

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Development Bank of Southern Africa Limited

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): *SKEPPIES Fund (SKEP Partnering In your Environment)—A Fund for Conservation and Development in the Succulent Karoo*

Implementation Partners for this Project: Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): March 1, 2007 - September 30, 2009

Date of Report (month/year): January 28, 2010

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

DBSA's direct contribution to the programme, as an active partner, has not only been to co-fund the project (on a 50/50 basis with CI), but also has been to bring to the table its wealth of experience in local economic development, project management experience and the management of grant funding mechanisms. The targeting of rural areas through partnerships has enabled the SKEPPIES programme to benefit communities through nature conservation and socio economic development initiatives.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: *To ensure that the people of the Succulent Karoo actively contribute to national conservation and development outcomes in the Succulent Karoo biome.*

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	
1. <i>SKEPPIES Fund functioning efficiently and effectively.</i>	The fund is operating efficiently and effectively. There is good cooperation between DBSA and CI. Telephone conferencing was introduced to facilitate and fasttrack project approvals.
2. <i>Projects supported and implemented are in full support of the SKEP 20 year strategy.</i>	Projects that have no clear linkages to the SKEP 20 year strategy were simply turned down.
3. <i>Success at improving livelihoods is demonstrated and measurable.</i>	Skeppies is proud of having supported 25 grassroots projects in the Succulent Karoo in 2008, projects that conserved 5,230 hectares, ensured better environmental management of 41,461 hectares and protected 236 red-listed plant species, while contributing directly or indirectly to 34 new businesses and 220 jobs.

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

The Skeppies programme has shown that issues around development (specifically local economic development) and biodiversity & conservation can be brought together and implemented successfully. The configuration project partner and funders have shown the ability to successfully manage a small grant fund mechanism, sound systems and processes. DBSA is proud to be associated with SKEPPIES and are looking forward to a long partnership.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

None

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs:

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1: Local government and civil society capacitated to develop and implement at least 30 projects that involve a direct conservation benefit through support from SKEP, CI, DBSA and their respective implementation partners	
<i>1.1. Further potential projects identified through the SKEP strategy review and the SKEP network</i>	SKEPPIES launched its annual report on 10 February 2009 to showcase its success to partners and potential donors, with a view to expanding the partnership.
<i>1.2. At least five projects supported per quarter through Q3, 2008</i>	We disbursed 25 approved projects in the period ending September 2009. A list of disbursed projects is attached.
<i>1.3. Project sub grantees participate in at least one SKEP Priority Area Forum for their specific geographic priority areas</i>	Unfortunately the SKEP Priority Area Forums and anchor project forums had totally disappeared by the time SKEPPIES was implemented and thus project grantees could not participate in this non-existing forum. This event was outside the control of SKEPPIES. The fortunate consequences of the implementation of SKEPPIES at that critical stage were that: (a) SKEPPIES personnel became the only on the ground public faces of SKEP and (b) SKEPPIES projects became the only grassroots presence of SKEP.
Output 2: Partnership arrangements, operational procedures for the effective implementation of the SKEPPIES Fund.	
<i>2.1. Project Management Committee functioning effectively</i>	Project Management Committee worked well.
<i>2.2. Financial, administrative and operational procedures are in place and functioning</i>	DBSA systems and processes were used to manage SKEPPIES funds and were compliant with South African legislation. See copy of external audit report.
<i>2.3. SKEPPIES project management team participate in quarterly anchor projects</i>	Unfortunately the SKEP Priority Area Forums and anchor project forums had totally disappeared by the

<p><i>forums</i></p>	<p>time SKEPPIES was implemented and thus SKEPPIES project management could not participate in this non-existing forum. This event was outside the control of SKEPPIES. However, SKEPPIES project management team compensated for this by: (a) ensuring grassroots input in projects that are considered by having letters of support from local partners supporting organizations; (b) ensuring that projects considered form part of a broader local initiative such as the Integrated Development Plan (IDP's) of municipalities; and (c) inviting the Economic Development Manager of the District Municipality to become part of the SKEPPIES management team.</p>
<p>2.4. CI/DBSA MOU (including Maputoland) finalized and agreed by Quarter 3 in 2007 and is signed by Quarter 4 in 2007</p>	<p>The MoU was signed by both parties including the extension of the programme to September 2009.</p>
<p>2.5. Programmatic approach - Project management team establishes a process to ensure coordination and collaboration between projects and to avoid duplication of efforts during Quarter 2 in 2007</p>	<p>The most viable event to facilitate a bottom-up and organically grown collaboration between projects was found to be annual workshops that focus on lessons learned and lessons sharing. During these workshops the project implementers themselves found ways of interacting. The best example is the Kookskerms that refer customers to each other and the Memory Stick program that will manufacture wooden spoons for the Kookskerms and sell some of its products there. However, due to distances and costs involved, this can only happen once a year and if money is budgeted and found for this. A lack of manpower in SKEPPIES and distance prevents another approach. It must be mentioned that the strength of the individual project's cooperation with each other is entirely dependent on the strength on the individual project in this approach.</p>
<p>Output 3: Objective assessment of conservation and development impact of the SKEPPIES Fund</p>	
<p>3.1. Project management teams annually document best practices and lessons learned</p>	<p>SKEPPIES moved towards a policy of "the quest for zero defect" and "constant improvement". We realized that we are in the beginning phase with no example in our area to learn from. Hence as it is discovered that a process or practice can be improved, we do so immediately. As a result our application form constantly are improved; we moved from email approval to having teleconferences to approve projects; as our implementers point out better alternatives; we asses and apply it if applicable..</p>
<p>3.2. Develop a comprehensive M & E programme (linked with complementary systems such as those developed & implemented by SKEP/SANBI/DBSA)</p>	<p>For biodiversity goals SKEPPIES preferred to use the M & E program of SANBI on its website http://bgis.sanbi.org/index.asp?screenwidth=1024 and more specifically the SKEP biodiversity indicators. However, this tool appears to be sometimes too difficult or cumbersome to implement or does not adequately reflect the biodiversity data at the very fine scale of SKEPPIES projects. For social data the social requirements of DBSA are used such as women employed etc. Both social and biodiversity data are tracked as accurately as possible.</p>

3.3. Develop project level self-evaluation booklet as part of the M & E package (for each project)	This was done for projects approved in the pilot phase.
3.4. Conduct annual external reviews of performance	An annual external review of the SKEPPIES projects were done by a consultant. A review of the DBSA funding disbursement over the whole project duration was also done by an external consultant and this data is available on request.
Output 4: Ensure sustained conservation and development benefits for the people of the Succulent Karoo	A copy of both the external audit and the annual report is available for this purpose.
4.1. Build quantifiable programmatic and strategic links with anchor projects, other agencies and between SKEPPIES projects and DBASA projects (e.g when DBSA is reporting, would need to indicate if SKEPPIES projects are listed under IDP's)	SKEPPIES projects must be part of a broader development plan or initiative and supported by partners. The in kind or direct contributions of partners to the implemented projects are tracked and measured.
4.2. Develop system to ensure that SKEPPIES projects are coordinated, complementary & strategic by Quarter 2 in 2007.	Done by SKEPPIES Cape Town office.
4.3. Develop & implement strategy to bring on board at least two additional donor partners by December 2008	SKEPPIES launched the annual report on 10 February 2009 to showcase its success to partners and potential donors, with a view to expanding the partnership.

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

The SKEPPIES programme has shown that issues around development (specifically local economic development) and biodiversity & conservation can be brought together and implemented successfully. The configuration project partner and funders have shown the ability to successfully manage a small grant fund mechanism, sound systems and processes. DBSA is proud to be associated with SKEPPIES and are looking forward to a long partnership.

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

None

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

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.

A copy of the lessons learned report is available at the CI office in Cape Town. This was compiled and printed in Cape Town.

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

SKEPPIES Manager to provide copy of the report.

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

SKEPPIES Manager to provide copy of the report.

VII. 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	Date Received	Notes
Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)	Grant Funding	\$300,000 (R2,2 million)	April 2007	The DBSA committed to contributing 50/50 with CEPF on grant funding of SKEPPIES projects.

****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 DBSA has proposed to the SKEPPIES project management office to provide additional information to better understand the development impact of the programme as well as to get more clarity of the measures in place in terms of the sustainability of the projects. This is in the view to influence the decision for further support of SKEPPIES. It is also important to note that the DBSA's will only avail funding as and when new donor funding has been committed.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

DBSA's involvement in the programme is unique in itself in that this is the first time that the DBSA has partnered with an international NGO active in the

conservation arena. The partnership and all projects funded by the grant have seen the many linkages between conservation and development strengthened. The programme has pushed strongly for a cohesive link between these two elements. The programme has also seen the development of Collaborative approaches and shown the benefits of a learning culture derived through partnerships.

VIII. 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.

Please include your full contact details below:

Name: Liziwe Selana

Organization name: Development Bank of Southern Africa

Mailing address: PO Box 1234, Halfway House 1865

Tel: 011 313 3384

Fax: 011 206 3384

E-mail: liziwes@dbsa.org