

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Endangered Wildlife Trust
Project Title:	Securing Wetlands and Grasslands in the Southern Drakensberg Foothills of KwaZulu-Natal for the Benefit of Wattled Cranes and Associated Biodiversity
Date of Report:	15 November 2015
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CEPF Region: Maputaland – Pondoland - Albany

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

Grant Amount: \$227,394.00

Project Dates: January 2012 – September 2015

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

- **Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Authority.**

The abovementioned para-governmental agency carries the mandate to coordinate and manage the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme in the Eastern Cape Province. We were significantly assisted by this agency in our endeavor to secure land in the Eastern Cape. The Cedarville Protected Environment falls under this partner's responsibility.

- **Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife**

The abovementioned para-governmental agency carries the mandate to coordinate and manage the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. We were significantly assisted by this agency in our endeavor to secure land in KwaZulu-Natal. Hebron, Hebron East, Penny Park and Riverlea farms fall under this partner's responsibility.

- **Supporting Government Departments and Secondary Not-for-Profit (NPO) supporting partners.**

These departments, including the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs and The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs assisted with various site assessments (Biodiversity and grassland

assessments) for determining stewardship categories, the issuing of permits and / or other relevant advice and inputs.

This category also includes NPO partners that assisted with site visits, wetland assessments, biodiversity assessments and advice and includes the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Mondi Wetlands Project, LIMA and Birdlife South Africa.

- **Primary Not-for-Profit Partners.**

These partners include Environmental & Rural Solutions (ERS), Conservation South Africa (CSA) and the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA). They provided extensive support and actively participated in ensuring that different project activities were aligned in the project area. Further alignment of project activities and access to shared funding from the European Union has also been realized through this cooperation and led to the creation of the Healthy Catchment Alliance (HCA). This catalytic event was brought about primarily through this project that approached partners with the concept of a joint proposal.

- **Corporate Partners**

These partners include companies such as CHEP, Talbot & Talbot and Tomlinson's, Mguni & James. During the project they provided for certain project needs such as trap cameras, stewardship apparel and legal advice that were not budgeted for in the original proposal.

- **Funding Partners**

To date the only major funding partner for the project has been the European Union whose funding will assist in the continuation of this project for the next two years. Information to follow under the relevant section.

Conservation Impacts

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

This Project was structured around Strategic Outcome 2 of the CEPF Ecosystem Profile.

In particular, the facilitation and declaration of protected areas on private land for habitat types that are underrepresented in the formal Protected Area Network of the Eastern Cape Province and the Province of KwaZulu-Natal. Legal declaration of these areas was done in terms of the

Biodiversity Stewardship Programme active in each of the respective Provinces as enabled by the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (NEMPAA).

The outcome for this project entailed a particular focus on wetlands, catchments and grasslands of the Drakensberg foothills in both KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape. By concentrating on these habitats and their protection we would also achieve the parallel goal of protecting Wattled Crane nesting habitat and habitat for Blue and Grey Crowned Cranes. Other species associated with these habitats would also benefit.

The project has effectively succeeded in expanding the protected area footprint and improved management of land in the MPAH project area through the declaration and imminent declaration of several privately owned farms/sites in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

- 1) Formally declared Protected Areas across two provinces within the MPAH project area.
- 2) 1050 ha of formally declared Nature Reserve (Beaumont Nature Reserve - KwaZulu-Natal).
- 3) 17500 ha of formally declared Protected Environment (Cedarville Protected Environment – Eastern Cape).
- 4) Contracts submitted to provincial authorities for the declaration of a further 1025 ha of prime Wattled Crane habitat and nesting sites (KwaZulu-Natal).
- 5) We completed eight (8) aerial surveys to assess Grey Crowned, Blue and Wattled Crane numbers and breeding productivity over the project area in the past four years (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015).
- 6) Increased on the ground crane monitoring activities in the project area resulted in a record number of Wattled Cranes chicks caught and fitted with unique colour rings for identification in a single year since the colour ringing of Wattled Cranes commenced 25 years ago. A total of 16 Wattled Crane chicks were ringed in 2013, the most ever in a single year.
- 7) Interaction with three farmers associations on Biodiversity Stewardship, Cranes and wetland conservation (Cedarville Farmers Association, Underberg Farmers Association, Swartberg Farmers Association) and 55 landowners, resulted in a greater interest in conservation and environmental issues that is both positive and engaging. This area previously had a reputation of not participating positively in conservation activities and through this project we have made significant head way in changing previously negative interactions between farmers and conservation bodies.



Above - A farmer speaks about the value of his wetland in the Kokstad area.

- 8) Interaction with more than eight local schools on crane and wetland conservation (schools in Underberg, Kokstad, Matatiele and Cedarville. Many landowners involved in the programme have their children attending St Patrick's School, repeated interaction with the school reinforces The Endangered Wildlife Trust's commitment to the area and helps to build and reinforce trust. See component reporting).



Above - a giant EWT logo made by pupils at St. Patrick's school in Kokstad to celebrate 21 years of aerial surveys.

- 9) Interaction with more than 2639 community members on crane and wetland conservation. This is a significant amount of interaction in an area where conservation awareness and educational outreach is quite low.
- 10) Publication of more than 29 articles during the project period. Including publications in national papers, provincial papers and magazines such as the Farmers Weekly, Die Burger, The EP Herald, The Witness and The Mercury. This has drawn attention to conservation and crane related issues both locally and provincially. See component reporting.
- 11) Obtaining further funding to continue and support current project deliverables for a further 42 months.
- 12) Active participation in community events such as the DRAK Challenge (a canoe race – Underberg), the Giants Cup Trail Run, the East Griqualand Encounter (a community country fair in Kokstad), the Red Meat Festival in Cedarville and the Underberg Agricultural Show, provided valuable platforms to promote crane and wetland conservation awareness and to raise additional incidental funding.
- 13) Non Accredited training of 14 farmworkers in herbicide application.
- 14) Generation of information for properties including:
 - Five veld condition assessments
 - Seven Wet-Health Assessments
 - Five Amphibian Assessments
 - Biodiversity Assessments by a University of KwaZulu-Natal student on three sites in the Underberg Region.
- 15) Involvement in environmental law enforcement activities in both provinces – submitting schedules of noted habitat transgressions to provincial authorities in the Eastern and KwaZulu-Natal. This was also aided by the aerial surveys conducted by The Endangered Wildlife Trust with its partners. This had led to several cases in the Underberg and Kokstad districts being investigated by the Provincial Conservation Agency.
- 16) Involvement in cases of injured wildlife in the project area including - Grey Crowned Cranes, Cape Vulture, Otter and Oribi.
- 17) Relocations of wildlife in the project area including Serval and Porcupine.
- 18) Assistance to Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife in the location and collection of evidence involving the poisoning of 58 vultures in the Swartberg area. As result of the assistance of The Endangered Wildlife Trust a successful conviction was obtained and widespread media awareness was created.
- 19) Distributing herbicide through the Provincial Herbicide Assistance programme to seven candidate stewardship sites in KwaZulu-Natal. This has led to a clearing of approximately 55ha of heavily invested stands of Silver Wattle and Bramble.

- 20) Habitat interventions on candidate stewardship sites including:
- Clearing of Bramble.
 - Clearing of Black & Silver Wattle.
 - Assisting with tourism related activities on candidate stewardship sites.
 - Erosion control / donga rehabilitation on certain candidate stewardship sites
 - Developing a tourism business plan submitted to Working for Wetlands (a government natural resource management programme) for the Penny Park Site.
 - Development of a business plan motivating for the purchase of farms in the Swartberg area surrounding the Beaumont Nature Reserve.
- 21) Organising a three part Learning Series for landowners on various topics of interest. The impact of this was a number of requests for more information by landowners interested in changed practices on their farms. The topics included: Sustainable Energy and Agriculture, Environmental law & Mining and Grassland Management. This series gave landowners access to expertise that they would otherwise not have had.
- 22) Marking and removal of powerlines on candidate stewardship sites. Reducing the probability of collisions in a prime Wattled Crane nesting site. Not collisions have been recorded since the lines were marked.
- 23) Participation in committees such as the KZN Crane Foundation and the KZN Conservancies Association and the Polela Biosphere. Significant input was given into the strategies of the KZN Conservancies Association and the KZN Crane Foundation.
- 24) Presentation at the KwaZulu-Natal Symposium for Contemporary Conservation Practices in 2012, 2013, 2014 by presenting talks on stewardship related topics. Winner of the best overall Oral Presentation in 2012.
- 25) A survey drafted and completed by about 25 landowners to assess conservation awareness among landowners.
- 26) Handing out Crane Custodian boards to 20 landowners participating in the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme at a recent function in held in Cedarville to celebrate the declaration of various sites.

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

The Endangered Wildlife Trust's African Crane Conservation Programme (EWT-ACCP) aims to use the standard biodiversity stewardship process, as approved by Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife (EKZNW), to secure and improve the management of key Wattled Crane breeding and foraging areas within the Southern Drakensberg foothills of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN).

As flagships for high biodiversity and areas of high irreplaceability, these sites will expand the protected area network in KZN and nationally and improve their management for biodiversity, thereby securing critical habitat for a host of species.

This will be done in close collaboration with key partners and stakeholders and will form part of the larger 'Drakensberg Crane Conservation Project' which is an existing programme of the EWT-ACCP. Ultimately, the aim would be to see key biodiversity in the area increase (e.g. Wattled Cranes), in an environment which has long term security.

Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

Expected targets for securing land through the Provincial Biodiversity Stewardship Programme has been exceeded by approximately 300%. Increased awareness and monitoring of cranes in the project area has positioned The Endangered Wildlife Trust for better management of the species which will also benefit associated grassland and wetland biodiversity. The main aim in the near future will be to ensure that declaration results in demonstrated improved management on the ground to secure conservation gains.

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

1. Increased landowner awareness
2. Five sites (or areas) proclaimed under the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme
3. Management plans completed for all five sites proclaimed, resulting in improved management practices
4. Baseline information on the current biodiversity and management on all five sites proclaimed
5. Partnerships in place to support landowners with environmental management and incentives
6. KZN Crane Foundation staff trained and competent to facilitate the stewardship process elsewhere
7. Baseline data available on Wattled, Grey Crowned and Blue Cranes, as well as other key species

Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

Please correlate with numbers above.

1. The project has objectively succeeded in raising awareness among landowners in the project area in respect of conservation issues, conservation threats and crane conservation. This includes initiatives that provided landowners with information about a variety of topics – see The Endangered Wildlife Trust Learning Series in the component reporting.
2. Initially five clusters were created in the project area, namely Underberg, Himeville, Swartberg (Thule), Kokstad (Mzintlava) and Cedarville. A 'Cluster' consists of several farms that were identified as areas where a number of landowners could potentially agree to stewardship. This "assessment of willingness" was completed during the project design phase.

Several farms were visited in each cluster to meet landowners and assess their willingness to enter into a stewardship agreement. In total more than 55 landowners in those five clusters were engaged with over the course of the project to determine levels of commitment to long term protection of habitat through the Stewardship process. At the end of the project period 28 farms in four of the cluster sites listed above have been formally proclaimed or are in the final phase of being proclaimed (owned by 18 individuals / legal entities).

3. Draft management plans have been drawn up and negotiated with landowners for seven properties in KwaZulu-Natal. These plans are ready for submission to the Provincial Authority – Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife for approval by their scientific unit. As a result of the development of these plans, management practices have been influenced on several sites including improved burning practices on two farms and alien plant clearing at six sites. Landowner's farming activities across most candidate stewardship sites (and some other sites in the project area) have changed to be more accommodating to crane nesting sites. Powerlines have been marked with bird collision avoidance tags on one candidate site while approximately 1 km of power line have been removed on another candidate site.
4. Biodiversity Information has been generated across all five clusters and in respect of particular candidate stewardship sites. See actual component reporting below.

5. Significant strategic partnerships have been forged with other organisations such as Conservation South Africa, WESSA and Environmental Rural Solutions which has leveraged additional support of landowners in the Cedarville Protected Environment. Good relationships have also developed with officials from the various Provincial Conservation Agencies. This has resulted, for example, in herbicide support to landowners in KwaZulu-Natal in 2013. Through support from two of our corporate sponsors we have also managed to supply landowners with stewardship apparel and have four dedicated remote cameras available to monitor farms and wildlife upon request. In general The Endangered Wildlife Trust also aims to involve and inform landowners in topical issues on a continuing basis. A “What’s App” group has been created with landowners to communicate more effectively and topical information is emailed to landowners from time to time.

6. There has been significant interaction with the KZN Crane Foundation, especially during 2012 and 2013 when the KZN Crane Foundation had full time staff to support and engage with. See below under component reporting.

7. During the past four years the project has added significant crane data to our African Crane data base. See component level reporting below.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected:

KZN

Declared: 1 050 ha

To be declared (contracts signed): 1 025 ha

Eastern Cape

Declared: 17 175, 5 ha

Total 19 250,5 ha

Species Conserved:

Species that will benefit from the habitat that has been secured include:

- Grey Crowned Crane, Wattled Crane, Blue Crane.
- Oribi
- Secretary Bird
- Denham's Bustard
- Southern Bald Ibis
- Aardvark (antbear)



Above - Relocation of a rehabilitated Serval to a candidate stewardship site.

Many other associated biodiversity and flora will be conserved as result of the declaration of sites. Many of our sites such as Hebron and Hebron East have exceptional floral and amphibian diversity that is in need of protection.

Corridors Created:

The work done thus far will contribute towards two major corridors planned with our major Not-for-Profit Organizations (NPO) partners.

- a) The Ongeluksnek - Maloti Drakensberg corridor.

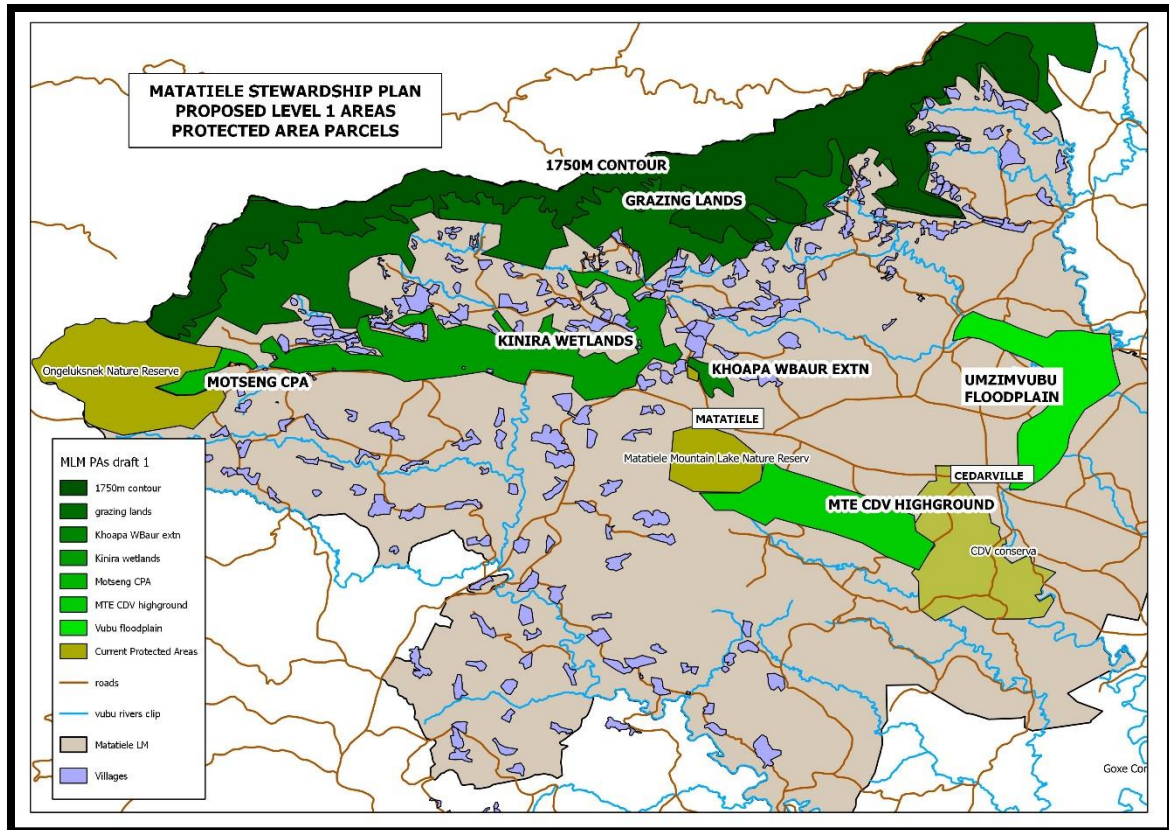
This is an initiative supported by members of the Umzimvubu Catchment Partnership Programme (UCPP) and the Matatiele Local Municipality. It involves the conservation (through various stewardship and contractual arrangements) of the mountain catchment between the Ongeluksnek Nature Reserve in the West (Eastern Cape) and the Maloti Drakensberg World Heritage Site in the East (KwaZulu-Natal Province). The declaration of the Beaumont Nature Reserve represents a significant step in the realization of this landscape corridor / initiative.

The potential acquisition of the farm Constantia (bordering the Beaumont Nature Reserve) will also serve to realize part of the KwaZulu-Natal Protected Area Expansion Strategy and contribute to this corridor. We were actively involved in promoting the acquisition of Constantia with the Provincial Conservation Authority.

b) The Cedarville Protected Environment - Matatiele Nature Reserve Corridor.

It is envisaged that in time the Cedarville Protected Environment will form a contiguous Protected Environment bordering onto the existing Matatiele Nature Reserve south of Matatiele. While this has not yet been achieved, the declaration of the Cedarville Protected Environment is a significant step towards this goal. The next step will be to enlist landowners between the Nature Reserve and the Cedarville Protected Environment into the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme. This action aligns with the Eastern Cape Protected Area Expansion strategy.

c) In addition, several of the other candidate stewardship sites form part of identified conservation corridors and / or form part of the relevant provincial Protected Areas Expansion Strategies (PAES). This includes almost all the properties contained in the Cedarville Protected Environment as well as farms in KwaZulu-Natal such as Hebron, Hebron East, Penny Park and Riverlea.



Above – map indicating the landscape conservation initiatives planned by ERS, CSA and EWT in the upper Umzimvubu catchment. Each Organization will fulfill a specific part of the plan. Map Courtesy of ERS.

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

Successes

A greater than expected area has been declared to date, with additional sites to be declared in the next few months. This has been a major achievement after a significant investment of time. It also appears that another cluster of landowners located on the Cedarville Flats in the Eastern Cape are interested in joining the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme in the near future.

Challenges

Ultimately, while a significant amount of habitat has been secured for all three crane species, it remains concerning that no more than an estimated 20 % of the local Wattled Crane nesting sites has been secured through this project. The reason for this is to be found mostly in the lack of willingness or reluctance amongst many of the critically important landowners to join the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme. The latter has proved a major challenge to the project.

Landowners, especially those in the Underberg area are very reluctant to have partnerships with either the provincial conservation agencies or NPO's.

The drafting of management plans has also been very time consuming as landowners, specifically in Protected Environments, have many concerns or future development plans that they want to be addressed or accommodated in the management plans if possible. We have had to work through each request to either come to agreement or in some cases cease with proceeding with the process of proclamation.

During the project period three landowners who had signed up with the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme had unexpectedly passed away. This resulted in more than 3000 ha being withdrawn from the project. All three of these owners were based in KwaZulu-Natal, significantly lowering our deliverable in this province.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Unexpected outcome of the project included:

- Greater than expected cooperation, planning and alignment with partners in the Umzimvubu catchment.
- The realization of an offer of purchase from the Provincial Conservation Agency, Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife for farms in the Swartberg area at the insistence of The Endangered Wildlife Trust.
- Active involvement in multiple community events which serves as a platform for The Endangered Wildlife Trust to create awareness and build credibility with the community.
- Reaching more than 2639 individuals through presentations and talks in the past four years.

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 (as stated in the approved proposal):

Interested landowners in each of the five priority areas identified and engaged in the biodiversity stewardship process.

Component 1 Actual at Completion:

A priority list was compiled from prior knowledge and information generated during the course of the project. During the project period 55 landowners were identified, engaged with on an individual basis and introduced to the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme. These landowners were mostly found to have suitable crane habitat or cranes present on their properties.

Typically all of these landowners were visited to promote awareness of cranes and also to assess the willingness of the landowner to participate in the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme. Once willingness was established more frequent meetings and visits would ensue.

The Biodiversity Stewardship Programme was almost unknown in the project area thus a significant amount of awareness had to be created with landowners.

Willingness to become involved at the beginning stages did not necessarily translate into landowners being willing to sign contracts towards the end. Many landowners, while very welcoming and enthusiastic about cranes and conservation were very cautious about entering into legal agreements and proclamation. Many landowners only agreed to proceed after almost two years of interaction and relationship development.

Three landowners in KwaZulu-Natal for the farms Rokeby, Dublin and Uitkomst decided not to sign contracts after significant amount of time was invested in the process. These sites were initially enrolled in the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme but withdrew at the final stages indicating that they were not comfortable with the possibility of their farming activities being restricted in the future.

Meetings to introduce and explain the concept of Biodiversity Stewardship Programme were also held with the Underberg Farmers Association, the Cedarville Farmers Association and the Swartberg Farmers Association.

Component 2 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):

Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements signed and finalised, securing land and extending the protected area network in KwaZulu-Natal.

Component 2 Actual at Completion:

This deliverable was exceeded (the original target was 5 500 ha).

To date the following has actually been achieved.

KwaZulu-Natal:

Declaration agreements and Management Agreements have been signed and finalized for the following sites:

- Beaumont (1050 ha, Declared Nature Reserve).
- Riverlea (692 ha of which 125 ha has been surveyed for declaration, approved as Protected Environment).
- Hebron East (350 ha, approved as Protected Environment).
- Hebron (350 ha, approved as Protected Environment).
- Penny Park (200 ha, approved as Protected Environment).

All of the above properties with the exception of Beaumont Nature Reserve have significant wetland habitat and represent critical and irreplaceable areas in terms of the provincial systematic conservation plan. Beaumont Nature Reserve fulfils a critical strategic role to consolidate parts of the upper catchment of the Umzimvubu River catchment, as well as providing a critical link and first step in the connection of Ongeluksnek Nature Reserve in the Eastern Cape and Maloti Drakensberg World Heritage Site in KZN.

Eastern Cape:

Contracts have been signed and completed for the following sites:

- Hartebeesthoek (1073 ha, declared as Protected Environment).
- Aldsworth (571 ha declared as Protected Environment).
- Cedarberg (1508 ha declared as Protected Environment).
- Merino Walk (439 ha declared as Protected Environment).
- Uitflugt (876 ha declared as Protected Environment).
- Spurwing (8,5 ha declared as Protected Environment).

Total 4475, 5 ha

Contracts still to be completed for the following properties.

- Leeufontein (1159 ha declared as Protected Environment).
- The Meads (1541 ha declared as Protected Environment).

- Mooifontein (1256 ha declared as Protected Environment).
- De Bruinshoek (378 ha declared as Protected Environment).
- De Koks Wywer (217 ha declared as Protected Environment).
- Rietfontein (387 ha declared as Protected Environment).
- Krom Elemboog (627 ha declared as Protected Environment).
- Vlei Draai (101ha declared as Protected Environment).
- Otterspoort (675 ha declared as Protected Environment).
- De Bruinshoek (416 ha declared as Protected Environment).
- Spring Fontein (573 ha declared as Protected Environment).
- Driekop (A) (410 ha declared as Protected Environment).
- Melkfontein (1269 ha declared as Protected Environment).
- Nooitgedagt (478 ha declared as Protected Environment).
- Brakfontein (1040 ha declared as Protected Environment).
- Driekop (B) (766 ha declared as Protected Environment).
- Brakfontein (520 ha declared as Protected Environment).
- De Bruinshoek (B) (283 ha declared as Protected Environment).

Total 12 700 ha

Combined Total 17 125.5 ha

Note:

Whilst several contacts are still outstanding, as described above, all landowners listed have consented to the declaration of their properties as a Protected Environment. The reason why contracts have not been signed is that participating landowners would like to amend certain clauses of the contracts. We have received confirmation from the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Authority that these clauses will be negotiated and that all contracts will be read together with the declaration. A meeting has been scheduled for 8 December 2015 with the landowners and the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Authority to finalize the contracts.



Above – Site Assessments at Cedarberg Farm - part of the Cedarville Protected Environment.

Component 3 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):

Current ecological status of the farms included in the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme known, and management plans in place for each, focused on improving the ecological status and biodiversity of the area.

Component 3 Actual at Completion:

Ecological status

All farms mentioned in Component 2 above have been assessed in terms of a desktop assessment that evaluates properties in terms of the following characteristics:

- Species occurring on site,
- Habitat heterogeneity,
- Vegetation types,
- Contribution of each vegetation type to provincial conservation targets,
- Degradation & transformation,
- Altitudinal Gradient,
- Potential for species recovery.

The results of the desktop assessment were all verified through in field site assessments conducted by a team of experts in various fields.

These teams were coordinated by the project facilitator for this project and typically included individuals from the following organizations.



Above – Site assessment at Penny Park.

KwaZulu-Natal

- Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife
- KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs.
- Birdlife South Africa
- World Wide Fund for Nature
- And experts from within The Endangered Wildlife Trust

In the Eastern Cape

- Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs
- Environmental Rural Solutions
- Conservation South Africa

- And experts from within The Endangered Wildlife Trust

The results of these site visits and desk top studies aided in determining the ecological status of each farm and provided guidance which category of stewardship would be best suited for the property.

In addition further studies were also conducted to better understand the ecological status for the listed farms:

- Vegetation condition studies completed for: Hebron East, Uitkomst, Borrowdale, Sailorsgift, Penny Park
- Wetland Health Assessments completed for: Riverlea, Dublin, Highlands, Kromdraai, Alsdworth, Hebron & Hebron East.
- Biodiversity Assessments completed for: Dublin, Highlands, Riverlea.
- Amphibian Assessments: Hebron, Hebron East, Riverlea, Crystal Waters, Dublin.

Note: Not all of the farms noted above were ultimately committed to the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme.

Management Plans

KwaZulu-Natal

Draft Management Plans and Annual Plans of Operation (APO's) have been developed and negotiated with seven landowners. Three landowners have resigned from the programme since. The remainder of the management plans are currently ready for submission and approval with the scientific unit within Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife. While they have not been formally implemented yet, some of the landowners have started to implement some aspects of the plans. This includes burning plans, alien eradication and taking measures to enhance Wattled Crane nesting and fledging success.

Eastern Cape

A draft management plan was drafted with members of the then Cedarville Conservancy in 2013. It has been agreed with stakeholders that this will form the basis for developing a management plan to be approved by the Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Authority in the beginning of 2016. It has been agreed that the Cedarville Protected Environment Management Plan will evolve with graduating targets which stretch targets year after year.

Component 4 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):

Landowners receiving the incentives outlined and the support required to implement the specifics of their Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement and accompanying management plans.

Component 4 Actual at Completion:

The creation of functioning Advisory Forums has been a challenging deliverable. The reasons for this include:

- a) Unwillingness, indifference or lack of interest among landowners to meet on a regular basis or to have oversight over one another.
- b) Lack of District Conservation Officers (DCO) from provincial conservation agencies in most of the project area with the exception of the Swartberg cluster and the Kokstad (Mzintlava) cluster.

To overcome this, the following arrangements will be in effect in the foreseeable future to fulfill the role of advisory forums. The forums for each cluster will be composed of:

- Kokstad (Mzintlava) Cluster – Three landowners represented by a landowner’s association, District Conservation Officer and The Endangered Wildlife Trust Facilitator.
- Swartberg (Thule) Cluster - Individual Landowner, District Conservation Officer and The Endangered Wildlife Trust Facilitator.
- Underberg Cluster - Individual Landowner, District Conservation Officer and The Endangered Wildlife Trust Facilitator and possibly a representative from Birdlife South Africa.

Cedarville Protected Environment - Landowners, Cedarville Conservancy, Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs, The Endangered Wildlife Trust facilitator and a representative from either Conservation South Africa or Environmental Rural Solutions.

KwaZulu-Natal

Annual Plans of Operation (APO’s) have been developed for each farm together with the draft management plans that have still to be approved by the scientific unit of Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife. These plans have not yet been implemented but have been negotiated with landowners.

Eastern Cape

A basic draft Annual Plan of Operation has been developed for the Cedarville Protected Environment, this however has to still be developed further when the management plans are finalized with landowners.

Partnerships and plans for effective implementation of incentives.

Effective partnerships have been developed with Environmental & Rural Solutions, Conservation South Africa , LIMA, the Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa, Birdlife South Africa and corporate partners such as CHEP, Talbot and Talbot and Tomlinson's, Mguni and James.

These partnerships have extended into joint project development and planning to ensure alignment of activities and to realize a larger landscape approach.

They have also led to the roll out of small scale incentives such as the providing of stewardship apparel to landowners, provision of trap camera's to farms and the provision of pro-bono legal advice where possible.



Above – Stewardship jackets sponsored by Talbot & Talbot – a large water testing company – proudly worn by landowners involved in the stewardship project.

Another incentive that has been realized as result of partnerships and cooperation has been the employment and training of four EcoRangers by The Endangered Wildlife Trust. The EcoRangers assist with certain habitat interventions on candidate stewardship sites. These interventions include alien plant clearing, erosion control and assistance with other conservation related activities on farms. EcoRangers are supported with European Union funding.



Above – Rehabilitation of a trench in a wetland by the EWT EcoRangers - Tusa Farm Underberg

Through the partnership with Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife, access to significant herbicide assistance was also arranged for seven candidate stewardship sites in 2013. In total 55 ha was cleared of alien vegetation on these sites.

It is envisaged that access to various incentives will be enhanced by the broad range of partnerships that The Endangered Wildlife Trust has managed to build over the past three years.

Component 5 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):

All sites signed into the Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement improved ecologically and managed for biodiversity and conservation, based on the management plan developed.

Component 5 Actual at Completion:

Not Achieved

Audits completed for at least two sites have not been achieved as management plans have not yet been formally implemented. APO's are developed from management plans and need to have been implemented for a period of at least a year before audits can take place. While APO's for sites have been developed they have not yet been implemented as management plans still need to be approved by Provincial Conservation Authorities. This deliverable will be met under the European Union funding once management plans have been fully implemented. It is a requirement of the Provincial Biodiversity Stewardship Programme to track progress through the use of audits. Refer to component 4 above.

Component 6 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):

General awareness of the conservation importance of the area and how each land owner can contribute to this by improving their land management and securing their land through the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme.

Component 6 Actual at Completion:

Please note: (number of engagements / combined total of people interacted with).

a) Farmers Association meetings

Underberg Farmers Association meeting (1 / 12)

Cedarville farmers Association Meeting (2 / 40)

Swartberg Farmers Association Meeting (1 / 30)

Total attending at farmers association meetings = 82



Above - meeting with Cedarville Farmers on the Cedarville Protected Environment

b) Conservancies

During 2013 landowners in each cluster were encouraged to form conservancies as a precursor to formal proclamation. The idea behind this was to form legal entities that could apply for funding, give conservation direction to members and to form a foundation for future Advisory Forums. This led to the creation and registration of the Thule Conservancy and the Mzintlava Conservancy.

Currently these two conservancies are not operating well even though people are interested to be part of them. The reason is that there are no champions within the conservancies that are willing to take the lead. It was made clear that during this project The Endangered Wildlife Trust would not drive the conservancies and that it depended on members to manage the conservancies.

There is however hope that they will become more organized and active in the future. The potential acquisition of more land by Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife is a case in point. Should the sale go ahead the Conservation Agency will in all likelihood enter into an agreement with the Thule Conservancy in respect of the management of the properties. At one of our meetings this was of great interest to members.



Above – meeting between the Thule Conservancy, the Polela Biosphere, the Mzintlava Conservancy and the Cedarville Conservancy in 2014.

Meetings

Thule conservancy (2/20)

Mzintlava Conservancy (2/12)

Cedarville Conservancy (3/20)

Polela Biosphere (2 / 20).

Total attendance at conservancy meetings = 72

c) Schools

During the project the following schools were engaged in talks and outings.

Kokstad: St Patrick's School (4 / 400)

Underberg: Underberg Primary School (3 / 70), Fairway High School (2 / 20), Goxhill (2 / 140). Thukanyane (2 / 30). Mquatsheni High School (1/100).

Cedarville: Cedarville Secondary School (1/40)

Matatiele: King Edward (1 / 100)

Approximated number of pupils interacted with over the entire period = 900



Above - Talk at St Patrick's School - Kokstad.

d) Talks

Underberg (3 / 120)

Kokstad (1 / 40)

Wetland Walks (4 / 60), East Griqualand Encounter talks (2 / 200),

Cedarville (1 / 15)

Other (2 / 80)

Mquatsheni (1 / 200).

Farmer Learning Series held in Swartberg (3 / 120).



Above - EWT Learning Series - Part 1 - Sustainable energy and Agricultural solutions

Total number of individuals attending talks = 835

e) Events

Interaction with people at events

2013 Drak Challenge Canoe Race - 200 People

2014 Giants Cup Trail Run – 30 People

2015 Giants Cup Trail Run - 120 People

2015 Watsonia Trail Run - 120 People

2013 East Griqualand Encounter 60

2014 East Griqualand Encounter 50

2015 East Griqualand Encounter 10



Above – Wetland walk with members of the public at Penny Park – East Griqualand Encounter.



Above - Wetland picnic at Penny Park 2013

Total number of people interacted with = 590

f) Presentations

KwaZulu-Natal Contemporary Conservation symposium

2012 One presentation - approximately 40 in attendance.

2013 Two presentations - approximately 70 in attendance.

2014 One presentation - approximately 50 in attendance.

Total number of individuals attending presentations at the KZN conservation Symposium = 160

Note: these presentations do not include other presentations made to provincial authorities or working groups and do not represent all presentations made.

Total approximate number of individuals directly interacted with over the project period = 2639

g) Publications

A list of 29 online articles can be found at the end of this report. The above figure exclude publications in the local Underberg paper, The Mountain Echo, The Drakonteur, internal Endangered Wildlife Trust Facebook postings, and articles published in the GRUS (and internal newsletter of the African Crane Conservation Programme).



Above: Article published in the Mountain Echo in 2012

h) Farmers and other Meetings

Several farms and conservancy meetings were held in the project period. These meetings were mostly with landowners that had signed up as candidate stewardship sites. These meetings included:

- four conservancy meetings
- two conservancy forum meeting
- two contract negotiation meetings
- one land acquisition planning meeting

Component 7 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):

Baseline information on the cranes and other key species summarized and documented for the project area.

Component 7 Actual at Completion:

During the project period, eight aerial surveys were completed in the project area. These aerial surveys provide us with accurate information on the location and population trends of all three crane species in the Southern Drakensberg and also the specific location of Wattle Crane nesting sites. An annual aerial survey report is prepared and shared with partners and Provincial Conservation Authorities. The aerial surveys supplement extensive on the ground field monitoring

each year, through which we have determined a baseline of breeding success and recruitment of Wattled Cranes within the Southern Drakensberg.

All crane sightings, incidents of mortality and breeding success were recorded and stored in our Africa Crane Database within the EWT. Distribution maps for each crane species have been developed that will guide our future conservation actions.

During the project period we also investigated the use of a population estimation model known as “occupation modeling” to estimate crane occurrence and population size. This involved the generation of random sampling points within the Southern Drakensberg to verify crane presence or absence. Unfortunately due to the rugged and rural nature of the environment, this proved to be time consuming. This testing of the model indicated strongly that the model would not be appropriate for cranes in the project area - thereby guiding our future approaches and techniques.

In the first year of the project, information was also collected on Aardvark, African Spoon Bill, Denham’s Bustard and Secretary Birds.



Above – Colour ringing and release of a young Wattled Crane in the Underberg district. The colour ringing and subsequent resighting of marked cranes is critical to determine crane population trends in terms of movement, survival and age of first breeding.



Above – Following up on a Wattled Crane Nest in the Kokstad area. The second egg, which is abandoned after the first egg hatches, was collected as part of the Wattled Crane Recovery Programme and successfully hatched and raised at the Johannesburg Zoo.

Component 8 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):

The KZN Crane Foundation has the relevant capacity to facilitate the biodiversity stewardship process within the current conservancy in which their reserve, the Bill Barnes Crane and Oribi Nature Reserve, is located in the KZN Midlands.

Component 8 Actual at Completion:

On several occasions in 2012 and 2013 the KZN Crane Foundation (KZNCF) coordinator visited our project and the project area to observe progress and approaches to Biodiversity Stewardship. This approach was reciprocated whereby we visited the headquarters of the KZNCF the Bill Barnes Crane and Oribi Nature Reserve to provide inputs and guidance into a stewardship plan for neighbors surrounding the reserve.

During the remainder of the project period, Tanya Smith, Southern African Regional Coordinator for The Endangered Wildlife Trust served as a committee member on the KZN Crane Foundation and played a guiding role in the strategy formulation for the Foundation and reserve management activities.

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

Yes. To date most of the content of the management plans has not yet been implemented in the form of Annual Plans of Operations. Our experience in KwaZulu-Natal has demonstrated that in cases of Protected Environments, negotiating management plans can be a long and arduous process.

The reasons for this are to be found in the fact that Protected Environments are also functional farms and that every farmer has very specific ideas of what he / she would like to do on the farm in the future. Care had to be taken to ensure that such plans do not nullify / weaken the intention behind the Protected Environment category and similarly that the status of Protected Environment does not nullify the hopes and aspirations of the landowner.

An additional complication is that neither The Endangered Wildlife Trust, Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal nor Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Authority, are in a position to negotiate future proposed developments in light of the legislative environmental processes that has to be followed to approve developments. This impacts on the process of negotiating contracts as the facilitating bodies are not in a position to negotiate some of the aspects that landowners want discussed or agreed upon.

Once the plans have been approved by the Provincial Authorities then we will be able facilitate their implementation through Annual Plans of Operations with landowners. This will be enabled due to funding received from the European Union.

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

N/A

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.

- a) Flagship species opens the door to conservation conversations and common ground between conservationists and landowners.

- b) Biodiversity Stewardship initiatives take a long time to develop. This is especially the case in areas where conservation action and awareness has been low in the past.
- c) Conservancies or collective action among landowners can be encouraged but it is up to them to act collectively and take the initiative. You can't force them to meet or to act collectively.
- d) Early involvement of a landowner's heirs may be useful in cases where the landowner passes away or intends to retire in the foreseeable future.
- e) Ensure the involvement of as many of an organization's staff as possible to ensure that relationships are built between the organization and the landowner rather than between the stewardship facilitator and the landowners. This enhances project and engagement sustainability.
- f) Incentives for rewarding / encouraging landowners ideally should be controlled by the body offering them. This will guarantee their delivery.
- g) There is a need to quantify the value of incentives available so that landowners understand what is being offered to them.
- h) There is a danger in allowing incentives to be distributed prior to receiving signed commitment from landowners. Owners may rescind on their intention to commit to stewardship or make signatures on contracts contingent on more incentives being delivered first.
- i) Always be committed to landowners as a first priority. This means that regardless of process or actions by third parties, the implementing organization remains committed to preserving the trust relationship shared with landowners above all else.
- j) Trust goes along way when adverse conditions or unexpected results threaten the stewardship process.
- k) Significant stewardship gains are far more likely in areas where landowners already have a degree of cooperation and / or mutual interests, such as has been the observed case in the Cedarville Conservancy where landowners meet socially. .
- l) Developing relationships with provincial authorities makes coping with unexpected adversities easier.
- m) Incentives mean different things to different people. It is important to develop an idea of people's expectations and things that landowners in your area view as incentives.

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

Success

- a) Working around flagship species - assisted meeting people and finding common ground.

- b) Having a fair amount of background or historical data can assist in project design and direction.
- c) The initial project period was long enough to create an initial foothold for us to be able to influence landowners to consider committing to the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme.



Above – involving landowners in crane conservation is a great motivator.

Shortcomings

- a) It can be proposed that The Endangered Wildlife Trust was too ambitious and had too many deliverables contained in this project. This being said many of the deliverables supported the main deliverables.
- b) Stewardship deliverables are particularly fickle as they are often not under the control of the facilitating organization. Other factors such as landowner cooperation and provincial processes, capacity and flexibility of Provincial Agencies plays a major role in determining if deliverables are met on time or not. Care must be taken not to take on too many deliverables dependent on third parties.

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

Success

- a) Facilitators having local knowledge of the area and living in the project area.
- b) Facilitator being of the same demographic group and background as the target audience facilitates easier interaction.
- c) Finding and identifying champion early adopters who are willing to subscribe to stewardship. This opens the door to for more landowners to consider the possibility of joining.
- d) Threats to farm life, farming and the agricultural landscape may be a motivating factor to join.
- e) Ability to spend time and build relationships is key – especially when entering new areas.
- f) Regular contact between facilitators and the conservation authorities is very important.
- g) Being involved in community activities helps to build trust and acceptance.

Shortcomings

- a) Previous negative interactions with other conservation bodies / agencies presented a barrier to interacting with certain landowners.
- b) Previous conservation initiatives that had not met landowner's expectations and this had created skepticism about the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme.
- c) Inability to predict or mitigate social economic factors that affect farmers / landowners. Socio economic conditions and events play heavily on the mood and actions of landowners and can affect the willingness to commit of some landowners over time.
- d) Failure to influence certain external events that may impact on the area. There is an expectation from landowners that conservation agencies can influence external events and trends – when this expectation is not met they become despondent in the organization and their commitment may be affected. An example of this is the issue of poaching. The magnitude of the problem is beyond one organization and will require a massive concerted effort.
- e) The incentives on offer in the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme are not meaningful enough to convince indecisive landowners to join (however, this may be a good thing as landowners requiring continuous incentives may not be sustainable). This is particularly the case in respect of Protected Environments.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

- Spend time to develop arguments / literature to justify the Stewardship Programme from the perspective of the landowner. Too much time / emphasis has been spent on looking at the business case for the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme from the perspective of provincial agencies and NPO's.
- The development and implementation of incentives over the long term will be challenging. It is imperative that all CEPF grantees meet to look at what incentives organizations can offer to one another and in which areas they could cooperate.

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
Talbot and Talbot	Stewardship Apparel	R 30 000	
CHEP	Trap Camera's	R 20 000	
European Union	Support funding for continuation of both our CEPF projects.	EU 231 399	

****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)*

CHEP and Talbot and Talbot and Tomlinson's Nguni & James.

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.)*

European Union Funding - this funding supports this project but also partners such as the Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa and Conservation South Africa. This has resulted in the creation of the Healthy Catchment Alliance which functions not only in the project area but also in other catchments. The amount reflected above is ring-fenced for the continuation of this project within The Endangered Wildlife Trust.

Sustainability/Replicability

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

Challenges

- Uncertainty around the capacity and resources of Provincial Conservation Agencies.
- Uncertainty about ownership of farms - many of the landowners that we have worked with are older and will retire in the next few years – this creates uncertainty.
- Uncertainty around the future impact of issues such as mining and land reform on stewardship sites.
- Inability to meet expectations of landowners in respect of incentives sought / expected.



Above & below – presenting stewardship landowners with Crane Custodian boards to landowners.



Successes

- Relative success in securing additional funding for maintenance and continuation of this CEPF project for the short term.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

In contrast with the Midlands and Zululand, the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme is relatively unknown in the Southern Drakensberg and East Griqualand area. The project has introduced the concept into the area over the past few years. Another cluster of landowners in the Cedarville flats area has shown interest in the process and The Endangered Wildlife Trust hopes to engage these landowners once management plans for declared sites have been put in place. We anticipate that more stewardship clusters will be added in the future in this area.

The strong presence of partners in the Eastern Cape such as Environmental Rural Solutions and Conservation South Africa also opens additional opportunities for providing incentives and opportunities to landowners that have joined the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme.



Above - partners from CSA, ERS, LIMA, DEDEAT and EWT doing combined environmental education and awareness on National Water Day 2015.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

Long-term presence to service stewardship agreements is essential. If such presence is not in place there is a real risk for the creation of paper parks. While the planned exit strategy consists of the Provincial Authorities taking over the administration of sites and relationship management with landowners, the reality is that this may take several years to achieve successfully.

The Endangered Wildlife Trust has undertaken to provide long-term support to landowners and Provincial Authorities to secure the investment in this project. To achieve this continued funding needs to be obtained and a sustainable long-term support strategy needs to be developed. The Endangered Wildlife Trust has succeeded to secure funding from the European Union to ensure continued engagement of landowners in the short term (up to mid-2017).

A second CEPF small grant received from the CEPF to develop a methodology for measuring changes in ecosystem services is a direct response to realise part of the longer term strategy. The latter being to encourage investment in stewardship sites and to position The Endangered Wildlife Trust and its partners to measure the impact of such investments.

Two other issues that have made their presence felt in the project period has been the threat of mining and land reform issues in the project area. The Endangered Wildlife Trust had been involved as stakeholders in both these processes where it gave inputs and offered suggestions to mitigate the potential risks associated with these activities. It is hoped that once land reform processes have been completed new opportunities for stewardship will be possible with new landowners.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

N/A

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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E-mail: Kerrrynm@ewt.org.za

*****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

(2012 to September 2015)

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, 2014. (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.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	Yes	19 250,5 ha		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Cedarville Protected Environment b) Beaumont Nature Reserve c) Sites for which contracts have been submitted.
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	19250,5 ha		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Cedarville Protected Environment b) Beaumont Nature Reserve c) Sites for which contracts have been submitted. <p>These declared sites are all in key biodiversity areas not previously protected.</p>
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes	870 ha		<p>Burning regime changes: 550 ha (Hebron 350 ha, Penny Park 200 ha, Tusa 70 ha).</p> <p>Alien Plant clearing: 55 ha (Riverlea 20 ha, Uitkomst 20 ha, Penny Park 5 ha, Beaumont 5 ha, Hartebeeshoek 5 ha).</p> <p>Monitoring for change in in Ecosystems Goods and services: 125 ha (Riverlea), Tusa Farm 20 ha and Uitkomst 50 ha.</p> <p>Donga / trench rehabilitation The Meads & Tusa Farm.</p> <p>Note: these figures represent sections of the farm actually worked on.</p>

5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	N/A			
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If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table

N/A

Annexure A – List of online references to the project.

1. <http://www.conservationssymposium.com/previous-symposia/2013-2/2013-keynote-speakers/cobus-theron/>
2. <http://www.conservationssymposium.com/previous-symposia/2013-2/2013-keynote-speakers/cobus-theron-2/>
3. <http://biodiversityadvisor.sanbi.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/18-Theron-StewardshipInitiativeStrengthening.pdf>
4. <http://thegreentimes.co.za/play-a-role-in-protecting-wetlands-this-year/>
5. <http://www.farmersweekly.co.za/news.aspx?id=42977&h=Vulturemassacrehighlightsillegaluseofpoison>
6. <https://kzncablog.wordpress.com/kznca-committee/>
7. <https://www.enca.com/south-africa/vultures-poisoned-kzn>
8. http://www.bmw-motorrad.co.za/za/en/community/partner-ewt/partner_ewt.html
9. <http://maliba-lodge.com/blanketwrap/category/news/>
10. <http://www.iol.co.za/scitech/science/environment/more-vultures-die-in-mass-poisoning-1.1555067>
11. <http://www.simplygreen.co.za/local-stories/biz-and-community/the-ewts-biodiversity-stewardship-work-in-kwazulu-natal-bears-fruit.html>
12. <http://africagreenmedia.co.za/mass-poisoning-of-vultures-in-the-drakensberg/>
13. <http://verdantlifekzn.com/endangered-wildlife-trust-learning-series-sustainable-energy-and-agriculture/>
14. <http://www.encountereg.co.za/index.php/2015-festival>
15. <http://www.timeslive.co.za/scitech/2013/07/26/49-vultures-poisoned-in-kzn>
16. <http://maroelamedia.co.za/blog/nuus/49-aasvoels-vergiftig/>
17. <https://www.ewt.org.za/media/2014/Beaumont%20Nature%20Reserve%20Final.pdf>
18. https://www.ewt.org.za/accp/Newsletters/2013/Crane%20Newsletter_May%202013.pdf
19. <https://www.facebook.com/EndangeredWildlifeTrust/posts/743534148992385>
20. <https://endangeredwildlifetrust.wordpress.com/2014/09/04/deploying-ecorangers-to-support-farmers-within-critical-biodiversity-areas-in-the-southern-berg/>
21. <http://www.bateleurs.co.za/wattled-cranes-counting-eggs-in-nests/>
22. <http://www.thegiantscup.co.za/news/>
23. <http://www.pressreader.com/south-africa/mail-guardian/20150724/282411283014970/TextView>
24. <http://www.outdoorphoto.community/forums/showthread.php?29473-Mass-Vulture-Poisoning-Drakensberg>
25. <http://www.yearinthewild.com/days-11-12-year-in-the-wild-2013-14-the-soaring-vultures-at-giants-castle/>

26. <http://www.multibriefs.com/briefs/tws/071114.html>

27. <http://www.puresafari.com/news-offers/news-blog/article/destination-reviews/new-nature-reserve-to-be-created-in-kwazulu-natal/801734940>