

# CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Legal Name:** Calbitz Holdings

**Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement):** Feasibility Study and Management Plan in Support of the Re-opening of Gamkaskloof Donkey Route as a Guided Heritage Walk  
**Implementation Partners for This Project:**

**Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):** December 1, 2006 – January 31, 2008

**Date of Report (month/year):** 31 March 2008

## II. OPENING REMARKS

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

## III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

To determine the financial and management viability of the Donkey Trail and clarify various critical outstanding issues.

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

No the objectives did not change. We were able to remain focused and on track during the course of the project.

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

As outlined in the documentation which follows this report, all project deliverable were painstakingly explored in a series of workshops, meetings and site visits providing clarity in each area. This process also highlighted new challenges, which have since been further explored and will hopefully result in fewer "teething problems" during the implementation phase of the project, commencing now.

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.

The one disappointment encountered during implementation was that we had hoped to have the benefit of two independent consultants during the project however, due to contractual issues with his current employer, Stephen Lamb (who was very keen to participate) was not able to commence with consulting on this project and we therefore handed the entire project to Alan McVitty with whom we were very pleased.

Furthermore, we had hope to have finalized our contractual agreement with CapeNature prior to submission of this report however a few fine details still need to be clarified. Notwithstanding this, we have received letters of support and commitment, from CapeNature and they have indicated their commitment to the project with 50% financial support at a recent cultural festival ([www.absakknk.co.za](http://www.absakknk.co.za)) at which the Donkey Trail was introduced to 70 000 visitors with an overwhelming positive response. During this festival, bookings were made, commencing in September 2008. Both CapeNature and ourselves believe this is a very realistic and attainable start date.

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.

As entrepreneurs, we were quite prepared to tackle this project “by the horns” and deal with hurdles as they presented themselves. This project has provided us with a fantastic opportunity to analyze the finest eventuality during implementation as well as look at financial implications, prior to starting the trail. The project forced us to delay our intended start date by 12 months which was highly frustrating to contemplate but has been incredibly valuable and time has flown.

We highly recommend this feasibility study/implementation project plan for any similar projects.

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

We are not entirely certain what is required here. Our plan from the present until end August 2008 is trail cutting, guide and donkey training, which will include a series of dummy runs in order to ensure a smooth operation is in place once visitors start walking in September 2008.

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

Please see documentation which follows this report.

#### **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

**\*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

**We have not received any additional funding for this project. CapeNature did fund 50% of our stand costs at the KKNK festival from 21-29 March, at which we launched the trail with hikes starting in September but this is separate to the Feasibility Study and Implementation Plan project.**

**We are seeking further funding in the areas of guide and driver training, campsite development and the provision of transportation.**

**The greatest consideration that has arisen from this project is with regards to the well known alcoholism and unreliability of the guides which we are hoping to draw from the local community. This has been carefully considered. The trail must go ahead even if guides need to be drawn from other areas and communities. The trail will develop a trust fund for the local community, which will receive a percentage of profits from the trail. These profits will be managed by trustees in the area of education and training of the local community in order to ensure that those who are now too young to train as guides, will be groomed from an early age in eco-tourism awareness and provided with the opportunity to work as guides once having completed their schooling.**

**To this end we have already met with senior government officials and local parents with a view to extend our existing private preschool into a primary school on the farm to provide an appropriate educational foundation for up to 100 underprivileged, local children.**

**Please visit our website currently under construction [www.donkeytrail.com](http://www.donkeytrail.com)**

## 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](http://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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