

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Wildlands Conservation Trust
Project Title:	Regional Implementation Team for the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Biodiversity Hotspot
Date of Report:	July 2016
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CEPF Region: Maputaland – Pondoland - Albany

Strategic Direction: 5. Regional Implementation Team

Grant Amount: \$700,000.00

Project Dates: September 1 2010 – December 31 2015, extension to 31 March 2016

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

In implementing the RIT duties for the CEPF investment into the MPAH, a number of key partners were essential to the overall success. The main partners included -

- Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund – the CEPF were obviously the main partner, providing the overall coordination of the investment, support to the RIT, and the provision of the investment fund.
- South African National Biodiversity Institute – SANBI were a very strategic partner of the RIT, specifically in coordinating a professional learning and communications network for the hotspot.
- Department of Environmental Affairs (Transfronteir Conservation Area directorate) – support for communicating the CEPF investment into Swazland and Mozambique and areas associated with the TFCA network.
- Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife – the conservation authority of the province of KwaZulu-Natal was critical in its support for the various civil society projects, but specifically in supporting the Biodiversity Stewardship process.
- Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency – the conservation authority for the Eastern Cape province was critical in its support for the various civil society projects, but specifically in supporting the Biodiversity Stewardship process.
- South African National Parks – this conservation agency in South Africa was an important link into the eastern parts of the MPAH hotspot, allowing dissemination of information into the region, and in partnering with Wilderness Foundation in securing the largest of the protected areas in the MPAH hotspot.

- MITUR – The Ministry of Tourism in Mozambique played an important role in disseminating information on the investment, and partnering in the CEPF projects.
- Swaziland National Trust Commission – the SNTC is the parastatal organisation responsible for the conservation of nature and the cultural heritage of the Kingdom of Swaziland. They were a key partner in identifying appropriate conservation projects within Swaziland. In addition, the SNTC were maintained as a strong partner throughout the CEPF investment period, attending all stakeholder meetings in the region.
- MPAH Grantees – all the relevant civil society grantees through the CEPF investment were strong partners of the RIT, working closely together to enable the collective outcomes of the CEPF investment.

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

The ecosystem profile for the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot region was formally approved in April 2010 and the five-year investment period began in September of that year with the commencement of the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) grant. Wildlands Conservation Trust was contract to act as the RIT, providing the primary local link between CEPF in the United States and grantees in the Maputaland-Pondoland Albany hotspot region, converting the plans in the ecosystem profile into a cohesive portfolio of grants. The total allocation to the region was \$6,650,000.

The functions of the RIT included:

- Act as an extension service to assist civil society groups in designing, implementing, and replicating successful conservation activities.
- Review all grant applications and manage external reviews with technical experts and advisory committees.
- Award grants up to \$20,000 (classified as Small Grants) and decide jointly with the CEPF Secretariat on all other applications.
- Lead the monitoring and evaluation of individual projects using standard tools, site visits and meetings with grantees, and assist the CEPF Secretariat in portfolio-level monitoring and evaluation.
- Widely communicate CEPF objectives, opportunities to apply for grants, lessons learned and results.
- Involve the existing regional program of the regional implementation team, CEPF donor and implementing agency representatives, government officials and other sectors within the hotspot in implementation.
- Ensure effective coordination with the CEPF Secretariat on all aspects of implementation.

The RIT provided this function across the Maputaland-Pondoland Albany hotspot, as shown geographically in Figure 1 below.

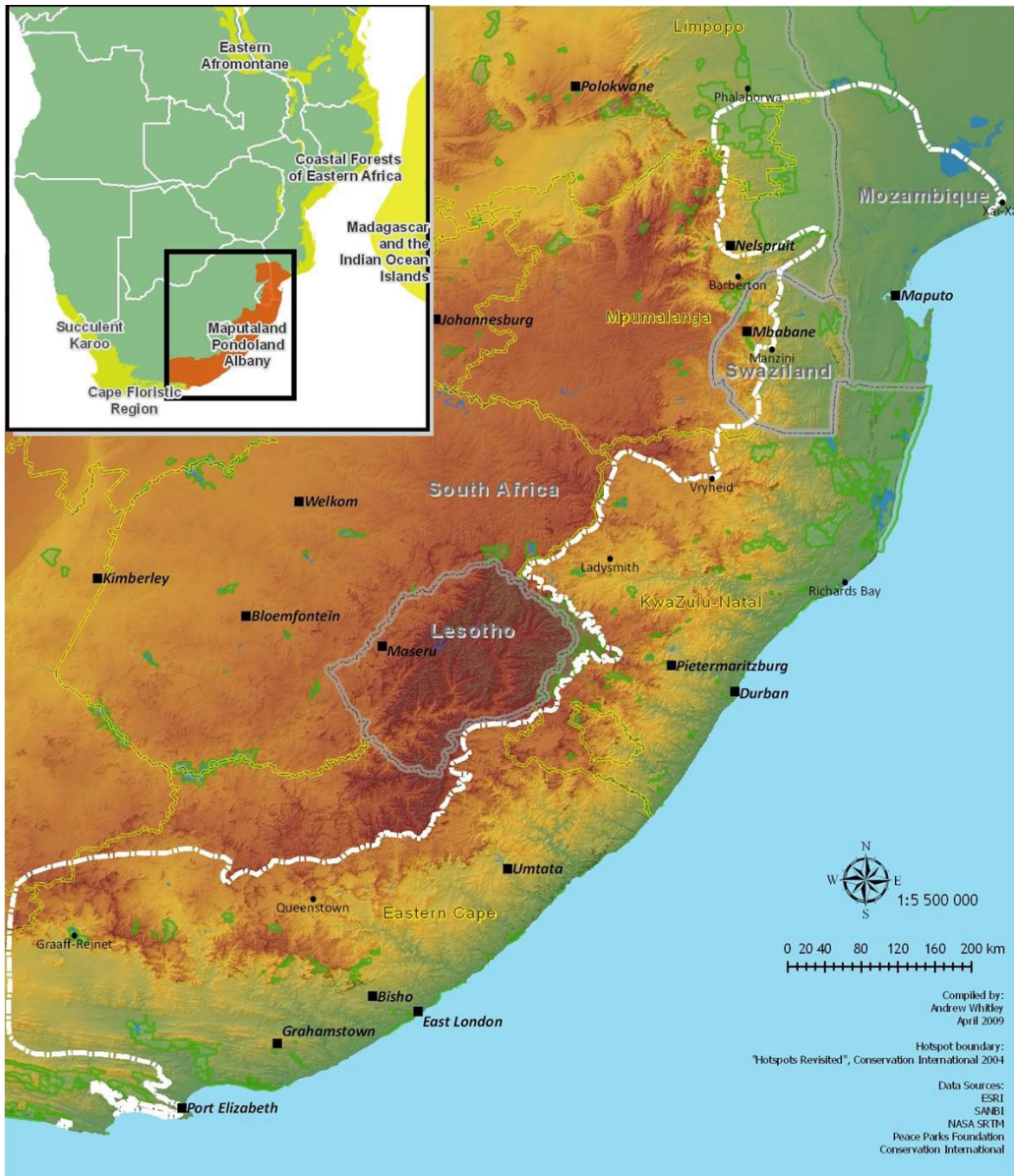


Figure 1: Location map of the Maputaland-Pondoland Albany hotspot

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

The Wildlands Conservation Trust grant was therefore focused on facilitating the CEPF investment into the Maputaland-Pondoland Albany hotspot region. Over the 5-year period, the number of grants made in the MPAH are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Number of CEPF grants made to civil society between 2010 and 2016.

No. of grants made	90
No. of Large Grants	39
No. of Small Grants	51
No. of organisations receiving grants	59
No. of organisations receiving Large Grants	26

No. of organisations receiving Small Grants	41
No. of "large" organisations	20
No. of "small" organisations	39
No. of organisations in Mozambique	7
No. of organisations in Swaziland	2
No. of organisations in South Africa	50

The full list of grants made are shown in the MPAH Final Assessment Report.

A full breakdown of the financial contributions to civil society organisations as both large and small grants, can be found in the MPAH Final Assessment Report.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal):

Strategic leadership and coordination is provided for the CEPF investment in the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot. As a result, the conservation outcomes identified in the ecosystem profile are achieved and the involvement and effectiveness of civil society in conservation and the management of globally important biodiversity is strengthened.

Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

The hotspot encompasses 274,000 km² and as identified during the ecosystem profiling process, contains 72 key biodiversity areas (KBAs) and 12 conservation corridors. The stakeholders who participated in the development of the ecosystem profile – led by Conservation International and the South African National Biodiversity Institute and including over 150 others from civil society, government, and donor agencies – prioritized these KBAs and corridors, considering the limited pool of CEPF funds, the immediacy of need for some locations, and the fact that some KBAs, like the larger national and provincial parks, are already well-resourced. The result is that the CEPF investment focused on 22 KBAs and two corridors in the hotspot, to be addressed within the context of CEPF's niche for investment; namely: *supporting civil society in applying innovative approaches to conservation in under-capacitated protected areas, KBAs, and corridors, thereby enabling changes in policy and building resilience in the region's ecosystems and economy to sustain biodiversity in the long term.* This resulted in the investment being focused in five Strategic Directions:

1. Strengthen protection and management in under-capacitated and emerging protected areas in 3 priority key biodiversity areas (KBAs).
2. Expand conservation areas and improve land use in 19 key biodiversity areas through innovative approaches.
3. Maintain and restore ecosystem function and integrity in the Highland Grasslands and Pondoland corridors.
4. Create an enabling environment to improve conservation and management of Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany priority sites.
5. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a regional implementation team (the RIT).

In soliciting potential projects from civil society throughout the region, grants were split between Small Grants (\$0 - \$20,000) and Large Grants (\$20,000 and upwards). A total of 64 Small Grants applications were received, while 181 project applications were received for Large Grants. As a result, 51 Small Grants and 39 Large Grants were made to 59 different civil society organisations, including 50 in South Africa, 7 in Mozambique and 2 in Swaziland.

As a result of these grants, Table 2 highlights the conservation and socio-economic outcomes of the investment.

Table 2: Conservation and Socio-economic outcomes of the CEPF investment, shown per Strategic Direction and the Total.

			SD1	SD2	SD3	SD4	TOTAL
Biodiversity	Improved management	Inside protected areas (hectares)	203389	142511	30024	0	751848
		Outside protected areas (hectares)	178659	537946	259558	55184	1407271
		TOTAL	382048	680457	289582	55184	2159119
	Protected area expansion	Secured (Hectares)	0	305503	824	0	306327
		Underway (Hectares)	0	38157	2166	8000	48323
		Planning stage (Hectares)	19000	157020	7672	7743	191435
		TOTAL	19000	500680	10662	15743	546085
Ecosystem restoration	TOTAL	0	1756	760	184	2700	
Threatened species	TOTAL	14	229	66	37	310	
Human well-being	Workshops and learning exchanges	Workshops	84	1296	0	102	1482
		Forums	0	0	0	470	470
		Learning exchanges	87	128	0	118	333
		Field trips	0	30	15	8	53
		Events	0	20590	0	0	20590
		TOTAL	171	22044	15	698	22928
	Education and training	Education	15	46	6	4	71
		Awareness	2165	20947	770	343	24225
		Skills training	652	1196	147	875	2870
		TOTAL	2832	22189	923	1222	27166
	Jobs and livelihoods	Jobs	85	1287	89	80	1541
		Improved livelihoods	313	220	242	150	925
		TOTAL	398	1507	331	230	2466
	Community beneficiaries	TOTAL	39	87	31	26	162
Civil society	Networks	Networks	5	19	7	5	34
	Partnerships	CBO	3	23	7	8	40
		Education	11	20	11	5	41
		Funder	8	8	0	0	14
		Government	12	43	24	13	70
		NGO	14	52	27	28	86
		Private	11	40	17	5	70
		TOTAL	59	186	86	59	321
	Policy or regulations	TOTAL	5	16	13	5	39
	Co-funding	TOTAL	\$ 4 510 219	\$ 5 315 503	\$ 6 279 305	\$ 1 023 211	\$ 17 128 238

For a full account of the outcomes of the CEPF investment against the Ecosystem Profile targets, please see the Final Assessment Report.

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal):

A broad civil society constituency is coordinated and able to effectively access grants and implement these satisfactorily. As a result, the CEPF investment is making significant advances in achieving the goals set out in the ecosystem profile.

Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

The Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot spans three countries, all with very different civil society constituencies. In order to coordinate efficient access of grants to civil society, the RIT focused on the following activities:

1. South Africa – civil society is well structured in South Africa, and as a result civil society was easily engaged in the process. Most civil society organisations were already involved in the initial drafting of the Ecosystem Profile, so communication with civil society to enable access to grants was efficiently achieved.
2. Mozambique – civil society is not very well structured in Mozambique, and as a result, the RIT contracted Stuart Williams as the country coordinator, based in Maputo. This allowed an improved ability to engage with civil society, and establish initial grants. Unfortunately, Stuart Williams was only available for the first year of the 5-year investment, so the RIT contracted Bruno Nchale as the country coordinator to assist with access to civil society. Bruno was instrumental in translating the Ecosystem Profile and all other relevant documentation into Portuguese, thereby improving accessibility to civil society organisations.
3. Swaziland – a very limited number of civil society organisations were active in Swaziland, so the RIT initially contracted Kim Rogues of All Out Africa to assist in facilitating access to civil society organisations. As a result of this, a single Large Grant was developed with the Lubombo Conservancy, which was the focal point of the Swaziland investment
4. SANBI Learning Network - The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) worked closely with Wildlands Conservation Trust to establish the learning network in the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot (MPAH). This allowed the development of a website on the MPAH hotspot, providing information and details about the investment. This was supported by a bi-annual newsletter, produced in both English and Portuguese, highlighting the achievements of the different projects, and providing an opportunity to advertise grant applications. Through this partnership SANBI and Wildlands co-hosted three annual Forums which brought together project grantees from across the Hotspot to share lessons and experiences. SANBI and Wildlands also partnered on hosting four learning exchanges in the region bringing together either groups of projects or communities to discuss particular topics for example biodiversity stewardship, catchment management and restoration of ecological infrastructure. More broadly the MPAH Learning Network project interacted with over 70 of the CEPF projects to enable the work of the learning network including through requests for news stories and development of case studies, interaction and learning at forums and learning exchanges, and contributions to the MPAH Sustainability Framework through questionnaires and discussions. The project also supported the hosting of four learning exchanges/training events by CEPF-funded projects.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Please note that the Wildlands project was focused on coordinating the CEPF investment into the MPAH, and therefore did not have any specific goals of securing hectares, conserving species or

creating corridors. The overall achievements of all the projects receiving grants however, are shown in Table 2.

Hectares Protected: N/A
Species Conserved: N/A
Corridors Created: N/A

Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.

Successes –

The overall success of the RIT project was that the full CEPF investment was managed and granted to civil society organisations, achieving significant successes, as shown in Table 2.

Challenges –

The main challenge has been the direct sustainability of the CEPF investment. One of the main aims of the investment was to support a number of smaller civil society organisations, in this case 39 different organisations, who have expanded as a direct result of the CEPF funds. The challenge is in maintaining the viability of these organisations, with the RIT focusing on trying to maintain partnerships and opportunities for these organisations, allowing them to access leverage funds to maintain their position and viability in the conservation sector.

A further challenge was the capacity limitations in Mozambique, and the limited number of civil society organisations in Swaziland. This resulted in a significantly low number of grants being made into these two countries of the MPAH hotspot.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

- The CEPF investment resulted in an unexpected collaboration of civil society organisations in specific geographic regions, allowing project alignment resulting in a larger outcome than simply the specific projects.
- Wildlands Conservation Trust, in acting as the RIT, has strengthened its role in the conservation sector in the region.

Project Components

Project Components: *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

Component 1 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):

Coordinate and communicate CEPF investment in the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot.

Component 1 Actual at Completion:

Ecosystem Profile – the drafting of the Ecosystem Profile was a key opportunity to engage with all civil society partners, so the initial coordination began before the MPAH projects were started. The Ecosystem Profile was also translated into Portuguese, and distributed by a number of organisations into the Mozambique region.

SANBI Learning network – throughout the 5-year period, the RIT worked closely with the South African National Biodiversity Institute in coordinating a learning network across the MPAH

Hotspot. The primary aim of this effort was to maintain a network of civil society and other partners, allowing an efficient means of communicating with all partners and stakeholders.

A key component of this project was the development of an electronic newsletter. Between April 2013 and November 2015, 11 MPAH newsletters were developed, showcasing 64 stories relating to MPAH grantees and their projects. In order to effectively communicate these to the Mozambique stakeholders, these newsletters were also translated into Portuguese.

For more detail on the SANBI Learning Network project, please see the SANBI Final Completion Report.

Component 2 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):

Build capacity of grantees

Component 2 Actual at Completion:

Wildlands, as the RIT, focused on providing significant support to civil society organisations submitting grant applications, working with organisations throughout the application process to ensure that relevant projects were devised.

Mozambique -

Letters of Inquiry submitted in Mozambique were reviewed by a panel of local experts in March 2012. Groups identified for possible funding were invited to a strategy workshop in Mozambique in April 2012. During this workshop it was agreed that groups looking to do work in the Futi-corridor in Mozambique would form a consortium to maximize impact, create a learning network and support each other. The groups in the consortium thereafter re-designed their proposals to make reference to the joint work. This eventually led to the award of individual grants to Cesvi Onlus, Lupa, the Madjadjane Community Lodge, Oram and Kawuka DJA

Swaziland -

In Swaziland the Lubombo Conservancy was developed as a means to bring various groups (landowners, government, NGOs) together in a formal legal entity, and so build a civil society network in Swaziland. This then allowed this organization to apply for a grant, focused on improving the biodiversity management in communal and private areas in Swaziland. This grant was also instrumental in unlocking additional funds from the GEF for Swaziland as it created an enabling environment and provided much needed support to various role players.

SANBI grant -

Within South Africa, the capacity of grantees was developed through the Learning Network grant.

Regional and Thematic forums -

The following forums were coordinated to support civil society capacity building:

1. *Special session on biodiversity stewardship at the KZN Symposium 2014.*
2. *Lubombo Corridor Forum.*
3. *Land Reform Biodiversity Stewardship Initiative learning exchange*
4. *Ecological infrastructure/catchment partnership learning exchange between the uMngeni Ecological Infrastructure Partnership (UEIP) and the uMzimvubu Catchment Partnership Programme (UCPP).*
5. *Bridging agricultural policy and implementation in the communal grasslands of Matatiele learning exchange*
6. *Upper uThukela learning exchange between the AmaNgwane and AmaZizi Communities.*

KZN Conservation Symposium

The RIT coordinated a dedicated CEPF MPAH session in 2014 and 2015 at the KZN Symposium for Contemporary Conservation. MPAH grantees were requested to provide presentations on

their projects, and discuss the various challenges being experienced, and how they could be collectively over-come.

Component 3 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):

Establish and coordinate a process for proposal solicitation and review.

Component 3 Actual at Completion:

Much of the work described above focused on building a network of civil society participation in the MPAH process. In order to facilitate the CEPF investment into the MPAH, a project application process was initiated, which included –

a) An application for grants process was advertised, inviting civil society organisations to submit “Letters of Inquiry” (LOIs) to the RIT.

b) Calls for LOIs were released as follows:

<u>Release Date</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>LOIs Received*</u>
September 4, 2010	October 15, 2010	52
November 1, 2010	February 15, 2011	54
December 1, 2011	February 15, 2012	47
June 1, 2012	August 12, 2012	26
June 28, 2013	July 15, 2013	3
July 15, 2013	September 2, 2013	23
February 7, 2014	March 1, 2014	1
May 5, 2014	June 2, 2014	39
	<u>Total LOIs Received</u>	<u>245</u>

* Includes LOIs submitted for both core and small grants.

c) The RIT followed the standard CEPF review process, where at least two external reviews of all LOIs took place. Wildlands made use of its numerous partners in national, KZN, and Eastern Cape-based organizations to ensure sufficient transparency of reviews and awards. Grant Writer proposals were reviewed by the Team Leader and Grant Director. The primary burden of review of Grant Writer proposals fell on the Grant Director and CEPF Secretariat, with the RIT facilitating revisions by the applicant. Once the Grant Director was satisfied with the project, it was approved, communicated with the grantee and a grant agreement was finalized, outlining the grant procedure, fund allocations, and grantee reporting requirements. The RIT then played a vital role in maintaining regular communication with the grantee, to ensure an efficient management of the project, and adherence to CEPF project requirements.

Component 4 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):

Manage a program of small grants; that is, grants of less than \$20,000.

Component 4 Actual at Completion:

CEPF obligated increasing amounts to the RIT’s small grants fund on an as-needed basis. The initial obligation was \$100,000 and subsequently increased in May 2011 to \$300,000, in April 2012 to \$500,000, in December 2012 to \$550,000, in December 2013 \$650,000, and in May 2014 to \$800,000. The RIT categorized and reported on each small grants it awarded in relation to one of the four strategic directions.

Mark Gerrard received all small grant applications via a Wildlands e-mail account. He was responsible for maintaining records on all applications and grants. Mark Gerrard ensured proper review and adherence to the goals of CEPF, Shanitha Singh ensured budgets were correct, and Roelie Kloppers, as Executive Director of the organization, signed all small grant agreements, which formally, were “sub-grants” from Wildlands to the grantee.

From a strategic standpoint, the RIT decided that, in general, but not always, that small grants were best-suited for newer organizations with limited capacity implementing international donor-funded projects. Further, the RIT considered the small grants program to be an integral part of the broader portfolio. While there was the occasional small grant for an “experimental” effort, the majority of small grants ran parallel to larger, core grants, with the goal being to build the capacity of the smaller group.

The allocation of grants spread across the Strategic Directions is shown below in Table 3.

Table 3: List of Small Grants allocated, indicating the Strategic Direction, duration and fund allocation.

	Subgrantee	Project Summary	Strategic Direction	Start Date	End Date	Grant amount \$
1	Sustaining the WildCoast	Mkambati community empowerment	1	19/05/2011	01/4/2012	\$19,966
2	Community Organisation Resource Center	Environmental school awareness	2	19/05/2011	01/04/2012	\$20,000
3	Sustainable Seas Trust	Community education and outreach and extension	2	20/05/2011	01/06/2015	\$15,884
4	Cedarville Conservancy	Grasslands management	3	31/05/2011	01/05/2013	\$19,988
5	SANBI	Capacity building strategy facilitation	4	21/06/2011	31/08/2011	\$19,870
6	Endangered Wildlife Trust	Hotspot GIS and data coordination	4	31/08/2011	31/05/2012	\$18,912
7	Wilderness Action Group	Upper Tugela stewardship	2	06/09/2011	31/08/2012	\$20,000
8	Peace Parks Foundation	Thembe - Ponto d'Ouro links (Ndumo intervention)	2	14/10/2011	31/03/2012	\$19,966
9	Game Rangers Association of Africa	Umgeni Valley PAMS	2	25/11/2011	30/11/2012	\$19,797
10	Mabandla Community Trust	Umgano Project Mentoring	3	28/02/2012	28/02/2013	\$19,650
11	Treverton Trust	Midlands educator training	2	03/03/2012	28/03/2013	\$19,738
12	Southern African Wildlife College	Lubombo TFCA capacity building strategy	4	20/03/2012	31/12/2012	\$20,000

13	LUPA	Mozambique/Futi Coordinator environmental education	4	17/04/2012	28/02/2013	\$20,000
14	WWF South Africa	Marine Protected Area Managers Training	1	23/04/2012	30/06/2012	\$17,935
15	Masifukulane Support group	Improving soil fertility for food production	2	25/04/2012	31/10/2012	\$7,359
16	Eco-logic consulting	Investigating natural wild grown super foods	3	08/05/2012	15/12/2012	\$17,975
17	VIDA	Knowledge and Innovation in the district of Matutuine	4	11/05/2012	31/05/2013	\$17,879
18	SAMBRAA	Nonoti Estuarine biophysical assessment	2	06/06/2012	31/05/2013	\$17,879
19	CATA CPA	Compost toilet project	2	06/06/2012	30/05/2013	\$11,797
20	KZN Crane Foundation	Stewardship Mechanism	2	01/07/2012	30/06/2013	\$17,879
21	Wildlife ACT Fund	Wildlife ACT Fund	2	12/06/2012	31/12/2012	\$20,000
22	Duzi-uMngeni Conservation Trust(DUCT)	Mayday for Rivers: the fellowship	3	18/07/2012	30/06/3013	\$4,605
23	SANBI	Growing together supporting local community participation for conservation action in the Hotspot	2	30/08/2012	31/10/2013	\$20,000
24	Preservation of the Mkondeni Mpushini Biodiversity (PMMB) Trust	Preservation of the Mkondeni Mpushini Biodiversity (PMMB) Trust	3	30/08/2012	30/09/2013	\$4,605
25	University of Kent	Establishing a rhino conservation learning network for private and communal landowners	4	30/08/2012	31/10/2013	\$5,263
26	ACT	Ithala	2	1/11/2012	28/02/2013	\$20,000
27	The Shelve Wizard-Ecosol GIS	Strengthening biodiversity management in Southern Mozambique	4	15/09/2012	31/08/2013	\$20,000
28	Endangered Wildlife Trust	Amphibian conservation project	4	15/09/2012	31/08/2013	\$20,000

		in Hogsback				
29	Treverton Schools	Enviro-wise learning Project	3	28/03/2013	30/04/2014	\$16,471
30	Living Lands	Thicket Forum	3	01/09/2013	31/12/2013	\$8,235
31	Sustainability Forum	MidlandsGreenMap	3	01/08/2013	30/09/2013	\$8,235
32	Mboza	Maputo River Project	1	01/06/2012	31/05/2015	\$16,676
33	All-out Africa	Swaziland vultures	1	01/11/2013	31/08/2014	\$19,665
34	Jeanette du Toit	MPAH Forum	4	01/04/2013	30/04/2013	\$859
35	WWF South Africa	MPAH Forum	4	01/04/2013	30/04/2013	\$426
36	Africa Insight	LTFCFA Forum	1	01/06/2013	30/06/2013	\$8,855
37	Birdlife SA	Monitoring of Flagship birds in the grasslands of the Mzimvubu Catchment	2	19/02/2014	30/05/2015	\$10,404
38	Institute of Natural Resources	Using economic instruments to incentivise improved natural resources management in Umzimvubu and Umgeni catchments	2	12/03/2014	31/05/2014	\$20,000
39	EcoLogic	Wild Coast forest rehabilitation project	3	19/02/2014	23/02/2015	\$20,000
40	Current Conservation	Developing an online social network for conservationists	4	25/06/2014	30/11/2014	\$20,000
41	Environment Learning and Teaching	Marine Conservation Educator development - Dwesa Cwebe region of the Wildcoast	2	25/06/2014	30/04/2015	\$20,000
42	Southern African Wildlife College	Support of transformation of Somkhanda Game Reserve into a better managed community reserve	4	01/08/2014	01/05/2015	\$20,000
43	Wild Bird Trust	iZikweneni project: Alien clearing and rehabilitation of 2 communities within the Amathole region of the Eastern Cape	2	01/08/2014	31/12/2014	\$20,000

44	Endangered Wildlife Trust	Development of Amathole endangered spp plans	4	09/09/2014	30/11/2014	\$4,384
45	Zunckel Environmental and Ecological Services	Building institutional capacity in communities for declaration and management of PA's	3	25/08/2014	31/07/2014	\$19,850
46	Kruger2Canyon	Institutional capacity to coordinate and align different initiatives within a regional plan in the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere reserve	2	26/08/2014	31/07/2014	\$20,000
47	Endangered Wildlife Trust	Community led reef restoration and blue economy enterprise development along the wild coast	2	09/09/2014	31/07/2015	\$19,944
48	Wild Side Environmental Services	Capacity building of community rangers in proposed Lambasi and Mtentu PA	4	02/09/2014	31/07/2014	\$20,000
49	Endangered Wildlife Trust	Kranskop Community Project: Educating land claimants around sustainable land use	2	16/09/2014	31/07/2015	\$12,325
50	FieldWork	Supporting Estuary Management on the Eastern Cape Wild Coast – Mngazana, Umngazi and Ntafufu	3	26/01/2015	30/09/2015	\$20,000
51	Current Conservation	Strengthening Izele, the online social network for conservationists in the MPAH	4	01/02/2016	31/03/2016	\$3,200
Total						\$806,477

Component 5 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):

Reporting and Monitoring.

Component 5 Actual at Completion:

The RIT maintained extensive reports of all activities, ensuring timely submission of these reports to CEPF, via GEM or the Secretariat on a quarterly basis.

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

In terms of the various components of the RIT grant, all components were realized. There were however, two elements of the overall targets of the CEPF investment that were not fully realized, which included the following.

- a) Securing the target for both improved biodiversity management within KBAs, as well as improved conservation within production landscapes. The lesson from this hotspot is that these hectares are not mutually exclusive, so it is not possible to make the distinction between these areas, resulting in limited achievement of these outcomes.
- b) There was a significant limit in the number of grant applications in relation to securing land reform sites through legal agreements i.e. the target outcome was "8 land reform agreements have integrated conservation practice to expand conservation management and sustain livelihood opportunities". As a result of this, the target of achieving land reform agreements was not achieved.

Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

An extensive array of products and tools have been developed by the 90 individual projects, which are not a product of the RIT grant, but rather of the overall CEPF investment. The full scope of these products are highlighted in the Final Assessment Report, and will be provided to the CEPF in electronic format.

A number of resources to support learning through the MPAH Learning Network were developed including:

- a) A short film on sustainable land use through biodiversity stewardship and plantation forest certification in Ozwathini to support the NCT CEPF-funded project working with the Ozwathini community (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jRM6_J1IDJU).
- b) Eleven newsletters which included a total of 64 stories from CEPF-funded projects across the hotspot, published from April 2013 to November 2015. These newsletters were distributed to the MPAH network and were made available on the MPAH Learning Network project website (<http://biodiversityadvisor.sanbi.org/participation/mpah-learningnetwork-2/latest-news-2/>). Ten of the 11 newsletters were translated into Portuguese.
- c) Securing biodiversity assets and maintaining ecological infrastructure: MPAH Forum proceedings and lessons learnt, 13 – 16 October 2014, Mpekweni, Eastern Cape.
- d) Ecological infrastructure/catchment partnership learning exchange: summary document, 24 – 26 August 2015, Matatiele, Eastern Cape.
- e) A MPAH Case Study Series with 13 case studies, three lessons learnt and one factsheet based on the following three themes:
 - o Biodiversity stewardship (one factsheet, one lessons learnt and five case studies)
 - o Local government and civil society (one lessons learnt and four case studies)
 - o Strengthening community conservation across the landscape (one lessons learnt and four case studies)

The case studies were based on CEPF-funded project experiences and lessons learnt in the hotspot. The MPAH Case Study Series is available on the MPAH Learning Network website (<http://biodiversityadvisor.sanbi.org/participation/mpah-learning-network-2/>). The sets on local government and civil society and strengthening community conservation across the landscape were translated into Portuguese.

- f) Three summary presentations on the CEPF-funded projects and their locations in the hotspot presented at the 2015 MPAH Forum. These highlighted the number and range of projects that were initiated in the MPAH through the investment.
- g) MPAH Sustainability Planning Framework developed through the MPAH Learning Network which highlighted how the CEPF investment strengthened capacity for sustainability in civil society and identified opportunities for sustaining interventions in the MPAH. The framework also provided a set of recommendations for Wildlands Conservation Trust, SANBI and other organisations to take forward.

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

In implementing the RIT functions, a number of lessons have been identified –

- CEPF Supervision visits – the RIT maintained very good interactions with CEPF, with the Supervision visits providing extremely useful face-to-face interactions and discussions to enable an effective implementation of the CEPF investment.
- This was further supported by the RIT having direct contact and communication with the Grant Director on project development and implementation, enabling the design of solid, viable projects.
- CEPF understands the conservation landscape in the developing world, which results in a relevant investment into the region.
- Many grantees expressed their appreciation to CEPF due particularly to the flexibility of the CEPF grants, and the willingness to adapt to the needs of the individual grantees.
- Sustainability – the RIT believes that it would be useful to capitalise a small grant facility as a close-out process, possibly extending the small grant facility beyond the 5-year phase, focused on supporting purely sustainability issues.

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

The design of the CEPF investment is an essential process, and the RIT feels that the following lessons have been learnt from the MPAH design –

- Size of the MPAH Hotspot – common with other biodiversity hotspots, the MPAH hotspot is possibly too large in size, covering a wide variety of biomes and biodiversity features. This makes it difficult to provide a focused investment that delivers outcomes at scale.
- Hotspot covering several countries – Several difficulties are often experienced in implementing an investment in a number of different countries, particularly where the levels of capacity are so different, e.g. South Africa versus Mozambique.
- Pre-approvals – It is important for the RIT in a region to work closely with the key influential organisations, in order to get the relevant approvals to facilitate the CEPF investment. This was experienced in the MPAH investment in Mozambique, where the start of the process was delayed due to the in-country GEF approvals.

Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

The effective implementation of the CEPF investment is an essential process, and the RIT feels that the following lessons have been learnt from the MPAH design –

- RIT site visits – the RIT feels that more time should have been invested in visiting CEPF projects, engaging with the various grantees in-field, providing the necessary support and engagement. The RIT feels this may have alleviated some of the issues that needed to be dealt with at Supervision visits.
- Country regional coordinators – in situations where several countries are involved in a hotspot, resulting in circumstances such as in Mozambique where the language created a potential barrier to implementation, it is recommended that the RIT support a regional coordinator, allowing an improved implementation and support to grantees.
- Small grants – following the implementation of the Small Grants facility, it was felt that in the context of the MPAH, a small grant should have been set at R200,000, rather than the \$20,000, as the initial grants at an exchange of R6,00 to the US Dollar was very limited in its effectiveness. As the exchange rate changed to enable large grants in terms of Rands, it attracted more constructive projects. The initial size of the grants (based on exchange rate) were too small to be of maximum value, as a small grant. This needs to be assessed on a country by country basis.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

Overall, the CEPF investment provided significant value in the MPAH, with several factors highlighting its value –

1. The catalytic focus of CEPF is invaluable.
2. The flexibility of the grant process is perfectly suited to civil society investment.
3. The 5-year time-frame is a good length for the investment.

Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of the CEPF investment in this project.

An important focus of the CEPF investment is in its catalytic effect, encouraging civil society organisations to leverage additional funding as a result of the CEPF investment. Table 4 below shows the co-funding received by civil society organisations as a result of the CEPF investment.

Table 4: Co-funding received by civil society organisations.

Funder	Type of org	Total	Amount
French IUCN	International governments	\$ 2,009,500.00	\$ 9,500.00
Community Development Fund/Common Foundation	Trusts / Foundations		\$ 100,000.00
World Bank via MiTUR	World Bank		\$ 500,000.00
Ford Foundation	Trusts / Foundations		\$ 400,000.00
Private sector (lodge developers)	Private sector business		\$ 1,000,000.00
Swedish Co-operative Centre	International governments	\$ 82,344.00	\$ 41,424.00
Swiss Cooperation	International governments		\$ 40,920.00
CESVI	Civil Society	\$ 50,525.00	\$ 27,000.00
EU	International		\$ 23,525.00

	governments		
CEF	UNDP	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
UE	International governments		\$ 10,000.00
ORAM	Civil Society	\$ 33,400.00	\$ 25,000.00
EU	International governments		\$ 8,400.00
German Embassy	International governments	\$ 180,970.00	\$ 34,000.00
GEF	UNDP		\$ 73,500.00
African Conservation Trust	Civil Society		\$ 73,470.00
Mr Price	Private sector business	\$ 60,885.94	\$ 11,074.20
Mr Jack Mitchell	Private individuals		\$ 5,537.10
SAPPI	Private sector business		\$ 44,274.64
Community Work Programme	Government	\$ 40,182.83	\$ 40,182.83
MCF Office bearers (volunteer time)	Civil Society	\$ 189,314.00	\$ 15,714.00
N3 toll concession	Private sector business		\$ 30,600.00
Green Grant	Trusts / Foundations		\$ 13,000.00
Department of Environmental Affairs	Government		\$ 130,000.00
Maloti Drakensburg Transfronteir Park	Government	\$ 857,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
Department of Environmental Affairs (NRM)	Government		\$ 850,000.00
Thanda Private Game Reserve	Private sector business	\$ 76,600.00	\$ 60,000.00
Space for Elephants (co-funding)	Civil Society		\$ 8,800.00
FD Pascoe (volunteer time)	Civil Society		\$ 7,800.00
Abax Foundation	Trusts / Foundations	\$ 116,150.00	\$ 24,800.00
Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust	Trusts / Foundations		\$ 26,400.00
National Geographic Society	Trusts / Foundations		\$ 19,800.00
Prins Bernhard Natuurfonds (Netherlands)	Trusts / Foundations		\$ 20,150.00
The Wild Bird Trust (South Africa)	Civil Society		\$ 15,000.00
Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology (South Africa)	Academic Institutions		\$ 10,000.00
Wilderness Foundation (co-funding)	Civil Society	\$ 8,150.00	\$ 5,300.00
South African National Parks	Government		\$ 340.00
Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Board	Government		\$ 1,220.00
Private reserves (Mount Camdeboo Private Game Reserve and Plains of	Private sector business		\$ 1,290.00

Camdeboo Private Nature Reserve)			
Wilderness Foundation (co-funding)	Civil Society	\$ 94,214.00	\$ 25,580.00
South African National Parks	Government		\$ 68,634.00
Wildlands Conservation Trust	Civil Society	\$ 52,450.00	\$ 32,600.00
Emvokweni Trust	Trusts / Foundations		\$ 8,000.00
Jo-Jo	Private sector business		\$ 600.00
Wild Dog Sports	Private sector business		\$ 500.00
Zululand Hunters	Private sector business		\$ 5,550.00
WWF	Civil Society		\$ 4,800.00
Gutterman	Private individuals		\$ 400.00
WESSA	Civil Society	\$ 362,864.00	\$ 35,563.00
Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality	Municipal		\$ 109,787.00
Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers	Civil Society		\$ 12,562.00
Lion Roars Foundation	Trusts / Foundations		\$ 1,778.00
Sunridge residents	Private individuals		\$ 1,587.00
Little Walmer Golf Estate	Private sector business		\$ 1,429.00
Lion Roars, Dynamic Commodities & Canon EC	Private sector business		\$ 19,048.00
Coca-Cola Fortune	Private sector business		\$ 150,159.00
SOV Event 2012	Private sector business		\$ 1,460.00
Coca-Cola Fortune	Private sector business		\$ 15,873.00
Working for Water	Government		\$ 3,016.00
Signature trails	Private sector business		\$ 1,571.00
Nelson Mandela Bay University	Municipal		\$ 6,349.00
Wilderness Foundation	Civil Society		\$ 2,682.00
Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Board	Government	\$ 104,166.00	\$ 104,166.00
The Blue Fund	Trusts / Foundations	\$ 49,900.33	\$ 20,000.00
Community Public Works Programme	Government		\$ 29,900.33
South African National Biodiversity Institute	Government	\$ 371,900.00	\$ 4,000.00
Department of Environmental Affairs	Government		\$ 367,900.00
Co-funding (CSA)	Civil Society	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 70,000.00
Hassan Family Foundation	Trusts / Foundations		\$ 50,000.00
Wetlands International	Trusts / Foundations	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Hansen Family Foundation	Trusts / Foundations	\$ 4,668,000.00	\$ 185,000.00
SWFF			\$ 500,000.00
Dept of Env Affairs	Government		\$ 3,400,000.00
EU	International		\$ 245,000.00

	governments		
Massmart	Private sector business		\$ 338,000.00
Botanical Society of Southern Africa	Civil Society	\$ 297,300.00	\$ 37,500.00
SANBI CREW	Government		\$ 5,000.00
EKZNW	Government		\$ 4,800.00
SANBI GEF	Government		\$ 250,000.00
Department of Environmental Affairs (Land User Incentive)	Government	\$ 1,700,000.00	\$ 700,000.00
Department of Environmental Affairs (Land User Incentive)	Government		\$ 1,000,000.00
Forest Stewardship Council	Private sector business	\$ 195,538.00	\$ 40,500.00
Forestry South Africa	Private sector business		\$ 66,445.00
GEF	GEF		\$ 88,593.00
ACT (co-funding)	Civil Society	\$ 101,060.00	\$ 39,060.00
Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife	Government		\$ 57,000.00
Kenchaan foundation	Trusts / Foundations		\$ 5,000.00
Co-funding (WESSA)	Civil Society	\$ 10,188.26	\$ 10,188.26
Nedbank	Private sector business	\$ 223,182.50	\$ 197,667.55
Working for Water	Government		\$ 25,514.95
GIZ Phase 1	International governments	\$ 2,229,629.86	\$ 56,000.00
GIS Phase 2	International governments		\$ 553,709.86
COSPE	Civil Society		\$ 62,000.00
Netherlands government	International governments		\$ 145,600.00
RMI	Private sector business		\$ 12,320.00
UNDP GEF	GEF		\$ 1,400,000.00
Talbot and Talbot	Private sector business	\$ 264,703.96	\$ 3,322.25
CHEP			\$ 2,214.83
European Union	International governments		\$ 259,166.88
eThekwini Municipality	Municipal	\$ 53,156.14	\$ 19,933.55
Tongaat Hulett	Private sector business		\$ 33,222.59
SANBI (co-funding)	Government	\$ 224,802.00	\$ 224,802.00
WWF (co-funding)	Government	\$ 20,850.00	\$ 20,850.00
(LOI)		\$ 23,487.00	\$ 23,487.00
(LOI)		\$ 47,333.00	\$ 47,333.00
(LOI)		\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
(LOI)		\$ 25,142.00	\$ 25,142.00
(LOI)		\$ 45,350.00	\$ 45,350.00
(LOI)		\$ 85,666.00	\$ 85,666.00
N3TC	Private sector business	\$ 5,537.10	\$ 5,537.10

(LOI)		\$ 11,555.00	\$ 11,555.00
(LOI)		\$ 15,010.00	\$ 15,010.00
(LOI)		\$ 76,000.00	\$ 76,000.00
(LOI)		\$ 11,074.00	\$ 11,074.00
(LOI)		\$ 3,100.00	\$ 3,100.00
(LOI)		\$ 28,589.00	\$ 28,589.00
Wildlands, DEA NRM, UNDP	Government	\$ 110,741.97	\$ 110,741.97
Mondi	Private sector business	\$ 16,850.00	\$ 16,850.00
(LOI)		\$ 133,932.00	\$ 133,932.00
Various grants	Government	\$ 830,564.78	\$ 830,564.78
(LOI)		\$ 13,800.00	\$ 13,800.00
(LOI)		\$ 16,423.00	\$ 16,423.00
N3TC	Private sector business	\$ 33,222.59	\$ 33,222.59
Partners	Civil Society	\$ 33,222.59	\$ 33,222.59
East Cape Development Corporation	Private sector business	\$ 302.33	\$ 302.33
(LOI)		\$ 5,437.00	\$ 5,437.00
(LOI)		\$ 947.00	\$ 947.00
GiZ	International governments	\$ 15,706.26	\$ 15,706.26
(LOI)		\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
(LOI)		\$ 170,509.00	\$ 170,509.00
(LOI)		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Amphibian Survival Alliance		\$ 1,661.13	\$ 1,661.13
Current Conservation CIC	Civil Society	\$ 17,800.00	\$ 17,800.00
(LOI)		\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00
European Union	International governments	\$ 419,133.55	\$ 183,665.56
Department of Environmental Affairs	Government		\$ 191,171.21
Rand Merchant Bank	Private sector business		\$ 44,296.79
Personal	Civil Society	\$ 2,214.84	\$ 2,214.84

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

The inclusion of a sustainability planning process as part of the learning network contributed to the success of this project in that it identified interventions for the learning network to pick up on and support during the lifetime of the project. More importantly it provided a framework to enable civil society organisations to continue to unlock opportunities in the region after the end of the CEPF investment.

The development of the MPAH Sustainability Planning Framework as part of the MPAH Learning Network has provided a mechanism for civil society to continue to effectively participate in conservation action in the region. The sustainability assessment, conducted as part of the

development of the framework, identified a number of factors that were important for enabling the achievements made in the investment as well as strengthening capacity. These included opportunities to promote connectedness and bring people together to share lessons and transfer knowledge as well as increase the exposure of civil society organisations and showcase their innovative approaches to key stakeholders. The Framework identified a number of initiatives where civil society organisations in the MPAH could unlock opportunities to remain connected, share lessons, demonstrate their practice and showcase their work. These were grouped under four broad themes of biodiversity conservation, improved management, biodiversity economies and climate resilience.

SANBI has experience in establishing and facilitating learning networks to support learning and sharing of lessons across and between programmes of work and has invested resources in developing this aspect of work within the organisation. This provided a very strong basis on which to establish the MPAH Learning Network and build on lessons learnt in CAPE, SKEP and the Grasslands Programme. Strong links were also established with the Grasslands Programme as there was overlap between the regions as well as the people involved and we were able to build on these existing relationships. SANBI was also able to provide a national perspective and potential links into other programmes of work and opportunities available to civil society organisations following the CEPF investment.

Two major challenges emerged during implementation. The first was the length of time that it takes to establish a learning network – to build relationships and for projects to benefit from sharing lessons and experiences. Here SANBI was able to draw on its experience of establishing similar project-based learning networks and its existing relationships with conservation stakeholders in the hotspot. Secondly, the learning network team was not based in the hotspot but in SANBI's head office in Pretoria. Initially this hindered the team's ability to link with the projects and understand the landscape and the range of work covered by the projects. This challenge was realized early in project implementation and efforts were made to develop a close working relationship with the RIT which resulted in a very effective collaboration between the RIT and the learning network team.

The CEPF investment in the hotspot covered three countries including Mozambique, Swaziland and South Africa. This provided an opportunity for building relationships and sharing lessons across borders but it also had challenges in terms of language and ease of access over such a large area. It would have strengthened the learning network to have more involvement with Mozambique and Swaziland to inform the activities of the learning network.

One of the most important enabling factors in the establishment of the learning network was the aspect of layering of activities under identified themes. SANBI was able to build on previous investments in the region, for example the Grasslands Programme, providing relevance to these themes as well as opportunities going forward through programmes of work by SANBI and other organisations working in the hotspot. This highlights how each new initiative is able to build on what has already been established from previous initiatives in the region.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

The allocation of CEPF funds to grantees resulted in the activation of 2 safeguards –

1. Social – an issue arose in the WESSA project in the Baakens Valley project, whereby it was thought that people were being removed from the area. After a site visit and an explanation by WESSA, the issue was resolved.

2. Environmental – several CEPF projects proposed the use of herbicides to eradicate alien plants. In terms of the World Bank policies, a detailed herbicide management plan was developed, highlighting the management of the herbicides to minimize potential environmental impacts.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Wildlands Conservation Trust thanks CEPF, and particularly the Grant Director, Danial Rothberg, for the opportunity to facilitate the CEPF investment into the MPAH as the RIT.

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.ceph.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

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*****If your grant has an end date other than JUNE 30, please complete the tables on the following pages*****

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets

(Enter Grant Term)

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2013 to May 30, 2014. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	N/A			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	N/A			Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	N/A			
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	N/A			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	N/A			

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table

