

# CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Legal Name:** Philip Desmet

**Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement):** Sharing Lessons From the Succulent Karoo on Conservation Assessment and Planning

**Implementation Partners for This Project:** none

**Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):** June 15, 2005 – January 31, 2006

**Date of Report (month/year):** 12 July, 2006

## II. OPENING REMARKS

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

## III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

The overall objective of project was to share lessons from and develop technical skills to apply in conservation planning projects in the Succulent Karoo through participation in the 2005 Society for Conservation Biology Congress in Brazil and 2006 Biodiversity Planning Forum in South Africa by presenting an oral paper and participating in relevant discussions and training workshops.

Specific objectives included:

1. Attend the 2005 Society for Conservation Biology Congress in Brasilia, Brazil.
2. Present a talk discussing the formulation and application ecological process targets in the Succulent Karoo entitled "Targeting ecological processes - A top down approach".
3. Participate in relevant discussion and training workshops associated with the conference.
4. Present the same talk at the 2006 South African Biodiversity Planning Forum at Blyde River Canyon, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa.

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?

The project was successful in achieving its objectives as my presentation and leading a focus discussion group on conservation targets at the South African Biodiversity Planning Forum resulted in the formation of a national targets focus group that will be meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August to begin developing a national set of guidelines for targets in conservation plans.

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.

1. My presentation at the Brazil conference was in a general session and there was little time for discussion after the talk. I got very little feedback from international participants at this forum. In fact there was very little discussion at this forum on targets in general. Although I learned a tremendous amount from attending the conference, I felt that my talk had no impact and I gained little novel insight into taking my ideas forward.
2. The participation in the South African forum was far more successful in terms of eliciting critical response as well as generating discussion around the topic. I think what was very important here was that there was a separate dedicated session allocated to discussing targets which allowed us to develop on issues raised in my talk as well as many others that conservation planners are facing in South Africa at the moment specifically with regard to targets. This was a major highlight.

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.

1. If you want to present and develop ideas at a conference you need to have a paper or discussion session dedicated to the topic otherwise one is relying on individual participants to approach you after the talk, which in a multiple parallel session conference may not happen as your target audience may be in another session.
2. Large conferences are not about the science presented but about the networking opportunities.

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

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2006 a national working group on targets will be meeting in Pretoria to take the issues raised at the Biodiversity Planning Forum forward. I am part of this working group.

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

A copy of the draft paper on landscape conservation targets can be downloaded from:

**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

**\*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.

**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  yes   
No

If yes, please also complete the following:

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

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