

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Western Cape Nature Conservation Board

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): *Investigate Innovative Mechanisms to Restore and Retain High Priority Succulent Karoo in the Cederberg Conservancy*

Implementation Partners for this Project: The Cederberg Conservancy

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): September 1, 2007 - January 31, 2009

Date of Report (month/year): 03 April 2009

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

This project grant was awarded to CapeNature by CEPF. CapeNature then entered into a secondary grant agreement with the Cederberg Conservancy to manage the funds and implement the project.

The project was originally planned to be implemented over an 18-month period. Due to various delays in the finalization of the two grant agreements, the period of implementation was reduced to 11 months. The Project Manager started March 2008 and his contract expired December 2008. The Project Manager took up another opportunity and when the project was extended with one month the Cederberg Conservancy had to take over the management and finalizing of the project. The initial reduction in time allocated, for implementation should be taken into account when evaluating this project.

The grant agreement entered into between CapeNature and the Cederberg Conservancy stipulated scheduled payments. A delay in the final payment led to the extension request to finalize administrative tasks.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: *To increase the landowner's capacity to effectively manage and restore biodiversity in contract nature reserves.*

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Purpose: To increase the landowner capacity, to effective manage and restore biodiversity in contract nature reserves.	
Indicator	Actual at Completion
<p><i>1. To bolster the capacity of the Cederberg Conservancy to give effect to the programmes and projects identified in the management plans prepared by the GCBC PMU for efficient biodiversity management on the contract nature reserves.</i></p>	<p>All the projects implemented under this grant, addressed aspects within the programmes identified in the Contract Nature Reserve Management Plans. Although the original project design intended to implement more of the practical elements, the original project funds and timeframe were insufficient to implement larger projects that would have had a significant impact on biodiversity conservation within the area. For this reason the contract nature reserve owners decided to rather shift the project focus towards smaller projects and establishing management 'infrastructure' that will enable the Contract Nature Reserves and the larger Cederberg Conservancy to implement aspects of the Contract Nature Reserve Management Plans in an efficient, planned and organized fashion.</p> <p>The management capacity of the Contract Nature Reserves was bolstered by the development of management tools in the form of a Waste Management Strategy, an Alien Clearing Management Plan, a Reserve Operational Manual and an Annual Plans of Operations template.</p> <p>Annual Plans of Operation Each Contract Nature Reserve is provided with a Management Plan developed by the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor. These Management Plans detail the various programmes and projects that need to be implemented on the Contract Nature Reserves in order for the reserves to effectively conserve the biodiversity contained within their borders. There are however no timelines to these projects. Contract nature reserve owners feel these Management Plans are cumbersome and not conducive to user interaction. In an effort to overcome this shortcoming, the Project Manager developed an Annual Plan of Operations (APO) template according to the Management Plan of each contract nature reserve. The template is based on a project management approach detailing projects, outputs, tasks, responsibilities and implementation scheduling. The APO templates are printed on large A0 sheets and laminated. This gives the user an overall view of the projects as per the Management Plan and allows for efficient planning and tracking of project tasks and activities.</p> <p>During the next phase these APO's will be populated with the assistance of CapeNature and Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor (GCBC) Extension Officers.</p>

	<p>Waste Management Strategy Waste management in the Cederberg Conservancy is currently a major problem. The local municipalities do not provide any Waste management services and subsequently waste is dumped and burned in pits. This practice poses severe threats to the health and well being of both the environment and the inhabitants of the Cederberg Conservancy. Recognizing this problem, the Conservancy management committee decided to make it a priority. The final product is a Waste Management Strategy that provides an overarching vision, goal and objectives that the Conservancy can work towards in achieving a ban on dumping and open burning of waste.</p> <p>Establishment of Office Facilities and acquiring of tools and equipment Office Facilities have been established for the Cederberg Conservancy at Matjiesrivier Nature Reserve for the duration of the project. Maps, manuals and management plans will be accessible at this office in future although the office belongs to CapeNature. Extension work will be conducted from this office.</p> <p>Additionally the management capacity of the Contract Nature Reserves was further bolstered by the acquisition of tools and equipment (e.g. incinerators, chainsaws, and slashers) that will in future allow them to implement practical actions such as alien invasive plant clearing.</p>
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<p><i>2. To demonstrate the partnerships (GCBC & Cederberg Conservancy) commitment to these fledgling stewardship agreements in the core corridor and thereby encourage participation from other landowners.</i></p>	<p>The project demonstrated the potential benefits that can be associated with Contract Nature Reserve status through regular presentations on activities and progress.</p> <p>Project implementation proved to other landowners in the Cederberg Conservancy that the Stewardship initiative could bring conservation benefits. Due to the project activities (some of which also benefited the Conservancy as a whole) several landowners have indicated that they are seriously considering entering into Stewardship agreements with CapeNature.</p> <p>Should this occur, an additional 30 000 ha could be added to the conservation portfolio of the area. CapeNature has already begun negotiations with interested landowners of a communal rangeland property totaling approximately 24 000 ha. This communal rangeland will largely consolidate the Cederberg Core Corridor and provide a secure link between Matjiesrivier Nature Reserve, the Cederberg Wilderness Area and the Cederberg Conservancy.</p>
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Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.

The purpose of this project was to capacitate Contract Nature Reserves within the Cederberg Conservancy and demonstrate the benefits to be had from entering into a partnership with the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor and CapeNature. This project has been very successful in promoting Contract Nature Reserves with various landowners now eager to enter into agreements with CapeNature. The reserves Vogelfontein and Dwarsrivier were also able to obtain Biodiversity and Wine Initiative membership status, largely as a result of the structures put in place by the Contract Nature Reserve requirements. Due to the projects integration under the Cederberg Conservancy management structure and resulting feedback on Conservancy members' meetings and other platforms clearly illustrated the various initiatives implemented by this project and its associated benefits. Some of the projects resulted in behavioral changes (e.g. Waste Management Strategy).

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The project has greatly benefitted the wider Cederberg Conservancy. A valuable impact from the project is that the implementation of the project could be done in a way to achieve the projects' objectives relating to the targeted reserves, while also being beneficial to the non-target reserves. The following are examples that demonstrate this principle:

Waste Management Strategy

The Waste Management Strategy was originally only targeted on solving the Waste Management problem on the Contract Nature Reserves within the Cederberg Conservancy. During the development process it was however realized that the strategy could be presented and implemented by the larger Cederberg Conservancy on a voluntary basis. The Waste Management Strategy was approved by the Cederberg Conservancy at a member meeting and all the relevant landowners will work towards realizing the objectives detailed in the Strategy.

By implementing the Waste Management Strategy in the larger Conservancy the project was also able to create awareness regarding the issue of Waste Management. The project also aimed to introduce a new thought process by which any property will always consider the best environmental option before making any management or other decisions. This mindset change would not have been possible if the project was implemented in isolation.

Visitor data

The Visitor Biodiversity Observation project was aimed at increasing base-line data records collected from the Contract Nature Reserves by the contribution of tourists visiting the area. Due to the fact that most of the locations visited by tourists are not within contract nature reserve boundaries this project spilled over to the other properties within the Cederberg Conservancy. This benefits the area as a whole since baseline data will be collected through the larger landscape and also contribute to baseline records on properties that might sign contracts at a later stage. This project will help to stimulate and create awareness among tourists in the area.

Reserve Operational Manual

The Reserve Operational Manual can also be implemented and used by the other members of the conservancy on properties that have no formal protected status but where the landowner has a strong sense for conservation and the management of natural resources and systems.

Project Community Involvement

The GCBC outreach program was implemented on all the stewardship properties in the Cederberg Conservancy. Farm workers attended Field ranger training and were empowered to use CyberTrackers and do baseline data collections. These trained farm workers participated in the Conservancy Open Day.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs:

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1: Project co-ordination and strategic support to empower and strengthen civil society for core corridor management.	
<p><i>1.1. Corridor Management Committee (consisting of members of contract nature reserve and CapeNature) established within the Cederberg Conservancy management structure.</i></p>	<p>At the Cederberg Conservancy meeting of 07/06/2008 the proposed establishing a Corridor Management Committee was tabled. Contract nature reserve owners decided that no additional meetings will be held for this purpose and that all decisions regarding the Corridor will be made through the existing Conservancy structures.</p> <p>The Cederberg Conservancy has been in existence for 11 years. The Conservancy has a well-implemented management structure with a dedicated Chair, a secretariat and specific portfolios to deal with relevant issues. Additionally the conservancy has regular members' and secretariat meetings. This well established structure is ideally suited to perform the functions of a Corridor Management Committee.</p>

<p>1.2. Conclude a grant agreement between CapeNature and the Cederberg Conservancy.</p>	<p>The grant agreement between CapeNature and the Cederberg Conservancy was concluded on 18/01/2008. The grant agreement is valid from the signing date until 31/12/2008.</p>
<p>1.3. Commence recruitment of Project manager and appoint a suitable, qualified individual.</p>	<p>The Project Manager, Mr. Henri Combrink, was appointed on a contractual basis from 01/03/2008 to 31/12/2008. Henri has a MEM, Masters in Environmental Management and gained experience in the management of nature reserves through his position with CapeNature as Conservation Manager for the Knersvlakte Protected Area.</p> <p>Equipment needed was purchased from project funds to manage the project, this include a laptop, data projector, screen, fax-printer, digital camera and pocket PC's to operate CyberTracker.</p>
<p>1.4. Provide training and capacity building to the Corridor Management Committee to oversee and manage the Cederberg Corridor.</p>	<p>As indicated no dedicated Corridor Management Committee was established. The contract nature reserve owners did not feel that they required any specific training to perform their duties and that they will benefit more through the completion of the same training as the Contract Nature Reserve staff.</p> <p>The training was conducted during the period of 1-5 September 2008, 2 Landowners, 1 land manager and 9 staff members attended.</p>
<p>1.5. Raise awareness, share lessons and target the 10-year Conservancy celebration as a key event in the roll-out of the Corridor.</p>	<p>Cederberg Conservancy Knowledge Exchange A knowledge exchange between the Cederberg Conservancy and several conservancies in the Gouritz Corridor was held on Saturday the 25th of October 2008. The day was dedicated to conservancies and the problems and challenges they face. Presentations and discussions were focused on practical aspects affecting the implementation of conservancy principles and associated programmes. This included Conservancy involvement, Damage Causing Animals, Stewardship and Community Tourism. These will hopefully facilitate further discussion that can lead to finding possible solutions to the challenges faced. The Cederberg Conservancy used this opportunity to create partnerships with other conservancies to develop a stimulating learning platform. 40 guests attended the day from 5 Conservancies within the Gouritz Corridor in the Southern Cape.</p> <p>Open Day The Cederberg Conservancy Open Day was held on the 15/11/2008 and gave the local community the opportunity to interact with guest experts as well as to learn about and appreciate their local environment. Landowners and workers interacted with experts while in the veld, where observations and sightings were discussed and explained to participants. Observations were captured using CyberTrackers. Expert presenters at the day were Dr Janette Deacon (Archaeologist), Mr Dave Pepler (Conservation Ecologist), Willem Titus (Cape Leopard Trust, project assistant) and field rangers from Cederberg Wilderness, CapeNature. The Project Manager was involved with the open day and its activities.</p> <p>Waste Management Strategy Brochure In order to inform tourists to the area of the problem of waste management within the Cederberg Conservancy and the efforts that the Conservancy has made with regards to waste management within 2008, a brochure detailing the objectives of the strategy and how the tourists themselves can assist with waste management was developed. Brochures were printed and are available at tourism facilities.</p>
<p>Output 2: Collect baseline data to guide and inform management actions related to the retention and restoration of biodiversity.</p>	
<p>2.1. Interrogate the existing GCBC corridor management plans to identify the priority baseline data collection projects.</p>	<p>The management plans of each Contract Nature Reserve were used to identify the shortfalls to effectively implement projects as per management plans.</p> <p>The following 'umbrella' projects were identified for implementation:</p> <p>Fine Scale Alien Mapping of Contract Nature Reserves The need for detailed invasive alien plant mapping on the Contract Nature Reserves was recognized. Conservation Support Services</p>

	<p>(CSS) were sourced to do the detailed mapping of invasive alien plants on the contract nature reserves and to develop clearing plans associated budgets. The reports, clearing plans and budgets can now be used to plan and implement future invasive alien plant control efforts on contract nature reserves to prevent future biodiversity loss and subsequent expensive clearing operations. These budgets and clearing plans can also be used to apply for funding. Reports were discussed and given to landowners.</p> <p>Base-line Audits of Contract Nature Reserves Monitoring and Evaluation forms an important part of the adaptive management approach implemented on Contract Nature Reserves. An important tool used in approach is reserve audits. Ken Coetzee from Conservation Management Services was contracted to perform base-line audits on each Contract Nature Reserve and develop an auditing format to be used in the future. The reserve audits measured both the landowner and CapeNatures' commitment to the implementation of management plans. The audits are aimed at identifying problem areas on Contract Nature Reserves that need attention. The auditing format will be used to conduct annual internal audits on the Contract Nature Reserves followed by a second external audit. All problem and recommendations from the audits will feed into the APO and revised management plans of each Contract Nature Reserve. The audits were completed in November. Each Contract Nature Reserve has been provided with a detailed audit report. The next step is to compile APO's and to implement recommendations.</p> <p>Baseline data and Species lists Species lists were compiled for each contract nature reserve from historical data as per CapeNature SOB database.</p> <p>Baseline collection, fix point photography and infrastructure mapping were initiated through the implementation and use of CyberTracker.</p>
<p><i>2.2. Source service providers to undertake the specialist baseline collecting. Collect the general baseline data internally with the help of CapeNature.</i></p>	<p>Conservation Support Services (CSS) CSS was contracted to perform the fine scale invasive alien plant mapping on the Contract Nature Reserves. They delivered mapping reports detailing densities, demography, clearing methods and operational costs to each Contract Nature Reserve.</p> <p>Conservation Management Services (CMS) CMS was contracted to perform the base-line audits for the Contract Nature Reserves. The final product included auditing reports for each Contract Nature Reserve and an auditing format to be used in future audits.</p> <p>Footprint Environmental (FE) FE was contracted to develop the Stewardship Contract Nature Reserve Operational Manual. The manual was provided to each Contract Nature Reserve in a printed file format. The manual is also available electronically.</p>
<p><i>2.3. Interpret and collate the baseline data collected, and draft an action plan for implementation.</i></p>	<p>Baseline data as per SOB (State of Biodiversity) was extracted for each contract reserve. Specialists and maps were compiled using this data. Shortfalls in data were identified for each contract nature reserve in order to priorities future data collections.</p> <p>An APO template was developed for each contract nature reserve based on the projects as identified in the respective management plans. Populating these APO's will be part of the next phase of support by CGBC / CapeNature to contract nature reserves. APO will link timeframes to projects in the management plans.</p>
<p>Output 3: Identify, prioritize and implement projects to retain and restore biodiversity based on baseline data.</p>	
<p><i>3.1. Identify the priority projects (management actions to retain and</i></p>	<p>The following projects either developed mechanisms, tools or procedures or developed the 'infrastructure' to implement various</p>

restore) from the action plan for implementation.

aspects, as identified in the Contract Nature Reserve Management Plans.

Base-line data and monitoring

Base-line data and monitoring is a cornerstone of effective Contract Nature Reserve management.

To cut back on filling in of forms the CyberTracker technology was implemented. It provides an alternative to paper based data collection that is easy, fast, reliable, accurate and geo-referenced. A comprehensive CyberTracker sequence was developed for the Cederberg Conservancy. Nine CyberTracker PDA units were acquired, each of which was loaded with the Cederberg Conservancy Sequence and stationed at the relevant Contract Nature Reserve. The Matjiesrivier Nature Reserve manager will periodically collect data captured by the Contract Nature Reserves. Any significant sightings will also be included in the CapeNature State of Biodiversity Database. A basic user's manual was developed to aid in understanding of the system.

Visitor Biodiversity Observations

The Cederberg Conservancy is a world-renowned tourism destination providing the visitor with a multitude of outdoor and adventure activities. This influx of visitors to the area provides the Cederberg Conservancy with a unique opportunity for the collection of base-line biodiversity data. A visitor biodiversity observation form and poster (detailing the Conservancy's request for assistance in this regard) were developed. Forms and posters are available at tourism ventures. The data collected will be sent to and captured by the Matjiesrivier Nature Reserve manager.

Reserve Reference Book Libraries

Field guide and reference book libraries were established at every Contract Nature Reserve. Eleven titles were acquired, with subjects ranging from bird, mammals, insects, spiders, trees and other aspects of South African wildlife. The libraries are intended to stimulate interest and aid in the identification of species recorded during monitoring and data collection on the reserves. Libraries are accessible to farm workers and tourists on contract nature reserves.

Waste Management Strategy

The Contract Nature Reserve owners decided that a waste management strategy was required to address the threat to biodiversity through the uncontrolled burning and disposal of waste in the Cederberg Conservancy. A decision was taken to approach a consultant to develop this strategy, which the Conservancy could then implement. It was evident from the quotations received that the project did not have enough funds to employ a consultant to achieve this.

As waste management is a priority for the Conservancy, it was decided that the project manager would develop a waste management strategy and that the allocated funds would be used to acquire two incineration units. This strategy eliminates the need to dispose of any waste within the Conservancy and allows for a more controlled approach to waste management. This will greatly reduce the threat of pollution to the local biodiversity.

The incineration units were delivered in early November 2008. The units have since been installed and two new waste management depots were established on the farms Vogelfontein and Dwarsrivier. Additional waste management infrastructure in the form of bulk storage crates was purchased for the sorting, storage and recycling of glass and metal. The first load of 30 Storage crates, were taken to recycling depots during January 2009. Organic materials are used as pig-food or compost and all other combustible materials are incinerated.

A Waste Management Strategy has been completed by the project

	<p>manager and was accepted by the Conservancy on Saturday the 5th of December 2008. The strategy provides strategic objectives to land owners within the Conservancy to control their waste. The waste management strategy is aimed at eliminating any dumping of waste or open burning within the Cederberg Conservancy. A visitor information and guideline brochure was also produced to inform visitors to the Cederberg Conservancy about the waste management strategy and their responsibilities. Brochures are displayed at tourism facilities.</p> <p>Selected Invasive Alien Plant Clearing The Contract Nature Reserve Dwarsrivier previously cleared a selected area of pine trees. This area was in urgent need of a follow-up treatment. The contract reserve owners decided that it would be a good investment for the project to fund the follow-up treatment. A total area of approximately 60 ha was cleared over two respective 5-day follow-up treatment periods. A combination of hand pulling and cutting with chainsaws and slashers were used as treatment, since it was pine trees no herbicides were needed to be applied. The landowner carried the cost of chainsaw oils and fuel.</p> <p>Selected Erosion Control The Contract Nature Reserve Kromrivierkloof has an unused 4x4 trail situated on a sensitive mountain section of the property. The old 4x4 trail is badly eroding in some sections, posing a real threat to the surrounding vegetation. The contract nature reserve owners decided to implement limited erosion control measures on the track in order to prevent any further degradation. A 100 person days were dedicated to this task.</p> <p>Invasive Alien Plant Species Control Kits Four invasive alien plant-clearing tool kits have been acquired for each Contract Nature Reserve. The tool kits contain chainsaws and all related maintenance and safety equipment. A set of slashers has also been acquired. These tools have been used in clearing operations on contract nature reserve. Tools will remain the property of the contract nature reserves for future use in alien clearing operations as per the alien clearing management plans compiled by CSS.</p> <p>Contract Nature Reserve Operational Manual The document, developed by Footprint Environmental (FE) includes a wide range of topics applicable to the management of reserves and the implementation of Stewardship Management Plans. The operational manual is a practical guide providing basic information and guidance to manage a conservation area. It covers relevant legislation, Conservation initiatives, Funding, Management Plans, Audits, Recourse Management and Baseline Data collection monitoring and research principals.</p> <p>The document was handed over to all the Contract Nature Reserve owners in an interactive file format that allows for easy use and the inclusion of additional information.</p>
<p>3.2. Implement the priority projects from the action plan.</p>	<p>All projects detailed in output 3.1 have been implemented and completed. Various projects developed capacity, established facilities or provided infrastructure to perform tasks essential to the adequate functioning of the Contract Nature Reserves. This ensures that the majority of projects will continue to be implemented after the project comes to an end.</p>
<p>Output 4: Improving livelihoods of local communities by diversifying the skills base of farm labourers on high priority biodiversity farms.</p>	
<p>4.1. CapeNature to conduct the community outreach programme to farm labourers to stimulate and increase awareness.</p>	<p>A successful outreach program was conducted by a GCBC Extension officer among farm labourers on contract nature reserves.</p>
<p>4.2. Identify farm labourers to</p>	<p>A five-day training programme was developed for the Contract Nature</p>

<i>undergo conservation training.</i>	Reserves within the Cederberg Conservancy by a private training organization called the Nature College. The training was conducted during 1 to 5 September 2008 within the Cederberg Conservancy and was attended by 12 individuals ranging from landowners to farm workers. The training dealt with basic map reading, identifying and recording local plants and wildlife, identifying soil erosion, alien invasive plants, basic collection of specimens and the role of fire in conservation areas.
4.3. <i>Source service provider/ providers and roll-out the various training courses.</i>	The Nature College was sourced to provide the Field Ranger training. See output 4.2 for more detail.
4.4. <i>Provide opportunities for the application of skills obtained out of training courses.</i>	Contract nature reserve staff that attended the training was used as group leaders alongside experts in various fields during excursions on the Conservancy Open Day. Observations were captured on CyberTrackers on the day. Contract nature reserve workers are using CyberTracker units to patrol routes and record sightings on their respective properties.
4.5. <i>Monitoring of progress and alignment with CapeNature field ranger staff to ensure ongoing development.</i>	The Conservation Manager Matjiesrivier Nature Reserve will capture data on CapeNatures' SOB database. Although CyberTrackers are being used during patrols, data collected are insufficient and incomplete. Problems have been identified and further training will be needed to streamline the use of CyberTrackers.

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

This project was implemented over a period of ten months. This short project implementation period proved to be a great challenge. Despite this, the project was able to complete all the above-mentioned projects within this time frame. The successes of the project were the development of the Waste Management Strategy, the Reserve Operational Manual and CyberTracker sequences and use of CyberTrackers for Base-line Data Collection and Monitoring. Another achievement of the project is the farm workers that were trained as 'field rangers' and in the use of CyberTrackers and who can now collect baseline data.

Were any outputs not realized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

Due to time constraints the output indicators as per the Log Frame were slightly adjusted. Regardless of these adjustments the general outputs of the project were met.

The project initially aimed to implement more physical "on the ground" actions within the Contract Nature Reserves. Available funding was not sufficient to provide significant short term benefits to the Contract Nature Reserves, through larger projects. It was decided to acquire management tools (e.g. Audits and Operational Manual) that would benefit the contract nature reserves beyond the project period and to implement smaller projects (eg. alien clearing and erosion control).

Time constraints discourage specialist to commit to the collecting and compiling of specialist species lists. Species list were compiled for each contract nature reserve from the SOB database. CSS were contracted as a specialist to map and compile a Clearing Plan for Invasive Alien plants on contract nature reserves.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

Various acts and policies were used as a reference to compile the Waste Management Strategy of the Conservancy. e.g.

National Constitution (Act 108 of 1996)
Local Government Services Act (Act 32 of 2000)
Environmental Management Policy
Integrated Pollution and Waste Management Policy
Environment Conservation Act (Act 73 of 1989)
National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998)
Hazardous Substances Act (Act 15 of 1973)

The project also provided a platform for the further strengthening of civil society and through its outcomes provided practical lessons learned.

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.

Field Guide Training of Farm Employees

Output 4.2 of this project required the training of farm employees as field rangers or other related conservation training. The Nature College was sourced to perform the training that was conducted from 1 – 5 September 2008.

The project aimed to train farm labourers, in some instances a manager or owner was included in the training. This proved to be highly successful. The managers / owners acted as 'mentors' to the farm employees. This assisted the course facilitator as the managers / owners could help explain course materials in simple terms. The managers / owners will also play a vital role in the future to facilitate the farm employees' development process by acting as a 'mentor' and encouraging and supervising the farm employees in the execution of their field ranger duties.

The course had a rather large theoretical component. Since most of these employees have limited school education, it was found that some of the employees found it difficult to maintain concentration and to grasp all the concepts explained. It is recommended that such a course should devote at least 70% of the time on practical illustrations and physical field excursions where principles and procedures can be demonstrated.

When conducting field work, the farm employees really started to participate in the course. Many of the individuals have an intimate knowledge of the local fauna and flora. A very important part of the course was teaching the farm employees how to use field guides to identify species. Many of the field guides contain local names for species and it was very liberating to these individuals to utilise their local knowledge and apply it to identify species in the field guides. Field guide and reference book libraries were established on every Contract Nature Reserve to facilitate this learning process.

Although the conservation training of the farm employees was very successful, the course material did not accommodate all the attendants, since part of the manual is in English.

Knowledge Exchange

The Cederberg Conservancy hosted a Conservancy Knowledge Exchange during the weekend of 25th of October 2008. The day was focused on bringing conservancies from different SKEP projects together to discuss and explore practical management of conservancies as well as looking at both the successes and challenges of conservancies in the context of conservation and the communities that live within and alongside them.

The day was attended by members from six conservancies, researchers, and representatives from the tourism, wine and farming industries and CapeNature. All conservancy chairs presented an introductory talk giving the audience a detailed overview of the respective conservancy's history, conservation importance, successes and frustrations.

The second part of the day focused on damage-causing animals, tourism and stewardship. The purpose behind these sessions was to present options to the audience and hopefully inspire or stimulate new ideas or thought on the subject matter.

The damage-causing animal session focused on baboons and leopards and the various solutions that are available for their control. The aim was to relay the various precautionary principles and not to evoke discussions. The key with talks on this subject are to only present possible solutions and not 'preach' to the audience.

The tourism session focused on two exciting initiatives implemented in the Gouritz region. The first being the Gouritz biodiversity meander. The speaker gave a brief overview of this initiative and discussed the local biodiversity tourism market and what businesses in this sector can expect in the next ten years. The second speaker presented a talk on the Donkey Trail. This initiative saw the reopening of the old donkey pack trail over the Swartberg Mountains into Gamkaskloof (Die Hel). This initiative uses local individuals as guides on the trail and aims to eventually hand the whole initiative over to the local individuals involved in the business. This model has proved to be very successful and could possibly be applied in the Cederberg Conservancy.

The last session of the day explored the various stewardship possibilities and how the land owner can participate in the Stewardship Programme. This session proved to be very informative to the land owners of conservancies in the Gouritz corridor as there is much confusion and misinterpretation regarding how the Stewardship Programme works and its intended purpose.

The day clearly illustrated the necessity for conservancies across the country to share knowledge and experiences. The Cederberg Conservancy has a long track record and many of the conservancies present indicated that hearing about the successes and failures of the Cederberg Conservancy has motivated them to continue and overcome their current difficulties. Through these and other comments the Cederberg Conservancy believes that at a minimum we were able to instill a hope for the future in the Gouritz conservancies that will provide a vision for these conservancies to work towards. The Gouritz CapeNature Business Unit Manager indicated that as a result of the success of the Cederberg Conservancy Knowledge Exchange they will in future aim to host a similar type of day between the conservancies of the Gouritz region.

Project brief and understanding

During the start, implementation and closure of the project it was clear that some conservancy members did not understand the project purpose or its intended actions. This created confusion and false expectations. Although this did not affect the achievement of the project outputs, it did create ample dissatisfaction amongst some land owners.

When starting a project similar to this one, the implementers should promote the partnership principle and steer away from a one way flow of benefits to the land owners. It is very important that land owners contribute something to the project as opposed to just reaping the benefits.

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

The Chairman of the Cederberg Conservancy was committed to the project and determined to make a success of it. Support from dedicated contract nature reserve owners contributed to the successful completion of the project in the 11 month implementation period.

The actual project timeframe and Log Frame were not aligned due to the late start and this lead to a shift from larger 'on the ground' projects to management tools and smaller projects that could benefit and be used for the contract nature reserves and more widely within the Conservancy beyond the project timeframe.

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

By developing personal relationships with landowners / managers, the project manager is able to influence a substantial change in a much shorter time. The project manager, Mr Henri Combrink managed to build relations in a very short period. This was a contributing factor to the success of the project.

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.

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.

Support from CapeNature and the GCBC in the form of person hours and advice was a valuable contribution to the project.

The Cederberg Conservancy has made conscious efforts to raise funds to further support the work that has been initiated through this project. The Cederberg Conservancy has also signed a consultant contract with CapeNature to secure a further 4 stewardship contracts and two conservation agreements to consolidate the protected area network in the Cederberg core corridor.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This project developed and implemented various management 'tools'. These have capacitated the Contract Nature Reserves, which now need to take responsibility for the continued implementation of initiatives. The ultimate success of this project will be determined by the use and implementation of the 'tools' and capacity that was provided.

Ideally, a Project Manager should be employed to promote and supervise the implementation and use of the gained 'tools' and capacity. To achieve this the project period of this project was insufficient.

The Cederberg Conservancy and the Project Manager for this project would like to thank CapeNature and CEPF for awarding this grant.

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:

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