

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Botanical Society of South Africa

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): *Developing Products for Integrating Biodiversity Priorities into Land-Use Planning and Decision Making in the Namakwa District Municipality*

Implementation Partners for this Project:
Northern Cape Provincial Government Department of Environment & Nature Conservation
Conservation International Southern African Hotspot Program

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2009

Date of Report (month/year): 30 July 2009

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

A project completion technical report accompanies this report. The technical report briefly summarises the main publicly available products emanating from this project.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: *The unique biodiversity features of the Namaqualand and Hantam-Tankwa-Roggeveld regions are recognised as important and are wisely integrated into land use planning and decision making at the municipal and provincial levels.*

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	
1. <i>Biodiversity priorities have been successfully integrated into the Namaqua District Municipality spatial development framework and are routinely used to inform land-use planning and decision making.</i>	This has been achieved. Biodiversity priorities and recommended land use guidelines in the form of a Biodiversity Sector Plan document and associated hardcopy and internet interactive maps have been created and disseminated to district and local municipalities.
2. <i>Provincial conservation authority adopts protected area expansion priorities and incorporates this into their future business plans.</i>	This has been achieved. The province has developed a conservation vision and plan for the district. This will be used to guide departmental operations in the district. This plan is an internal departmental document this is not available publicly.
3. <i>Capacity significantly increased in targetted individuals in the following skills areas: Namaqualand field ecology; conservation planning; and, biodiversity based municipal land use decision making.</i>	This has been achieved. Capacity building has exceeded expectations. Three years of working with the provincial conservation planner has been incredibly successful. In addition to the 2 individuals originally targeted a further 6 individuals working with the project also benefited significantly

form the experience.

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

The project success can be summarized in one sentence. On the 10 July 2009 the Honourable Premier of Northern Cape Province, Ms Hazel Jenkins, stood up at the Namakwa tomorrow Expo, (the launch event for our municipal products) and urged the public officials present use the Biodiversity Sector Plan document and maps of Critical Biodiversity Areas in their land-use planning and decision-making processes. Having a public launch event or gaining high-level political support for our products was never the intention of this project. All we set out to achieve was the integration of the biodiversity sectors inputs (the Critical Biodiversity Area map and Biodiversity Sector Plan document) into the district and local municipal Spatial Development Frameworks (SDFs). Whilst this goal was achieved, having the additional high-level political support for our products demonstrates the extent to which this project together with its partners was able to build support and mainstream biodiversity within the provincial and local government.

The second significant impact of the project has been the capacity building component. There were some failures along the way but the success exceeds original expectations. Originally only two individuals were targeted. Ultimately at least eight individuals benefited significantly from their involvement in this project. A copy of the letter from Mr Albert Mabunda, Director of Nature Conservation at DETEC, thanking the project for its support is included in the project technical document that accompanies this report.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The unexpected impacts include:

- (a) The public ratification and support for our products by the Provincial Premier.
- (b) The success with capacity building particularly with the provincial conservation planner as well as with individuals not originally targeted
- (c) The land-use planning products are already available on the internet at <http://bgis.sanbi.org>
- (d) The grazing guideline document has been adopted by Green Choice as the basis for their better farm management guidelines.
- (e) Six new species of plant were discovered during the vegetation mapping component of this project.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs:

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1: A fine-scale vegetation map for the Namaqualand Sandveld area between the Olifants River and Kleinsee is developed with particular attention being paid to the patterns of diversity within Namaqualand Sand Fynbos and concurrently the capacity of an emerging field ecologist is developed.	
<i>1.1. Fine-scale vegetation map of the Namaqualand Sandveld between the</i>	This has been completed and is available as a GIS shape file from Philip Desmet

<p><i>Olifants and Buffels Rivers is completed by November 2008</i></p>	<p>(factoryrider@absamail.co.za). This update of the SA vegetation map has been submitted to the National Vegetation Map Committee for incorporation into the national vegetation map.</p>
<p><i>1.2. A scientific paper describing the vegetation of the Namaqualand Sandveld between the Olifants and Buffels Rivers and first authored by the emerging field ecologist submitted for publication by June 2008 in a South African vegetation science journal.</i></p>	<p>This has not been completed. This is the only major failure of the project. The individual targets for capacity building was being pulled in many directions and this project lost out in the end. A vegetation description and conservation assessment report has been completed and available on the CEPF web site..</p>
<p>Output 2: A map of critical and critical (important) biodiversity areas for the Namaqua District Municipality is developed in partnership with partner CEPF projects that integrates all existing biodiversity plans for the region plus new plans and information into a single biodiversity plan that provides the foundation for the publication of a bioregional plan in terms of the National Biodiversity Act.</p>	
<p><i>2.1. A map of critical biodiversity areas for the Namaqua District Municipality is developed March 2008</i></p>	<p>This has been completed as is available in hard copy maps (One A0 for the whole district and 6 A1 maps one for each local municipality in the district) and interactive web-based maps via http://bgis.sanbi.org. PDF's of the printed maps are also available on this web site.</p>
<p><i>2.2. The CBA map is integrated into the District Municipal SDF by March 2008</i></p>	<p>The CBA information has been integrated into the District Municipality IDP and SDF GIS database. The CBA maps and accompanying information has also been integrated into the Conservation International Municipal Official Training Program</p>
<p>Output 3: A protected area expansion plan for the Namaqua District Municipality is developed following a systematic conservaiton planning methodology using existing biodiversity information and additional expert mapped information gathered as part of this project, and concurrently the capacity of the provincial conservation planner is developed.</p>	
<p><i>3.1. A protected area expansion plan for the District Municipality is ratified by Northern Cape DETEC (nature conservation) and the District Municipality by June 2008</i></p>	<p>This has been completed but as it is an internal DETEC document it is not available to the public. The plan was completed by the provincial conservation planner with minimal assistance from this project demonstrating that the skills gained through the capacity building component of this project we successfully applied.</p>
<p>Output 4: Comprehensive land use management guidelines are developed in pntnership with partner CEPF projects to accompany the map of critical biodiversity areas with specific reference to stock farming practices and mining.</p>	<p>Two land-use guideline documents were developed:</p> <p>The Biodiversity Sector Plan document is complete and accompanies the maps of Critical Biodiversity Areas. This document speaks to government land-use and decision-making processes. This document is available from http://bgis.sanbi.org</p> <p>The second document covers recommended livestock management guidelines for the district. The project commissioned the Karoo Consortium to develop these guidelines. This document is aimed at both municipalities who manage large areas of commonage in the district as well as private land owners. This document is a first draft and will require feedback based on practical experience. It is hoped</p>

	<p>that this set of guidelines will eventually become a template for certification biodiversity friendly livestock management in the Succulent Karoo.</p> <p>The grazing guidelines have been adopted by CI's Green Choice program as part of their Better Farm Management guidelines thereby demonstrating successful adoption of the guidelines by the certification sector.</p> <p>This document is available from http://www.azef.co.za/resources/Ecol_Best_Prac.htm</p>
<p><i>4.1. A land-use management guideline document is developed and formally accepted by the District Municipality by June 2008</i></p>	<p>The CBA maps and Biodiversity Sector Plan documents were formally handed over to the District mayor as well as representatives for all local municipalities at the Namakwa Tomorrow Expo held in Springbok on the 11-12 July 2009. The expo was specifically put together to be the official launch event for the project products as well as showcase biodiversity conservation projects and sustainable livelihood projects and products. It hosted by DETEC at Goegap Nature Reserve outside Springbok. This project contributed one third of the event running costs (approximately UD\$5000).</p>

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

There have been many successes in this project:

I think the "Namakwa Tomorrow Expo" in July 2009 where the Premier of the province publicly ratified our products was definitely the highlight. The fact that the premier made an appearance was only possible because the officials high up in DTEC are fully committed to conservation in the Succulent Karoo and are testament to the efforts of not only this project but more so SKEP in raising the profile of the Succulent Karoo in at the decision maker level.

The Namakwa Tomorrow Expo generally was a great success. Apart from what the Premier said, the event brought together many biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihood projects and vendors from across the District to showcase these under one roof. The event offered an opportunity to officially launch and hand over our products to municipalities, but also allowed for people to see just how many biodiversity-related projects are on the go in the district and also be exposed to some of the sustainable living technologies available on the market. This was the first of its kind in South Africa where such an expo took place in a rural setting rather than a large urban centre. We are hoping that this will not be the last of this kind but something we can take forward as a tool for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation on the ground.

The completion of the Biodiversity Sector Plan document and the Map of Critical Biodiversity Areas is obviously a great achievement. These products are available on line through BGIS and so are available to anyone with access to the internet. They are also interactive so you can zoom in and query the map which makes the map so much more practical for decision makers. Having BGIS as a biodiversity information portal has made this possible so a special thanks to SANBI for making this happen.

The Northern Cape provincial conservation planner I think is also a great success. For three years I slogged away working with him and dragging him along behind me as we developed the CBA map. This hard work has really paid off. I cannot believe how he has blossomed into his role as conservation planner. The protected area strategy was pulled together by him with very little direct involvement from me. We are in a situation where he is pulling me rather than me pulling him.

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

The capacity building component of the field biologist was not realized. The majority of the data collected from the two fieldtrips conducted by this individual was lost. Some plant specimens were lodged with herbaria but the remainder of the information was lost and no reports were generated. Fortunately, outputs from this component of the project did not underpin the success of other components of the project. As some of the budget allocated for this component of the project was not used another data collection fieldtrip was organized so at least valuable additional data was collected in the form of herbarium specimens (and new species). The overall goal of remapping the Namaqualand Sand Fynbos and conducting a conservation assessment was achieved. Data from a regional vegetation assessment project being conducted by Namaqua Sands Mine as well as other previous projects was collated and used in this project.

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.

Project management is not difficult but it does require some formal training and perhaps the right mind-set. Important aspects of project management include:

- Budgeting
- Managing contractors especially on delivery
- Managing relationships with partners and stakeholders
- Negotiating terms of reference so that everyone is clear as to who is responsible for what.

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

It is important to remain flexible and constantly reassess progress and goals. In South Africa the concept of Bioregional Plans and templates for drawing up such plans up as well as the maps of critical biodiversity areas was rapidly evolving. This project was being implemented in parallel to the thinking about what the products should be or should look like. Therefore the goal posts were constantly a bit fuzzi and knowing exactly what one should be doing was never absolutely clear. There was a vision of where we wanted to be but the actual road map was never absolutely clear.

I cannot say that the project was well designed or implemented. It happened and we got a great product, but the time delays were partly due to my own shortcomings as a biologist trying to be as project manager.

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

Committed individuals –hard work from key individuals makes all the difference.

Committed partners – having supportive partners who are able to share resources were necessary and can give moral support is invaluable
 Political buy-in – Getting people at the top to buy into a process makes a huge difference as officials at the bottom responsible for day to day working and the people you often interact with are more “committed” if the top brass a committed.
 Political savvy – “reading” the South African political playground and delaying the launch event by 6 months to after the general election made for a much more stable political climate in which to hold the event. It could also have precipitated the attendance of the provincial Premier at the expo who being new in the job and also originally from Namaqualand had an interest in supporting out product.

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
Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation	A	\$80000		Salary for Provincial conservation planner over 3 years and \$9000 for launch of CBA maps
Conservation International Southern African Hotspots Program	A	\$5000		Salary of CI intern over 6 months working directly on this project Logistic support e.g. vehicles for fieldtrips, accommodation in the field
		\$		
		\$		
		\$		
		\$		
		\$		
		\$		

****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 not continue in its current format into the future. Aspects of the project that will continue include:

- Northern Cape DTEC has initiated a process to get the Biodiversity Sector Plan document and CBA maps proclaimed as a formal Bioregional Plan in terms of the South African Biodiversity Act.
- Northern Cape DTEC is also continuing with the development and implementation of the protected area expansion strategy and the alignment of this with the National Protected Area Expansion Strategy which was completed earlier in 2009.
- Philip Desmet is continuing fieldwork and mapping of the Namaqualand Sandveld with funds coming from Namakwa Sands heavy mine. This work will be completed at the end of 2009.
- CI's municipal training program will continue to build capacity within local government around the use of the CBA map and accompanying documents in land-use planning and decision making.
- The grazing guideline team will endeavor to secure funds from the SKEP consolidation grant to continue with the development of the grazing guidelines to turn them into a tool that is practical for farmers on the ground and is accepted within the ecological and conservation community as representing "best practice" for livestock farming in the Succulent Karoo. A likely partner for this continued work is CI's Green Choice program as product certification is likely to be the best method for getting wider on-the-ground application of the recommendations.
- We are hoping that the Namakwa Tomorrow Expo will not be the last of its kind. This expo concept and format could be an exciting vehicle for profiling biodiversity conservation and sustainable living with rural government structures and land users. Perhaps through the SKEP consolidation grant or the Maputo-Pondoland grant there will be opportunities to grow the environmental expo concept.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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.

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