

# CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Legal Name:** Soebatsfontein Tourism Forum

**Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement):** Development of the Soebatsfontein Succulent Reserve

**Implementation Partners for This Project:** Only the Kamiesberg Municipality

**Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):** October 1, 2006 – September 30, 2007

**Date of Report (month/year):**

## 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 initial objective for the project was to establish the Soebatsfontein Succulent Karoo Reserve in order to:

- To protect the quartz patches at Soebatsfontein
- To establish alternative land use enterprise that will also serve as a model to persons currently engaging in non-sustainable land uses.
- To raise awareness in the community and among tourists about the highly vulnerable quartz fields that house numerous local endemic and habitat specialised succulent plant species

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

No, the objectives remained the same during project implementation. The issue of providing alternative land use for the communal farmers was not that much of an issue because the Soebatsfontein area has enough land for grazing apart from the area targeted for conservation.

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

The project was partly successful in that we managed to establish the Succulent Karoo Reserve, but we did not finish the grading of the fountain which was also a critical aspect of the project.

The reserve was successful because we managed to fence the area we targeted completely, it is now under protection, and about 200 to 300 hectares of the quartz patches are under protection.

The whole community is now fully aware of the importance of the quartz and are doing their bit to conserve.

We also managed to attract some tourists, but they come during the flower season only

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.

There was a little lack of experience in the team regarding project management and implementing this kind of project. During implementation, we found that the issue of training was not adequately addressed. The main difficulty was the issue of financial management and planning of activities. It was mostly a trial and error experience, but we eventually managed to get things done the way we wanted them done.

But it is important that for us to move forward, we will need more training and mentoring to plan and implement our objective in a way that is financially sound and to meet deadlines. The community does not have that much experience in doing all these things, but through their will, the project was successful.

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.

Now we have the knowledge to manage and initiate projects in the community that can uplift and improve the socio-economic status of the community as well as to conserve our precious biodiversity. We gained experience in leadership as well as we had to lead the team in implementing this project.

One negative is that though the community is small, and interests might be the same as well, the community is not a homogenous group, there were always clashes. This was mainly due to tight competition for the same scarce resources; this I think is to be expected when working in a small community with limited economic opportunities. So anyone implementing a similar project should strive to broaden participation so that everybody can be on board.

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

Due to lack of funds, there is not much we can do. We would like to advertise on websites and other media institutions what we have done in Soebastfontein. We would also like to finish the fountain the grading of the fountain camp site. But with no resources, this just remains a dream now.

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

We feel that for future purposes, it is important for outside organizations and scientists to involve the whole community and not to perpetuate faction in the community. Ward committees and other community structures should not be over-looked and sidestepped, if agencies want to implement projects in communities, then community leaders should be very much involved in project planning and implementation. Factions and preferential treatment should be discouraged.

**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.*

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Type of Funding*</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>

**\*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.)*

**V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

## VI. 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](http://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: Hendrik Steenkamp or Elsabe Steenkamp  
Organization name: Soebastfonetin Tourism Forum  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 37, Soebastfontein 8257  
Tel: +27 27 672 1130  
Fax: same as above, it a telefax  
E-mail: