

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Namibia Nature Foundation

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): *Promoting and Supporting Conservation Action in the Sperrgebiet Priority Area and Namibia's Succulent Karoo Ecosystem*

Implementation Partners for this Project:

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): February 1, 2005 – February 28, 2009

Date of Report (month/year): March 2009

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

The Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Programme (SKEP) has completed the first 5 year phase of its 20 year strategy. As part of this strategy SKEP with support from Conservation International (CI) and Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) initiated a project known as “Promoting and Supporting Conservation Action in the Sperrgebiet Priority Area and Namibia’s Succulent Karoo Ecosystem”.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: *Namibian people are implementing strategic and effective conservation activities in the Succulent Karoo Biome.*

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	
1. <i>There is consensus between all relevant stakeholders on priority actions.</i>	Active engagement with various stakeholders, including Scorpion Zinc mine happened during the launchpad for action as part of the Promoting the SK through culture, tourism and conservation festival in Keetmanshoop on the 6-7th November 2008.
2. <i>Civil society is actively involved in initiatives that contribute to natural resource management in the SK region.</i>	Various communities projects has been established such as nursery projects in Aus and Warmbad, Brown Hyena research project, biodiversity for Luderitz learners project, Satco leather project, Gabis beadwork, Aus community conservation Trust (ACCT).
3. <i>MET is achieving their Park objectives through effective partnerships with civil society.</i>	1. Park financial sustainability plan being implemented in prioritised phases

	<p>2. MET-MME-Private mining sector cooperating and sharing information and planning in open and mutually constructive ways.</p> <p>. Park-neighbour strategy and plan in place and being implemented in phases</p>
<p>4. MET is proactively managing the Sperrgebiet NP based on sound biophysical and socio-economic information.</p>	<p>1. Tourism development plan, as part of the Park's wider development plan, being implemented in phases</p> <p>2. Initial capacity-building of park staff undertaken</p> <p>3. Park Regulations in support of the proclamation legislation established and gazetted for effective management and administration of the SNP</p> <p>1. Key infrastructure established</p> <p>2. Park management and monitoring procedures established, being implemented and documented</p> <p>3. Key information that plugs gaps compiled and incorporated into management and monitoring process as applicable.</p>
<p>5. Namibian partners generate and access adequate resources to sustainably manage the area</p>	<p>Inadequate resources within the Sperrgebiet NP was, and continues to be a challenge to effective management of the area. SKEP provided support through providing key resources to assist operational management.</p> <p>Provision of a vehicle to the SNP, fuel, and other practical equipment for operational management of the area, has assisted SNP staff to support planning of the Park at an operational level. The following logistical support was given:</p> <p>4x4 vehicle for the southern warden of the SNP Fuel supply for the above vehicle Modifications to 3 4x4 vehicles Upgrading of the communication network in the SNP (Repeater towers, base stations) Payment of CB radio licenses Purchase of office equipment for the SNP Purchase of field equipment for the SNP Rental for storage and vehicle space at Oranjemund Two research and patrol shelters Uniforms for field staff Accommodation for field staff at Oranjemund Office equipment</p>
<p>6. Namibian partners generate and share relevant information and lessons within the region and the larger SKEP Programme.</p>	<p>Best practices shared and on website</p> <p>Lesson Learnt Workshop in Namibia with South African Counter parts and grantees. Interaction with the Nama Richtersveld (SA) communities during the SKEP cultural festival in Keetmanshoop. Proceedings available at SKEP office.</p>

Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.

Conservation actions in the Succulent Karoo are promoted, supported and coordinated through a Small Grants Facility for Civil Society

Much of the operational time spent by SKEP Namibia staff was guiding and capacitating communities to identify and implement projects to promote conservation actions and sustainable use of natural resources in the SK and buffer areas. Significant impact is evident in the Aus community, although continued support is needed to ensure sustainability.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs:

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1: Functional project management mechanism established.	
<i>1.1. Effective and representative steering mechanism in place by end of Q1 and meeting as per agreed time periods(recognising that the frequency of meetings will be dependent on how quickly the programme matures)</i>	Second last Steering Committee Meeting held in Keetmanshoop in September at the Canyon Hotel. Proceedings available from SKEP office
<i>1.2. Efficient project support unit of three staff operational by end of Q1.</i>	Assessment for Assistant done Mid- September 2008.
<i>1.3. Grant-making mechanism and criteria for approval are established with stakeholder input by.</i>	Revised mechanism disseminated and discussed with all relevant stakeholders (November 2008).
<i>1.4. Info on mechanism and priorities is disbursed through NNF e-mail list, web-site, local radio, and direct meeting contacts</i>	Info on mechanism and priorities is disbursed through NNF e-mail list, web-site, local radio, and direct meeting contacts
<i>1.5. Regular meetings held with NNF management to oversee and guide project implementation.</i>	On-going coordinator meetings and technical support.
<i>1.6. Complementary and long-term funding secured.</i>	During the launchpad for action as part of the Promoting the SK through culture, the participants expressing a strong feeling for SKEP to continue beyond the CEPF funding. Suggested that the SKEP use the review report document and the strategy

	document to seek for long term funds from Fauna & Flora International, UNDP - CPP, WWF, and NAMDEB scrap fund etc.
Output 2: Overall implementation programme developed and activities effectively coordinated.	
<i>2.1. Info from existing docs/processes consolidated and validated by stakeholders by end of Q1</i>	Quarterly SKEP Produced and distributed to relevant stakeholders
<i>2.2. Info gaps identified and prioritised by end Q1</i>	1 x workshop with South African (Richtersveld) and Namibian communities were done on information gaps, understanding medicinal plants and how to link culture and tourism. Proceedings and pictures available from SKEP office.
<i>2.3. Initial programme of action after confirmation with stakeholders and steering committee and disseminated information thereon.</i>	Ministry of Education (MoE), MET and Ministry of Agriculture Water and Forestry (MAWF) were engaged by SKEP and led to partnerships with private sector organisations such as Namdeb and Nature Investments. The distribution of the guides to relevant stakeholders was undertaken by SKEP. stakeholders have identified the guides as an important tool for creating an understanding of management constraints in the area.
<i>2.4. Annual programme review conducted in YR2 Q1, Yr3Q1, etc and programme verified and/or amended.</i>	SKEP review report completed and is available at NNF offices. Strategy development document completed and is available at NNF offices
Output 3: MET supported to deliver effective planning and implementation actions in the Sperrgebiet	
<i>3.1. Critical Information gaps filled.</i>	Critical Information gaps filled.
<i>3.2. Land consolidation strategy and costings completed by mid 2006</i>	Aus Townland management plan developed and endorsed. Sperrgebiet NP management plan developed and endorsed.
<i>3.3. Business and management plans for the Sperrgebiet NP and surrounding areas prepared and discussed with relevant stakeholders by end 2006.</i>	Business and management plans for the Sperrgebiet NP and surrounding areas prepared, discussed and endorsed
<i>3.4. Tourism development plan prepared, in consultation with tourism sector and key stakeholders by end 2006.</i>	Tourism and Business Development plans endorsed.
<i>3.5. Feasibility study for establishing a funding mechanism for the Sperrgebiet NP with emphasis on public-private partnerships conducted by end mid 2006.</i>	Active engagement with various stakeholders, including Scorpion Zinc mine happened during the launchpad for action as part of the Promoting the SK through culture, tourism and conservation festival
<i>3.6. Project proposal for the funding mechanism prepared and submitted to</i>	A proposal has been submitted to Namdeb on the

<i>appropriate donors by end 2006.</i>	Untanda environmental centre. ACCT proposal prepared and submitted to the GEF small grant programme.
3.7. Cabinet submission and information to key line ministries prepared to secure the proclamation of the NP undertaken by mid 2005	Sperrgebiet launch and proclaimed as a National park February 06, 2009
3.8. Human resources capacity of MET staff assessed and MET capacity building strategy developed and supported	Event monitoring book has been developed and training of staff has been done to enhance monitoring capacity
3.9. MET supported to develop an effective outreach and stewardship programme to involve neighboring lands and stakeholders in the Sperrgebiet conservation vision.	booklets on concession policies has been developed and dispersed to the communities and relevant stakeholders.
3.10. MET supported to engage constructively and develop mutually beneficial arrangements with mining interests (Ministry of Mines and Energy and private companies.)	MET-MME-Private mining sector cooperating and sharing information and planning in open and mutually constructive ways. Park-neighbour strategy and plan in place and being implemented in phases
3.11. Ongoing support for MET management in development and implementation of operational, monitoring and evaluation, and information dissemination systems	Ministry of Environment and Tourism supported to deliver effective planning and implementation actions in the Sperrgebiet Considerable time and funds were allocated to this aspect. A systematic approach was followed to ensure that a thorough understanding of the needs of the regional MET was gained, and that the strategy of MET in the Sperrgebiet National Park was effectively supported. The support to the MET can be categorised as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building among SNP personnel • Logistical support to SNP operations • Strategic planning for the development of the SNP The role of SKEP within this plan was to support operations logistically in the Sperrgebiet, to ensure effective co-ordination of planning and management of the Park in the inception stage.
Output 4: Priority conservation actions in the Succulent Karoo are promoted, supported and coordinated through a Small Grants Facility for Civil Society.	
4.1. Effective administrative and financial controls are in place before funds are	Effective administrative and financial controls are

<i>disbursed.</i>	in place before funds are disbursed
4.2. <i>A minimum of six (6) small grants disbursed to civil society each year.</i>	Potential projects reviewed and 4 approved. Progress and completion reports available from SKEP and sub grantees offices. 2 contracts awarded (November 2008)
4.3. <i>Reports on project results and impacts developed and submitted annually, with a big picture analysis after 3 years at end of project.</i>	Monitor progress per grant, both through reports and field visits, to ensure that funds are spent well, that the grantees are collaborating with each other and relevant partners, and that the work is progressing effectively Prepare an annual technical report that reflects the progress made by each grantee, highlights challenges and threats to the Succulent Karoo Ecosystem
Output 5: Best practice guides and procedures developed and disseminated amongst stakeholders in the Succulent Karoo Biome.	
5.1. <i>Regular communication with the SKEP Coordination Unit in South Africa through inter alia, participation in annual SKEP Partners Conference, and other relevant SKEP thematic forums as appropriate.</i>	CEPF investment workshop in Cape Town attended. Facilitation and project management workshop in Kamieskroon(SA) attended.
5.2. <i>Best practice guide developed in support to civil society, government, and other stakeholder involvement, partnership and co-management in the Succulent Karoo biome</i>	A folder on SKEP trio (DVDs), all publications prepared and disseminated to the communities and stakeholders during the Strategy development workshop in Windhoek and Promoting the SK through culture, conservation, and tourism event in Keetmanshoop
5.3. <i>Evaluation of best practices for integrating conservation and mining activities within the Sperrgebiet National Park</i>	Best practice guides for mining and rehabilitation developed and disseminated to mining agencies in the SK and relevant stakeholders.

Describe the success of the project in terms of delivering the intended outputs

Ministry of Environment and Tourism supported to deliver effective planning and implementation actions in the Sperrgebiet

Considerable time and funds were allocated to this aspect. A systematic approach was followed to ensure that a thorough understanding of the needs of the regional MET was gained, and that the strategy of MET in the Sperrgebiet National Park was effectively supported. The support to the MET can be categorised as follows:

- Capacity building among SNP personnel
- Logistical support to SNP operations
- Strategic planning for the development of the SNP

The role of SKEP within this plan was to support operations logistically in the Sperrgebiet, to ensure effective co-ordination of planning and management of the Park in the inception stage.

The contribution of SKEP towards the proclamation and management of the SNP was acknowledged at all levels of stakeholder consultation during the review process. The imminent proclamation of the SNP (2.6 Million ha) is the most significant contribution to the protection of the biodiversity of the SK. SKEP took part in the preparation of the cabinet submission for the proclamation of the Park. The Sperrgebiet has been launched and proclaimed as a National Park.

SKEP Namibia's support to the development of the proclaimed Sperrgebiet National Park (SNP) has been its most important impact in ensuring formal protection of portions of the SK. The imminent proclamation of the SNP will celebrate the efforts of SKEP in securing the protection of this area and its globally significant ecology, and ensuring that planning of infrastructure and activities within the park were informed by meaningful and accessible scientific information and stakeholder concerns.

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

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

VI. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT

Describe any lessons learned during the various phases of the project. Consider lessons both for future projects, as well as for CEPF's future performance.

A small grants facility was effectively established, co-ordinated through the SKEP Namibia office. The control of fund allocation and expenditure was found to be adequate, with guidance given to sub-grantees for management of their projects. Interaction between SKEP sponsored research scientists and SNP staff has enriched their understanding and appreciation for the biome. SKEP initiatives have linked SNP staff to surrounding communities, deepening the sense of co-habitation and management of the area as a whole. Best Practice Guides produced by SKEP are important tools for SNP staff, and in interviews the staff had knowledge of these, and some understanding of their content.

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

Project Execution: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/failure)

VII. ADDITIONAL FUNDING

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

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Date Received	Notes
		\$		
		\$		
		\$		
		\$		
		\$		
		\$		
		\$		
		\$		

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

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

Provide details of whether this project will continue in the future and if so, how any additional funding already secured or fundraising plans will help ensure its sustainability.

The project will definitely continue provided there is fund available to run the activities. Efforts still on for securing long-term funding. Ongoing sourcing out for possible donors, both local and international.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

VIII. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. One way we do this is by making programmatic project documents available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these in our newsletter and other communications.

These documents are accessed frequently by other CEPF grantees, potential partners, and the wider conservation community.

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