

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Western Cape Nature Conservation Board

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement):

Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor Small Grants Fund

Implementation Partners for This Project:

1. GCBC Steering Committee consists of the following organizations:

- Department of Agriculture Western Cape
- Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Western Cape
- South African National Parks Board
- Department Conservation Northern Cape
- Cederberg Municipality
- Witzenberg Municipality
- West Coast District Municipality
- Wynland District Municipality
- Environmental Monitoring Group
- Botanical Society South Africa
- Local Communities
- Cederberg Conservancy

2. C.A.P.E (Cape Action for People and the Environment) Co-ordination Unit

3. SKEP (Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Profile) Co-ordination Unit

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): 1 July 2005 – 30 June 2007

Date of Report (month/year): 31 August 2007

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

The establishment of the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor (GCBC) is one of the priorities identified in the C.A.P.E and SKEP strategies (This corridor spans two global hotspots, namely the Succulents Karoo hotspot and Cape Floristic Region hotspots and captures the very high priority transition zones between these two hotspots). Given its large size, varied terrain and wilderness nature, the Cederberg Corridor has the potential to conserve the biological, ecological and evolutionary patterns.

But the GCBC is all about people, and the way they use their land now and in the future. It is a 'worked in', 'lived in', 'played in' environment for young and old.

The Small Grants Fund provided the GCBC project with the opportunity to engage with civil society and the general public in an innovative project-based manner. This allowed the GCBC Project Management Unit to increase the conservation outputs of the corridor in terms of biological, ecological and evolutionary patterns in this 'people's corridor'.

III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

That civil society in the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor are informed, are contributing to, and are taking ownership of biodiversity conservation while supporting associated strategies of the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor for sustainable development within the GCBC.

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

The objectives of this project did not change during implementation.

All of the projects initiated were managed by members / groupings from civil society (local communities, conservation groups, stakeholders). All projects directly supported the overall strategic objectives of the GCBC project.

Projects were supported in both the Succulent Karoo hotspot and in the Cape Floristic region hotspot. Many of the projects provided conservation actions that were to the benefit of both Hotspots.

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

With innovative and action-based involvement of civil society in the Small Grants Fund, the projects acted as a stepping-stone to create new partnerships between the GCBC and other organizations and ensure that these partnerships will be long-term partnerships.

The Small Grants Projects also acted as a tool to raise awareness (of adults and children) about the corridor, what it stands for and biodiversity conservation. The corridor concept were explained through a fun and interesting children's book, Die Krokkitor, to 14 schools in the in the GCBC. This will be followed-up in the near future with an activity booklet and a competition. The general public was introduced to the corridor and its projects through the local media. Seventeen articles have been placed in the local newspapers over a period of 12 months. The articles were written in such a manner that the public could relate to. Awareness raising was also increased by partnering with CapeStorm, an Outdoor apparel, to brand an army of champions. The project allowed branding of the corridor via 80 of the GCBC Stakeholders and reached an audience of 4000 people via the e-newsletter of CapeStorm.

Through the expansion of protected areas strategy, management plans were written to better manage game practices, fire prone fynbos and cultural historical sites within the corridor. The information from these projects will lead to more informed decision making on the management of the GCBC's unique biodiversity and thus also increasing the effectiveness of the corridors.

Three of the mayor industries (4x4, Potato and Rooibos) engaged with the GCBC in order to mainstream biodiversity into the industries. The GCBC and 4x4 industry (South African Route Owners and Operators Forum) managed to increase the Biodiversity and Business Strategy from a local to a National Strategy to mainstream biodiversity in to the industry. The Potato industry (Potato South Africa) managed to secure further funding for the appointment of a Project Manager to implement the Biodiversity and Business Strategy that was funded through the GCBC Small Grants Funds. Further, the Rooibos and Potato Industries have co-funded the Climate Change Impact Study. This resulted in information sharing between scientists and the industries on how the industries/landowners could adapt to minimize risks to their crops because of the changing climate impacts.

Communities play an important role in the GCBC and its existence. Many communities were reached in the Greater Cederberg Region through allocating funding to different projects. These communities include the communities of the outstations of Wupperthal and Wupperthal itself. Through the GCBC Small Grants fund 17 new enterprises were established in this region, a community member was trained and appointed as a long-term research assistant for the Cape Leopard Trust. These projects thus resulted in job creation, entrepreneurs, and capacity building and therefore increasing local economic development and human well-being.

Throughout the GCBC Small Grants Fund the GCBC Project Management Unit capacitated and provided support as necessary to the grantees on project management level. These projects have resulted that the grantees have now taken ownership of biodiversity conservation and understand what the corridor is all about. The projects under each strategic direction are listed below.

3.1 Expansion of protected Areas:

3.1.1 Development of Game Management Guidelines for the Cederberg/Sandveld Areas

An evaluation was made of general habitat types and the condition of these habitats. Based on this information, it will be possible to recommend a range of wild/domestic herbivores best suited to each of the major habitat types. Matching game/livestock to habitat is critical because ill-advised introductions could eventually have a negative impact on certain types of habitat. This aspect is particularly important in a largely winter rainfall area, because many of the game species available for introduction are adapted to summer rainfall habitat conditions.

3.1.2 Development of a Fire Management Map for the entire Greater Cederberg Fire Protection Association

The Greater Cederberg Fire Protection Association (GCFPA) was registered in February 2005, according to National Veld and Forest Fire Act (101 of 1998). The main objective is to improve integrated fire management, which includes proper planning based on scientific knowledge. The overall goal of this project is to produce a fire management map, which will enable the GCFPA to improve fire management from a sound basis of scientific planning. The project has the additional benefit of improving efficiency during fire-fighting operations.

3.1.3 Auditing and management of cultural landscapes

For holistic management of the GCBC there was a great need to include the auditing of archaeological resources in the biodiversity conservation management strategy. These sites form an important cultural / historic component of this landscape. The first step was to audit the sites on defined parcels of land containing high priority biodiversity and from these to develop management plans that allow for the effective and responsible utilization (or, in some cases, sequestration) of the archaeological sites. This procedure is consistent with the notion of managing the GCBC as a 'lived landscape' emphasizing that it is a landscape that has been occupied for upwards of half a million years.

3.2 Industry Involvement:

3.2.1 Rooibos Industry: Development of best practices for the Rooibos tea Industry

The vision of the Rooibos Biodiversity Initiative (RBI) is to develop and implement a sustainable production strategy for the Rooibos industry. The strategy will conserve the biodiversity of the GCBC and deliver social and economic benefits to all stakeholders in the GCBC. The guiding principals include a commitment to conservation, economic growth, social transformation and good governance. Core objectives include preventing further loss of

threatened habitat, setting land aside in key corridors, implementing biodiversity guidelines, and exposing social and economic opportunities for the industry through the RBI.

The RBI outputs include:

- Provide a framework for the Rooibos industry to engage with government.
- Develop a set of biodiversity guidelines for the Rooibos industry
- Implement the biodiversity guidelines through a system of champions
- Undertake research to determine the requirements for sustainable Rooibos production
- Undertake a joint planning process for expansion
- Determine how this expansion strategy fits in with industry land reform criteria.
- Develop economic opportunities and social benefits
- Develop a monitoring and evaluation system to ensure integrity and credibility of the SRI.

3.2.2 4x4: Development of best practices for the 4x4 Industry

4x4 trails are increasing in popularity, especially in the Greater Cederberg Corridor. Currently there are 34 established trails. Badly managed 4x4 tourism ventures can have significant negative impacts on the environment. The industry and the conservation sector have been exploring innovative ways of introducing best practices into the corridor area since June 2005. These efforts have culminated in CapeNature, The Association of All Wheel Drive Clubs of South Africa (AAWDC), DEA&DP and SAROOF joining forces to pilot a sustainable utilization strategy for the 4x4 industry in the GCBC. This will be used as a model for the rest of the Western Cape Province.

3.2.3 Potato Industry: Development of best practices for the Potato Industry

Due to the influence, resources and reach of the business sector and their affiliated supply chains, engagement is critical to the sustainable management of the world's biodiversity. However, a history of poor communication between the conservation and business sectors has resulted in too many examples of mutual distrust and limited co-operation. The vision of Potatoes South Africa is to play a leadership role in sustainable potato production in South Africa. The guiding principals for sustainability should include a commitment to conservation, economic growth, social transformation and good governance. Core objectives for the conservation aspect of sustainability could include preventing further loss of threatened habitat, establishing water-use guidelines, setting land aside in key corridors, implementing best practice biodiversity guidelines to combine with and exposing social, economic and good governance opportunities for the industry.

The vision of a leadership role in the sustainable production of potatoes in South Africa underlines the urgent need for a Best Practices Strategy to be developed between the South African Potato Board and CapeNature. The development of a Best Practices Strategy is a pilot project to integrate / mainstream biodiversity conservation with agriculture, envisioning the eventual engagement of the entire South African potato industry in implementing biodiversity best practices.

3.2.4 Rooibos and Potato: Predicting Climate Change Impacts and analyzing Local Adaption Options

This project proposes to characterize projected climate change and to describe the implications of climate change for commercial potato / rooibos tea farmers in the high biodiversity western semi-arid South Africa (Northern Sandveld). It further discusses the ways in which farmers are adapting to current climate variability, aspects of which are projected to be more frequent and/or more severe in the future. Recommendations are to be made to build resilience to climate change amongst these farmers without negatively impacting on the biodiversity of the region.

3.3 Local Economic Development and Human Well-being:

3.3.1 Expanding the CAPE LEOPARD TRUST community involvement opportunities in the Succulent Karoo Region of the GCBC

The Cape Leopard Trust (CLT) was established with the primary objective of facilitating and promoting research in support of conserving predator diversity in the Western Cape. The leopard currently fills the role of apex predator in the Cederberg and the rest of the Western Cape. However, its conservation status remains uncertain. The species is regularly removed or exterminated from farms with little knowledge of population or genetic status, whether these removals are sustainable, or whether the factors giving rise to conflict are established. The funding was requested from the Small Grants Fund to facilitate community involvement by appointing a community member as a research assistant and to expand the research into the Succulent Karoo regions of the GCBC

3.3.2 Facilitating knowledge exchange for community participation in the Conservation of the Clanwilliam and Willowmore Cedar

The endangered Clanwilliam Cedar Tree (*Widdringtonia cedarbergensis*) is endemic to the Cederberg Mountains, and has become an icon for community involvement in conservation. The idea to “twin” such conservation efforts with a similar project in the Baviaanskloof area which has its own unique Willowmore Cedar (*W. schwarzii*), was conceived. As a result it was decided to share information and lessons learnt through a community knowledge exchange attended by representatives of communities and members of conservation agencies in the Baviaanskloof and Cederberg respectively.

3.3.3 Rooibos Heritage Tourism Route

The establishment of the Rooibos Heritage Route, linking Nieuwoudtville and Wupperthal via Moedverloor, seeks to heighten public awareness of the rich history of the area and the rooibos industry, while offering an all-encompassing educational experience to tourists. A steering committee, established in June 2005, including representatives from the Heiveld Co-operative Ltd. the Wupperthal Rooibos Tea Association, the Wupperthal and Nieuwoudtville tourism organizations, municipal officers responsible for Local Economic Development, representatives of the GCBC steering committee and local NGO's, EMG and Indigo. The route creates an opportunity and incentive for small-scale farmers to share their knowledge and experience with tourists, and aims to encourage sustainable practices and biodiversity awareness among local land users.

3.4 Awareness:

3.4.1 Information sharing through the local media

The media, and in this specific case the local newspapers, commonly serve as a “multiplier” of information, making it accessible to the general public. By leveraging the outreach potential that the local media have, the GCBC can reach a variety of target audiences to generate support for key issues, influence policymakers by informing their political constituencies, forming public opinion, and sparking much needed public debate.

3.4.2 Development of a School Resource package

The project follows in the footsteps of successful Rare Education and Awareness campaign that was implemented from 2003-2005. During this project the rare and endangered Clanwilliam cedar was used to create awareness and promote participation in conservation activities. This was however only focused on communities and learners in and around the Cederberg Wilderness Area. With the aim to implement a wider reaching environmental education strategy, it was decided to focus on school visits within the GCBC. This project developed and produced materials to assist learners to understand the rather complex GCBC concept and to induce participation using an activity booklet, a GCBC booklet, and a puppet

show. The puppet show introduces the concept of the GCBC to learners while the GCBC booklet makes use of cartoons to tell the story of the GCBC. The activity booklet focuses on threats, issues and challenges facing the GCBC and how learners can actively learn more about nature. This project supplements the media awareness campaign.

3.4.3 Branding a army of champions

This is seen as a first step towards a longer-term relationship that both the GCBC and CapeStorm will benefit from. The GCBC will benefit through the CapeStorm expertise and experience in communicating a brand, whilst empowering / capacitating the GCBC staff and stakeholders in effective communication and branding. CapeStorm, through it's own branding strategies, could incorporate the GCBC vision to support / increase the sales of it's range of adventure / action products, possible through a social/environmental responsibility drive.

3.5 Co-ordination:

3.5.1 Review of the GCBC Management Structure (GCBC Steering Committee)

This project involved a facilitated reflection on the GCBC Steering Committee's past and present functioning with a view to identifying its strengths and those gaps that would require addressing for future improved functioning.

4. Did your team experience any disappointments or failures during implementation? If so, please explain and comment on how the team addressed these disappointments and/or failures.

No disappointments and/or failures have been experienced.

In fact, it was seen as a rich and rewarding experience by all staff involved with the Small Grants Fund.

5. Describe any positive or negative lessons learned from this project that would be useful to share with other organizations interested in implementing a similar project.

1. If a local project team have the capacity to manage a Small Grants Fund, the fund is an extremely useful tool to:
 - a. Involve civil society in an innovative, action-based manner;
 - b. Empower civil society to take ownership of conservation actions in their local environment;
 - c. Align and build capacity in civil society groups to share and learn from one another, to build local learning networks and to learn by action/doing;
 - d. To promote peer review of proposed conservation actions by civil society members during the grantee project proposal phase;
 - e. To raise general awareness of corridors and the type of actions that local stakeholders can take to address high priority biodiversity needs;
 - f. Create an army of civil society champions / project leaders in a diverse set of sectors (community, NGO, industry, media, etc) that all promote or implement conservation actions to reach corridor conservation targets;
 - g. Provide seed funding for local action and to assist these projects to source co-funding streams.

- h. Focus the energy and actions of civil society, by aligning the small grant funding to the strategic directions and strategic objectives of the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor.
2. To manage an efficient and effective Small Grants Fund, the project team needs to be competent and be capacitated to:
 - a. Assist potential grantees with project scoping.
 - b. Assist and support grantees with project planning – this includes support to identify achievable targets / deliverables, realistic budgets and timelines, and the option of identifying and using partners.
 - c. Assist the grantees with the drafting of letter of inquiry and completion reports.
 - d. Manage the project implementation phase by providing assistance and support where requested (e.g. drafting a contract with a consultant).
 - e. Manage a process of peer review and interaction between the various project implementers to share lessons and learn from one another.
 - f. Motivate your project implementers when the “going gets tough”, either meeting deadlines or during difficult periods.
 - g. Provide credit / recognition for achievements.
 3. Local knowledge and the information from the projects resulted in more informed decision-making on the management of the GCBC’s unique biodiversity and thus also increased the effectiveness of the corridors.
 4. To use the small grants projects as a steppingstone for awareness raising of the corridor and its projects
 5. A Small Grants Facility is a dynamic, energetic process, involving many stakeholders in a flexible, entrepreneurial manner to achieve conservation targets... the realism lies in the high degree of support needed, due to a high administrative work load, clear contractual agreements and ongoing project support.
 6. Administrative lessons learned:
 - a. Effective record keeping should be practiced at all times. This is especially important to ensure that all reporting (as stated in the grantees’ contract) are on track.
 - b. It is important to ensure that all templates (General Information Sheet, Application Form, Progress Reports, Financial Reports and Completion Reports) and processes of the Small Grants facility are put into place BEFORE the Small Grants Facility is up and running.
 - c. The templates used should be simple, yet effective, to obtain information regarding the projects from the project implementers. This ensures that less time is wasted by re-doing incorrect applications, reports etc.
 - d. It is important to have regular discussions with the grantees on progress made in order to eliminate any problems that might occur on project management level in the future.

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

The potential exists for some of these small grants projects to be extended and receive more funding in order to increase the effect that they will have on the conservation outcomes. Various avenues are being investigated to obtain sustainability of these projects.

Further knowledge exchange between the grantees and the stakeholders of the GCBC will take place at the GCBC Steering Committees next meeting in November 2007. This will also provide the opportunity for the project implementers to raise awareness around their projects and learn

from one another. Ongoing information sharing about the projects will take place via the GCBC website

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

The 14 GCBC Small Grants were disbursed to the following 13 organizations:

- Botanical Society of South Africa
- Cape Leopard Trust
- CapeStorm Outdoor Apparel (Pty) Ltd
- Community Development Resource Association
- Clanwilliam Living Landscape
- Clanwilliam News Agency
- Conservation Management Services
- Indigo
- Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
- Potato South Africa
- South African Rooibos Council
- South African Route Owners and Operators Forum
- University of Witwatersrand

IV. ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Potato South Africa	A	R30 00	The Project, Methodology for predicting Climate Change Impacts and Analyzing Local Adaption Options: - Received R30 000
Rooibos L	A	R30 00	The Project, Methodology for predicting Climate Change Impacts and Analyzing Local Adaption Options: - Received R30 000
Conservation International	A	R54 000	The Project, Auditing and Management of Cultural Landscapes: - Received R9 000. The project, Developing Best Practices for the Potato Industry: - Received R45 000

**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.)*

V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The support, advice and insights from the CEPF African Grants Director were vital and highly valued re the planning and implementation of this GCBC Small Grants project. The site visits that were conducted ensured adequate and important sharing of lessons with project staff and small grant implementers and greatly contributed to the overall success of this project.

VI. 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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