

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Southern Ambition 112

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): *Public Participation for an Integrated Conservation and Development Strategy for Akkerendam Nature Reserve*

Implementation Partners for This Project:

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): May 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008

Date of Report: 25 August 2008

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

This report gives feedback on a public participation process regarding the Akkerendam Nature Reserve in the Succulent Karoo, South Africa.

III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

To create public awareness and to collect the views of the community for an integrated development plan for the Akkerendam Nature Reserve.

2. Did the objectives of your project change during implementation? If so, please explain why and how.

The objectives did not change but additional projects emerged out of the involvement. These projects are crucial for the sustainability of the reserve.

3. How was your project successful in achieving the expected objectives?

A range of interviews and workshops were conducted to collect the views for the integrated development plan. The whole process culminated in a day workshop where the public made their final inputs and where the plan was finalized. A business plan and budget have been compiled to seek the necessary funding to implement the plan.

4. Did your team experience any disappointments or failures during implementation? If so, please explain and comment on how the team addressed these disappointments and/or failures.

Lack of community participation and despondency was a problem. This was addressed through individual contact with key stakeholders and motivational talks.

5. Describe any positive or negative lessons learned from this project that would be useful to share with other organizations interested in implementing a similar project.

Valuable ideas and potential to implement the project emerged. It was necessary to start at the level of the community, familiarization with community dynamics, especially political issues. It was also necessary to take cognizance of what previously happened in the community.

6. Describe any follow-up activities related to this project.

The following projects emanated from the activities:

- Economic summit to address issues of local economic development
- Community educational activities
- Development of community values and cohesion in collaboration with the churches.
- Training in biodiversity in collaboration with the schools.
- Greening and cleaning of the town and the reserve.

7. Please provide any additional information to assist CEPF in understanding any other aspects of your completed project.

No additional information.

IV. ADDITIONAL FUNDING

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

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
N/A		\$	
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	

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

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*
- B** *Complementary funding (Other donors contribute to partner organizations that are working on a project linked with this CEPF project)*
- C** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*

D Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)

V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A major concern is funding to implement the integrated development plan. Expectations are high and the community would like to see that something happens. Political divisions are rife and the community doubt the capacity and financial ability of the local authority. A facilitator/ implementer of the plan is of critical importance. Long term planning and capacity development is required for the management and sustainability of the reserve.

VI. INFORMATION SHARING

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

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

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