

## CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	WWF South Africa
<b>Project Title:</b>	Supporting Innovative and Effective protected Area Expansion through the Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust
<b>Date of Report:</b>	3 September 2012
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**CEPF Region:** Succulent Karoo

**Strategic Direction:** Expand protected area corridors through public-private-communal partnerships in the priority areas of Bushmanland-Inselbergs, Central Namaqualand Coast, Namaqualand Uplands, Knersvlakte, Hantam-Roggeveld, Central Little Karoo and Sperrgebiet.

**Grant Amount:** US\$159,000.00

**Project Dates:** 1 February, 2010 to 30 June, 2012.

**Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):** Conservation International South Africa - project builds on the CI stewardship consolidation project by pursuing acquisition in areas unsuitable for stewardship, and catalyzing the potential stewardship opportunities in the N Cape PA expansion strategy.

The legal expertise involved will collaborate closely with CI and DTEC to finalize the pro formas and the administrative processes for declaring new reserves and stewardship arrangements. One of the innovative acquisitions to be planned builds heavily on the work of CapeNature in the Knersvlakte, and the LHSKT and CapeNature teams collaborate closely. SANBI learning exchanges will support lesson sharing between the provinces on acquisition and management, and institutionalizing best practice.

### Conservation Impacts

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

The work in the succulent karoo through the Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust (LHSKT) speaks directly to one of the strategic funding directions of CEPF which is the **expansion of protected areas and conservation corridors** with the use of **systematic conservation planning**.

Initiatives include **socio economic activities** through the work with the Griekwa National Conference, a local community situated in the Knersvlakte.

This CEPF project includes the expansion of **human resource capacity** in the conservation arena. A conservation manager for the Knersvlakte has been appointed (CapeNature), a land programme manager with an intern has been appointed (WWF) and conservation management with a community is also being formalized - this project has been instrumental in putting pressure on authorities and for catalyzing positive changes.

The project has looked at the **conservation targets** for the area and continues to protect and conserve **vegetation types and plant species** in the succulent karoo through the purchase of land and incorporating it into protected areas.

The Table Mountain Fund **climate change** adaptation report feeds into the succulent karoo work there where the Fynbos and Succulent Karoo biomes overlap. Here climate change considerations are included in the development and delineation of corridors and protected area expansion plans. **Threatened and endangered species** are significant contributing factors when making the case for expansion of protected areas and **spatial planning** tools has identified high levels of endemism in the succulent karoo for focus areas to be secured.

**Community focus** in the work of this project has been through the voice of WWF as a civil society representative as well as through the partnership with the Griekwa community to co-manage a jointly important conservation priority.

The work of this project has enabled a foundation for **impacts on the ground both now and in the long term**. The tax incentive work, as it continues to be streamlined will have tangible conservation gains for stewardship participants in the future and for the whole of South Africa.

The **innovative conservation auction** and alternate management arrangements will enable similar transactions for the future as well as providing an answer to a capacity challenge which exists currently. Conservation agencies lack the capacity to absorb large tracts of conservation land without additional resources to manage these areas. Finding alternate management agencies and piloting this as a method in South Africa has long term effects and a means to achieve biodiversity conservation targets.

The **SKEP programme** is part of the work that this project has undertaken including the inclusion of government officials in collective conservation goals for the succulent karoo. With the work of this CEPF project and the **human resource capacity** that was generated, better communication and working relationships exist between WWF and the three government agencies: SanParks, CapeNature and Department of Environment and Nature Conservation – Northern Cape.

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

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

In the long term, the project will strengthen the involvement and effectiveness of civil society in conservation and management of the biodiversity of the Succulent Karoo by allowing communities and private individuals to manage and own declared protected areas instead of only relying on state institutions. The project will also help to secure additional hectares of key biodiversity areas with strengthened protection and management and in a more cost effective way.

**Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:**

1. WWF-SA Land programme established
2. Investment strategy of the LHSKT will open up new avenues of investment into the Succulent karoo resulting in hectares secured and human capacity increased.
3. All identified project deliverables have been incorporated into the WWF- Land programme ensuring sustainability of the initiatives and outputs.
4. Amalgamation and streamlining of existing partner meetings to reduce costs to partners and increase effectiveness of meetings and gatherings
5. Amendment of National tax legislation to incorporate the proposed change
6. Community ownership of a significant biodiversity area
7. Innovative management transactions to include individual land owners and civil society bodies.

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

Create tools and entrench approaches to enable the effective stewardship of biodiversity by local communities in the management of protected areas that are privately and communally owned. Create tools and approaches that allow for more effective use of limited financial resources of the Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust to enable much greater impact in protected area expansion of the Succulent Karoo.

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

1. Land programme manager and intern – human resource capacity increased
2. Improved intergovernmental and collaboration between partners established.
3. Specific product outputs:
  - 'How to' guide for tax incentive
  - Management arrangement with Section 21 company – first of its kind in SA
  - Refined Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust Strategy
  - One innovative land transaction
4. Expansion of Protected areas in the succulent karoo (accelerated as a result of capacity created through CEPF):
  - Knersvlakte Nature Reserve
  - Namaqua National Park
  - Tankwa National Park
  - Gamkaberg Nature Reserve
  - Nieuwoudtville
  - Anysberg Nature Reserve
5. Hectares protected during project duration:  
January 2010 – June 2012: **44 000ha**
6. Tax incentive amendment submitted to Department of Environmental Affairs and National Department Treasury.

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

**Hectares Protected: ±44 000ha**

Knersvlakte Nature Reserve:	<b>13 819 hectares</b>
Namaqua National Park:	<b>8 097 hectares</b>
Tankwa National Park:	<b>5 608 hectares</b>
Gamkaberg Nature Reserve:	<b>1 636 hectares</b>
Nieuwoudtville:	<b>910 hectares</b>
Anysberg:	<b>14 084 hectares</b>

**Species Conserved:**

**Corridors Created: Corridors expanded:**

1. Knersvlakte
2. Namqua National Park

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

**Success:**

Expansion of protected area estate through innovation has proven to be worth exploring as a way of working the succulent karoo context.  
Communication between the partners enables change and biodiversity wins on the ground.

**Challenges:** Internal bureaucracy and insufficient communication between partners that hinder progress.  
Governance issues within Provincial and National Departments hinder success.

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

None

## Project Components

**Project Components:** *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

**Component 1 Planned:**

Refine Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust (LHSKT) protected areas expansion strategy.

**Component 1 Actual at Completion:**

A refined LHSKT investment strategy document has been drafted and accepted by the Trust. The WWF-SA land programme is currently finalizing the project implementation proposal and budget requirements to operationalize this investment strategy.  
This investment strategy fundamentally expands the scope of the Trust improving its relevancy in the changing conservation landscape in that it will be spending its funds on its broader objectives and not only on land acquisition. It will now also contribute to biodiversity stewardship and legal capacity in the succulent karoo.

**Component 2 Planned:**

Develop clear guidance on using tax incentives to reduce purchase price for properties and/or pay for management costs of these properties

**Component 2 Actual at Completion:**

An expert workshop was held to address and guide the implementation of the tax incentives. A 'How to' guide on the tax incentives has been produced.  
An Income Tax Act amendment has been submitted to National Treasury Department and the Department of Environmental Affairs to address the short comings in the existing tax legislation.

**Component 3 Planned:**

Execute one innovative acquisition and/or management arrangement in the priority regions of Namaqualand and Knersvlakte. This could involve using land swaps, tax incentives or stewardship easement methods, depending on particular opportunities and the market

**Component 3 Actual at Completion:**

The first auction of a proposed nature reserve with title deed and conservation restrictions was hosted by WWF-SA in November 2011. Due to internal WWF risk perceptions, the property was not sold. WWF receives regular inquiries regarding the purchase of this property consequent to this auction.

**Component 4 Planned:**

Support new and innovative management arrangements for properties acquired. This will encourage greater civil society involvement in managing critical biodiversity in the Succulent Karoo.

**Component 4 Actual at Completion:**

1. **Griekwa National Conference:** a conservation initiative which includes a land parcel that was given to a local community through the land reform process. A part of this land was purchased by WWF, as it falls within the core area of the Knersvlakte Nature Reserve. A biodiversity stewardship agreement is currently being negotiated to ensure that the community considers the conservation value of the property which they own in their management approach.

2. **Avontuur Sustainable Agriculture:** This is a local Section 21 Company (non-governmental and non-profit). WWF-SA is concluding a management agreement with this organization, (Draft contract is being finalized) the first of its kind in SA. Here we wish to demonstrate how conservation organisations which are not government agencies can manage protected areas and act as management authorities. A similar arrangement is being spear headed with the Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve, also a Section 21 Company.

3. **Winterplaas:** A management agreement between WWF-SA and a private landowner. In exchange for grazing rights the landowner will carry out essential management activities on the property.

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

1. The tax incentives guide book was not published. The decision was made not publish the document until the pending legislative changes were made. There is no negative impact as the information is still relevant, and can be distributed to landowners.
2. The incomplete innovative management arrangements: these are all currently being concluded. No negative impacts as the agreements are being concluded.

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

1. Tax incentives document
2. Management arrangement between WWF-SA and Sustainable Agriculture
3. LHSKT investment strategy – Draft document
4. Naauw Kloof Auction advert

**Lessons Learned**

***Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.***

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

- The initial 2 year project time frame was insufficient to achieve the project deliverables.
- Project outputs relating to landscape scale and institutional/ governmental engagements should at a minimum have a three year timeline.

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

- The project officer being located within WWF-SA allowed for capacity building and institutional stability. This could also be a challenge, should the organization become unstable.
- Budget allocations should remain flexible as far as possible to allow for unforeseen project changes over the project duration.
- The value of the CEPF consolidation grant provided a number of leverage points for the different agencies to promote change both inside and outside of their individual agencies and it contributed in many ways to the success of the LHSKT CEPF project.

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

- Good working relationships are paramount to meeting project deliverables as one's work depends on the cooperation from other partners.
- All land scape scale conservation outcomes takes a long time. Slow or no progress in the first 6-18 months is not unusual in this area of work.

### Additional Funding

**Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of the CEPF investment in this project.**

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust	B	R750 000	

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

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

### Sustainability/Replicability

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

- The establishment of the WWF-SA Land programme will ensure that all elements of the CEPF project are carried forward as part of the programme deliverables.
- Other partners like the South African National Biodiversity Institute as well as The national Department of Environmental Affairs has taken on some of the deliverables of this project in-house.
- Additional staff has been appointed in the Northern Cape Conservation Department – not directly as a result of this project but due to pressure from the CEPF grant consolidation group in their individual capacities.

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

None

### Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

None applicable.

### Additional Comments/Recommendations

## Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

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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**

**(Grant Term 1 January 2010 –30 June2012)**

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.  
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

<b>Project Results</b>	<b>Is this question relevant?</b>	<b>If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.</b>	<b>Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.</b>	<b>Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. (Attach annexes if necessary)</b>
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	Yes	1300hectares	1300hectares	Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one. <b>Nieuwoudtville Avontuur (not yet declared but being managed.)</b>
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	Yes	1.± 2 500ha 2.± 27 443ha	1. ± 2500ha 2.± 44 000ha	Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one. <b>1.Griekwa Stewardship agreement currently being negotiated.</b> <b>2. Knersvlakte Nature Reserve: 13 819 hectares</b> <b>Namaqua National Park: 8 097 hectares</b> <b>Tankwa National Park: 5 608 hectares</b> <b>Gamkaberg Nature Reserve: 1 636 hectares</b> <b>Nieuwoudtville: 910 hectares</b> <b>Anysberg: 14 084 hectares</b> <b>(All currently being declared.)</b>
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	± 27 443ha	.± 44 000ha	
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1below.	No			

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



