

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Western Cape Nature Conservation Board

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): *Establishing the Knersvlakte Provincial Nature Reserve*

- **Implementation Partners for this Project:** WESTERN CAPE NATURE CONSERVATION BOARD (CapeNature)

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): March 1, 2006 - December 31, 2008

Date of Report (month/year): February 17, 2009

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

Due to the late appointment of the successful candidates the project has been slowed down. The reason for the late appointments was due to the fact that the successful candidates still had other obligations at their former jobs before they could start on the project. They were supposed to start in March 2006 but they only started in July 2006.

The employees left the project nine (9) month before the completion date of the project. One of the employees became permanently employed with CapeNature and the other joined the Cederberg Conservancy project which was also funded by CEPF.

Due to the above, the Project Manager, a full time employee of CapeNature successfully completed the project. The project manager had other obligations such as the management of other reserves. During this period the project manager focused mainly on the securing of land for the establishment of the Knersvlakte Provincial reserve.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: *Civil society in the Knersvlakte region are informed, are contributing and are taking ownership of biodiversity conservation while supporting associated strategies for sustainable development within the Knersvlakte Priority Area.*

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	

. Private landowners and statutory reserve managers utilized the domain of the Knersvlakte Protected Area in an ecologically sustainable and financially viable way.

Training session of the area-wide planning process was conducted for the staff during December 2006. This was done in partnership with the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor and the Department of Agriculture (Landcare).

A fine-scale landcover mapping workshop was attended by the Knersvlakte project team. Valuable insight into landcover mapping was gained at this workshop. Additionally LandCare, a Knersvlakte partner, was approached to set up an agreement for cooperation in the area-wide planning initiative.

Landcare has indicated that they will be able to assist us with the area-wide planning process. The prioritization process was finalized to ensure that the area-wide planning process will be focused on key areas.

**Stewardship agreement:
BPB Gypsum;**

The stewardship program consists of three conservation options. The mining company, BPB Gypsum agreed to go into one of the options. They chose the "Biodiversity Agreement" to contribute to the conservation of the Succulent Karoo. The negotiations between BPB Gypsum and CapeNature are in an advanced stage.

Due to the change of land ownership the contract negotiations have been put on hold with BPB Gypsum mining company. The landownership issue should be resolved in early 2009 and then the contract can be finalised.

Grigua community:

There is constant contact between the Ratalgat Trust and the Knersvlakte project team. The stewardship proposal has been presented to the Griqua National Trust which approved the initiative in principle and gave the go ahead for final negotiations.

Due to various circumstances beyond our control, a certain extra measure of time would be required before contractual finality of negotiations with the Griqua community can be achieved.

Negotiation with the Grigua community is ongoing with no serious problems expected.

2. Civil society and other potential partners in all the projects required to maintain the Knersvlakte Protected Area.

A steering committee for the “Establishing of the Knersvlakte Provincial Reserve” project has been established during the first quarter of 2006. A member of CapeNature was elected as the chairperson of the steering committee while Mr. Thys Mentoor, a member of the Griqua community, was elected as the Vice-chairperson.

The steering committee consists of the following partners.

- Local, National and Provincial government
- Farmers Associations
- Non government organizations
- Landowners in the Knersvlakte priority area
- Mining company
- Knersvlakte Bioregion Association.
- SKEP Co-ordination Unit

Quarterly meetings were scheduled and are well attended by the all the partners. During the steering committee meetings new partners were indentified and invited to the meetings. The meetings were also attended by several private individuals ranging from researchers and consultants as well as the two problem animal wildlife hunting clubs (farmers who own land on the northern boundary of the "Knersvlakte Protected Area).

These individuals consulted the steering committee on various issues and developments that affects the Knersvlakte region.

This steering committee is recognised by different organizations, such as mining companies applying for mining and prospecting permits in the Knersvlakte, as an important and effective party to deal with when they apply for any developments in the region.

The project was introduced to the communities through road-shows in co-operation with the local municipalities and

	<p>the Knersvlakte Bioregion Association.</p> <p>One of the partners in the Knersvlakte Priority Area, BIOTA - Southern Africa, presented a training course concerning the collection of baseline data. The course attendees include Para-ecologist from Southern Africa as well as CapeNature Field Rangers.</p>
<p>3. The spatial extend and agreed upon objectives for the Knersvlakte Protected Area are incorporated into the statutory approved intergrated Development and bioregion plans of the relevant authorities.</p>	<p>The Knersvlakte project was profiled for inclusion in the West Coast District Municipality Integrated Environmental plan. The Members of the Bioregional steering committee and the local and regional municipalities are active members of the steering committee. An Integrated Development Plan (IDP) meeting of the local municipality was attended in which the Knersvlakte priorities were included in the local IDP.</p> <p>This active authority representation ensures integrations with the IDP. A Knersvlakte Road Rehabilitation Project has been identified within the Knersvlakte Protected Area. This project has been registered with the IDP and is enthusiastically supported by the local municipality.</p> <p>The Knersvlakte Bioregional Steering Committee is now fully integrated into the Knersvlakte Protected Area Steering Committee and thus improving the management of the Knersvlakte Protected Area. The Knersvlakte Bioregional Steering Committee will be a sub committee in the Knersvlakte Protected Area Steering Committee</p>
<p>4. Foster partnerships with other implementing agents for conservation projects in the Succulent Karoo.</p>	<p>The Knersvlakte Steering Committee compiled a constitution which was agreed upon and approved by all the partners.</p> <p>The Knersvlakte Steering Committee has been expanded to greatly increase the benefits stream to the local communities. These are as follows:</p>

- The Knersvlakte Bioregional Steering Committee.
- A Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) Forum.
- The Matzikama Farmers Union has also come on board as a member of the committee increasing the representivity of the committee to include small and developing farmers in the area.
- The local community workers to establish a link between the urban communities and the Knersvlakte Protected Area.

Regular meetings with the managers of the local authority namely, Matzikama Municipality, resulted in projects being identified that could be incorporated into the Integrated Development plan of Matzikama Municipality area. Projects were also identified with the Vanrhynsdorp farmers association and the Nama Water Users association regarding best farming practices.

The Knersvlakte Protected Area project has a proud history of forging strong and lasting partnerships with individuals, institutions and statutory departments. These partnerships have been instrumental in the many successes the Knersvlakte Protected Area project has achieved. In keeping with this tradition we would like to give a brief report on some of our latest partnerships and how they have and will continue to have a lasting impact in and around the Knersvlakte Protected Area.

The Knersvlakte Protected Area has entered into a partnership with BIOTA SA for the appointment of two Para-ecologists within the Knersvlakte Protected Area. Under this agreement BIOTA SA funded the salaries of the two

	<p>Para-ecologists in exchange for the Knersvlakte Protected Area housing and managing them. This partnership substantially enhances the base-line data collection and monitoring in the Knersvlakte contributing to both BIOTA Southern Africa and the Knersvlakte Protected Area data needs.</p>
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Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.

The project's main purpose was to establish a new provincial nature reserve in the Knersvlakte, one of the nine geographic priority areas in the Succulent Karoo Biome.

The area, secured for conservation, is 61,690 ha roughly 38 % of the targeted total surface area for the core reserve. More significantly the latest purchases have secured roughly 57 % of the main target vegetation types which are made up of Knersvlakte Quartz Vygieveld and Central Knersvlakte Vygieveld. A further eight properties have been prioritised for purchase with several of these land owners already engaged in negotiations. Property purchases in the Knersvlakte rely heavily on the partnership between The Knersvlakte Protected Area project team (CapeNature) and the people of WWF SA. The Knersvlakte Protected Area team has also engaged with the Grigua Community and BPB Gypsum (a local mining company) in stewardship negotiations. These two organization own properties in the middle of the Knersvlakte Protected Area essential for the consolidation of the central reserve area. Through the establishment of a new partnership, the Grigua Community and BPB Gypsum have committed to entering into Stewardship agreements to secure their properties for conservation and inclusion in the reserve area. The integration of the Knersvlakte Bioregion Steering committee into the Knersvlakte Protected Area steering committee clearly illustrated the various initiatives implemented by this project and its associated benefits.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The purpose of the project was to secure land for conservation through the establishment of a provincial nature reserve and the including of private owned land by means of stewardship agreements. This project has been very successful in the securing of conservation land through the land acquisition by WWF-SA. The farmers in the Knersvlakte were very positive in the establishment of a reserve due to the importance of the Succulent Karoo. The Knersvlakte Biodiversity Awareness project resulted in behavioral changes due to the importance of the flora species in the Knersvlakte by the inhabitants. The Community Based Natural Resource Management project is one of the most important functions for the project to contribute to the social benefits of the people and contribute to the local economy.

Para-ecologists

The partnership with BIOTA SA for the appointment of two Para-ecologists within the Knersvlakte Protected Area is one of the successes of the project. The training in base-

line data collection and monitoring empowered local people in to the use of: Geographic Information System (GIS), digital cameras and taking of plant pictures for scientific purposes, Advance training in the use of computer (MS word, MS excel, Power point), Oral presentations, Monitoring and collection of plants, identification of plants & scientific nomenclature of plant names, Climate change: Causes and Effects, Background information on Environmental Impact Assessment and the Professional behaviour at the workplace.

Damage causing wild animals management

The establishment of a nature reserve in the Knersvlakte will be the first formal conservation area in the Knersvlakte. This leads to the concern of private landowners, farming adjacent to the conservation area, of the damage caused by wild animals like the black back jackal to the loss of stock farming will be increased. A holistic management approach was implemented by the Knersvlakte Protected Area team, the Program Manager (Wild life Management) of CapeNature and the Farmers Association.

The key holistic management lies in knowledge about the social behaviour of predators. Predators play an important role in the healthy ecosystem and ensure the control of animals like rodents that can become pest on farms.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs:

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1: The Knersvlakte Provincial Reserve established and declared as formal protected area.	
<p><i>1.1. Relevant staff trained in Area-Wide planning and stewardship methodologies.</i></p>	<p>Training and knowledge exchange was conducted with the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor (GCBC) project team.</p> <p>The project team attended a GCBC and Gouritz Initiative Knowledge exchange. During this exchange practical systems and procedures for area-wide planning was shared and discussed. The Corridor Database (an area-wide planning tool) used by the GCBC were updated as a result of this exchange to include pertinent questions relevant to the Knersvlakte Area. Additionally the project team gained valuable insight into the methodology and procedures of area wide planning during this session and can apply this practically during the area-wide planning process in the Knersvlakte region.</p>

<p><i>1.2. Area-Wide process planned and initiated for the Knersvlakte Protected Area.</i></p>	<p>The Area-wide planning was initiated by the project manager at a meeting with the Griqua Trust. During this meeting the Trustees of the Ratelgat Farm were informed on the options available for land stewardship and the farms integration in the regions area-wide planning.</p> <p>In order to facilitate the sub-project planning process, a planning meeting was scheduled with Phill Desmet and CapeNature Scientific Services. This meeting addressed the serious data and imagery shortcomings for the Knersvlakte.</p> <p>A meeting was held with LandCare to establish a working relationship with them regarding the area-wide planning process. LandCare committed one person to aid the project team with this process. Various experts on the region and fine-scale planning have also been consulted to help formulate the area-wide planning structure and procedure in the Knersvlakte Area. Due to a shortage of capacity from LandCare, the project is postponed.</p>
<p><i>1.3. Domain of Knersvlakte Reserve and Protected Area identified and consolidated.</i></p>	<p>Initiated consolidated process through preliminary discussions with Griqua community.</p> <p>The land acquisition process was slower than anticipated. The consolidation processes were kept on hold until WWF has completed all the intended property purchases for the region. This would have been done to facilitate the proclamation procedure and prevent unnecessary duplication of contracts and fees associated with the proclamation.</p> <p>The land acquisition process is slower than anticipated. This is due the willing buyer willing seller approach being followed. Subsequently various landowners are either unwilling to sell or want exorbitant prices for their land. The project team is however in constant contact with WWF-SA regarding property purchases.</p>

<p><i>1.4. Align the land purchasing of WWF - SA with the Knersvlakte Priority Area</i></p>	<p>A meeting was held with WWF-SA to discuss the way forward regarding the land acquisition. During this meeting individual properties were prioritised and it is agreed that WWF-SA will focus on these prioritised properties for purchasing.</p> <p>The project team is in constant contact with WWF-SA regarding property purchases. Some priority properties have been forwarded to WWF-SA. Subsequently WWF-SA has renewed negotiations with these land owners.</p>
<p><i>1.5. Transfer of WWF - SA land to CapeNature.</i></p>	<p>The properties (61690 ha), purchased by WWF-SA for the establishment of a conservation area in the Knersvlakte was transferred to CapeNature. A notarial lease agreement (99 years) was signed by both parties during July 2008 to ensure the conservation of the Succulent Karoo.</p>
<p><i>1.6. Knersvlakte Provincial reserve formally proclaimed.</i></p>	<p>The necessary negotiations with the pertinent organizations, Local municipalities; Matzikama municipality and the West Coast District municipality have been finalized. The proclamation of a protected area in the Knersvlakte is supported and encouraged by these municipalities. The proposal for provincial nature reserve proclamation was formulated and presented to the Member of the Executive Committee in the Provincial Government of the Western Cape (MEC) for approval and proclamation in the Provincial government gazette.</p> <p>The vision is that the Knersvlakte Provincial Nature Reserve will be finally proclaimed as a formally protected area by September 2009.</p>
<p>Output 2: Management actions, baseline studies and monitoring systems implemented for the Knersvlakte Provincial Nature Reserve according to the management plan.</p>	
<p><i>2.1. According to the management plan, appropriate management actions developed and implemented.</i></p>	<p>Eight (8) projects have been identified, of which four (4) will be long term projects and four (4) short term.</p> <p>The long term projects are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alien Vegetation Control, 2. Erosion Control, 3. Baseline Data Collection and the 4. Investigation of a Veld Management

	<p>Strategy. The short term projects consist of:</p> <p>1. Kids in the Knersvlakte.</p> <p>The project is called "Kids in the Knersvlakte" and involves an educational overnight excursion into the Knersvlakte.</p> <p>2. Removal of waste from the old farmsteads.</p> <p>Waste management was one of the major problems on the Knersvlakte Protected Area properties. Local authorities do not provide any waste management services and subsequently waste was dumped in pits and flat areas around the farm stalls. This practice poses severe threats for the environment. The project team contracted a local contractor to remove and dump the waste at the nearest town dumping site.</p> <p>3. Removal of internal fences</p> <p>The internal fence lines of the properties, in the southern part of the Knersvlakte Protected Area, were also identified as priorities to ensure the movement of wild animals in the entire area. The removal of internal fencing was done by local developmental contractors.</p> <p>4. The repairs of fence lines on the borders adjacent to other private properties.</p> <p>The fence line repairs were conducted after several instances of illegal grazing on conservation land. The owners (small farmers) of the stock blamed the dilapidated fences as the cause of this. Subsequently the project team repaired the fences to prevent such future instances. Additionally the project team aims to build a healthy relationship with these farmers to prevent future incidents. The project team initiated a committee of the small farmers and meet regularly to discuss farming issues and to assist them with fencing material where necessary to reduce conflict between conservation and the commercial farmers.</p> <p>A funding proposal was submitted for the</p>
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	<p>Knervslakte Road Rehabilitation Project. However this project was not approved. The project team is currently investigating other avenues of funding for this project. The alien vegetation was mapped within the current properties and state land. This enabled the project team to determine the alien densities and costs associated with alien clearing. The Business Unit (CapeNature region) is formulating an alien clearing management plan (it includes the Knervslakte Conservation Area) that will be used to apply for alien clearing funding from the Working for Water program (Department of Forestry and Water Affairs). This project is therefore subject to this process and funding approval.</p> <p>Four (4) local contractors have also been continually supported to complete various ecological activities on the Knervslatke Protected Area.</p>
<p><i>2.2. According to management plan, appropriate baseline studies developed and implemented.</i></p>	<p>Baseline Data Collection was identified as one of the long-term projects. This project will mostly be completed through the help of outside individuals. The project progress will therefore be determined by the availability of such individuals. Several individuals and institutions have already been approached. Amongst these are CapeNature Scientific Services, Biota Africa, Phill Desmet, Birds in Reserve Project (BIRP) and the Four Wheel Drive Club of South Africa.</p> <p>The BIOTA Southern Africa committed funds for a Para-ecologist project which were implemented in the Knervslakte Protected Area. This project entails the training of two local youths as Para-ecologists. These individuals were involved in base-line data collection and environmental education within the Knervslakte Area. These individuals received training in data collection and other relevant skills that will enable them to be employed within CapeNature or other conservation organisations in future.</p> <p>The BIRP has been ongoing with a survey carried out on a monthly basis.</p> <p>Grazing management related research was carried out in the Knervslakte Protected Area in</p>

	<p>association with BIOTA and the University of Hamburg. Two students completed their master's thesis with the data collected over their study period. This research will contribute to our understanding of the interplay between grazing and vegetation dynamics in the Knersvlakte and will inform future management decisions in this regard. These research results are to be published shortly (2009) and CapeNature will be provided with a copy of the thesis.</p> <p>Phenology is a new project that is been implemented and carried out on a monthly basis by the Para-ecologist and CapeNature staff. Phenology is the life cycle of plants under seasonal differences over time (the effects of heat, wind, rain grazing etc.).</p> <p>All incidental baseline observations are recorded for the Scientific observations program database. (SOP).</p>
<p><i>2.3. According to the management plan, appropriate monitoring and evaluation systems developed and implemented.</i></p>	<p>A base-line matrix assessment has been conducted in association with CapeNature's regional ecologist. A long term research project has been initiated in partnership with the BIOTA Project. This project will research and work towards developing a grazing management strategy for the Knersvlakte Protected Area. Although the project is a long term project, it will be structured so that individual students can contribute short term research projects that will achieve the overall research aims.</p> <p>A whole suite of base-line data collection initiatives have been planned. The base-line data collection initiatives will cover a whole range of aspects from inventory collections to vegetation surveys. These initiatives will greatly increase our understanding and knowledge of the Knersvlakte system.</p> <p>The veld evaluation monitoring project has commenced and is ongoing on a monthly basis.</p> <p>Detailed invasive alien plant mappings were completed on the southern properties of the Knersvlakte Protected Area. Monitoring of the extent of alien plant invasion in the rivers has been implemented and is ongoing.</p>

Output 3: Stewardship agreements are secured with willing landowners / companies wishing to retain ownership of land within the core area	
<i>3.1. Willing landowners identified through the willingness report from the area-wide planning process.</i>	This process has been initiated for the Griqua community and BPB Gypsum properties. Additional stewardships will however only be initiated once WWF-SA has completed all the property purchases for the Knersvlakte.
<i>3.2. Private land in core secured through one of the stewardship tiers - conservancy, biodiversity agreement, contractual agreement.</i>	<p>Due to the change of land ownership the contract negotiations have been put on hold with BPB Gypsum mining company. The landownership issue should be resolved during 2009 and then the contract can be finalised.</p> <p>Due to various circumstances beyond our control, a certain extra measure of time will be required before contractual finality of negotiations with the Griqua community can be achieved.</p>
Output 4: The Knersvlakte Provincial Reserve is recognised as a core conservation area within the Biosphere Reserve and linked to broader regional initiatives.	
<i>4.1. Knersvlakte Protected Area intergrated with the proposed Biosphere Reserve structure.</i>	<p>The Knersvlakte Protected Area steering committee was a member of the Knersvlakte Bioregional steering committee and attended the quarterly meetings of the Knersvlakte Bioregional steering committee. The Knersvlakte Protected Area has been elected on a sub-committee to address the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA & DP) regarding development of the Biosphere Reserve.</p> <p>Due to a lack of leadership, the Knersvlakte Bioregional Steering Committee were integrated into the Knersvlakte Protected Area Steering Committee and thus improving the management of the Knersvlakte Protected Area. The Knersvlakte Bioregional Steering Committee will be a sub committee in the Knersvlakte Protected Area Steering Committee. The matter was discussed with other role players like the district municipality to highlight the importance of the Knersvlakte Bioregion committee.</p>
<i>4.2. Knersvlakte Protected Area linked to broader bioregional initiatives.</i>	The Knersvlakte Protected Area project team was actively involved in the assistance of the Knersvlakte Biodiversity Awareness Raising Project through the attendance of the Knersvlakte Biodiversity Awareness Raising

	<p>Project Reference Group meeting and the participation of the awareness raising through the local radio. The Knersvlakte Biodiversity Awareness Raising Project was also a CEPF funded project implemented by the Masibambane Multipurpose Community Centre in Vanrhynsdorp.</p> <p>The Awareness project has been incorporated into an initiative spearheaded by the Anchor Project. The project is called "Kids in the Knersvlakte" and involves an educational overnight excursion into the Knersvlakte. The presentation material of the awareness project was revised by the Anchor Project in order to align it with the needs identified in the awareness projects survey. Several of the presentations presented by the awareness project were attended by the Anchor Project.</p> <p>The Knersvlakte was visited by a delegation of the Environmental Ministry of Israel. This Israeli delegation consisted of high level officials and the minister of environmental affairs. A presentation about the Establishment of the Knersvlakte Protected Area was presented to the delegation. They were highly impressed by the conservation initiatives and indicated that they enjoyed seeing how we approached the challenging conservation issues in the Knersvlakte and the new perspectives it afforded them to their own conservation issues in Israel.</p> <p>The staff attended the 2006 Protected Areas Forum at which the structure and methodology of biosphere reserves was discussed and analyzed. The institutional structure recommended by the attendees was already in place in the Knersvlakte. This should enhance the chances of establishing a successful biosphere reserve in the Knersvlakte.</p> <p>The project team conducted several talks at veld schools organised by LandCare. These talks contained information on the importance of the Knersvlakte and insight on why the Knersvlakte is such a diverse and special landscape. It is hoped that these types of interactions will instill a sense of appreciation for the Knersvlakte in the regions youth.</p> <p>The project team presented a radio talk on the</p>
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activities of SKEP and its benefits to the region on the local radio station.

Several contact sessions between the project team and The Department of Land Affairs was scheduled to reiterate the importance of the state land situated within the core reserve area. It is hoped that these sessions will facilitate a speedy resolve of this matter that is to the benefit of all concerned.

The project team in association with the local municipality conducted a workshop meeting with the local small farmers. During this meeting information on SKEP and the SKEPPIES Fund was relayed to these individuals. This was done to allow these individuals to access these funds and tools provided by SKEP to the benefit of the small farmers and the local environment.

The Project team had a meeting with Mr. Nico Heyns. Mr. Heyns was the owner of the mining rights on the farm Moedverloren, one of the properties purchased by WWF-SA. Currently there is still mining rubble and waste at the mining site. During the meeting clearing of this mining site was discussed. Subsequently a site visit is scheduled in which an agreement regarding this matter will be reached

Knersvlakte Biosphere

A meeting was attended with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning regarding the initiation of the process of proclamation of the Knersvlakte Biosphere Reserve.

A meeting for the appointment of a Consultant was held with the West Coast District Municipality, regarding the availability of funds to prepare the application for the proclamation of the Knersvlakte Biosphere Reserve.

An agreement was made between the Consultant, who initially drew-up the Knersvlakte Bioregional Spatial Plan, and CapeNature (who was mandated by the steering committee), to do a project proposal of a feasibility study for the establishment of the Biosphere reserve, and present it to the Knersvlakte Steering committee.

Output 5: Appropriate development plans relating to job creation (i.e. tourism) are investigated and prepared.

<p><i>5.1. Knersvlakte Reserve linked to regional tourism development plans and initiatives.</i></p>	<p>The local tourism board is a member of the Knersvlakte steering committee and the Knersvlakte Project team member attends the Matzikama Tourism meetings.</p>
<p><i>5.2. Provide opportunities to local community members to implement management / tourism actions.</i></p>	<p>The Knersvlakte Protected Area is currently not in a position to develop tourism opportunities; however we strongly support the Griqua community in their tourism initiatives.</p> <p>Membership of the local Tourism Association promotes tourism in the greater Knersvlakte area</p>

Output 6: A project management unit is established and also function as the SKEP anchor project for the Knersvlakte Priority Area.

<p><i>6.1. Project staff appointed and intergrated with regional CapeNature team.</i></p>	<p>Five applications were received for the two posts after being advertised in the two local newspapers, "Die Burger" and "Ons Kontrei". Two candidates were appointed on a contractual basis until December 2008, and they starting in July 2006.</p> <p>Equipment needed was purchased from project funds to manage the project.</p>
<p><i>6.2. Office of project staff established.</i></p>	<p>Office space for the Knersvlakte Project staff was made available by CapeNature at Vanrhynsdorp.</p>
<p><i>6.3. Co-ordinate and facilitate (through bioregional structure) the Knersvlakte Priority area steering committee.</i></p>	<p>Steering Committee Steering committee for the project was set-up and consists of members from the communities, landowners and other stakeholders. The committee was established on the 07June 2006.</p> <p>The steering committee consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Cape Nature Conservation Board (CapeNature) (CN) • Western Cape Department of Agriculture (WCDA) • Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Programme (SKEP) • Private/Community based organizations

	<p>(NGO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matzikama Municipality (MM) • West Coast District Municipality (WCDM) • Private landowners Committee (One delegate) (PLOC) • Department of Land Affairs (DLA) • Knersvlakte Bioregion Ass. (Delegate) (KBA) • Matzikama Tourism (Delegate) (MT) • Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA & DP) • Farmers Association (Delegate) (FA) • Knersvlakte Biodiversity Awareness Project (KBAP) • Biodiversity Monitoring Transect Analysis in Africa (BIOTA SA) <p>The Knersvlakte Steering Committee conducted meetings on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>Feedback on project progress is given to the steering committee on a quarterly basis. Copies of the quarterly report are provided at the quarterly meeting in both printed and digital form.</p>
<p><i>6.4. Identification and referral of relevant projects to the SKEP programme developer.</i></p>	<p>Several projects were identified at a workshop facilitated by SKEP Co-ordination Unit at the Bioregional Committee's annual general meeting. At this workshop the Knersvlakte Protected Area project team was identified as a member of a planning committee that will prioritise and plan for these identified projects. A workshop was attended at which the actions identified at the planning workshop were prioritised.</p> <p>No additional project was identified during this period. However the SKEPPIES Fund has been widely advertised amongst local representatives.</p> <p>A Hoodia nursery project was referred to the SKEPPIES Fund and was approved during December 2007.</p>
<p><i>6.5. Support and participate in the process of strengthening and building the SKEP brand as anchor project.</i></p>	<p>The Knersvlakte Project manager participated in the SKEP Annual Partners conference from the 3rd-4th May 2006 at Kirstenbosch, Cape Town. Information was shared through a presentation and exhibition about the Anchor and supported projects in the Knersvlakte Priority Area.</p>

	<p>To strengthen and build the SKEP brand the anchor project attended the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The communities in the Knersvlakte through a road show on 20-23 June 2006 and 27-28 June 2006 in co-corporation with the Knersvlakte Bioregional steering committee and the Knersvlakte Biodiversity Awareness project. • A project developer's workshop and Anchor project knowledge exchange meeting at Kirstenbosch, Cape Town from the 22- 24 March 2006. • A project planning workshop hosted by SKEP • The reference group meeting of the Knersvlakte Biodiversity Awareness project • The broader public was informed on a continual basis on the workings and value of SKEP and the SKEPPIES Funding available for projects. This led to several SKEPPIES applications being lodged. • The SKEP Coordination Unit planning and review meeting • The SKEP Strategic planning workshops in Kirstenbosch and Springbok. • The SKEPPIES lessons learned workshops in Vanrhynsdorp. The attendee of the Knersvlakte Project contributes to this through a presentation. • A presentation regarding the establishment of the Knersvlakte Provincial Reserve was presented to 12 delegations of attendees (from African continent) of the BIOTA congress. • The Knersvlakte Protected Area is promoted by the providing of garments to the steering committee members and other role players. The garments are embroidered with the Knersvlakte logo.
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Describe the success of the project in terms of delivering the intended outputs.

The successes of the project were:

- The securing of 61690 ha of land for conservation (agreement signed by CapeNature and WWF-SA),
- Training of staff in the use of –
 1. Geographic Information System (GIS),
 2. Digital cameras and taking of plant pictures for scientific purposes,
 3. Advanced training in the use of computer (MS word, MS excel, Power point),
 4. Oral presentations,
 5. Monitoring and collection of plants,
 6. Identification of plants & scientific nomenclature of plants,
 7. Climate change: Causes and Effects and the Background information on Environmental Impact Assessment.
- The implementation of the following projects as identified in the management plan:
 1. **Alien Vegetation Control,**
 2. **Erosion Control**
 3. **Baseline Data Collection**
 4. **Investigation of a Veld Management Strategy**
 5. **Kids in the Knersvlakte**
 6. **Removal of waste from the old farmsteads**
 7. **Removal of internal fences**
 8. **The repairs of fence lines on the borders adjacent to other private properties**

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

The including of private owned land into stewardship agreements for conservation is an output that was not reached. The negotiations between BPB Gypsum and CapeNature are in an advanced stage and with the Grigua community is ongoing with no serious problems expected.

The delay in the finalising of the agreements does not have any negative impact on the project.

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

The management plan for the Knersvlakte project will be fully implemented by CapeNature.

The project benefited the community positively. Social upliftment and job creation were one of the positives achieved. Within the Project new projects were identified which in the future will create more jobs. These projects were incorporated into the Integrated Development Plan of the local authority to ensure future funding from the government.

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.

All the landscape initiatives currently underway in the Western Cape include radical new concepts and ways of thinking regarding land-use and conservation of the larger landscape. This fundamentally requires a massive change in attitudes and land-use practices of both individuals and organisations. Such change processes are inevitable, slow and cumbersome. An important lesson that is emerging from the Knersvlakte Project as well as the other landscape initiatives is that this change often occurs over periods longer than what was initially planned for in the project period. This results in projects not always rigidly implemented according to project log frames.

The value of a fully representative and functioning Steering Committee cannot be over emphasised as an invaluable management tool to any landscape initiative. This platform has for the Knersvlakte Project served as an ideal instrument to allow for the inclusion of stakeholders, for dynamic and purpose driven discussion, effective communication to stakeholders, and a general forum at which to discuss matters affecting a wider landscape.

The Knersvlakte Project Team found that the regular and structured project knowledge exchanges held over the project period extremely valuable. These exchanges have allowed the team to interact with colleagues struggling with similar challenges, learn from them, receive help from them, and in general ensuring that the knowledge and experience gained over all the projects can be implemented in the Knersvlakte.

When the implementation of projects like stewardship, where communal land is involved, it is important to take into account the difficulties involved specifically when dealing with communities as apposed to an individual. The entire community must agree, be informed and be in support of the project.

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

CapeNature, the Steering committee and the local authorities were committed to the project and determined to make a success of it.

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

The cooperation between the farmers, local communities and other landowners contributed to the success of the Knersvlakte conservation area. The pro-active engagement regarding the holistic approach to the management of human wildlife conflict is one of the greatest achievements that will ensure that the farming industry supports this project.

The development of the relationship with the Councilors of the local authority, landowners and mining companies enables the project manager to influence them positively about their fears which they may have regarding the establishment of a conservation area in the Knersvlakte.

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
		\$		
		\$		

****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.)*

CapeNature will manage the Knersvlakte Provincial reserve and ensure that the necessary staff will be appointed.

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 agreement between CapeNature and WWF-SA ensures the continuation of the project.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The total amount which was spent by WWF-SA for the purchasing of land for the protected area is \$ 1.5million.

WWF-SA has also provided an additional \$1million for land acquisition for the Knersvlakte conservation area.

The Project Manager ensures the signing of the lease agreement, for the properties purchased for conservation by WWF-SA, between CapeNature and WWF-SA. This is necessary for the proclamation of the formally protected area. The motivation for the proclamation of the properties as a Provincial Nature reserve was finalized by the Project Manager and submitted to CapeNature.

The proclamation of the Knersvlakte Provincial nature reserve will be an additional protected area for CapeNature and therefore permanent staff needs to be appointed. A total of eight (8) staff members for the Knersvlakte Provincial Nature reserve was requested.

The application was not accepted and therefore CapeNature investigated other options.

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: Elbe Cloete

Organization name: Western Cape Nature Conservation Board

Mailing address: P.O. Box 200, Vanrhynsdorp, 8170, SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: +27 27 2191480

Fax: +27 27 2191922

E-mail: ecloete@capenature.co.za