

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Border Rural Committee
Project Title:	Integrated Conservation in Northern Keiskammahoek
Date of Report:	30 June 2014
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CEPF Region: Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany

Strategic Direction: 2. Conservation and land use in 22 KBAs

Grant Amount: \$96,754

Project Dates: May 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014

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

- Border Rural Committee: BRC has been responsible for the overall management of the project and implementation, including reporting to CEPF (narrative and financial).
- Rhodes University: Recruitment of three student researchers, supervision of the research process through university professors, report on research progress and more importantly support the students in developing their theses.
- GADRA Education: Contracted to provide project management and research and to act as an advisor to the project (Dr Ashley Westaway was deployed by GADRA Ed to fulfill this function).
- Cata Communal Property Association and Upper Mnyameni Development Committee: These institutions represent the two communities who are the beneficiaries of the intervention. They are ultimately responsible for the land that forms will form the conservation area.

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):

Cata/Mnyameni region has improved management of its key biodiversity area, production land, and water resource through formal stewardship, better land management and better livelihoods for the local people.

Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

This is a long-term objective that can be realized over a number of years. However, CEPF has made a contribution and laid a foundation for the realization of the desired objective as stated above. During this period of the contract a comprehensive research on stewardship and how it can be approached has been compiled and this will inform shaping of the stewardship agreement for the two communities. The management of the key biodiversity area has commenced with improvement in the habitats with the clearing of alien vegetation to conserve water, indigenous forests and plants suppressed by alien species. The community leadership has received the training on land use management which will enable them to manage the land better; this includes grazing land, land under conservation and agricultural production land. The CEPF work has contributed to community looking at environment in relation to waste management and initial work on erosion rehabilitation using the wattle that has been cleared. This will need more technical support and improvement to rehabilitate the eroded lands. The formal stewardship agreement has not been achieved but the community will be able to engage with the government based on the research conducted to inform the stewardship approach.

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

- Multiple steps completed towards eventual stewardship agreement covering 2000 hectares
- Invasive species removed from critical riparian corridors
- 1000 indigenous trees planted in critical habitat
- Community engagement process that maintain momentum towards resolution of land claim and stewardship designation

Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

- **Multiple steps completed towards eventual stewardship agreement covering 2000 hectares**
The project has made important steps towards a stewardship agreement. These include the mapping of the wetlands, drainage lines and indigenous forests (this has been sent to CEPF under separate cover). The land proposed to be put under conservation was 2000 hectares but it became clear that there is potential to set 3000 hectares under conservation. The stewardship agreement will cover the higher hectarage. A socio-ecological assessment of the two communities of Cata and Mnyameni has been conducted and the results of this research are being written up. It is anticipated that this will be complete by the end of 2014. There has been extensive engagement of the communities, and their leadership, as well as of other roleplayers in the conservation sector. A conservation area assessment has been conducted and 66 red list species have been identified in the process.
- **Invasive species removed from critical riparian corridors**
The teams to undertake alien removal were trained on herbicide use, first aid and clearing. The removal of alien species in the critical riparian corridors has been carried out during the period. A report detailing the clearing or alien removal work has been prepared separately. The report indicates polygons cleared from the Cata Dam up to the forests and below the Mnyameni Dam and in both sides of the dam. The areas cleared have been identified through the mapping exercise including the alien density and species invading the wetlands or the corridors.
- **1000 indigenous trees planted in critical habitat**
1082 indigenous trees have been planted in the areas where alien vegetation was removed. The trees have been planted above the Cata dam along the stream upwards to the forest and

next to the Mnyameni dam on the eastern side. Two holding nurseries have been built: one in each community and the report for tree planting and nursery building has been prepared separately and will be submitted.

- **Community engagement process that maintain momentum towards resolution of land claim and stewardship designation**

BRC has given support to the process of land transfer to the Cata Communal Property Association. This process involved the preparation of documentation for the lawyers, CPA engagements, interaction with the Legal Resources Centre responsible for the court or legal process. Once more a full report on progress made to date has been provided. It seems that land transfer will take place in the near future.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: Currently zero, but 3000 hectares have been identified and mapped, and local communities have agreed to support the process towards formal protection.

Species Conserved: The following fauna have been identified: samango monkey, cape parrot, amatola toad and the border barb. In addition, 66 plant species have been identified.

Corridors Created: N/A

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

Successes

- The research on conservation area and the identification of 66 endangered plant species.
- The removal of alien species with some planting of indigenous trees in the critical areas.
- The research on stewardship and natural resources access rules and these will assist with moving forward with the conservation work.

Challenges

- Lack of adequate human capacity internally staff turnover at BRC.
- The work required pre-stewardship agreement development and negotiation has dragged.
- Late commencement of project due to difficulty in recruiting student researchers.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The CEPF project has had a very positive impact on BRC itself. It is the organization's first project concentrating primarily on the environment. Internal capacity has been built and it seems likely that the organization is will include a greater focus on conservation in its next strategic plan.

The spin-offs from the project in terms of contacts made and plans in the pipeline (eg the involvement in the Biosphere Reserve Working Group and the proposal regarding the Green Village) were not planned, but are very welcome.

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: Conservation area planning as part of stewardship process

Component 1 Actual at Completion:

All the deliverables have been submitted.

1. There are a number of maps that have been produced as part of the process towards stewardship.
2. A report has been prepared on socio-ecological issues for consideration towards the stewardship agreement. The thesis that describes issues in detail and draws conclusions is expected at year-end.
3. A report has been drafted on community engagement leading to the articulation of rules governing access to natural resources
4. A conservation area assessment has been conducted (66 endangered plant species have been identified).

Component 2 Planned: Watershed Management

Component 2 Actual at Completion:

All the deliverables have been submitted.

1. A report on the systematic clearing of alien vegetation on selected plots identified on the deliverable 1.1 (the map).
2. Two holding nurseries were built.
3. A report has been drafted on the planting of indigenous trees (the target of 1000 trees was met).

Component 3 Planned: Community Engagement

Component 3 Actual at Completion:

All the deliverables have been submitted.

1. There is a report on engagement through the Amathole Biosphere Working Group and other stakeholders.
2. There has been good progress toward the finalization of the Cata land claim, and transfer seems imminent.
3. Community members were trained in land use management.

Component 4 Actual at Completion: Proposals for Funding

Actual completion 4:

There are two proposals pending. The processes relating to each are noted in the submitted documents.

Component 5 planned: pest management plan

Actual completion 5:

A pest management plan for the use of herbicides was developed and submitted to CEPF. BRC has been implementing this plan. A full report has been submitted to CEPF.

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

No components of the re-worked proposal remain unrealized.

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

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.

The most important lessons learnt by BRC through the implementation of this contract relate to human resource capacity:

- 1) *One should not under-estimate the impact of a change in staffing on a project.*
When the key person involved in the design of the BRC left the employ of the organization, BRC attempted to recruit a replacement. This proved unsuccessful for a number of reasons and this led to delays in contract implementation. Attempts were made to remedy the situation, and the former employee was contracted as a consultant to assist with project management.
- 2) *One should not under-estimate the amount of time academic approval processes take.* The recruitment of students, and the time that they took to get their research proposals approved by the relevant university structure had a serious negative impact on the project.

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

The fact that the project was heavily dependent on students conducting research, and these components were at the beginning of the critical path with respect to project management, meant that the slowness relating to their recruitment and proposal finalization, had a very negative impact on the project. This should have been foreseen and parallel processes designed so that the who project didn't stall while waiting for the students to begin work.

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

No lessons spring to mind with respect to implementation.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

There is a great willingness amongst those involved in conservation to co-operate. This should have been tapped into, from the project outset. Good contacts have been made for BRC through

its CEPF project implementation and these will stand the organization in good stead for future work.

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
Community Work Programme	A	R362 851	Wages paid to laborers removing alien invasive vegetation

***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. Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

Although progress has been made towards the stewardship agreement, there is a way to go yet before an agreement is reached. BRC hopes to access funding that will allow it to take this work forward. Only once this has been achieved, will it be able to reflect on sustainability/replicability issues.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

N/A

Additional Comments/Recommendations

BRC would like to register its appreciation for the way in which CEPF supported it through this project. CEPF staff went the extra mile to assist BRC when it was struggling with aspects of implementation. The understanding shown regarding the challenges we faced, and the affirming approach of the CEPF staff are hugely appreciated by BRC.

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 GlobalTargets

(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.				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?				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.				
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.				
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.				

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

Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

Please complete this table if your project provided concrete socioeconomic benefits to local communities. List the name of each community in column one. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes. In the bottom row, provide the totals of the Xs for each column.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics							Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit													
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists/nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Increased Income due to:				Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc)	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance.	Other
									Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services									
Total																					
If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit:																					

