

# CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Legal Name:** Western Cape Nature Conservation Board

**Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement):** Planning the Knersvlakte Biodiversity Corridor

**Implementation Partners for this Project:** Skep Suid-Namaqualand

**Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):** April 1, 2004 – March 31, 2005

**Date of Report (month/year):** May 30, 2005

## II. OPENING REMARKS

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

Planning the Knersvlakte Biodiversity Corridor is a first phase process to guide and provide a framework for CapeNature and the local stakeholders to establish a Knersvlakte Protected Area. This Protected Area would in all probability consist of a formal Provincial Reserve and an off-reserve conservation area – through conservancies / stewardship. This report provides feedback on the linkages to other regional biodiversity priorities, the public participation process and the formulation of a Management Plan to guide the implementation and the process forward.

## III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

### 1. What was the initial objective of this project?

Through a workshop for local stakeholders this project embarked on a process to develop a Management Plan for the establishment of a Knersvlakte Protected Area. This will include (1) Identify local stakeholder needs (2) identify priority projects for biodiversity conservation (3) develop a forum / task-team / process to allow for local input during process (4) raising awareness (5) provide guidance to CEPF on roll-out strategy for their investment in the Knersvlakte Geographic Priority Area (6) Management Plan.

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

No, the objectives did not change.

The timeframe was adapted (asked for 5month extension) which was granted from CEPF.

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

A workshop was held with the local stakeholders on the process. The workshop and various individual and stakeholder meetings informed the establishment of the Knersvlakte Protected Area Management Plan (KPAMP).

Priority projects that were identified were included in the KPAMP and discussed in more detail in the report. A process was established to provide ongoing input and advice from local stakeholders.

Discussion took place with SKEP Suid-Namaqualand, SKEP Cape Town and CEPF regards the future roll-out of the CEPF investment in the Knersvlakte. Initial support was gain to address reaching conservation targets through the establishment of a formal Knersvlakte Provincial Nature Reserve.

A LOI will be submitted to CEPF in due course.

**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.**

The team experience some challenges with regards the consultants appointed to formulate the Knersvlakte Management Plan. The challenges were overcome through the team taking a much more direct and active involvement with the public participation process and the formulation of the Management Plan.

The timeframe was delayed due to poor time performance from the consultants appointed. The team overcome this through communications with CEPF, Nina Marshall, and an extension of 5 months were granted.

**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.**

Do not always assume that landowners would / would not be interested in off-reserve strategies. We found that due to poor agriculture economy, most of the landowners in the priority area of the Knersvlakte was much more willing to sell their properties, than to develop strategies to balance agriculture activities with conservation strategies. We followed this with meetings with WWF, through the Leslie Hill Succulent Trust, to acquire properties where necessary.

Discussions were held with mine companies and some were interested in promoting conservation strategies, which include stewardship contracts, on their land.

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

With the Knersvlakte Management Plan as guide, the team will submit a proposal to CEPF for the formal establishment of a Knersvlakte Provincial Reserve. This proposal will include some of the priority projects identified during the workshops; especially as to collect baseline data and include management priorities for newly bought areas.

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

The project used a lot of existing data, especially from Dr Phil Desmet, to identify and prioritize the cadastral units to be targeted.

**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>
CapeNature	A	\$10 696.00	Personnel costs, traveling, administration costs.

**\*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.**

This project will submit a proposal to CEPF for a grant as an “anchor project” in the Knersvlakte to implement the Knersvlakte Protected Area Management Plan. The objectives of this project would be the formal establishment of a Provincial reserve and the implementation of conservation strategies on private land with high biodiversity value.

Several partners are involved and co-funding will be sourced through the partners.

**V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Our thanks to CEPF for the assistance and guidance while delivering on this small grant project.

## 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  X

No

If yes, please also complete the following:

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