The major aim of producing this book was to provide technically accurate information, using text and photographs with captions, to describe the extraordinary biodiversity of this region in South Africa. Written with passion, we, the authors aim to instill and share our appreciation of this biological wonder that the book aptly terms Eden. Cumulative damage to the environment is described, nonetheless this is a book of hope. Drawing on knowledge gained from the three strategic conservation plans, C.A.P.E., SKEP and STEP, the book presents a blueprint for conservation in the broadest sense, beyond the boundaries of protected areas. By emphasizing the concept of “Keeping people on the land in living landscapes”, the book offers a way forward for the inhabitants of Eden.

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

No

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

It is not possible to assess this at pre-publication stage. However, based on the impacts of the two previous books, *Fynbos* and *Namaqualand*, the book will enhance awareness of this neglected and undervalued region.

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.

No

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.

Writing a book about an area that has been overlooked and under-studied proved to take far more time than estimated. Research was far more time-consuming than, for example, the book on *Fynbos*, a vegetation type which has been extensively researched and documented. Those who are considering writing a book on an under-studied region should ensure that they budget adequate time for research.

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

Promotional articles will be written for magazines which will further carry the message to a wider audience.

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

N.A.

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
South African National Biodiversity Institute	A (Funded co- authorship)	\$3300	Support for creating awareness about STEP

***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.

The project will continue until such time as the book is printed and published. The publisher, Fernwood Press, will be soliciting publication costs from the organizations who have pledged an amount of \$7000 each. These organizations are the Eastern Cape Parks Board, Cape Nature, and South African National Parks.

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, 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

No

If yes, please also complete the following:

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