

## CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Namibia Nature Foundation
<b>Project Title:</b>	Strategic Support to the Consolidation of the Management and Development of the Newly Proclaimed Sperrgebiet National Park and Immediately Adjacent Areas
<b>Date of Report:</b>	December 2012
<b>Report Author and Contact Information</b>	Amalia Nangolo (Author) Jacky Tjivikua (Contact person) Namibia Nature Foundation +264 61 248345 jt@nnf.org.na P.O Box 245 Windhoek, Namibia

**CEPF Region:** Succulent Karoo

**Strategic Direction:** 7. Consolidation: Mainstream conservation priorities into land-use planning and policy-making.

**Grant Amount:** US\$300,000.00

**Project Dates:** 1 February, 2010 to 31 December, 2012

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

The Parks and Wildlife Directorate of the Ministry of Environment & Tourism is the primary partner. However, the Directorate of Scientific Services, through their research and monitoring sections, as well as the Directorate of Tourism, co-responsibility for tourism concessions in parks, both within the same ministry, are important partners. Other partners in the Sperrgebiet, as approved by Cabinet of Namibia's Government, are the Ministry of Mines & Energy, the Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources and Regional Government of the Karas Region. In addition, the private sector components of all these ministries (mining, tourism and fishing) need to be fully involved, as do the local authorities and communities of neighbouring towns and settlements (Orangemund, Rosh Pinah, Aus and Lüderitz) and the neighbouring land owners. Another important partner is the coordinator of the Ai-Ais / Richtersveld transfrontier area and entities that he may identify as important stakeholders. Finally, the local and national NGO sector has provided considerable support to aspects of the Sperrgebiet, including research, monitoring, specialist advice and guidance, and it has been the approach of SKEP-Namibia to be as inclusive as possible and to build a strong and broad support base for the ecosystem, park and project.

### 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.***

**1. Park Advisory Committee:**

All relevant organizations, individuals and representative stakeholder bodies have been selected to serve on the Park Advisory Committee (PAC) of the Sperrgebiet National Park. On a quarterly basis, meetings have been held to discuss the project's sustainability, including a formulation of the SKEP sustainability plan. Chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, these meetings serve as a briefing of the project activities to the advisory committee. The Terms of Reference and invitation letters to serve on the groups committee have been provided.

## 2. **Project Management Group:**

The SKEP project was introduced and presented to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and future plans for the park discussed, as well as the institutional arrangements of the project. Thereafter a Project Management Group was established which also included the Strengthening Protected Areas Network (SPAN) project. The Project management group approves the annual work plans of SKEP as well as progress on the project activities. It is also comprised of different directorates of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and is chaired by the Ministry's Permanent Secretary. SKEP has been guided by this steering committee during its implementation.

## 3. **Meetings and Work Plans:**

The meetings for the project have been held regularly as agreed between relevant stakeholder groups and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. This includes the Project Management Group and Park Advisory Committee meetings. The minutes or reports for these meetings are available upon request.

Annual planning sessions have been held to develop a comprehensive detailed work plans for the Park. The work plan was combined, comprising of Ministry of Environment and Tourism, SKEP and the Strengthening Protected Areas Network (SPAN) project. A mid-term review of the work plan was carried out in July 2011 whereby the risks were identified and actions taken to address the implementation of the challenges.

## 4. **The Park Infrastructural and Structure Plan:**

A consultant was contracted to do an assessment and draft recommendations for the Sperrgebiet National Park in view of its intended take-over by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to develop it as a tourism destination. Due to limited funding available, the Terms of Reference of this study were amended to exclude a staffing and management plan, which must be completed in-house by Ministry of Environment and Tourism. The study was based on discussions with Ministry of Environment and Tourism and SPAN staff, a field trip to the Park and also various background documents such as the management plan and tourism options plan provided by Ministry of Environment and Tourism and SPAN, as well as several email, telephone & personal discussions with stakeholders. The Park Infrastructural Plan was completed in August 2011. The Ministry of Environment and Tourism has adopted the recommendations for the staffing plan. The 2012-2013 Ministry budgets are limited and unfortunately cannot accommodate the proposed new staff structure. Therefore, it has been agreed that only managerial positions will be filled in this financial year.

## 5. **Training to Staff:**

- Ministry of Environment and Tourism staff in the Karas region were trained on vehicle maintenance in July 2010.
- Environmental Impact Assessment training for Ministry of Environment and Tourism staff specifically the staff operating in national parks where mining is occurring was conducted from the 29th November - 3rd December 2010.
- The Ministry of Environment and Tourism strives to protect and care for its human resources to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS. Their slogan in fighting this pandemic is "healthy ecosystems and healthy people for biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization of natural resources". Training on an HIV/AIDS work-based programme was conducted from February to May 2011, and entailed conducting baseline studies on the level of understanding of issues related to this pandemic disease. The programme designed and provided training for Ministry of Environment and Tourism staff in the park and set up supporting mechanisms for the intervention. The Ministry of Environment and Tourism launched the HIV/AIDS policy on the 8 June 2012. SKEP assisted the Ministry in piloting the implementation of the HIV/AIDS policy with Sperrgebiet National Park staff through focused training and the training of trainers (Peer Educators). The launch of the policy will now enable staff to formally integrate the concept into the work plans.
- Ministry of Environment and Tourism identified First Aid Training as an important requirement for Park staff members. It was conducted on the 1<sup>st</sup> -2<sup>nd</sup> of February by Rossi Rumeuf Organisation. The training was valuable for all staff to be acquainted with the basic medical techniques especially due to the remoteness of the area and long distances to medical facilities.
- Tourism Concession Management training was conducted for 15 Ministry of Environment and Tourism staff members jointly with South Africa National Park (SANPARK) staff. SKEP assisted in financing this training

**6. SKEP Articles:**

The project uses existing newsletters and publications such as the NNF quarterly newsletter to publish various stories, success and challenges in the project. There have been three articles published in the Sandpaper Magazine of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism on the project's progress and achievements. Furthermore, the leading conservation magazine in Namibia - 'Conservation Namibia' focused on 25 Years of NNF in the country and featured an article on the strategic partnership for biodiversity in Namibia with reference to the Sperrgebiet National Park.

**7. Tourism Access Study - De-proclamation Process:**

The programme has recruited a law firm - Nakamhela Attorneys, to assist the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and Ministry of Mines and Energy with the coordination and facilitation to implement recommendations for de-proclamation of 70% of the Sperrgebiet National Park. The proposed area is outside the mining license area and the process will pursue amendments of the Diamond Act Regulations to allow 24 hour access to the Park for tourism purposes. An inception meeting was held on the 8 May 2012 with representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Ministry of Mines and Energy, Namdeb (Diamond Mining Company), Ministry of Lands and Resettlement and the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. The inception meeting served to introduce all stakeholders to the process undertaken with funding from SKEP as part of the consolidation of various activities facilitating opening up the Park to other forms of land uses.

**8. Re-renaming the Sperrgebiet National Park:**

The decision to consult on a new name for the Park was proposed at the launch of the National Park by the Minister of Environment and Tourism Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwa. The new name of the Park issue was initiated through the Park Advisory Committee. A working group from the committee was elected to facilitate the renaming of the park and their Terms of Reference drafted. On the 3 April 2012, SKEP organized a consultative workshop with the traditional authorities and government representatives in Keetmanshoop. The main objective of the workshop was to undertake a consultative process on the name issue so as to seek input from the local traditional authorities in the Karas Region. The session was conducted in a group setup. The outcome of the workshop was that the name 'Sperrgebiet' should be replaced with the local name 'Tsau-/Khaeb' - with the Sperrgebiet name retained behind this. Tsau-/Khaeb means 'a windy area characterized by deep sand soils'. The name-change has been approved and the new name for the park is now Tsau-/Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park.

**9. Annual awards for Park Staff:**

Park staff has been provided with incentives based on their performances. The programme assisted in financing the annual awards presented to park staff last year (2011).

**10. Resource Materials for Information Centre:**

Materials for the Sperrgebiet Information Centre have been initiated. A marketing company called Kiss of Light was contracted in August 2011 to develop interpretive materials for the Tourism Information Centre and the access gates in the Sperrgebiet National Park. There are four identified access points to the Park. Thirteen (13) Informative Posters including; Introduction to the Sperrgebiet NP, Diamond History, Fauna & Flora, Nama People's History, and Attractions to the Park, Geology, and Marine Protected Area were produced and approved by the Park Advisory Committee.

**11. Display and Guidance Park Boards:**

SKEP purchased 100 bags of cement to develop signage for the Sperrgebiet National Park. 35 signboards have been developed and erected along the routes in the park for guidance. The placement of Park signage along the Park routes is an ongoing process. The signs are essential due to the remoteness of the area. Thirty (30) signs have been erected to date along the Park routes and this will be important for tour operators to navigate once the area has been de-proclaimed from being a diamond area to a tourist destination.

**12. Mining in Protected Areas Conference:**

The SKEP project funded the first ever 'Mining in Protected Areas' conference that focused on the policies governing protected areas and threats that other land use may pose to the parks. SKEP brought policy makers to the table to discuss the threats and opportunities available for Namibia. SKEP is playing a major role in the conservation of biodiversity more at a policy level rather than at a programmatic level.

**13. Economic Valuation Study and Revision of the Tourism Plan:**

The objective of this consultancy was to assist the Ministry of Environment and Tourism in preparing a detailed tourism plan that included new information from new studies undertaken in the park and provided estimates and economic data on the tourism concessions that could assist Ministry of Environment and Tourism in making informed decisions about tourism development and concessions in the Sperrgebiet National Park (SNP).

#### **14. Land Use Plan:**

Large parts of the Sperrgebiet were de-proclaimed from exclusive prospecting and mining licenses and the land has reverted to the status of un-proclaimed State Land. The overall development objective for the Sperrgebiet was to ensure the long-term sustainable economic and ecological potential of the area, with the immediate objective being that a management system for sustainable development should be established. There was a general lack of comprehensive, scientific understanding of biodiversity to guide future development of the area; hence the development of the land use plan was aimed at the proclamation of the Sperrgebiet and its ultimate integration into a trans-frontier conservation area between Namibia and South Africa.

#### **15. Habitat Management Plan:**

There was no habitat management plan formed during this phase; however Environmental Impact Assessment training for MET staff specifically the staff operating in national parks where mining is occurring was conducted from the 29th November - 3rd December 2010.

In addition to this, the SKEP project funded the first ever Mining in Protected Areas conference that focused on the policies governing the protected area and threats that other land uses pose to the parks. Lessons learned from this initiative is that SKEP brought policy makers to the table to discuss the threats, opportunities available for Namibia.

#### **16. Park Management and Development Plan**

This Management and Development Plan set out the vision, objectives and guidelines for the management and development of the Sperrgebiet National Park. As such, it represents the policies and intentions of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) and its partners. The management & development plan is accepted as the ultimate authority for the Park. All involved with the Park, including MET decision-makers and management staff, personnel of other Ministries and Parastatals, private sector companies and individuals, all contractors, partners, tourists and any entity and individual dealing in any way with the Park, must ensure that any actions and decisions relating to the Park are in strict accordance with the document.

This Management and Development Plan (2008-2012) would be thoroughly reviewed and, if necessary, revised every five years. The next review should be done in 2012 for implementation in 2013.

#### **17. Business Plan:**

The Business Plan (2009) was based on the assumption that the Sperrgebiet National Park (SNP) would be proclaimed a National Park and the vision, strategies and activities set out in the Sperrgebiet Management and Development Plan and Tourism Plan would be pursued. The area incorporates part of the Succulent Karoo which is an internationally recognized biodiversity hotspot.

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

Biodiversity in the Succulent Karoo ecosystem in Namibia is effectively conserved and managed by the state and civil society through an integrated programme of conservation action and co-management of conservation areas for the sustainable development of the region and for the improvement of people's livelihoods.

#### **Actual Progress toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:**

SKEP established a board comprised of all relevant organizations, individuals and representative stakeholder bodies. These groups of delegates serve on a board called the Park Advisory Committee of the Sperrgebiet; and another one called the SPAN/SKEP Project Management Group, comprised of different directorates of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. These two committees meet quarterly and are chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. Annual planning sessions to the work plans for the Park have been held and reviewed appropriately. These work plans accommodate activities of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, SKEP and the Strengthening Protected Areas Network (SPAN) project. The project created a platform for the state to discuss future plans for the park and also the institutional arrangements of the project, taking into account the involvement of various stakeholders as a

plan to share activities, ideas and deliverables. SKEP is playing a major role in the conservation of biodiversity more at a policy level rather than at a programmatic level.

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

Namibian people are implementing strategic and effective conservation initiatives in the Succulent Karoo ecosystem in Namibia.

### **Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:**

Citizens' (local) participation has many functions in developing a strong system of local self-governance, as it is central to build awareness of the importance of the local structures and a means of understanding the concerns and desires of the community. The consultative process that the project undertook through a directive from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to look at a local name for the Park was an excellent example of the democratic processes to allow local participation in decision making. The highlight of the process was the sense of ownership of re-naming the park and the indication that the process to rename the Park was a mechanism to engage and restore the dignity of the Nama people.

The SKEP initiated trainings to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism staff in the Karas region. Staff were trained on vehicle maintenance, Environmental Impact Assessment, HIV/AIDS work based programme, First Aid and Tourism Concession Management training. The capacity training given to the staff was the first of its kind; the staff who received the training are mainly field based.

The programme also assisted in financing the annual award presented to park staff, and was done based on their performances, which in the process encourages staff to work hard in conservation and pursuing sustainable development initiatives for the Park.

### **Please provide the following information where relevant:**

#### **Hectares Protected:**

22 000ha

#### **Species Conserved:**

- Quiver trees
- All the succulent plants
- Bat eared fox
- Gemsbok
- Springbok
- Grey Reebok
- Leopard
- Aardwolf
- Brown and spotted hyena
- Cheetah
- African wild cat
- Bat-eared fox
- Cape clawless otter
- Southern elephant seal
- African Penguins
- Greater and lesser flamingo
- Cape gannets
- Sacred ibis
- Martial eagle
- African fish-eagle
- Damara tern
- Goliath heron
- Cape eagle- owl
- Maccoa duck
- Cormorants

#### **Corridors Created:**

Climate Change - The project facilitated co-management across different landscapes, keeping areas open, and creating corridors so that biota migration can be enhanced and biota ranges shifted to new localities. Furthermore, the project facilitated the integration of Climate Change concepts into the park's planning processes.

A new proposed project called 'Protecting Landscape Area' funded through the Global Environment Facility and implemented by UNDP and MET will address this in the Succulent Karoo. SKEP has been identified as a key stakeholder in the process and has been able to provide meaningful input in the planning and implementation of the project to ensure that the concerns and challenges in terms of co-management are addressed through the sister project to mitigate duplication of efforts. Furthermore, the MET through the Department of Environmental Affairs has developed a national climate change policy that was approved by Cabinet. The National Policy on Climate Change pursues constitutional obligations of the Government; namely for "the state to promote the welfare of its people and protection of Namibia's environment for both present and future generations."

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

- The initial phase of the project has seen a slow process in the implementation of the activities because the project's assets were still being transferred to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism from the Diamond Company. An ongoing dialogue eventually solved this issue.
- Due to the slow process of stakeholder engagement the different proposed committees were not operational; as such all work plans for the different committees in the proposed timeframe were not available, hence no activities took place. Such activities include the renaming of the park which was to go to Cabinet for approval. This process was however resolved in the projects' final months after urgent follow up with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.
- The fact that the Ministry of Environment & Tourism has fully integrated and recognizes the project as the Ministry's initiative has led to the smooth implementation of activities.
- The SKEP project funded the first ever 'Mining in Protected Areas' conference that focused on the policies governing the protected areas and threats that other land use may pose to the parks.
- During the process of renaming the park, the local people also participated in the decision making forum. The outcome of the workshop was a result of local people's involvement and they have proven that they are able to take pride in conserving and managing their land sustainably. An important lesson learned during the implementation of this process is that social factors are often primary determinants of the success of the project, and as long as stakeholders are engaged on a regular basis on issues affecting their livelihoods, the project has a greater opportunity of success in the long run as the support base is on board.

***Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?***

- The Information Centre will be renovated through the Ministry of Environment & Tourism's capital development budget. The risks in this regard are that the budgetary allocation earmarked for the centre might be diverted to other projects which are seen as more important or require more urgent attention.
- The fact that the project is managed by an NGO has limited our approach to be part and parcel of the Park Advisory Board because no NGO is allowed to take part in the meeting, but an agreement was reached that all key decisions that need the project's support would be communicated to SKEP.
- The renaming of the National Park: by engaging with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, the project has managed to finalise the renaming of the Park.

**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:**

Park consultations with the:

a) Mining sector in and adjacent to the park

The programme has recruited a law firm, Nakamhela Attorneys, to assist the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and Ministry of Mines and Energy with the coordination and facilitation necessary to implement recommendations for the de-proclamation of 70% of the Sperrgebiet National Park. The proposed area is outside the mining license area, and the process will pursue amendments of the Diamond Act Regulations to allow 24 hour access to the Park for tourism purposes.

b) Fishing sector operating in Lüderitz

N/A

c) Park neighbours bordering the Sperrgebiet National Park

The Park staff have worked closely with relevant Regional Government and Local Authority and Municipality personnel (elected and appointed) to keep people informed of developments, to invite their input and to help resolve any problems at an early stage. The SNP park staff have identified few collaborative initiatives with park staff in the Ai-Ais National Park and the Namib-Naukluft National Park, such as boundary fencing, invasive alien control, joint monitoring (e.g. game counts), while supported by the project.

d) Friends of the Park

On the 3 April 2012, SKEP organised a consultative workshop with the traditional authorities and government representatives in Keetmanshoop. The aim was to consult a new name for the Park, which was initially proposed at the launch of the National Park by the Minister of Environment and Tourism Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwa.

e) Development of Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with different stakeholder groups

The issue of a collaborative management with park neighbours has been placed on hold due to misunderstanding of the concept and what it aims to achieve.

**Component 1 Actual at Completion:**

The tourism access consultancy is still underway. There is a risk that this issue will not be finalised during the project's lifetime, and if that were to happen, this would be taken over by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism as part of the sustainability plan. The programme allowed proactive engagement with Park neighbours, to share SNP's management plan to build confidence and transparency, and to build a coalition of the willing. The project brought together local people during the re-naming of the Park process. This gave locals a platform to take ownership in the process and ensure that the park resources are sustainably conserved in the future.

**Component 2 Planned:**

Institutional Capacity:

a) Institutionalisation of training activities - GIS, First Aid, co-management training, vehicle maintenance, water/fence maintenance etc.

The Park staff members received training funded by SKEP as part of the project's capacity building component. The following trainings were supported: First Aid Training, conducted on 1-2 February by Rossi Rumeff Organisation; Tourism Concession Management training conducted for 15 MET staff members jointly with South Africa National Park (SANPARK) staff; Vehicle maintenance in July 2010, and Environmental Impact Assessment training from the 29th November - 3rd December 2010

b) Incentive mechanisms - Best Park staff award

There is already an existing incentive mechanism through an award system for the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and their staff. The project assisted in financing the awards that took place in November last year.

c) Performance monitoring and evaluation system

The progress reporting and evaluation of implementation of activities was conducted in July 2011. A report has been compiled on the progress as well as identification of risks in the implementation of activities. The workplan is composed of activities of SKEP, SPAN and MET.

d) An integrated HIV/AIDS work-place programme for the MET

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism launched their HIV/AIDS policy on the 8 June 2012. The Ministry strives to protect and care for its human resources and to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS. Their slogan in fighting this pandemic is "healthy ecosystems and healthy people for biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilisation of natural resources".

### **Component 2 Actual at Completion:**

The Park staff members of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism have identified the necessary training that they require and the programme has assisted in funding them. The programme assisted in funding the Park Staff award event. SKEP assisted the Ministry of Environment and Tourism last year in piloting the implementation of the HIV/AIDS policy with Sperrgebiet National Park staff through focused training and the training of trainers (Peer Educators). The launch of the policy will now enable staff to formally integrate the concept into the work plans. The progress reporting, review and evaluation of activities has been conducted and allowed identification of risks, challenges and recommendations of project activities.

### **Component 3 Planned:**

Implementation of management plans:

#### a) Develop annual work plans

A planning session to formulate work plans especially for the park took place on the 3rd February 2011. The objective of the meeting was to acquaint all partners with the developments in the Park and develop a comprehensive work plan for the National Park. A work plan for the Sperrgebiet National Park was drafted during the planning workshop. The work plan integrates the SPAN, SKEP and MET Sperrgebiet National Park activities with individuals assigned to ensure that activities allocated to each person is carried out, progress was tracked through quarterly progress meetings. The format used in the work plan is adapted from the management plan of the Park and as such this plan will serve as the pilot.

A mid-term review of the integrated MET/SKEP/SPAN work plan was done. The work plan was approved without amendments.

See supporting document number 1.

#### b) Establishment of Park Advisory Committee

The list of the committee members and Terms of Reference are available.

See supporting document number 2.

#### c) Evaluation of the implementation of work plans

Evaluations of project activities were done at all Park Advisory Committee and Project Management Group meetings. Minutes are available.

See supporting document number 3.

#### d) Provide support to the staffing of park staff

The infrastructure and staffing plan was completed in August 2011. It was based on briefing discussions with MET and SPAN staff, various background documents such as the management plan and tourism options plan provided by MET and SPAN, as well as several email, telephone & personal discussions with stakeholders and a field trip to the Park. A report on this consultancy is available. See supporting document number 4a and 4b.

### **Component 3 Actual at Completion:**

Meetings have been held and the minutes of the Park Advisory Committee meeting are available. An annual report on all project activities was done and presented to the Project Management Group chaired by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism Permanent Secretary on the 27 February. The Ministry of Environment and Tourism has adopted the recommendations for the staffing plan.

### **Component 4 Planned:**



Research, Information and Outreach:

a) Development of resource materials for the park information centre

Materials for the Sperrgebiet Information Centre have been initiated. A marketing company called Kiss of Light was contracted in August 2011 to develop interpretive materials for the Tourism Information Centre and the access gates in the Sperrgebiet National Park. There are four identified access points to the Park.

b) Develop of park displaying and guiding boards

SKEP purchased 100 cement bags to develop signage for the Sperrgebiet National Park. 35 signs have been developed and erected along the routes in the park for guidance. The placement of Park signage along the Park routes is an ongoing process. The signs are essential due to the remoteness of the area.

c) Develop and implementation of annual plan for the info centre

N/A

d) Support for the establishment of park research facilities

The Ontanda Environmental Education Centre in the Sperrgebiet National Park has been taken over by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Department of Environmental Affairs. SKEP is not providing the support as initially proposed in the project document for this work, as a work plan has been formulated by the Department of Environmental Affairs aimed at supporting the centre and its activities. The Ministry of Environment and Tourism has allocated funding for the renovation of the centre through its capital development budget.

**Component 4 Actual at Completion:**

Thirteen (13) informative road signs (Introduction to the Sperrgebiet National Park, Diamond History, Fauna & Flora, Nama People's History, and Attractions to the Park, Geology, and Marine Protected Area) were produced and approved by the Park Advisory Committee and Ministry of Environment and Tourism Management. Thirty (30) road signs have been erected to date along the Park routes and this will be important for the tour operators to navigate once the area has been de-proclaimed from being a diamond area and tourism activities affected. The proposed Tourism Information Centre at the Kolmanskop has been donated by Namdeb to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism with the facilitation of the SKEP coordination team.

**Component 5 Planned:**

Functional project management mechanism established:

a) Development of staff TOR and recruitment

Project staff have been recruited and their Terms of Reference are available.

b) Establishment of project steering committee

The project has an active committee called the SPAN/SKEP Project Management Group comprising of different directorates of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and chaired by the Permanent Secretary. SKEP has been guided by this steering committee.

**Component 5 Actual at Completion:**

A Project Coordinator and an Assistant Project Coordinator were recruited by the Namibia Nature Foundation to work on the SKEP project. The project was presented to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment of Tourism to discuss future plans for the park and also the institutional arrangement of the project. Thereafter the project became part of the Project Management Group of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

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

1. There was a delay in the finalisation of Park regulations and operation of the Sperrgebiet Information and Education Centre. The project was supposed to provide planning, logistics and other relevant support to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) to facilitate the process.
  - The park regulations have been finalised and aligned to the draft Park and Wildlife Management Bill. MET has agreed to cover the cost of finalising the Bill. There is a risk that this process might not be achieved before the completion of the project.

- SKEP is not providing the support as initially proposed in the project document to support the Sperrgebiet Information and Education Centre. The Ministry of Environment and Tourism has allocated funding for the renovation of the centre through its capital development budget. The risk in this regard is that budgetary allocation earmarked for the centre might be diverted to other projects which are seen as more important or requiring more urgent attention.
2. Large mineral deposits found in the areas of high biodiversity value: The project is supposed to ensure that effective environmental and strategic assessments are carried out, which include economic cost-benefit analyses that meaningful and that stakeholder consultations are held prior to any mining development.
    - No mining deposits were discovered during the implementation of the project. A milestone worth noting is that Namdeb has provided a letter to the Ministry of Mines and Energy to relinquish 70% of the total area proclaimed as Diamond Area 1 where there is no active mining happening. This process enabled the project to support the de-proclamation process in terms of it being a diamond area 1 and affect tourism development to commence.
  3. There is a risk that the materials produced for the Information Centre will not be used because renovations of the centre will not be finished. This is mitigated through consultation with MET management as they have committed to the process of printing all posters whereas SKEP facilitated and funded the development and design.
  4. The project was managed by an NGO and this had limited our involvement to be part of the Park Advisory Board, because no NGO was allowed to partake in the meetings. An agreement though, was reached that all key decisions that needed the project's support would be communicated to SKEP.
  5. The renaming of the National Park - the project has been engaging the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to speed up the process of the park re-naming.

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

***See supporting document number 5a-5f.***

## 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 participation of local citizens is crucial in developing a strong system of local self-governance, as it is central to building awareness of the importance of the local structures and as a means of understanding the concerns and desires of the community. A case in point would be the consultative process that the project undertook through a directive from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to look at a local name for the Park. This is an excellent example of the democratic processes to allow local participation in decision making. The highlight of the process was the sense of ownership of the process and the indication that the process to rename the Park was a mechanism to engage and restore the dignity of the Nama people.

An important lesson learned during the implementation of the project is that social factors are often primary determinants of the success of the project and as long as stakeholders are engaged on a regular basis on issues affecting their livelihoods, the project has a greater opportunity of success as the support base is on board.

The SKEP project funded the first ever 'Mining in Protected Areas' conference that focused on the policies governing the protected area and threats that other land use may pose to the parks. Lessons learned from this initiative is that SKEP brought policy makers to the table to discuss the threats, opportunities available for Namibia.

SKEP is playing a major role in the conservation of biodiversity more at a policy level rather than at a programmatic level. This was seen from the involvement of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism who

have fully integrated and recognise the SKEP project as a Ministry initiative, leading to the smooth implementation of activities.

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

Aspects of the project design which made the project a success was attributed greatly to the good working relationship that Namibia Nature Foundation had with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. Government buy-in and community involvement, along with other private sector stakeholders in the project contributed to the success of the project.

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

In terms of implementation, working with all the relevant stakeholders involved in the area made the execution of activities easier. We were able to do this through the Park Advisory Committee (PAC) that was set up at the start of the project and through which all decisions were discussed. The PAC comprised off all the stakeholders working and living within the greater area, including government, NGO's, community and the private sector e.g. Namdeb mine.

***Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:***

The importance to benefits and benefit sharing within the community surrounding the park was highlighted. Whilst the park is/will continue to be a valuable national asset, without the support of those living around the park and benefit from it e.g. tourism concessions, the sustainable future of keeping people and parks separate will always be challenged. The ongoing engagement between all stakeholders from governance to business support is key to the future of the area and others involved in community conservation.

## 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
N/A			

***\*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.***

A key success of the project has resulted in the MET taking on board the programme and building it into their annual activities and budget. In essence, this success proves it can be replicated successfully.

An integrated and engaged approach including government, non-government and community stakeholders was critical to the success of this project.

Involving community and regular communication between all facilitated sharing of information about the different project phases, ensuring buy-in by all. In addition, having the cooperation of the community members made it possible for MET to continue with the project.

The renaming of the park was a prime example of community involvement and engagement amongst all stakeholders, show-casing positive collaborative work and achieving progressive results in a relatively short time frame.

## Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

Support to the first ever 'Mining in Protected Areas' conference focused on the policies governing protected areas and threats other land uses may pose to the parks (and other protected areas). The discussions between policy makers and implementers at this conference and those since are feeding into the development of new policies being developed around Environmental Impact Assessments and mining in Protected Areas.

## **Additional Comments/Recommendations**

Development takes time and whilst the project has made some large leaps forward, ongoing support is still required. It is hoped that the MET will continue with many of the on ground aspects initiated but it is still likely that additional support will be necessary. The NNF continues to work with communities around the park and hopefully its longer term engagement in the SKEP area will continue.

## 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](http://www.cepf.net), and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

### **Please include your full contact details below:**

Name: Amalia Nangolo  
Organization name: Namibia Nature Foundation  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 245 Windhoek Namibia  
Tel: +264 61 248345  
Fax: +264 61 248344  
E-mail: [jt@nnf.org.na](mailto:jt@nnf.org.na)

**\*\*\*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.

<b>Project Results</b>	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  1 July, 2012 to 31 December, 2012  <b>(Attach annexes if necessary)</b>
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**





