



**BIODIVERSITY  
CONSERVATION UNIT**

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17 March 2005

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund  
Conservation International  
1919 M St., NW, Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20036  
USA

**BASIC DATA**

**Organization Legal Name:** Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa, Eastern Province Region

**Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement):** Van der Kempskloof/Parsonsvlei Management Plan

**Implementation Partners for This Project:** Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality

**Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):** August 1, 2004 – January 31, 2005

**Date of Report (month/year):** March 2005

The following activities were completed, as required under the agreement:

1. Meetings and presentations were held with Councillors, Church and Community Leaders and Municipal Officials.
2. Constructive deliberations took place with the Bethelsdorp Development Trust (BDT), which is a community organisation that consists of different groupings, i.e. women, youth, veterans and disabled. BDT is already an implementation agent for projects in the area, but their proposed plans need to be re-aligned to ensure that their activities are ecological, economically and socially sustainable. It is hoped that a recently agreed upon co-operation agreement between the WESSA BCU and BDT will result in improvement co-operation and collaboration between these parties. This should provide a good platform for the implementation of best environmental practices by the community in the area.

3. A community participatory process, which involved the identification of current and potential, alternative land-use practices for the study area, has been completed. This process was co-ordinated through eight local Secondary schools and a Technical College serving the community.
4. The draft Management Plan was reviewed by a number of different specialists in the fields of Ecological Management and Community Conservation. The management plan focussed on the following features, as required by the Terms of Reference:
  - ◆ Natural history and ecology of the area
  - ◆ Human history
  - ◆ Institutional and socio-economic context
  - ◆ Land-use context (current and alternative)
  - ◆ Ecological management of the area to support the long-term persistence of biodiversity
  - ◆ Recommendations on potential sustainable economic and social opportunities for the adjacent communities
  - ◆ Recommendations on ecological monitoring of the biodiversity (fire management and alien clearing)
5. Consultation with relevant stakeholders and specialist consultants to review and refine the draft management plan took place on a regular basis. This led to the final product: a defensible and widely supported management strategy which supports the long-term persistence of the priority biodiversity in the area, and outlines proposed sustainable economic and social opportunities for the adjacent communities.

### **Lessons Learnt**

- ◆ Community participatory processes in conservation are often time consuming. Sufficient time is therefore required in order to gather the support of key community members and to develop a collective strategy. Such processes should be based on consensus-driven approaches, which should not be rushed in order to allow them to grow to their full potential.
- ◆ As many different stakeholders as possible should be involved in such processes, as their views and contributions provide vital guidance to the process. In this project, the engagement of municipal councillors and officials, church leaders, community organisations and schools enabled the soliciting of a wide range of views.
- ◆ Regular, less formal communication with most of the stakeholders allowed for the free expression of views regarding opinions held by the community. Consequently, concerns regarding such issues, and those relating to the project, were also freely communicated. However, formal communication remained important for the forging of formal agreement on key issues.

- ◆ True community participation should allow for communities to play a key part in a project's agenda and aims.
- ◆ Community organisations whose primary mandate is not biodiversity conservation (e.g. Bethelsdorp Development Trust) can become key champions for conservation issues. The opportunity for the forging of alliances with such organisations, in support of conservation, should not be over-looked.
- ◆ The raising of awareness regarding biodiversity conservation issues amongst key stakeholders is essential to the development of support for conservation initiatives.

The management plan provides formal guidelines for the ecological management of the biodiversity-rich Van der Kempkloof-Parsonsvlei area of the Cape Floristic Region. In doing so, this document aims to facilitate conservation action in support of the long-term persistence of the priority biodiversity of the area and small-scale socio-economic opportunities for the adjacent community.

The greatest challenge to the ultimate success of this project remains in leveraging sufficient commitment from the municipality to play a more active role in the facilitation and implementation of ecological management activities and community conservation projects in the area. As part of the next phase of the project we aim to continue to obtain the necessary commitment from the municipality, and to provide support to them to undertake such actions.

Enclosed please find a copy of the final financial report (Appendix A) and the Management Plan (hardcopy and CD). The total costs of the project were \$ 8 434.49, as opposed to the budgeted amount of \$ 10 000 (unspent amount = \$ 1 565.51).

We would therefore kindly like to determine if CEPF would be willing to consider extending the contract and allowing for the unspent amount (\$ 1 565.51) to be used as co-funding to enable the project co-ordinator, Mr. Eldrid Uithaler, to present the findings of the project at the *Society of Conservation Biology* meeting in Brazil during July this year. If you are willing to consider this proposal in-principle we will provide you with further details immediately. If not, the unspent funds will be transferred to CEPF immediately upon your response.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to CEPF for providing us with the financial means to undertake this project, and look forward to catalysing the implementation of the recommendations of the management plan.

Thank you once again for your and CEPF's tremendous support.

Yours faithfully

Warrick Stewart  
WESSA BCU Manager

## 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
Table Mountain Fund	A	R 97 920	
Table Mountain Fund – Capacity Building Project	A	R154 050	
CI (RARE Program)	B	Approx. \$ 12 000	

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

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

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

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The leveraging of increased commitment at a senior political and administrative level within the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality for the implementation of the recommendations of the management plan will be essential to enable the success of this initiative.

Furthermore, due to the limited biodiversity management capacity of the municipality, the **facilitation** of the implementation of these recommendations by civil society will be vital to the long-term ecological functioning of the priority fynbos in the van der Kemp kloof/Parsonsvlei area.

The capacitation of the municipal conservation staff, via training regarding best-practice ecological management, and the improvement of their morale will also be important.

## INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF aims to increase sharing of experiences, lessons learned and results among our grant recipients and the wider conservation and donor communities. One way we do this is by making the text of final project completion reports available on our Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and by marketing these reports in our newsletter and other communications. Please indicate whether you would agree to publicly sharing your final project report with others in this way.

Yes

If yes, please also complete the following:

**For more information about this project, please contact:**

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**Appendix A: Financial Report (1 August – 31 January 2005)**

	<b>Items</b>	<b>Total Budget (\$)</b>	<b>Total Expenditure (\$)</b>
1	Temporary Staff		
	<i>Project Co-ordinator (contract, part-time)</i>	1,360.00	1,360.00
	<i>Project Supervisor (contract, part-time)</i>	1,416.67	1,416.67
	<i>Project Administrator (contract, part-time)</i>	680.00	680.00
	<i>Accountant (contract, part-time)</i>	200.00	200.00
	<i>Technical Advisor (contract, part-time)</i>	1,250.00	1,250.00
2	Consultants		
	<i>Public Participation facilitation</i>	416.67	0.00
3	Travel and Subsistence		
	<i>Fuel: 450km/month @ R2.8/km</i>	735.00	728.96
	<i>Subsistence:</i>	291.67	213.17
	<i>Accommodation</i>	416.67	232.69
	<i>Conferences</i>	583.33	290.86
4	Operating expenses		
	<i>Office premises and equipment</i>	416.67	416.67
	<i>Equipment insurance</i>	166.67	166.67
	<i>Telephone</i>	1,000.00	753.80

	<i>Email</i>	300.00	81.67
	<i>Stationary</i>	50.00	46.14
	<i>Postage</i>	50.00	50.79
	<i>Catering</i>	166.67	31.15
5	Printing and Publications		
	<i>Printing (reports)</i>	333.33	348.59
6	Project Evaluation		
	<i>Financial Management and Auditing</i>	166.67	166.67
	<b>Total (\$)</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>8,434.49</b>

Signed as accurate: \_\_\_\_\_

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Mr. F.A. Werner  
(WESSA EP Treasurer)

Mr. W.I. Stewart  
(WESSA EP BCU Manager)