

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	WESSA (Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa)
Project Title:	Collaborative Approach to Ntsubane Forest Complex Management & Sustainable Livelihoods (Wild Coast)
Date of Report:	31 st January 2014
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CEPF Region:	Maputaland – Pondoland – Albany Biodiversity Hotspot
Strategic Direction:	2. Expand conservation areas and improve land use in 19 key biodiversity areas through innovative approaches.
Grant Amount:	US\$113,151
Project Dates:	1 June, 2012 to 30 September, 2013

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

- **Wild Coast Farm and Forest Organisation (WCCFO)** – engaged in all phases of development of concept note and a fundamental driver in the establishment of the Wild Coast Forest Users Association. Through this project phase WCCFO have been key implementation partners with their input being attributed to successes in the organization and facilitation of community meetings and workshops and their input into education and training of forest communities as it relates to the project. WCCFO have a strong track record with the affected communities and this has contributed to the development of trust relationships between these communities and the project team as well as providing an established foundation from which the project could drive multi-stakeholder collaboration towards improved

forest management and sustainable livelihoods in the Ntsubane Forest Complex.

- **EC Parks & Tourism Agency/Wild Coast Project (ECPTA)** – engaged in all phases of development of concept note and implementation of this initiative. WESSA worked closely with ECPTA and the Wild Coast Project (WCP) to maximize synergies on work related to identifying potential areas for protected area expansion, community liaison related to protected area expansion and mapping of the Ntsubane Complex for proposed protected area expansion. The WCP seconded their community liaison person from Port St Johns to work with the WESSA Ntsubane project team which enhanced the capacity of the project team in their interactions with DAFF, forest communities and the Participatory Forest Committees (PFMCs) as well as provided specialist cartographer inputs for the project team to work with. This collaboration strengthened the strategic direction of ECPTA, through the WCP, in the Pondoland corridor.
- **Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)** – engaged in negotiations for land use for rehabilitation and stewardship initiatives for forest users. Throughout the project DAFF contributed to the decision making processes and gave specific input into the selection of appropriate sites for the project. DAFF personal were present at stakeholder meetings, provided input at training sessions as well as input to beneficiaries working on the selected sites to facilitate best practice.
- **Forest users and traditional leaders** – through Wild Coast Farm and Forest, stakeholders in the Port St Johns area have been party to development of the concept note and formation of the Wild Coast Forest Users Association (WCFUA). Through the project the WCFUA and other traditional structures have facilitated in developing selection criteria for beneficiaries, liaised with broader community structures on the project objectives and provided support to the project team in order to optimize the education, training and forest site work with the beneficiaries.
- **Traditional Healers Association of Port St Johns** – representation in the Wild Coast Forest Users Association. Specific input was provided by traditional healers on high yield forest species for consideration in the pilot nursery and replanting project of the Lambasi team who were working in the forests of the Msikaba area which is part of the Mkambathi protected areas expansion strategy.
- **Private Sector (Tourism)** – engaged in discussions and aligned to the objectives of the Wild Coast Forest Users Association. The tourism sector

recognizes the value and importance of healthy eco-systems to their industry and although they have not been active participants in the implementation of the Ntsubane project to date, there is scope for the development of tourism related activities into the future.

1. Conservation Impacts

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

This project has contributed to CEPF Strategic Direction 2 from the Ecosystem Profile: Expand conservation areas and improve land use in 19 key biodiversity areas through innovative approaches.

The Ntsubane forest complex, Pondoland north, is the largest remaining indigenous forest complex on the Wild Coast. It includes critical eco-systems highlighted in the Maputo-Pondoland-Albany corridor (Key Biodiversity Area 15) and is made up of seven forest clusters stretching north from the newly approved Silaka expansion programme to Lambasi, south of the Mkambathi conservation area.

The Ntsubane forest complex is under ever increasing threat as a result of alien invasive plant infestation and human activities which take the form of forest clearing for ever expanding community settlements and their increased agricultural needs, deforestation for construction needs, unsustainable harvesting practices for medicinal and traditional craft purposes and unmanaged and illegal access by users and poachers.

The project worked with affected communities and key stakeholders through a collaborative approach to achieve the following contributions to Strategic Direction 2:

1. Mediation of learning and empowerment of affected communities and stakeholders through an **expansive social learning** processes supported by “Change Laboratory Workshops” or “Interventionist Workshops” (detailed below)
2. Prepared a socio-ecological map and report to facilitate decision making processes going forward
3. Collaboratively enhanced the targeted forest communities and stakeholders’ capability for improved management and wise use of natural resources

4. Collaboratively established and proposed boundaries for expanded protected areas
5. Identified potential sustainable livelihood opportunities and worked with forest users to support livelihood practices.

1.2 Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

1.2.1 Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years:

The long term impacts of the project will result in collaboratively managed biodiversity conservation areas with improved stakeholder participation processes and founded on an increased conservation awareness and biodiversity value return for all stakeholders. Restoration of degraded forest sites in Khaleni, Goso, Ndengane and Port St Johns clusters will be in their third year of rehabilitation and become accessible to community users at time of maturation. Increased revenue and local economic growth for forest users through improved quality, marketability and business skills in the craft sector.

Hectares Protected: at this point the hectares that will be protected in the long term cannot be calculated. The success of the project in having the majority of its trained beneficiaries incorporated into the government funded Community Works Programme (CWP) creates the opportunity for larger scale conservation work around forest conservation to be executed by environmentally empowered communities. WESSA will look to contribute to this work through synergizing plans and guiding the implementation strategy of the CWP in a direction that will optimize forest conservation. The ultimate goal would be to achieve the protection of all 4 461 hectares that make up the complex and an expansion of these clusters towards a corridor.

Species Conserved: Because the Ntsubane Forest Complex sits in the very small and vulnerable Pondoland Centre of Plant Endemism, it is critical to maintain its ecological integrity in order to preserve and protect the broader endemic biodiversity, much of which sits outside the forest biome.

The project has identified and will work towards the ongoing protection of the following species of trees/plants which are under increasing pressure within the Ntsubane Complex. Several of the species listed below are recognized as value species as their availability for certain uses reduces the pressure on other more rare or valuable indigenous species.

Xhosa & Common name	Taxon	Preferred use
Umnga/Thorn Tree	Acacia natalia	Fuel
Umquma/Wild olive	Olea europa var. Africana	Fuel
Umxgam/Boerboon	Schotia species	Fuel
Isipingo/Droogies	Scutia myrtina	Fuel
Black ironwood	Olea capensis	Fuel
White stinkwood	Celtis Africana	Fuel
Ublekwan/Black Wattle	Acacia mearnsii	Fuel
Ungonothi	Flagellaria guineensis	Basket weaving
Imizi/Laundry grass (sedge)	Cyperus textilis	Basket weaving
Umtati / Sneezewood	Ptaeroxolon obliquum	Residential, Fuel
Umsimbeet	Mellittia grandis	Residential & stick making
Umduli/Coastal silveroak	Brachyleana discolour	Stick making
Umthombothi	Spirostachys Africana	Stick making
Ithambo	Trichocladus crinitus	Stick making
Umkhiwane/Wild fig	Ficus sur	Wood carving
Umlungu Mabele/Knob wood	Zanthoxylum capensis	Wood carving
Umthunzi wehlati/Red Milkwood	Mimusops caffra	Wood carving
Umgubhe	Rothmania Globosa	Wood carving
Umvumvu	Celtis Africana	Wood carving

The protection of these key species together with the restoration and rehabilitation of forest clusters towards corridor status will in turn result in the improved conservation of fauna and avian species. For example the endangered Cape Parrot (*Poicephalus robustus*), South Africa's only endemic parrot, is highly reliant on forest corridors for its movement. Healthy corridors and free movement reduce concerns such as genetic pooling of species.

Corridors Created: the longer term vision for the complex is to continue working towards stemming the current destruction of forest through collaborative community orientated empowerment, labor aligned conservation projects such as CWP and developing sustainable livelihoods for forest users. These collectively contribute towards restoration and improved management and protection of the natural resources which will be actualized in the expansion of forest clusters towards corridor status.

1.2.2 Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years:

A comprehensive socio-ecological map with informed conservation opportunities will be available for use in developing a conservation plan for three forest clusters in the Ntsubane complex. Improved collaborative stakeholder management processes for three threatened biodiversity areas in the Ntsubane forest complex by up-skilling of existing forest user associations, participatory forest management committees and community users. Conservation related skills transference and revenue opportunities for 48 beneficiaries through an alien invasive eradication programme. Craft related skills transference for improved quality, marketability and micro enterprise management for forest users.

Hectares Protected: The project worked on four different pilot forest sites for training purposes equating to a total conservation area of 16 hectares. This phase of the project was directed towards capacity building of stakeholders for long term conservation gains. Through the work on the 16 hectares the project imparted skills which are being taken into larger job centered projects such as the Community Works Programme.

The education and training of stakeholders and the conservation orientated human capacity development of forest communities is envisaged to have further hectare value as livelihoods and forest activities begin to align more closely with sustainable practices.

Species Conserved: Through this project period and as part of the short term developments with the forest communities, as identified through the expansive learning processes (detailed below), is the immediate need to reduce the current unsustainable forest use practices, particularly as it relates to high value, high yield species. To achieve this, ongoing support through “Change Laboratory Workshops” or “Interventionist Workshops” (detailed below) within the forest community and stakeholder networks must continue.

Through this phase of the project the forest communities and other stakeholders identified tree and plant species which they feel are under increasing pressure and directly addressed this through skills development as it relates to propagation and seedling relocation, planting and care.

One project site included intensive planting of a 4 hectare site which included the following important forest species:

Xhosa & Common name	Taxon	Preferred use
Umquma/Wild olive	Olea europaea var. Africana	Fuel
Umxgam/Boerboon	Schotia species	Fuel
Black ironwood	Olea capensis	Fuel
White stinkwood	Celtis Africana	Fuel
Umtati / Sneezewood	Ptaeroxolon obliquum	Residential, Fuel
Umsimbeet	Mellittia grandis	Residential & stick making
Umthombothi	Spirostachys Africana	Stick making
Ithambo	Trichocladus crinitus	Stick making
Umlungu Mabele/Knob wood	Zanthoxylum capensis	Wood carving
Umthunzi wehlati/Red Milkwood	Mimusops caffra	Wood carving
Umvumvu	Celtis Africana	Wood carving

Corridors Created:

Within the project time frame the emphasis of corridor creation was centered around work with project partner, WCP, and involved stakeholder engagement and workshops that resulted in degraded forest areas being identified as potential sites for restoration and protected area status. These areas have been mapped and the rehabilitation and restoration of these environments will contribute, over time, to corridor enhancement. Furthermore, these areas will contribute to the national and provincial expansion of protected areas strategy.

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

Objective A: *To establish the boundaries of the proposed protection area with its socio-ecological features including opportunities for corridor expansion interlinking forest clusters*

- The project worked closely with the WCP on this objective. Communities are often hesitant to commit to “conservation” plans that may be perceived as losing access or ownership of a resource. As a result WESSA and WCP engaged

stakeholders, with particular focus on forest communities, to explore and understand the potential benefits of protected areas. Through shared visioning, sites for potential protected areas were identified and mapped out as part of the WCP deliverables to their expansion of protected areas mandate. Further aspects to this deliverable included a GEF METT scoring monitoring exercise. This deliverable is aligned to the national and provincial protected areas expansion strategy into which this project feeds.

One of the challenges faced by the project team in working towards this objective is related to the lack of clarity surrounding forest boundaries and governance as it relates to the forests. For example, tribal authority forest and state forest can be part of one forest cluster and access rights, governance protocols and conservation strategies require different processes and may involve different decision making authorities.

The project team, together with the WCFUA, traditional leadership, DAFF and WCP worked within this complex environment and in collaboration to establish and map, in principle, new possible areas for protection while acknowledging that further work may be required in some instances to re-address the ownership aspects.

• **Objective B:** *To improve existing **management agreements** and establish appropriateness of potential conservation options (e.g. stewardship, provincial reserve, etc).*

- The project worked with forest communities in isolation and the WCFUA as well as through multi stakeholder workshops to explore options for future conservation agreements. A full day workshop in Port St Johns was held in which WESSA presented socio-ecological findings of the complex and explored case studies and frameworks surrounding community based natural resource management systems for consideration.

The project has worked in collaboration with the WCP to rehabilitate and strengthen PFMCs. This has been a challenge as the PFMCs, although established, have not experienced any real sense of empowerment as it relates to contributing to forest management. There is an underlying frustration within the PFMCs towards DAFF whom they feel undermines their potential contributions by not effectively engaging with them on forest management decisions. Work through the WCFUA is directed towards addressing this issue

and although PFMCS exist, there is considerable work, including most aspects of capacity development, required before they are performing at an optimal level as it relates to meaningful input into the management of forest resources.

• **Objective C:** To transfer practical forest rehabilitation and restoration skills for **improvement of forest** conservation status.

- Through a stakeholder engagement process the project identified four project sites and appointed 48 beneficiaries to undertake education and training for the eradication of invasive alien plants (IAP) and implement appropriate techniques for the rehabilitation and restoration of these sites. Each site had two representatives who underwent leadership training and all beneficiaries were trained in IAP eradication and environmental knowledge skills. This process included close engagement with the WCFUA and PFMCS and specialist input was provided at each of the sites to ensure relevance of the training, localized detail and associated resources were optimized. Further training on fire, how to manage fire as well as negative ecological effects of fire was provided by the Port St Johns Fire Department.

An area of 4 hectares was cleared of invasive species and appropriate restoration techniques for the training sites were implemented. Through the process of careful site selection, the project was able to train and successfully pilot forest fringe IAP clearance and grassland rehabilitation, inner forest IAP clearance and replanting of high yield tree species and medicinal plant propagation and replanting of medicinal plants in the forest environment. Through this process of education and training the collective capacity of the WCFUA has been increased as well as the capacity of the local NGO WCFFO which is empowered to undertake projects on IAP work at a supervisory level going forward.

In achieving these successes, the project was faced with numerous challenges which include local political issues between neighboring communities, the project and DAFF as well as logistical complexities surrounding the lack of infrastructure and facilities for the implementation of IAPs work. Overcoming these challenges successfully can be attributed to the emphasis that the project placed on collaboration, empowerment in decision making processes, WESSAs track record in the area and the high regard placed on WCFFO by many of the forest communities.

• **Objective D:** To **build capacity** on conservation management and improved skills for sustainable livelihoods opportunities (including Local Economic Development).

- Human capacity development is at the core of this project and identifying and developing human capacity of forest communities and stakeholders is critical to the sustainability of the project objectives. Embedded in WESSAs development ethos on the Wild Coast is the growth and development of sustainable livelihoods through appropriate reflexive processes which build on existing knowledge, skills and practices. Through an improved understanding of the status of PFMCS, the WCFUA and forest users such as crafters and traditional healers, the project has been able to identify, understand and begin to map the contextual sustainability options for forest users.

To emerge strongly through an intensive work-shopping program and village based visits process is the work being undertaken by forest community crafters. The project allowed for the initial scoping report on crafting to be compiled and some training to be implemented. Most importantly, the project has developed a site specific report and suggested way forward for crafting as a sustainable livelihood which takes into account forest use and access, product quality and marketability. Mentorships and internships have been identified as highly productive mechanisms for growth and development of crafters and a successful pilot internship was undertaken by a local crafter who visited and worked alongside a well known Plettenberg Bay sculpturor where there was a high degree of skills transference.

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

N/A

2. Project Components

This section describes the activities undertaken during the one-year period aimed to achieve the anticipated outputs or deliverables as it relates to creating a space for multi-stakeholder collaboration towards improved forest management and sustainable livelihoods in the Ntsubane Forest Complex.

In the light of the above, the mediation of learning and empowerment of the affected communities and stakeholders became the main focus of this intervention to collaboratively enhance the targeted forest communities and stakeholders' capability for improved management and wise use of natural resources as well as the identification of potential sustainable livelihood opportunities. In the context of this project, it was important to understand **sustainable livelihoods** and its relation to socio-ecological integrity, particularly in relation to rural communities whose livelihoods heavily depend on their local forest ecosystems; as the following: "a livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base" (DFID, 1996).

Another key aspect taken into consideration in the methodology designed for this project was the concept of supporting **human development** through improving ecosystems services associated to local forests by enlarging the 'wise' choices for all beneficiaries who have access to this natural capital or resource. These choices refer to the principles in which people decide to make use of fire wood, access building materials, medicinal plants, seek 'green' employment, well-being, associated cultural rituals, etc. in a way that the local forest ecological condition would be maintained or improved through appropriated practices and mechanisms. Therefore, the project methodology, methods and activities developed for this purpose adopted a people-centred approach by integrating participatory processes as a means to develop local capability and empowerment towards the wise use and management of forest resources.

This project, 'a collaborative approach to Ntsubane Forest Complex Management & Sustainable Livelihoods', provided an opportunity for particularly local forest communities to identify and voice what was important to them, what they aspired to, and how they felt they could get there. In other words, discussions and deliberations took place in many occasions between community members themselves; communities and local leadership; communities and government agencies; and among all stakeholders at both local and forest complex level. These took place through coordinated workshops at village level, cluster level and forest complex level.

The learning interactions facilitated by WESSA, together with the Wild Coast Project and the Wild Coast Forest and Farmers Association, provided the space for initiating an

expansive social learning¹ processes supported by “Change Laboratory Workshops” or “Interventionist Workshops”; information sessions on for instance forest legislation; involvement in practical activities such as Invasive Alien Plant (IAP) clearance and forest restoration; horizontal skills transfer (e.g. craft development interchanges); etc. Table 1 below provides an outline of the activities undertaken during this project period, May 2012 – November 2013, from which the next phase of the project should be built on.

It is important to note that *expansive learning* “involves the creation of new **knowledge** and new **practices** for a newly emerging activity; that is, learning embedded in and constitutive of qualitative transformation of the entire activity system. Such transformation may be triggered by the introduction of a new technology or set of regulations” (Daniels, 2008, p.126). This means that expanded forest management and wise use capability could be unlocked by, for instance, improving community access to a better managed and distributed forest harvesting permits which would allow for a more controlled way of having access and monitor forest products for craft production, etc. Coupled to this, *Social learning* is often referred to as “a way of organizing individuals, organisations, communities and networks, that is particularly fruitful in creating a more reflexive, resilient, flexible, adaptive and, indeed, ultimately, more sustainable world” (Wals, 2007, p.38). These theories of learning combined, *Expansive Social Learning*, lend themselves to engagement in participatory processes towards the co-construction of valuable new knowledge practices over time through a series of intervention workshops based on the expansive learning cycle.

Table 1: List of learning interventions for the Ntsubane Forest Beneficiaries and Stakeholders 2012 - 2013

Intervention	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Literature Review · Expert Consultations · Forest Village-based Scoping · Consolidation of Ntsubane 	Understanding situational/contextual factors of the project beneficiaries and the interrelationship between these factors in relation to forest management and wise use of its natural resources. A contextual profile was

¹ “Subjects are placed in a situation in which a problem is identified and provided with tools with which to solve the problem or means by which they can construct tools to solve the problem” (Daniels, 2008, p.131). However, the approach to this project is not to initiate the process by emphasising problems in relation to unsustainable natural resource management and use but rather to mediate a participatory vision building exercise of self-evaluation and reflexion where the mediation becomes the intervention from which positive change could evolve.

<p>Forest Socio-ecological mapping report</p>	<p>therefore mapped out from village-based observations, informal interviews, literature reviews, consultations, etc. All these resulted in the compilation of a socio-ecological mapping report for the Ntsubane Forest Complex.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Workshop 1: Orientation · Workshop 2: Sustainable Use of Natural Resources · Workshop 3: Options towards Conservation Agreements · Workshop 4: Consolidation · Village-based Workshops: CBNRM · Arbor Week Celebrations 	<p>A participatory approach facilitated with project beneficiaries and stakeholders resulting in the identification of key issues to be addressed as it pertains the optimal utilisation of the Ntsubane Forest resources and management as well as mapping out possible solutions and opportunities. This process also enabled beneficiaries to develop new knowledge (e.g. changes in legislation, CBNRM) and improved practice (e.g. sustainable harvesting forest resources).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Quarterly Site Visits to forest clusters 	<p>An opportunity for collectively reflect on issues, map out a way forward and improve on local practices provided to beneficiaries from each of the clusters involved in this phase of the project.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Workshop 5: Craft Development · Workshop 6: Craft Development (continuation) · One on one support: Craft Development · Craft Markets scoping visits · Horizontal Skills Transfer · WCFUA Deliberation Meetings 	<p>Improved crafting skills based on wise use of forest resources facilitated by a craft development expert. The focus of work here involved auditing existing craft communities' work and building a profile of strengths, weaknesses and challenges. The outcome of the audit process is presented in a report with a suggested way forward for each community based on specific aspects relating to their individual requirements. A successful pilot skills transference internship was undertaken between a local crafter and a Plettenberg Bay artist.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · IAP Clearance and Forest Rehabilitation Training 	<p>Practical IAP clearance and forest rehabilitation skills developed towards the ecological improvement of the Ntsubane Forest Complex.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Project Reflection and Planning Meetings · Stakeholder Consultation Meetings 	<p>Tensions and contradictions with regards issues pertaining the optimal utilisation and management of the Ntsubane Forest identified throughout the project lifecycle and taken into account by the project team when planning for further interventions and support to the beneficiaries/stakeholders. Reflection on way forward from discussions and deliberations with the project stakeholders at large during specific consultation meetings.</p>

Although this project has taken place over a one year period, the intention of this process is for the longer term and goes beyond the four forest clusters into involving communities and stakeholders from the total Ntsubane Forest Complex as it aims to create a collaboratively well managed conservation area that provides optimum ecosystems services for humans, plants and animals that coexist in this area. Over a longer period of time the project methodology will continue drawing on the expansive social learning cycle process as follows (Daniels, 2008, p.133):

- i) modeling an alternative way of working;
- ii) examining the model to understand its dynamics, strengths and pitfalls;
- iii) implementing the model and monitoring the processes and impact of implementation in the dispositions and actions of professionals (ongoing self evaluations in context);
- iv) drawing on this data to reflect on the processes and outcomes.

In summary, this project aims to create a 'space' for the Ntsubane Forest Complex residents to engage in dialogue, deliberation, defining and re-defining collective aspirations, co-creation of new ideas and practices, and ultimately, as Wals suggests, a

dialogical social learning process that helps create a more reflexive society capable to respond adequately to emerging crises and challenges (Wals, 2007, p.43).

Phase 1 of the project allowed for a few interventions and learning processes as outlined in Table 1 above. The project would aim to continue with an expansive learning process in order to improve forest management and ecosystem services as well as sustainable livelihoods practices in the Ntsubane Forest Complex.

2.1 Project Components:

2.1.1 Component 1:

To establish the boundaries of the proposed protection area with its socio- ecological features including opportunities for corridor expansion interlinking forest clusters.

Deliverable	Actual at Completion
Stakeholders orientated to the project.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Traditional leadership and communities of the Ntsubane Forest Complex, specifically the communities of Khaleni, Goso, Dedeni and Lambasi who participated in all aspects of the project including implementing projects on local forest sites. 2. DAFF – working with the local foresters, the office in Port St Johns as well as the provincial office in King Williams Town. 3. ECPTA and the WCP – the project has worked in collaboration with these stakeholders on proposed protection areas and data sharing as it relates to socio-ecological findings. The project aligns to the provincial expansion of protected areas strategy. 4. WCFFO – involved from concept development to implementation of the project and a key stakeholder facilitating community liaison, education and training as it relates to possible protected area expansion. 5. Wild Coast Forest Users Association involved

	<p>from concept development to implementation of the project and a key stakeholder facilitating community liaison, education and training as well as its members being beneficiaries to education and training as it relates to possible protected area expansion.</p> <p>6. Public Works – Community Works Programme (CWP): orientated to the project objective and signed a contract to employ the majority of beneficiaries trained on the WESSA CEPF project for inclusion in the CWP work in the Port St Johns and Ntsubane area.</p>
<p>A socio-ecological map produced of Kaleni, Goso and Ndengane clusters. Proposed conservation areas are defined on the map, supported by a written document outlining conservation opportunities and taking into account other forest clusters within the corridor.</p>	<p>The socio-ecological mapping exercise undertaken by the project involved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collaborating with WCP to appoint a cartographer for the mapping of the Ntsubane Complex, including possible areas identified for protection. 2. Producing a socio-ecological written report on the Ntsubane Complex. The report was developed through a desk top study of existing available data, field notes, stakeholder meetings, interviews and project findings.

Key Activities:

- *Appoint a project cartographer to map area for consideration under a conservation agreement*

06.06.12: Laura Conde met with Peter Tyldesley, Wild Coast Programme Manager, to agree on the appointment of his project cartographer, Derek Berliner, to map a preliminary conservation area for the Ntsubane Forest.

- *Appoint conservation planner to undertake the consolidation of a socio-ecological map of the proposed area*

20.06.12: Laura Conde travelled to Howick to meet Chris Galliers, WESSA Biodiversity Programme Manager, and agree on the scope of work required for this project. The socio-ecological report also required the inputs of Mzamo Dlamini, a local conservationist and activist from the Wild Coast, as well as Michael Denison, WESSA's Eastern Cape Coastal Projects Manager.

Mzamo Dlamini was tasked to conduct a scoping exercise in the villages adjacent to the identified Ntsubane Forest Nodes namely Dedeni, Khaleni, Lambasi and Goso in order to examine the following:

- Who is doing what? Identify subgroups:
 - i. Medicinal harvesters
 - ii. Craft makers
 - iii. Wood workers
 - iv. Households consumers (e.g. fire wood, building material)
 - v. Farmers
 - vi. Land administrations (e.g. local leaders)
 - vii. Land/forest managers (e.g. rangers, PFMCs)
- What wise use practices are being applied?
- How is each subgroup learning about sustainable resource use/management? (e.g. from generation to generation, DAFF, etc.) How is this knowledge generated?
- What norms, rules and contradictions exist in each subgroup activity both official and those that we don't always talk about?
- Where is each subgroup seeing themselves going in relation to their local ecosystems and the services they provide (aspirations and needs)

- *Liaise with experts and researchers in the field to collect additional materials and input on the socio-ecological features of the proposed project area*

30.09.12: Laura Conde meet with Div Devilliers of the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism and John Costello, a well

known Wild Coast conservationist. Both Div and John co-author a book on the Wild Coast culture and biodiversity. Both Div and John have been consulted through the life cycle of this project phase in numerous occasions. Div has a great understanding of the local forest and he particularly specialized on the Wild Coast forest for the completion of his research a few years ago.

- *Complete a study and analysis of existing academic and research material on Goso, Khaleni and Ndengane forest clusters and the greater Ntsubane forest complex, including the analysis of the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency Expansion of Protected Areas, the Wild Coast Spatial Development Framework and other relevant municipal and national documentation affecting the Ntsubane complex (See **Appendix A** – Key Strategies and Plans)*

The completion of the socio-ecological report also drew on a wide range of documents and academic papers. Some key plans and strategies pertaining the Wild Coast forest management and conservation include the 'Draft Environmental Management Plan for the Wild Coast' and the 'Eastern Cape Protected Area Expansion Strategy' in which it is recognise the ecological significance of Pondoland/Coastal Indigenous Forests.

27.09.12: Laura Conde and Michael Denison attended an information sharing and consultative meeting held by Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency on the Expansion of Protected Areas Strategy. The project area, the Ntsubane Forest, is considered a high priority area which falls within the Pondoland expansion plans. This project ties directly into this strategy and plans.

- *Facilitate Workshop 1: Orientation to the project, conservation agreements and mapping local social and ecological context (See **Appendix B** – Copy of Attendance Register Workshop 1)*

24.08.12: The first workshop or contact session involved representatives from the targeted forest nodes in the Ntsubane Forest as well as key stakeholders. These are the Wild Coast Programme, DAFF, the Forest Users Association, the Wild Coast Forest and Farmers Organisation and many others. The workshop intended to primarily provide an orientation to the project as well as starting a participatory process in order to map the future of the Forest Complex socio-ecological plan and programme for the year.

The workshop touched on the following areas:

- Introduction to CEPF and feedback on the different villages visited
- Conserve indigenous forests ecosystems
- Ecosystems Services: Finding out the activities that are occurring in the forests for each node and how they are impacting on livelihoods.
- Role of community in sustainable resource use
- Role of Participatory Forest Management Committees (PFMCs)

Presentations were given by DAFF, the traditional authority, local government, WCFFO, WCP, WCFUA and WESSA.

In summary, the representatives from the forest nodes involved, with the exception of Goso which came on board at a later stage, provided an overview in their current relationship with Forestry and how these forests were managed:

- Lambasi node has not been interacting with Forestry so they are not clear who manages the forests
- Dedeni forest node is managed by Forestry and there is a good relationship between DAFF and the community
- Khaleni forest node is managed by DAFF

It was also realized that all forest node beneficiaries were not very clear on current legislation as it relates to the implementation of the Forest Act and that all nodes, with the exception of Lambasi, have semi-functioning PFMCs.

It was consensus that DAFF and the local communities should work together in understanding the Forest Act and how to implement conservation, management and sustainable use practices relating to forest resources as at this stage, it was also not very clear. Out of this first discussion, the beneficiaries agreed on motivating for opportunities to develop their capacity on how to harvest natural resources more wisely. It was also requested to focus on other issues affecting the sustainability of their local forest by including their traditional authorities in the decision-making and plans that would be developed through this process. It was furthermore recognised that the rehabilitation of forest areas is a key priority to take forward.

- *Carry out a site visit to each of the three forest clusters to continue with the participatory socio-ecological mapping exercise (see **Appendix C – Forest Village-based Scoping Report**)*

08.09.12 – 16.09.12: As mentioned in the section above, Mzamo Dlamini was brought in as part of the project team for a couple of weeks in order to explore and deeper understand the socio-ecological context of each village involved in the first phase of the project. These findings were taken into account in the final socio-ecological report as well as in the designing of the capacity development programme content and approach. The visits to these villages also helped to introduce the aim and objectives of this project to the wider community.

- *Carry out the first GEF METT scoring monitoring exercise*

This aspect was facilitated in the CBNRM capacity development component as described in Section 2.1.2 below.

In summary, the METT Audits took place within the four forest nodes by involving the wider community from each targeted village. DAFF was present during the Khaleni Audit. The audits were facilitated by WESSA and Wild Coast Project. The main findings are summarized as follows:

- **Lambasi Node:**
 - **Ownership** of the Forest is not clear DAFF has never been seen in the area, part of the forest is owned by the community. Community manages the activities within the forest.
 - **Development** within the Protected Area is negative (housing, commercial, tourism infrastructure).
 - **Agriculture and Aquaculture** – Livestock farming, grazing are the only activities occurring.
 - **Energy production and mining** – Sand mining is occurring at a low level
 - **Transport Corridors** - there are no roads or canals within the forests.
 - **Biological resource use and harm** - Wildlife hunting is occurring at a low level, high harvesting of medicinal plants, wood and fishing.
 - **Human intrusions and disturbances** - There are no activities occurring within the area, there has been one occasion of civil unrest.

- **Natural system modifications** - Veld fires and deforestation is occurring at a high rate. There are less predators than they used to be found in the area.
- **Invasive species** - Invasive alien plants are found in the area. The infestation has increased over the years.
- **Pollution** - There is no exotic material introduced into the area.
- **Geological events**- The area has uncounted one earthquake in the 1970, erosion and siltation of rivers is very high.
- **Climate change** - There has been an increase in habitat shift of animal and plant species, droughts, temperature extremes and storms.
- **Specific cultural and social threats**- The area is experiencing a loss of cultural links and traditional knowledge links.

· **Khaleni:**

- **Ownership** - Forest is located within in the DAFF Ntsubane Forest Estate. It comprises 671.1ha with 8 staff members.
- **Development** within the Protected Area is negative (housing, commercial, tourism infrastructure).
- **Agriculture and Aquaculture** – Livestock grazing is very high.
- **Energy production and mining** – None.
- **Transport Corridors** - There is a low rate of roads and electricity cables going through the forest.
- **Biological resource use and harm** - Wildlife hunting is occurring at a high level, high harvesting of medicinal plants and wood plus logging.
- **Human intrusions and disturbances** - There are a few recreational activities occurring within the forest, a lot of research has happened within the area, a threat to protected area staff has occurred before.
- **Natural system modifications** - There are less predators than there used to be in the area.
- **Invasive species** - Invasive alien plants are found in the area they have increased over the years. Hyenas have been spotted out and it is believe that they never used to habitat this area.
- **Pollution** - Agriculture fertilizer is getting into the river, waste is also a big issue.
- **Geological events** - The area has uncounted one earthquake and landslide in the 1985, erosion and siltation of rivers is low.
- **Climate change**- Temperature extremes have increased as well as floods and storms.

- **Specific cultural and social threats** - The area is experiencing a high loss of cultural links, traditional knowledge links as well as destruction of heritage sites.

- **Goso:**

- **Ownership**- Forest is located in the DAFF Ntsubane Forest Estate with a total of 8 staff members.
- **Development** - Housing and settlement is high within the forest.
- **Agriculture and Aquaculture** – Livestock grazing is very high and the planting of Gum trees.
- **Energy production and mining** – None.
- **Transport Corridors** - There is a low rate of roads and electricity cables going through the forest.
- **Biological resource use and harm** - Wildlife hunting is occurring at a high level, high harvesting of medicinal plants and wood plus logging.
- **Human intrusions and disturbances** - There is low research in the forest and high activity of protected area managers.
- **Natural system modifications** - Fire and deforestation is very high.
- **Invasive species** - Invasive alien plant species occur at a high rate.
- **Pollution** - Waste issues.
- **Geological events** - Erosion and siltation occurs at a high rate.
- **Climate change** - Habitat shifting, droughts and temperature extremes are high.
- **Specific cultural and social threats** - The area is experiencing a medium loss of cultural links, traditional knowledge links.

- **Dedeni:**

- **Ownership** - Forest is located in the DAFF Mt Thesiger Estate Forest and comprises 28 staff members.
- **Development** - Housing and settlement is low within the forest.
- **Agriculture and Aquaculture** – Livestock grazing is very high.
- **Energy production and mining** – None.
- **Transport Corridors** - None.
- **Biological resource use and harm** - Wildlife hunting is occurring at a high level, high harvesting of medicinal plants and wood plus logging.
- **Human intrusions and disturbances** - There is low recreational activities.
- **Natural system modifications** - Fire, deforestation is at a high level.
- **Invasive species** - Invasive alien plant species occur at a high rate.

- **Pollution** - Waste issues.
- **Geological events** - Erosion, landslides and siltation occur at a high rate.
- **Climate change** - Habitat shifting, droughts, temperature extreme, storms, floods occur at a medium rate.
- **Specific cultural and social threats** - The area is experiencing a low loss of cultural links, traditional knowledge links.

The second phase of the project will focus on continuing improving the environmental and conservation management of these forests taken the audit above as the basis to measure improvement.

- *Produce a consolidated written socio-ecological report derived from the participatory process outlined in the project activities to highlight conservation and sustainable livelihoods opportunities for the Ntsubane corridor (see **Appendix D – Ntsubane Forest Complex Socio-Ecological Report**)*

The Ntsubane Forest Complex is a belt of indigenous forest, broadly categorised as Scarp Forest, but with Montane, Coastal Lowland and Dune Forest characteristics, covering a land mass of approximately 4 661 hectares of the Pondoland Centre of Plant Endemism between Port St Johns and Mbotyi on the Wild Coast of South Africa. Its geographical position locates it in the critical ecosystems highlighted in the Maputoland-Pondoland-Albany corridor, which is internationally recognised for its biodiversity and identified as a conservation priority.

The Ntsubane forest complex, which is the largest remaining natural forest stand on the Wild Coast, is the remnant of a larger forest corridor that has become fragmented and is regarded as an endangered ecosystem due to increasing pressure on the resource. The Wild Coast is the coastal zone of the former Transkei Homeland of South Africa's apartheid era and remains today as an under developed, rural and impoverished region. As a result there is a very high demand on the natural resources from local forest communities. This pressure is typically found in three key areas, (1) timber consumption and forest loss for use in sustaining livelihoods which includes the clearing of forest and timber harvesting for the construction of homesteads, fencing, cooking fuels, forest clearing for agriculture purposes and activities such as craft production; (2) impact of livestock; (3) the prevalence of invasive alien plants which out-compete indigenous forest species, contribute to heightened forest degradation and exacerbate the negative impact of fires on the forest fringes; and (4) governance and poor management of

forests, lack of institutional capacity and confusion between local communities and the state on the status of forest ownership, management principles and access rights.

This report explores in detail how (1) the impacts listed above; (2) the influence of recent history, including the apartheid era; and (3) governance and land use practices have contributed to the current socio-ecological condition of the Ntsubane Forest Complex and surrounding forest communities. The outcome of the findings, which have been drawn from an extensive desk top study, field notes, community meetings and work with communities and other stakeholders through the WESSA CEPF funded Ntsubane project, *Collaborative Approach to Ntsubane Forest Complex Management & Sustainable Livelihoods*, reaffirms the importance of the Ntsubane corridor as a region of special importance that is increasingly vulnerable to socio-ecological pressure and therefore at risk of significant biodiversity loss in the absence of improved conservation efforts that promote sustainable livelihoods and improved natural resource management. Of importance from the information that has emerged is; (1) the recognition from a broad based stakeholder contingency that collaboration is critical to effective change, (2) a willingness to explore new and dynamic conservation strategies, and (3) projects with forest communities can/should contribute to strategies such as the National and Eastern Cape Protected Areas Expansion Strategy.

The report contextualizes these findings and presents possible ways forward that will directly benefit the long term conservation of the Ntsubane Forest Complex and its ecosystem services, some of which are currently being promoted by NGOs such as WESSA and the Master Farmer Programme who are active on the Wild Coast and more specifically, Ntsubane.

2.1.2 Component 2:

To improve existing management agreements and establish appropriateness of potential conservation options (stewardship, provincial reserve, etc.) through building capacity on conservation management.

Deliverable	Actual at Completion
Established Participatory Forest Management Committees (PFMCs) in all	PFMCs or Forest Committees were established in the four forest clusters targeted for phase 1 of the project. However the long-term plan for this project intends to

seven Ntsubane forest clusters.	establish PFMCs in all seven forest nodes.
Kaleni, Goso and Ndengane PFMCs and WCWCFUA have increased knowledge on conservation and sustainability practices and natural resource utilisation practices.	All forest nodes' beneficiaries have undertaken training in conservation and sustainability practices. At this stage the assumption is that the training and capacity development opportunities provided have increased the beneficiary practices in relation to natural resource use and management.
Kaleni, Goso and Ndengane PFMCs and WCWCFUA have participated in the decision making process concerning the consolidation of socio-ecological mapping exercise and way forward.	Opportunities for the project beneficiaries to participate in guided discussions and decision making processes have been provided throughout the project cycle (phase 1) and taken into account in the final report.

Key Activities:

- *Develop a process of selection for new PFMCs or Community Forest Committees*

PFMCs were previously established by DAFF, with the exception of the Lambasi node. These, however; were not functioning well at the start of the project. Members of these committees were not clear on their function and reporting lines. During the duration of this project, these committees were revitalized and new members brought on board. These new members were mainly selected by the existing members from the old structure. The process was lead by the local leadership at each of the forest nodes. Their function and capacity is an aspect to be strengthen in the future project phase.

- *Facilitate Workshop 2: Sustainable Utilisation of Natural Resources (See **Appendix E** –Attendance Register Workshop 2)*

03.09.12: The second forest complex workshop took place in Port St Johns with representation from each of the forest nodes and key stakeholders. The main focus of this interaction revolved around the introduction of wise use practices of natural resources. These meetings also provided an opportunity for discussion and deliberations amongst forest beneficiaries and stakeholders such as government departments, etc. to develop action and reflect on its implementation at local level. An example of some of these actions are summarized in the table below.

Proposal	Description
1. Fire Fighters employment	Implications and requirements to establish a fire fighter project
2. Rangers	Approach WCP to look into feasibility to employ rangers as well as local community requirements
3. Craft development, marketing and entrepreneurship	Approach WCP for funding support and Pru Bolus to discuss potential products (e.g. hot boxes) and capacity building. DEDEAT may be requiring basket hotboxes for their schools' project in the Eastern Cape
4. Permit allocation and system	Write up current situation
5. Access to legislation information	Translate critical section of Forest Management Act. The WCFFO has already done some work on this. Confirm with DAFF on important sections and accuracy of content translated
6. Land use planning, management & administration	<p>A better indication of what activities as well as needs and aspirations will be available after village survey done by Mzamo.</p> <p>Mbulelo will explore the case in Caguba as they have already entered a partnership with ECPTA towards expansion of protected areas and co-management agreements. Several projects are underway including rangers' employment, rehabilitation projects, etc.</p> <p>Laura will approach a consultant to look into the possibility of facilitating a participatory land use planning exercise in the area in order to accommodate current community activities, expansion, management, administration and sustainability</p>
7. Training and Capacity Building	A capacity building programme will be developed in order to improve forest use practice and understanding of legislation. The

	<p>capacity building programme will be tailored made for each of the subgroups as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Craft development, marketing and entrepreneurship - Sustainable harvesting of medicinal plants - Legislation awareness (DAFF) - Agroforestry and sustainable livelihoods - Natural resource use, management and administration (include local leadership)
8. Woodlots management	Arrange for DAFF to report back on what are the existing woodlots, plans and management.

- *Facilitate Workshop 3: Community Based Natural Resource Management and Conservation Agreements (See **Appendix F** – Attendance Register Workshop 3 and Presentation)*

03/10/12: The third forest complex workshop focused on introducing the project beneficiaries and stakeholders to the different conservation agreements that could apply to the Ntsubane Forest, as well as reporting back on the tasks outlined in workshop two.

- *Facilitate Workshop 4: Conservation Agreements – Consolidation (See **Appendix G** – Attendance Register Workshop 4 and Presentations)*

29/05/13 – A final forest complex workshop took place in order to share and consolidate the way forward to take into phase two of the project. This gathering also provided the space to report back on the performance and work done by the Invasive Alien Clearance and Forest Rehabilitation teams. A summary from each forest site is summarized below:

- **Lambasi Site-A (Msikaba):** 6 members
 - Work within the site was to construct a nursery and propagate medicinal plants which are heavily harvested and replant them in the forest and also clearing of Guava.
 - The nursery was constructed and over 50 plants were planted back into the forests.

- Training on propagation lacked in the team members.
 - Main challenge was to water the plants since only 5 days a month were allocated for this job.
 - The nursery site was far from all members, the closest member being approximately 10km away.
- **Lambasi Site-B(Nhlavukazi): 6 members**
 - The site was to be cleared of Port Jackson, Pine and Bugweed.
 - Work went well with no interruptions.
 - The challenge that the area was affected by a veld fire which luckily was put out by the team members.
- **Goso Site: 12 members**
 - The site was cleared of Mauritius thorn, Bugweed and Lantana. After the clearing trees were planted in the cleared area.
 - The clearing and planting of trees went well with the exception of the uMkhuhlu tree which was the favorite of livestock.
- **Khaleni Site: 12 members**
 - The site was cleared of Bugweed, Lantana and Guava. Trees were planted within the cleared site as well as Rehab grass mix.
 - Trees were planted and there was a lack of understanding of how to plant trees as well as livestock and uncontrolled veld fires.
- **Dedeni Site: 12 members**
 - Site to be cleared of Bugweed and Lantana. Rehab grass mix was used to rehabilitate the cleared area.
 - The site was cleared in record time and the grass mix planted.
 - Challenges were pigs eating up the grass and uncontrolled veld fires
 - Had meeting with the Mr Dinga about Fire Protection Association (FPA)

Furthermore, Chris Galliers returned to reemphasize on how to apply Community Based Natural Resource Management approaches to the project beneficiaries, as well as other approaches such as Stewardship, co-management, etc. Michael Denison also presented an overview on to what extent the local forest have been degraded over the years and its implications both socially as well as ecologically. A case study was presented in order to open up a discussion in order to come up with the way forward. The sense was that it was too soon to aim for anything more formal than incorporating CBNRM principles for the time being until clearer land use management plans are available, capacity

improved and willingness to move one step up in place (e.g. declaration of protected areas).

- *Facilitate CBNRM Workshop (see **Appendix H** – CBNRM Attendance Registers)*

Based on the above, village-based CBNRM workshops took place in order to build up capacity in the larger communities. All workshops took place at the individual headman's place with the whole village present. Twelve villages were involved spread across the four forest nodes. These villages were as follows:

- **Dedeni** (12/08/13)
- **Gabelana** (12/09/13)
- **Mswakazi** (13/08/13)
- **Khaleni** (14/08/13)
- **Bolani** (14/08/13)
- **Noqhekwane** (12/09/13)
- **Ndengane** (24/08/13)
- **Dimfi** (24/08/13)
- **Khonjwayo** (09/09/13)
- **Nhlavukazi** (09/09/13)
- **Cuthwini** (10/09/13)
- **Kwarhole** (10/09/13)
- **Mzizangwa** (30/08/2013)
- **Bobili** (30/08/2013)
- **Cebekwane** (11/09/13)
- **Gwexintaba** (11/09/13)

The village-based workshop also provided the space for open discussion on key forest resources and challenges as well as identifying sustainable projects that are contextually relevant (more details can be provided on request).

- *Liaise with communities on a quarterly basis to revitalize Khaleni, Goso and Ndengane (Dedeni) PFMCs or Community Forest Committees and discuss feasibility of conservation agreements*

The project team visited the project beneficiaries from each of the forest nodes involved on a regular basis. An outline of these visits can be found below:

04,09,19,23,30/07/12 and **01/08/12** – Preliminary visits with project team.

21-23/08/12 – Laura Conde and project team visited Local DAFF, Dedeni, Khaleni, Goso and Lambasi.

02, 04, 17/10/12 – Laura and project team visited Lambasi, Khaleni and Goso.

11, 14/03/13 – Project team visited Khaleni, Goso and Lambasi.

Most forest node visits focused on:

- Improve existing management agreements with PFMC's
- Identify community members who will contribute to an effective working PFMC's
- Establish four new PFMC's in the new forest clusters
- Conservation management appropriate options

2.1.3 Component 3:

To transfer practical forest rehabilitation and restoration skills for improvement of forest conservation.

Deliverable	Actual at Completion
One 4 hectare forest rehabilitation site per cluster; Kaleni, Goso and Ndengane will be geographically identified and mapped.	As a result of the stakeholder consultative process, local political considerations and appropriate site selection criteria, the project team implemented some changes to the original proposed sites with the following actual outcomes being achieved by completion: - Three 4 hectare forest sites were agreed to by all stakeholders and geographically identified and mapped. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Goso 2. Khaleni 3. Lambasi The sites were audited by specialist consultant to the project, Dennis Taylor (Botany and Zoology) and WESSA

	IAP Project Manager Mike Denison. An action plan for each site was developed to align with the education and training objectives of the project.
One 4 hectare forest rehabilitation site in the Port St Johns forest will be verified and mapped.	<p>Through the stakeholder process it was agreed that the proposed Port St Johns forest site on Mt Thesiger be relocated to the east side of the Mzimvubu River at Dedeni.</p> <p>The site was audited by specialist consultant to the project, Dennis Taylor (Botany and Zoology) and WESSA IAP Project Manager Mike Denison. An action plan for the site was developed to align with the education and training objectives of the project.</p>
Four 12 person Invasive Alien Plant (IAP) eradication teams will be identified out of the PFMCs for Kaleni, Goso and Ndengane and out of the WCWCFUA for Port St Johns.	<p>Four 12 person teams were identified through a consultative stakeholder process and based on agreed selection criteria and protocols.</p> <p>All sites included representatives from the WCWCFUA and PFMCs where possible.</p>
Four 12 person IAP teams trained in clearance methods.	<p>Four 12 person teams underwent appropriate training for the safe, effective clearing of invasive alien plants according to best practice. This training was implemented as a collaborative process and included input from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WESSA CEPF Project Team 2. WCFFO 3. Dennis Taylor
Four rehabilitation sites of 4 hectares each cleared of alien invasive plants and the first phase of the rehabilitation process and planting of indigenous trees complete.	<p>All project sites were cleared of IAPs as per the specified site plan and the relevant rehabilitation mechanisms were completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Goso: inner forest site with high density IAPs eradicated from site and high yield, threatened trees planted - Khaleni: degraded forest fringe with high density IAPs eradicated from site and a combination of forest fringe rehabilitation of tree planting and grass rehabilitation

	<p>undertaken</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lambasi: steep valley site where upper ridges to river valley cleared of high density IAPs on forest fringe and interspersed IAPs within forest border. Erosion control mechanisms on steep slopes put in place. - Dedeni: degraded forest fringes around inner forest clearings eradicated of IAPs and fringe grassland rehabilitation undertaken.
IAP educational materials developed to meet local contextual requirements.	The training of beneficiaries was supported by educational materials which were collated to impart broad environmental education and ecological knowledge transference, general IAPs related materials and site specific components to contextualize and maximize relevance for beneficiaries. Leadership Training was undertaken by team leaders ahead of training for all beneficiaries in Port St Johns. This was followed by practical on-site training at each of the selected sites.

Key Activities:

- *Identify, map and verify four forest sites, one per cluster including Port St Johns (see **Appendix I** – Forest IAP Clearance and Rehabilitation Management Plan).*

The development on an IAP Clearance and Rehabilitation Management Plan was carried out by a local biologist/zoologist, Dennis Taylor, with support from Michael Denison. The identification of suitable pilot sites took sometime as disagreements by the project beneficiaries and stakeholders arise. The preliminary visits took place during the following dates:

09/07/12 - Lambasi

30/07/12 - Mt Thesiger

01/09/12 - Dedeni

02/10/12 - Lambasi and Khaleni

04/10/12 - Khaleni and Mthambalala

16/10/12 - All sites mapped

31/10/12 - Laura Conde meet provincial DAFF to present plan

13 – 15/11/12 - Provincial DAFF visited the Ntsubane Forest to verify sites.

06/02/13 and 25 – 27/02/13 - Resolve dispute in Mthambala

Some conflict was encountered between Mthambalala and Khaleni communities with regard to the selected people to work as part of the IAP team. The selected individuals happen to belong to an area outside the Mthambalala demarcation, the Khaleni ward. A new site was chosen in the Khaleni area as the best option based on input from Dennis Taylor as well as inputs from DAFF and the communities affected.

Previous verified Forest site: Mthambalala Forest
31 33' 15.99"S 29 36' 33.06E

Proposed new forest site: Mthambalala Forest (Khaleni)
31 31' 13.66"S 29 32' 41.08E

The motivation for a change of sites at Mthambalala is as follows:

Beneficiary selection	<p>After considerable discussion and liaison with local communities, local government, traditional leaders and other stakeholders, selection criteria was developed and beneficiaries were selected for the project. As it relates to the Mthambalala Forest site, some discontent emerged within a neighboring community with the selection of the original site (31 33' 15.99"S 29 36' 33.06E) as it fell within a sensitive area in terms of location to the neighboring community.</p> <p>Unfortunately this caused some political tensions as community members selected would be working in an area where the selection pool may have included other potential beneficiaries to the project.</p> <p>This was not clearly clarified between local leadership and WESSA and DAFF at the time of the original site being verified.</p> <p>As a result WESSA proposed the new site for DAFF consideration.</p>
Travel distance	<p>As the majority of the beneficiaries selected and trained for the Mthambalala site would require transport, which WESSA and DAFF were negotiating, it is felt that the new site will be more</p>

	<p>suitable to the selected beneficiary pool who will be within walking distance of the newly proposed site. To date the issue of transportation to the original site is yet to be finalised and is likely to prove more complex than originally conceptualised during the WESSA & DAFF site verification visits.</p> <p>As a result WESSA proposed the new site for DAFF consideration.</p>
Stakeholder relations	<p>The new site will be in an area where DAFF is currently working and would therefore encourage improved interaction between the WESSA IAP teams and DAFF and contribute towards improved understanding and working relationships between the organisations, DAFF staff and beneficiaries to the project.</p> <p>As a result WESSA proposed the new site for DAFF consideration.</p>
Showcase opportunity	<p>The proposed site lends itself very well for showcase opportunities for both WESSA and DAFF as it relates to ease of access, IAP eradication and rehabilitation of deforested sites. Its position is near to the main road and will be accessible as a “quick stop” site for stakeholders to assess the design and implementation of the project which is in itself a pilot project to motivate for roll on work that will continue to contribute to the conservation and expansion of the Ntsubane Forest complex.</p> <p>WESSA is currently involved in advanced negotiations for an expansion of the project through the Community Works Programme which will involve up to a 1000 beneficiaries along the Wild Coast working on conservation related initiatives, some of which are directly linked to the Ntsubane Forest Complex.</p> <p>As a result WESSA proposed the new site for DAFF consideration.</p>
Work Similarities	<p>The proposed new site incorporates similar work as it relates to IAP eradication and rehabilitation of degraded indigenous forest. The training to date effectively covers the work requirements that will be necessary for a successful implementation programme on the proposed site. See attached</p>

	management plan for details.
	As a result WESSA proposed the new site for DAFF consideration.

The new site was accepted and work commenced as planned.

01, 04 – 05/03/13 - Hand over of Management Plan to DAFF and communities

- *Appoint four Invasive Alien Plant (IAP) clearance teams of twelve people, ten implementers and two monitors, per rehabilitation site*

The AIP Clearance and Rehabilitation teams were selected at each of the sites by the local leadership and PFMCs. The team members names and ID numbers can be found in the table below:

NAME	ID No.
Maghuba Khangelani	8312257109083
Volovolo Nkosinathi	7902027250083
Mfukuli Sihle	8708186033080
Manyamfu Thomas	8505305927089
Mtetiswa Nkunde	6308025067084
Maphikelela Mzolisi	8506066772086
Mhlalahluzwa Bongumsa	9006195848088
Ntshangase Buyisile	8006256094086
Phaqa Ntsindiso	8511245567084
Mzimeli Simbongile	6206155263087
Matha Simncedile	7908185809081
Mathanzima Nowelile	6111120944086
Mdudwa Zanele	
Phathekile	7809141112083
Ndulini Ncengeni	7301151003089
Dolwana Themba	6806126546088
Khatshuka Nozukile	7510180701089

Somakepu Ncumisa	8006300812087
Gwandiso Fundelwa	8806141101081
Gwandiso Nokuthula	7004121267087
Mnkwintsheni Thotyiswa	7709261117088
Zinyosini Mnikelwa	8106066138089
Maqithi Nosipho	9002131079086
Mlahlwa Xolani	7601026894087
Maninela Ntombizandile	8805041019088
Nganibani Khayakazi	7703011012087
Marangula Nomvuselelo	8306101628082
Somizi Sabelo	8902255786088
Soqha Zoleka	8403061191084
Nqonqotshani Sabelo	8711125959084
Khedamile Mthethelwa	7211275046080
Qekana Langalakhe	7201106795088
Khwalikhwali Thokoza	8608140881089
Nongqayi Zamekile	7611085758081
Manyola Nonkululeko	8504041304083
Bulabantu Nontobeko	7606100392082
Mxotyelwa Munamuna	5003105488083
Gcaleka Tanduxolo	6907165982083
Sahluko Nomvelo	8303241118082
Mayongwana Thembekile	6205240272087
Pumasilwe Sizani	5410040250082
Mxumbu Ntombozuko	7508251325085
Dlayedwa Zukiswa	8405190921083
Tutsu Mgcineni	7706036132087
Somakhepu Tembekile	8412165888081
Seleyana Nomantombazana	7301230985082
Mgqogqi Lindokuhle	8509021242088
Mpente Zolani	7603095951087
Javu Fundisile	810135651082

- Phase 1: IAP Monitors Training (see **Appendix J** – Monitors First Aid Training Attendance Register)

The IAP Monitors Training programme took place over five days in Port St Johns. The programme outline can be found in the table below.

Topic & Content
<p>Biodiversity & Ecology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • Natural resources and ecosystem services – Forest, grassland, rivers, coastal & marine • Healthy eco-systems • Threats and degradation • Natural resources and livelihoods – resource use (construction, agriculture, pastoral, medicinal, consumption) <p>Plant Identification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous & alien plant species • Understanding invasive plant encroachment and negative effects to livelihoods <p>Tree Planting & propagation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Techniques and care for seedlings • Geophytes and propagation <p>Toolbox Talks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic content from WESSA Toolbox Talks 1, 3, 4, 5
<p>Herbicide Application</p> <p>Health and Safety</p> <p>Fire Awareness</p> <p>Project Administration</p>
<p>First Aid</p>

- *Phase 2: Clearance of Forest Site during a fifteen day period per cluster (see **Appendix K – IAP Training Attendance Register**)*

This component of the IAP training programme took place over a fifteen day period at each project site. The training was based on practical IAP clearance skills for which appropriate equipment was distributed as per table below.

Tools & Equipments	PSJ stores	EL stores	Total	To purchase	1 A Msik	1 B Luph	2 Goso	3 Mtha	4 Dede	Storage Spares
Machetes	29		29	0	3	6	6	6	6	2
Slashers	14	9	23	0	1	3	6	6	6	1
Hoes	6		6	0	5	0	0	0	0	1
Spades				20	0	0	6	6	6	2
Pick				20	2	0	6	6	6	0
Tarpaulin	1		1	4	1	1	1	1	1	0
Masks	6x10 pack	6	12 x 10 pack	4 x 10 pack	2	2	4	4	4	0
Barrier tape	2		2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Rubber gloves	4	2	6	3	1	1	2	2	2	1
Safety gloves	36		36	16	6	6	12	12	12	4
Safety glasses	12		12	32	3	3	12	12	12	2
Oil stones	3		3	8	1	1	3	3	3	0
Lopper	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Bow saw 600mm	2	3	5	0	2	0	1	1	1	0
Mixing trays	2		2	3	1	1	1	1	1	0
Containers 25l	4	5	9	1	1	1	2	2	2	1
Buckets 10l	2		2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Buckets 20l	2	10	12	0	2	2	2	2	2	2
Round Tupperware	5		5	0	1	1	1	1	1	0
Funnels	3	3	6	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Backpack sprays	2	3	5	0	1	0	0	2	2	0
Small sprayers	9	13	22	6	3	3	6	6	6	4
Access (5 litres)	2		2	2	0	1 (?)	1	1	1	0
Plenum (litres)				6 x 1l	1	0	0	5	0	0
LI 700 1l	1		1	3 x 1l	0	1	1	1	1	0
Red dye 1l	1		1	4 x 1l	1	1	1	1	1	0
Blue dye 1l	1		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measurers 20ml				5	1	1	1	1	1	0
Measurer 200ml				5	1	1	1	1	1	0
Tree seedlings				200	0	0	100	100	0	0
Grass rehab mix				10.5kg	0	0	0	3.5kg	7kg	0

Phase 3: Tree Planting during a five day period per cluster

An indigenous tree planting component was incorporated into the training as a way to look into suitable practices and approaches to pilot the rehabilitate or restoration of the different forest sites identified.

- *Adaptation and development of relevant IAP learning materials for use on the project through IAP phases 1 – 3 (see **Appendix L** – IAP Learning Materials adapted and developed)*

The list of materials used for the IAP training can be found below:

- DAFF Guide to Clearing IAPs
- Pesticide Booklet
- IAP Control Methods
- WESSA IAP Talkbox Talk:
 - Combat Problem Plants
 - Maintain area of Responsibility
 - Combat Soil Erosion
 - Demonstrate a knowledge of conservation ethics
 - Understanding the Nature and Importance of Conservation
 - Apply Health and Safety to a Workplace
 - Behave in a professional manner
 - Induct all new staff to the workplace
 - Use a personal budget to manage own money
 - Apply basic safety principles
 - Demonstrate an understanding of HIVAids
 - Maintain health hygiene and appearance
 - Operate as a Team

In addition to the above materials, Dennis Taylor developed a training booklet from the adaptation of existing materials as well as his own input. This booklet can be found attached to this report.

2.1.4 Component 4:

To improve skills for sustainable livelihoods opportunities and explore local economic development opportunities.

Deliverable	Actual at Completion
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<p>Improved quality and marketability of craft products.</p>	<p>To understand the status of craft being produced by forest users of the Ntsubane Complex, the project brought on appropriate expertise through Pru Bolus. Pru has extensive development and craft orientated credentials from her many years working and living the Wild Coast and currently operates a craft business out of Plettenberg Bay. Through a series of meetings at WCWCFUA level through to village based crafter meetings and individual site visits to crafters homes, Pru undertook a detailed audit of the state of craft from the Ntsubane forest users.</p> <p>A report has been produced outlining her findings and a proposed way forward for crafting as a sustainable livelihood for crafters has been mapped.</p> <p>The project ran a specific workshop in Port St Johns for crafters which addressed aspects such as quality, marketability and expanding retail opportunities.</p> <p>A mentoring and internship model was developed by the project and piloted with one crafter from the Dedeni forest where time was spent by the crafter with a well renowned sculptor in Plettenberg Bay in which a range of skills transference opportunities presented themselves. This visit will be followed up with a workshop of forest users to learn from the crafter of the experience and provide a platform for further skills transference between crafters.</p>
<p>Improved micro enterprise business skills displayed by crafters and other stakeholders.</p>	<p>Workshops and input from the project at the level of the WCWCFUA has included specific attention being paid to empowering crafters with improved small business skills. Further input at the Port St Johns workshop with the crafters included education and training that related to small business skills.</p> <p>The mentor and internship pilot included specific skills related to small business development and management as it relates to crafting being transferred by the mentor to the intern. These skills will be further shared between the crafters as part of the WCFUA objectives.</p> <p>The report developed by Pru Bolus does include</p>

	suggestions on strengthening crafter business skills into the future.
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Key Activities:

- *Appoint a Craft Development and Entrepreneurship Workshop Facilitator*

08.04.13 – Laura Conde met with Pru Bolus to discuss her involvement in the project as a craft development and entrepreneurship facilitator. Pru has extensive experience in this field as well as thorough understanding of the Wild Coast context. Pru lived in the Port St Johns areas for over fifteen years before she moved to the Garden Route to set up her new business. Over the years she has worked as a community development worker, develop new craft and established her own African craft business. She also has national and international connections with trade organisations and craft show organizers. During the duration of the first phase of this project Pru was responsible for exploring and where possible establish local craft initiatives as well as facilitating a supporting role to those involved as follows:

- Conduct a craft stock evaluation
- Explore craft show options and register for 2014
- Explore value added products and the use of alternative products
- Facilitate the establishment of a shop outlet in PSJ
- Input in building crafters group identity brand: logo and pamphlet (with support from WESSA)
- Explore funding options for small business development
- Compile feasibility report for craft development
- *Facilitate Workshop 5: Craft development, quality, marketing and bookkeeping (See **Appendix M**– Copy of Attendance Register Workshop 5 & 6 and Scoping Report)*

27,28,29 and 31/05/13 – Pru Bolus together with the project supervisor conducted a scoping exercise in order to identify local crafters with an interest in developing their practical and entrepreneur skills further. This exercise also helped to identify the type of craft produced in the area, materials used, challenges in accessing forest materials, etc.

30/05/13 - The first craft development workshop took place in Port St Johns with crafters representing their forest nodes or villages.

- *Facilitate Workshop 6: Entrepreneurship and Local Economic Development Opportunities (See **Appendix N** – Crafter Database, Profile and Final Report)*

15, 16, 17/10/13 - It was agreed that the second crafters workshop was done on a one-to-one basis between the facilitator and the crafters rather than in a group workshop set up. In this way the facilitator had the chance to support the improvement of crafting skills on an individual basis. Pru visited the group of crafters from Goso, Nkekwana, Thombo, Dedeni and Port St Johns.

2.1.5 Component 5:

To ensure proper management of herbicides in order to remove of invasive alien plants, implement the CEPF-approved pest management plan.

Deliverable	Actual at Completion
Implement CEPF-approved pest management plan	The project took cognizance of CEPF approved pest management and appropriate training for herbicide use in IAPs eradication, storage, mixing and application was implemented according to international standards of best practice. Careful management of the sites and strong team leadership ensured the project operated within the framework for CEPF approved pest management.

Key Activities:

- *Delineate forest area to be sprayed with herbicides, identify alien invasive plant species to be targeted and safety procedures to be applied (refer to **Appendix I** - IAP Management Plant)*

Please refer to plan developed by Denis Taylor and Michael Denison in Section 2.1.3 above and presented to DAFF for verification

- *Consolidate project plan for eradication of IAPs based on sound environmental protocol (see **Appendix O** - IAP Pest Control Plan)*

A pest control plan was developed accordingly.

- *Report on the pest management plan on a periodic basis.*

Numerous visits were made to the AIP/Rehabilitation sites to follow up on pest management procedures whilst the duration of this component.

2.1.6 Component 6:

To ensure proper payment of casual IAP labor.

Deliverable	Actual at Completion
An Invasive Alien Plants team selection procedure described and endorsed by local communities.	Achieved through effective collaboration of stakeholders from project concept to selection.
A list of IAPs team individuals available including their names and other personal details.	Achieved and on record.
A signed agreement and an IAPs labor logbook updated with signed payment details and confirmations.	Achieved and managed on site by team leader, overseen by WESSA project facilitator and signed off by WESSA Project Manager.

Key Activities:

- *IAP labour payment for Phase 1, 2 and 3 disbursed and log book updated, including receipt of payment (see **Appendix P** – sample of IAP team members' contract, logbook and payment schedule)*

Individual contracts were signed with each IAP/Rehabilitation team member.

In addition to the above activities, the project team undertook several planning meetings and numerous discussions with the project stakeholders and partners.

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

N/A

3. 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.

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

Project design with rural and/or economically impoverished communities requires the organization to tread in a very sensitive space. All too common is the perception that a community orientated project is a source of employment. This is particularly prevalent in South Africa, and more specifically on the Wild Coast, where government grants and poverty alleviation government funded Public Works Programmes are the primary source of local employment and often the only source of household income.

Compounding this problem with potentially funded projects, such as the CEPF Ntsubane Project, is that organizations are necessarily required to engage with communities prior to securing funding in order to develop project concepts and proposals that are embedded in collaboration and stakeholder input. What cannot be underestimated at this stage of project design is pre-established stakeholder working relationships. Where relationships of trust are already in place, it allows for more open and honest interactions at the design stage.

With regards this project, both WESSA and the WCFFO have well established track record with local communities, government agencies and traditional authorities in the target area, the Ntsubane Complex. Furthermore, both agencies have collaborated on several projects on the Wild Coast over the past 10 years.

Coming off this foundation allowed WESSA to present concepts and engage in dialogue with stakeholders from a relatively non threatening position. Through this engagement the project concept could evolve through an expansive learning process without the perceived threat of hidden agendas.

WESSA, at all project design stages involving stakeholder engagement, was very specific in reinforcing the project was not motivated by employment goals but rather founded in human capacity development and conservation objectives. As a result of this approach, WESSA found a receptive audience in the forest user communities who have a vested interest in the surrounding natural resources as these resources are the basis from which they draw their livelihoods.

From this receptive audience, WESSA was able to engage a broader stakeholder base by utilizing “in roads” provided by the receptivity of mobilized forest users and other project partners.

Having outlined these successful steps adopted by WESSA in the design of this project, it cannot be overlooked that local politics, strong willed individuals and skeptics will present themselves through the project and careful management of these situations, empathy to the process and understanding the localized context in which these issues are raised must be adopted.

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

- Tension between traditional leadership and political structures are apparent in the Ntsubane area. At times it is difficult to deeply understand what drives decision making on, for instance, choosing project beneficiaries and project sites as the direct benefits imply employment or some kind of financial remuneration. It is a risk when choosing project beneficiaries for the IAP/Rehabilitation activities because the overall aim of the project is not necessary employment but conservation outcomes. It is key to mobilize people who has a balanced view on what the project benefits are namely conservation and socio-economic development.
- IAP clearance training has been effective. However in order to achieve conservation outcomes we have secured additional working days for the teams to continue and maintaining the areas of forest worked on. We have approached government to come on board and take on these teams and work as part of their expanded public works programmes.
- Selection of IAP and forest rehabilitation teams was problematic in one of the sites as the site selected felt outside the participants ward. A new site was identified within their geographical area. No risks developed.
- The project has identified and worked with crafters who have an entrepreneurship intent rather than household crafters.

3.3 Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

N/A

4. 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
Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency Wild Coast Project	Project co-funding	\$104 166	The WCP has allocated a project coordinator to work along side with the WESSA project team. Additionally to this, the WCP allocated its resources in establishing a protected area Lambasi.

****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.)*

5. 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.

The outcome of this first year undoubtedly showed a strong commitment and willingness of forest users and other stakeholders to improve current levels of collaboration and to work more closely in conserving our forest resources. This project has allowed multiple stakeholders to engage through expansive learning processes towards a collaborative conservation vision, including improved, shared management opportunities and proposing areas for the expansion of protected areas. The role of the project team has been to facilitate and scaffold the *fora* in which these shared conservation outcomes can be identified and developed.

The Wild Coast Project has identified a number of forest clusters that require improved management plans and collaborative approaches to conservation. These forest sites have been agreed to by other key stakeholders and plans are being developed to take this forward.

The model as it is grounded in informed decision making processes and is inclusive of affected community users. Government has shown commitment to the participatory management and community stewardship models in South Africa. Capacity building and up-skilling of community decision makers as it relates to conservation, places

communities in a position of ownership of a valuable resource and therefore endorses sustainability.

Responsible forest user projects, coupled to the potential of stewardship initiatives, provide a strong working model that is largely replicable in the rural communities of the Wild Coast as the community requirements from the forest habitats are usually similar and there are community parallels throughout the Wild Coast in terms of traditional, social and cultural aspects for consideration. Where the model becomes un-replicable or unpredictable is when too many parallels are lost. This could occur in areas of high density populations, political instability, areas of inter tribal conflicts or where there is insufficient accessible natural resources for forest community needs.

Strong partnerships with stakeholders such as EC Parks & Tourism Agency, WCWCFUA, DAFF, Traditional leaders and civic organizations are crucial to the sustainability of the projects if one is to realize the ongoing management and implementation of these projects that have local through to national support as well as access to high quality organizational capacity.

This project has been successful in securing on going employment of trained beneficiaries into the CWP and has begun to work more intensively with forest users such as crafters. These are two economic returns to community and enhance the sustainability of the work that has been done as well as contributes to ongoing, capacity induced green jobs which contribute to the sustainability of the conservation vision as communicated in and through this project's objectives.

6. Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

Professional assistance and expert support has been sourced at all stages of identifying forest rehabilitation sites. All sites have been identified with the assistance of the provincial forestry department scientific section as well as local ecologist.

7. Additional Comments/Recommendations

Although work went relatively on track in terms of implementing activities we still see the proclamation of Ntsubane as a conservation area or under some kind of conservation agreement a long way to go. We have secured additional funding for Green Jobs through CWP which should allow the existing IAP teams to continue with forest rehab work into the future. However we also see crucial to secure additional funding to continue with the social facilitation process to come up with a more concrete collaborative agreement between the state and local communities for the larger Ntsubane Forest Complex.

Furthermore, the project supervisor has unfortunately passed on in June. This set us back slightly at that time but fortunately a WESSA staff member was placed with the project supervisor at the beginning of the year to familiarize with the project. She has taken the supervisory role as from June 2013. Additionally an intern has also been allocated to the project in order to provide additional support particularly with regards to forest rehabilitation activities.

8. 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, 2013 to May 30, 2013. (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.	yes	12 hectares	same	Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one. Ntsubane Forest in Port St Johns. The areas fall within state forest (12 hectares) and communal

				forest (4 hectares) through the clearance of invasive alien plants and forest rehabilitation
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. This aspect of the project is still in process. The intention is to establish CBNRM or stewardship agreements with local communities
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.	yes	16 hectares	same	Natural resource management expands to both state forest and communal land which both fall under Pondoland.
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	yes	4 hectares	same	As above, we focus on pilot sites thus far located in communal forests. Capacity building is a key focus of the project which the intention to increase capability for improved natural resource management. Measurement has not been consolidated at this stage
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	yes	8473 people	same	The project has reached the following groups: - Crafters: 25 - Forest Users Association members: 10 - Invasive Alien Plant teams: 48 - Other adult community members: 390 - School learners: 8000

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										
Dedeni		X	X				X		X													
Khaleni		X	X				X		X													
Lambasi		X	X				X		X													
Goso		X	X				X		X													
Caquba		X	X				X		X													
													X	X								

Total																																					
If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit:																																					