

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	South African National Biodiversity Institute
Project Title:	Support the Sharing of Lessons Learned Across and Beyond Corridors within the Cape Floristic Region
Date of Report:	30 November 2011
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CEPF Region: Cape Floristic Region

Strategic Direction: Consolidation

Grant Amount: \$150,000

Project Dates: 01 June, 2008 to 30 September 2011

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner): Role-players across the C.A.P.E. partnership will be involved in implementing this project. This includes the 23 signatory partners to the C.A.P.E. Memorandum of Understanding (see www.capeaction.org.za) and a range of smaller partner organizations including non-governmental and community-based organizations. A Learning Network task team reporting to the C.A.P.E. Implementation Committee will be set up to review this project's implementation, as part of a broader role in guiding this area of C.A.P.E.'s work.

Conservation Impacts

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

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

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

Critical habitats of the Cape Floristic Region are effectively protected and managed and targeted flora and fauna species extinctions are avoided.

Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

The CAPE Coordination Unit plays an important role in convening the CAPE partnership and guiding the partnership towards optimal implementation of the CAPE strategy. A significant element of this convening role is in providing the spaces and opportunities where partners and other civil society groups undertaking relevant work in the CFR can come together and share their experiences and learn from each other. This provides opportunities for breaking down institutional silos as well as for reducing duplication of effort and involving new partners. CEPF's investment in SANBI has enabled the CCU to fulfill its role in convening the partnership and providing facilitated spaces and resources for learning and sharing.

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

Lessons learned across and beyond corridors within the CFR biodiversity hotspots through the initial CEPF investment-to build civil society's participation in the development of core conservation areas and

sustainable land use in the three corridors (Cederberg, Gouritz, and Baviaanskloof) and the last remaining areas of natural vegetation in the Cape Floristic Region lowlands-as well as the new Consolidation Grant, are shared across the C.A.P.E partnership and built upon.

Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

Through the creation of the CAPE Learning Network, and with significant support from CEPF, an extensive programme of work has been undertaken in support of the CAPE strategy. This programme of work has included the sharing of information relevant to the partnership, documenting and sharing lessons learned, the development of qualitative data in support of the CAPE programme level M&E framework, and providing opportunities for diverse stakeholders to come together and learn from each other.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: not applicable

Species Conserved: not applicable

Corridors Created: not applicable

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

No challenges were experienced. The project has successfully met its short-term impact objectives.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The learning network has been developed much more extensively than originally intended, and this has been made possible by leveraging considerable co-funding in support of the CEPF investment. Case studies and learning exchanges have given a concrete and effective form to the sharing and transfer of knowledge and lessons learned. In addition, the concept of a formalised learning network has gained much currency in SANBI and beyond. As a result of the success of the CAPE learning network, the Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Programme, drawing on the lessons from CAPE have appointed a learning network officer. SANBI's conceptualisation of future initiatives in the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany hotspot includes sharing the lessons from our experiences in CAPE and SKEP.

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: The lessons sharing priority area of the grant is effectively managed, supports learning across and between the priority areas, and captures lessons learnt through the grant as a whole.

Component 1 Actual at Completion:

The **Learning Network officer** was appointed for a period of two years during which he had capacity built around supporting a learning network. Many aspects of this position have since been taken up by the Coordination and Communication Officer, a permanent position within the Fynbos Programme at SANBI.

A **lesson sharing workshop** was conducted at the end of 2010 where all components of the CFR consolidation grant came together to share lessons learned to date.

Component 2 Planned: Local learning exchanges enable civil society organisations to develop their capacity to implement projects that contribute to the objectives of C.A.P.E

Component 2 Actual at Completion:

A series of 6 **learning exchange events** was undertaken between civil society groups across the CFR. The learning exchanges aimed at sharing learning through mutual visits between civil society and other groupings from within the Cape Floristic Region with common concerns around biodiversity conservation and sustainable development were supported.

The exchanges brought the following groups together: community partners from the Cederberg and the Cape Flats to share their lessons on engaging around community conservation issues; the various biosphere reserves – existing and emerging shared lessons on setting up and effectively managing a biosphere reserve; landowners and the Sustainability Institute shared lessons on sustainable farming and harvesting, community partners from Cape Town shared lessons with local councilors and community partners from the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro; community entrepreneurs from the Baviaanskloof shared lessons with their counterparts from the Garden Route; and finally landowners on the Agulhas Plain shared lessons with their counterparts from the Baviaanskloof on working together for sustainable farming as well as biodiversity conservation. Reports on the learning exchanges are available on the CAPE website.

Component 3 Planned: Lessons learnt are captured, published and made available across the partnership

Component 3 Actual at Completion:

A series of **case studies** on the achievements of and lessons learned through the CAPE partnership has been established, with 21 case studies produced as part of the CAPE Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. These case studies add qualitative texture to the otherwise primarily qualitative indicators in the M&E Framework. An additional set of **case studies on conservation stewardship** was produced to support course material developed for the Stewardship and Extension Course offered by Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

The CAPE website was redeveloped as a **learning and communications vehicle**, introducing pages on the partners' work in support of the CAPE strategy with documentation on each area of work. The website highlights interesting debates about biodiversity conservation and sustainable development through the "Big Ideas" slot, as well as news articles and case studies on the partnership and its work. The website is currently being updated in line with programmatic changes and to ensure that the technology is upgraded.

A third in a **series of handbooks** (Marketing and Fundraising: Tools for biodiversity conservation and development projects) has been produced, printed and distributed for people involved in project development across the CAPE partnership. The handbooks provide a practical "how-to" resource. The series of handbooks were also distributed to Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot partners who participated in the recently held SD4 project development workshop undertaken in the region.

The CCU is in the final stages of producing a **publication on the partnership** - *Celebrating Conservation*, the sequel to the Fynbos Fynmense book, published in 2006, and that celebrates the achievements of the CAPE partnership over the first ten years of implementation. The book is set for publication in 2012.

Component 4 Planned: Learning events across the C.A.P.E. partnership enable partners to learn from each other and adaptively manage their programmes and projects to contribute effectively to the objectives of C.A.P.E. and to facilitate alignment and co-operation

Component 4 Actual at Completion:

The **2011 CAPE Partners Conference** themed Conservation and Agriculture: A Common Agenda proved valuable in building on the CEPF investments in the CFR and showcased a number of initiatives supported through CEPF over the years, including the Rooibos Initiative as well as the sustainable harvesting of Wild Flowers on the Agulhas Plain.

More than 200 people from the conservation, agriculture, farming, learning and other government institutions attended the two day conference, where presentations from both the environmental and agriculture sector on various themes such as developing a shared vision for production landscapes in the fynbos region, the value of natural capital, the shift towards more sustainable farming practices and natural solutions – adapting to climate change was presented.

The CAPE experience has been central in shaping the content of another book published by SANBI, DEA and the UNDP in 2010 entitled **Biodiversity for Development**, showcasing biodiversity mainstreaming tools developed in South Africa to a global audience.

Component 5 Planned: Knowledge exchange with other CEPF hotspots is carried out

Component 5 Actual at Completion:

Lessons learned from SANBI's coordination of the CFR and SK hotspots were shared with the RIT of the new Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot. Resources developed through these investments were also shared.

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

No components were unrealised

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

Project level fundraising and marketing handbook (final in series of project development handbooks)

Celebrating ten years of CAPE (still to be published)

Case studies in support of CAPE M&E framework

CAPE website: www.capeaction.org.za

Bi-monthly and monthly electronic newsletters

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.

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

We learned that it is better to keep the project design simple instead of overloading a project with deliverables. A simplified project framework can still meet the intended project outcomes.

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

Through useful discussion about the relationship between learning events and learning products, we learned that that these elements should ideally be designed in tandem. This kind of planning could ensure both that learning at events is not lost, and also that the generation of products is not onerous.

Larger-scale writing work like that of developing case studies and writing up the achievements of the CAPE programme is best outsourced as the project management responsibilities of establishing and maintaining a learning network does not provide sufficient space for writing.

We have also learnt that civil society organisations are keen for more learning and networking opportunities around fundraising. CAPE partners have even requested the design files for the final handbook so that they can print additional copies for their staff and constituencies.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

The drafting of the *Biodiversity for Development* book (in partnership with DEA and the UNDP) has raised many valuable lessons about work in the Cape Floristic Region and how this has influenced biodiversity conservation work in South Africa as a whole. This will be a useful resource regionally, nationally and internationally.

It was extremely useful sharing lessons between the Cape Floristic Region, the Succulent Karoo and the new Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot on a range of issues around project design, grant management, capacity development and layering of funding.

Providing an enabling environment where stakeholders can learn from each other and build new working partnerships is key if one wants to encourage innovation and avoid duplication of effort. CAPE stakeholders have had numerous opportunities to share lessons across the region as a result of this CEPF investment and these have also been documented for sharing with a broader audience.

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.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
SANBI	A	\$ 344,820	In-kind contributions through staff time, etc. as well as other project funding secured that complimented the project

***Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:**

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project.)*
- C** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Sustainability/Replicability

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

SANBI intends to maintain and expand the learning network as a tool that enables continual improvement of practice and encouragement of implementers. In order to realise the value of this diverse collaboration it is critical to maintain the range of opportunities for interaction and to

facilitate innovation and implementation. The website and electronic newsletter will continue to provide regularly updated communication.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

None

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

Not applicable

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

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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, 2007 to June 30, 2008. (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.	No			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?	No			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.	No			
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	No			

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

