

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: University of Stellenbosch

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Karoo Veld: Ecology & Management

Implementation Partners for this Project:

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): January 1, 2004 – July 31, 2006

Date of Report (month/year): October 2006

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

SKEP, through the CEPF, made it possible to publish the book, “Karoo Veld: Ecology and Management” in English and in Afrikaans and at an affordable price to the custodians of the Karoo. An earlier, shorter, English language publication – written by Sue Milton and Richard Dean and published by the Agricultural Research Council – appeared in 1996, with the aim of placing the understanding of Karoo veld ecology and management, which had been gained from research and interactions with farmers, into a form that would be accessible and useful to them. This book was rapidly sold out. Ten years later it became clear that a new version was needed, and that it should be published in the two primary languages of the Karoo – English and Afrikaans. Collaboration began between Sue Milton, Richard Dean, Karen Esler and a range of other Karoo experts who willingly gave their time to contribute sections to the book. The project took about two years from start to finish, but in reality it reflects a culmination of at least a century of observation over 60 cumulative years of life and research in the Karoo for Esler, Milton & Dean.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: *To ensure that Karoo stakeholders (including Commercial farmers; New farmers with greatest potential negative or positive effect; Game farmers; Researchers; Conservation managers; Extension officers) understand, use and stimulate replication of appropriate management techniques that are described in the book for habitats, vegetation, soils and animals of the semi-arid Karoo.*

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	
1. The demand and sale of books. By July 2006, at least 1000 copies of the book will be purchased by Karoo farmers / stakeholders.	Sales of books greatly exceeded expectations. Karoo Veld was listed as a “best seller” for the months of March and April on “Netbook Times”, www.netbooks.co.za (noted from Issues 1 & 2 of 2006), and remained on Briza’s top ten sales list for much of the year. By August 2006, 2065 books had been sold, and interestingly, more Afrikaans copies (1071) than English (994). This is a strong indicator that the book is reaching its intended target audience.
2. Visitation to website. By July 2006, at least 300	We were unable to install a visitation counter,

farmers /stakeholders have visited the website.	however have been referring farmers who make telephonic / e-mail contact that they can download the monitoring forms from the site.
3. Implementation of best management techniques. By July 2006, at least 20 farmers have implemented restoration activities and/or monitoring	This is difficult to measure, however judging from the regular contact we have from Karoo farmers, the best management techniques described in the book are receiving considerable attention.

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

This project has been exceptionally successful in terms of delivering its primary impact objective – the publishing of a handbook to guide ecologically friendly management in the Karoo. The longer term indicators (implementation of best management techniques) are less easy to measure, but we have no reason not to believe that the book will have substantial impact in the Karoo.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

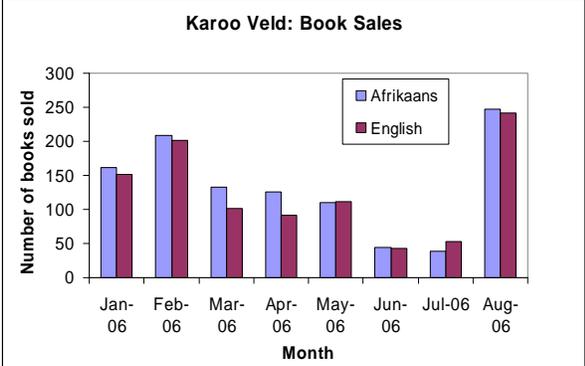
No.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs: Enter the project outputs from the Logical Framework for the project

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1: The production of a book entitled "Karoo Veld: Ecology and Management. Revised Edition".	The book, "Karoo Veld: Ecology & Management" was published in January 2006
1.1 Update and edit existing written material by February 2004	completed
1.2 30 new sections to the book prepared by 13 co-authors by March 2004 and submitted to editors	completed
1.3 Compiling all written and visual material into one document to be submitted for review by May 2004	completed
1.4 Final draft completed and submitted to publisher by December 2004	completed
Output 2: The production of a translated Afrikaans version of the book entitled "Karooveld: Ekologie and Bestuur. Hersiende uitgawe."	The Afrikaans version of the book, "Karoo Veld: Ekologie en bestuur" was published in January 2006
2.1 Compilation of all written and visual material into one document to be submitted for translation by May 2004	completed
2.2 Afrikaans final copy completed and submitted to publisher by December 2004	completed
Output 3: An awareness raising programme about the book. This will include production of popular articles; press releases; provision of complimentary copies to key organizations and the production of a web page to make available the book summary and table of	Considerable effort was placed on awareness raising – refer to list below this table

contents, as well as to make available downloadable versions of the veld assessment forms.																												
3.1 Compilation of all written and visual material for web page to submit to web designers by end Jan 2005	completed																											
3.2 Construction of web page by web designer during February 2005	completed																											
3.3 Web site is uploaded onto University of Stellenbosch server by end March 2005	completed																											
3.4 Two Articles submitted to Farmers Weekly & Landbou Weekblad by April 2005	Completed, and more																											
3.5 Press releases to radio and TV by June 2005	Completed, and more																											
3.6 Complimentary copies sent out to key stakeholders by April 2005	Completed (List available on request)																											
3.7 At least 2 school days and 4 farmers days arranged and completed by December 2005	Completed, and more																											
Output 4: The generation of a data base of people who acquired the book.																												
4.1 Data base compilation will be on-going during 2005/6 and will be compiled from a voluntary feed-back form (output 5). Data base to be completed by July 2006.	Due to very low responses received from the questionnaire distributed at launches, we do not have a detailed data base, however Esler & Milton have kept names of people who acquired the book during launches																											
Output 5: The evaluation of the success of the book through a) compilation of book sales data and b) a questionnaire designed to evaluate how useful land managers found the guidelines and if they put any of the guidelines into practice.																												
5.1 Evaluation of sales data will be done every 6 months after publication and will be compiled for reporting by July 2006.	 <table border="1"> <caption>Karoo Veld: Book Sales</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Afrikaans</th> <th>English</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Jan-06</td> <td>160</td> <td>150</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Feb-06</td> <td>210</td> <td>200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mar-06</td> <td>130</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apr-06</td> <td>120</td> <td>90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May-06</td> <td>110</td> <td>110</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jun-06</td> <td>40</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jul-06</td> <td>40</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aug-06</td> <td>250</td> <td>240</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Afrikaans	English	Jan-06	160	150	Feb-06	210	200	Mar-06	130	100	Apr-06	120	90	May-06	110	110	Jun-06	40	40	Jul-06	40	50	Aug-06	250	240
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5.2 Compilation of questionnaire designed to evaluate how useful land managers found the guidelines and if they put any of the guidelines into practice.	A questionnaire was distributed; however response rates were very low. However on a qualitative basis (indicated by the constant flow of telephonic queries from farmers) we are convinced that the book has been exceptionally useful to farmers. Future land managers will also be exposed to the concepts presented in the book as it is being used in Animal Sciences and Conservation Ecology modules at the University of Stellenbosch, as well as in modules presented at Elsenerg Agricultural college and Saasveld. In addition, selected consultants who were listed in an appendix have received numerous queries as a result of the book (Jan Vlok, KJE pers com.)																											
5.3 Evaluation and analysis of questionnaire to be completed by July 2007	We were unable to do this due to low response rates. However, of the questionnaires that we did receive back, the responses were overwhelmingly positive. The																											

sections on veld management and monitoring were particularly well received as were the list of palatability scores, photos of good to degraded veld and photos of common plants, listed in the appendices.
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Summary of Output 3: Awareness raising

A. Karoo Veld book report - presentations

1. Esler, KJ, Milton, SJ & Dean, WRJ (2005) Karoo Veld: Ecology and management: a book for the custodians of southern Africa's arid lands. Arid Zone Ecology Forum, Barrydale, 12 – 15 September
2. Esler KJ (2006) Biodiversity on the farm: Natural Capital. Invited seminar to Ocean Agri Science Farmers Day, Infruitec, Stellenbosch.
3. Esler KJ (2006) Guidelines to farmers facing challenges of climate change. Invited seminar to "Ons en Ons Veld" Farmers Day, Succulent Karoo Knowledge Centre, Kamieskroon.

B. Media Reports / Articles & Reviews (from 2006)

1. Willis, R (2006) Karoo Veld republished. Rose's Roundup, Vol 2, No 29. [A privately-published monthly newsletter covering snippets of history]
2. Mathys, C (2006) SKEP funds Karoo Veld book. South African National Biodiversity Institute News, June 2006.
3. Theron, K (2006) Karoo Veld vertaal wetenskap vir boere. Landbou – Insert to Die Burger, 10 Maart
4. Theron, K (2006) "Karoo Veld" vertaal die wetenskap vir Karoo-boere. Burger (Oos Kaap) Agri-Nuus, 30 March.
5. Theron, K (2006) "Karoo Veld" vertaal wetenskap vir Karoo boere. News Item on University of Stellenbosch Main Web Page. www.sun.ac.za, 2006/02/28
6. Theron, K (2006) Book review: Karoo Veld: Ecology and management by Prof Karen Esler, Prof Sue Milton and Dr Richard Dean (Briza, R169). Farmers Weekly, 17 March
7. Theron, K (2006) "Karoo Veld" makes sense of science for Karoo farmers. Science in Africa: Africa's First On-Line Science Magazine. <http://www.scienceinafrica.co.za/2006/march/karoo.htm>
8. Anon (2006) Boek "vertaal" wetenskap vir Karoo-boere. Landbouweekblad, 17 Maart.
9. Anon (2006) New book on Karoo management by C.I.B. team members. News Item on DST-NRF Centre of Excellence for Invasion Biology. <http://academic.sun.ac.za/cib/karobook.htm>, 2006/03/09
10. Theron, K (2006) Boek maak wetenskap verstaanbaar vir Karoo-boere. Kampus Nuus, 2 Maart. *Article also appeared on US web page, 28 Feb; AgriSciences Newsletter, Feb 2006; CIB web page, 9 March*
11. Theron, K (2006) Boek maak wetenskap verstaanbaar vir Karoo-boere. *AgriSciences Newsletter, Feb 2006*
12. Anon (2006) Living in the Karoo. *SA Gardening*, May 2006
13. Anon (2006) Book review - Karoo Veld Ecology & Management. *Environmental Management May/June 2006*
14. Mathys, C (2006) SKEP funds Karoo Veld book. South African National Biodiversity Institute News, June 2006, pp 12
15. Theron, K (2006) Karoo Veld vertaal die wetenskap vir Karoo boere. *Matieland* 2006:1, pp 18.
16. Lickindorf, E (2006) Caring for the Karoo. *Quest* 2(4):42-43

C. Interviews conducted

1. 9 March 2006 Radio Sonder Grense (Afrikaans interview on Karoo veld: Milton)
2. 20 March 2006 Radio Pretoria (Afrikaans interview on Karoo veld: Milton)
3. 10 April 2006 SAFM John Richards Show (English interview on Karoo veld: Esler)
18 April 2006 SABC environmental channel (English interview on Karoo veld: Milton)
4. 14 June 2006 Radio Sonder Grense (Afrikaans interview on desertification: Milton)

D. Farmers / schools days / launches

1. 4 February. Ceres Farmers Day & Karoo Book Launch [Esler]

2. 8 February. Karoo Book Launch, Prince Albert [Milton, Dean]
3. February. "Ons en Ons Veld" Farmers Day, Succulent Karoo Knowledge Centre, Kamieskroon. – presentation to Farmers [Esler]
4. 3 March. Frazerberg boerevereniging (farmers day) [Milton, Dean]
5. 10 March. Farmers Day, Calvinia Landbou Unie [Timm Hoffman]
6. 23 March. Ocean Agri Science Farmers Day, Infruitec, Stellenbosch. – Presentation to Farmers [Esler]
7. 21 June 2006 Prince Albert Primary outing with the theme "Karoo veld forage production for livestock" [Milton]
8. 24 and 27 July 2006 Landcare bushcamp - two one hour walk to look at veld plants with grade 5 learners [Milton]
9. 21-24 August 2006: Arid Zone Forum, Kamieskroon. Sue Milton, Hannes Botha and Clement Cupido lead a field day for farmers entitled "An Investigation of Veld Condition at a Fence Line Contrast". This will train farmers to use the Veld Assessment method featured in "Karoo Veld Ecology and Management".

Finally, CEPF gave permission to use remaining funds to purchase books for distribution to worthy causes (e.g. libraries; municipalities; schools; AZEF conference prizes). The distribution of these books is on-going, see example below.



Photo: Clement Cupido (AZEF) hands over two CEPF sponsored books to Kamieskroon Primary school in September 2006.

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

This project has been exceptionally successful in terms of delivering the intended outputs. Due to good relations and positive interactions, collaboration between partners was smooth and compilation of the material for the book relatively painless. The end product has exceeded all expectations, and is an excellent flagship product for SKEP and the CEPF. The success of the book is nicely summed up by an article: Lickindorf, E (2006) Caring for the Karoo. *Quest* 2(4):42-43 [attached as an appendix at the end of this report]

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

The web site was not as extensive as originally planned, but since many farmers do not have internet access as their primary form of communication, we believe that this did not impact the overall effectiveness of the project. More emphasis was placed on awareness raising, which appears to have been very effective.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

None.

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.

Since conservation of the future relies heavily on the actions of private landowners, there is a great need for science to be translated into a format that is palatable for the average landowner. The overwhelmingly positive response generated by this book indicates that there is a thirst and general need for this type of communication. Of course, it is absolutely essential that the information is communicated in the local language (in the case of the Karoo, English and Afrikaans).

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

There were no problems experienced with the project design process.

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

This project was successful because it was a true and enjoyable collaboration amongst people whose primary objective is to see the Karoo managed effectively and in a sustainable manner. It also had a clear and achievable outcome, which always helps.

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	Notes
Not applicable			

***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 funded 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 funded 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.

Briza has indicated that there will be a second print run of both the English and the Afrikaans versions in January 2007. There will be no additional costs incurred.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
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None.

IX. 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, 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 **YES**

No

If yes, please also complete the following:

For more information about this project, please contact:

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