

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Botanical Society of South Africa

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): *Building Stewardship Capacity in the Bokkeveld*

Implementation Partners for this Project: The Department of Tourism, Environment and Conservation Northern Cape

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): October 1, 2005 – July 31, 2008

Date of Report (month/year): Nov 08

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

This project is a joint-initiative between the provincial departments of Tourism, Environment and Conservation (DTEC) and the Botanical Society of South Africa (BotSoc). This project had its birth in the SKEP co-ordination unit. When the decentralized co-ordination unit was abandoned we asked the question; "What would be the most important action for conservation in the Hantam-Tanqua-Roggeveld priority region?" The answer to the question; **conservation stewardship** and so the Bokkeveld Stewardship Project was born.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: *6 landowners make a long term commitment through the Stewardship program, to applying appropriate conservation management, farming methodologies and grazing practices on approximately 6 000 ha in the Bokkeveld in the Hantam-Tanqua-Roggeveld SKEP priority region.*

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	
<i>1. There is consensus between all relevant stakeholders on priority actions for conservation in the region</i>	Through the use of a project advisory group a number of stakeholders were consulted and a map indicating the properties to be approached for stewardship was agreed upon. These properties were selected through an expert workshop approach. Since then a fine scale plan for the area has been completed which indicates on a scientific basis which are the most important properties for conservation stewardship. The project advisory working group was also used by the fine scale plan team in order to liaise with local stakeholders
<i>2. 6 private landowners are utilizing the HTR in an ecologically sustainable (increased number of farm plans being implemented) and financially viable way (investigation of alternative methods of income generation) and have agreed to the contents of a stewardship agreement that will ensure long-term commitment to conserving biodiversity</i>	Of the 6 properties that are entering into legally binding protected area agreements – two of the properties are commercial agricultural farms (7 182 ha) producing rooibos tea, sheep and beef, as well as conducting eco-tourism activities. Another two properties (3 609 ha) are producing rooibos on a small scale. All the landowners have stated that one of the reasons they are participating in the CEPF funded Bokkeveld Stewardship Project (BSP), is to improve the management of the biodiversity

	on their farms.
3. There is an increase in the awareness of the importance of the biodiversity of the HTR though commitment to conservation committees	Although the conservation committees were never established, the establishment of the Calvinia Agricultural Study group has resulted in a definite increased awareness of the biodiversity of the region as well as of global warming. One indication of this is the guest speakers who are invited to organized agriculture meetings. The Nieuwoudtville Farmers Association is currently investigating the establishment of a conservation committee. This will be discussed at the next management committee meeting in early 2009.

Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.

The Bokkeveld Plateau is widely known for its diversity in bulb species with much of the tourist income of the region being generated during the flower season. This project, building on initial work done by the Bushmanland Conservation Initiative, built a mechanism in the provincial agency from scratch that can be used to secure important biodiversity in legally binding contracts. The BSP has elevated the status of this region within the provincial agency and has resulted in an additional staff member whose mandate it is to increase the legal status of areas with critically important biodiversity and to create a biodiversity stewardship corridor in partnership with private landowners. Due to limited staff it is important to focus conservation action to the most important farms, using biodiversity integrity as the main criteria in decision making. To achieve this, a conservation action map was created by the BSP, this map has been refined by the CAPE fine scale plan for the region. The CAPE fine scale plan used the platform of the BSP to engage role players and obtain consensus on their product. The project domain for implementation of stewardship was focused around the town of Nieuwoudtville and the Bokkeveld Plateau. There has been an increased awareness of the importance of biodiversity in the HTR both on the Bokkeveld Plateau and the greater region through the stewardship action and involvement of the project team in the Calvinia agricultural study group and the Nieuwoudtville Farmers Association.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The Bokkeveld Stewardship Project is a collaborative project and multi-stakeholder project that interacts with landowners and Government departments to promote the legal status of critical biodiversity areas. This exposure to diverse but closely linked interests has highlighted a number of issues relating to ploughing of virgin land. As a result of these issues, a positive spin off was that in 2007 the Department of Tourism, Environment and Conservation, requested the assistance of the Botanical Society to facilitate an Integrated Permits Project and also to assist in developing a strategy for their Community Conservation Section. In order to obtain buy in from the farmers an Area Wide Plan for the region was planned. The mapping that took place on the farms in Nieuwoudtville also highlighted the need for better management of the wetlands and a catchments project has been initiated.

The Integrated Agricultural and Environmental Permits' Project

The Integrated Permits Project resulted in the initiation of dialogue between the departments of Agriculture and Environment. This dialogue and debate was the catalyst for the beginning of a working relationship between the relevant parties. This project also produced documentation which will assist in strengthening and streamlining the decision making process regarding the application for the development of virgin soil. The documents produced by this project include:

1. Notification Form for agri-environmental applications requiring Basic Assessment.
2. Project Information and Assessment Report (PIA Report) for agri-environmental applications requiring Basic Assessment.
3. Application Form for agri-environmental applications requiring Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

4. Departmental Review Form for notification. (NOTE: This form can also be used for the review of the Application Form for agri-environmental applications requiring Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
5. Departmental Review Form for the Project Information and Assessment Report.

In addition to the documents which should be used in the decision making process an Operational / Administrative Process for the Integrated Permitting Process was developed. This document provides a step-by-step description for all relevant stakeholders of the actions required for agricultural development proposals that require approval under Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (Act No 43 of 1983) and its Regulations and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations. The actions required are based on the model given in the Background Information Document.

The presence of the BSP on the Bokkeveld Plateau resulted in an awareness of activities taking place in the region and when one of the properties earmarked for stewardship came up for auction the BSP team was able to assist in gathering information which led to the purchase of this property for conservation by WWF-SA. This will mean an increase in the hectares set aside for conservation by 1300ha.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs:

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1: A Hantam-Tanqua-Roggeveld Stewardship Team and Project Advisory Group are established with appropriate management, operational and financial procedures in place.	This output was achieved. The establishment of the Project Advisory Group ensured a local commitment to the project and its outcomes.
<i>1.1. Stewardship implementation team is in place and functioning appropriately Y2Q1</i>	This team was established, the appointment of the stewardship facilitator took place in April 2006. In August 2007 the Department of Tourism, Environment and Conservation (DTEC) took the post over and appointed the stewardship facilitator on a contract basis for one year. This appointed was elevated to a permanent position in August 2008. This means that although the CEPF funding has come to an end the Bokkeveld Stewardship project and its goals on the Bokkeveld Plateau will be continued through DTEC.
<i>1.2. Financial and administrative procedures are in place by Y1Q4</i>	Due to the efficiency of BotSoc's administrator and financial departments the procedures were in place by month two of the project. These procedures were followed for the duration of the project, which meant that the project team did not have to spend unnecessary time dealing with financial and administrative issues and were thus able to focus on implementation of the project
<i>1.3. Agreement has been achieved as to the TOR and reporting of the staff member who will be working in the Nieuwoudtville area by Y1Q4</i>	The project advisory working group was established at the beginning of the project and members were thus available to contribute towards defining the TOR.
<i>1.4. A representative advisory working group has been established by Y1Q4 and meets quarterly for the duration of the project</i>	The Advisory working group was established and included members from the following; Environmental Monitoring Group (local NGO), Indigo development and change (local NGO), Oorlogskloof Nature Reserve Manager (DTEC), Environmental officer Springbok (DTEC), Environmental officer Kimberly (DTEC), The Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor, CAPE fine scale planning team, Department of Agriculture, representative from the Nieuwoudtville Farmers Association
<i>1.5. Logistic arrangements and facilities have been secured</i>	Office space was secured in the Oorlogskloof Nature Reserve offices. The Department of Tourism, Environment and Conservation did not charge any rent for this office space. A new telephone was installed as well as an ISDN modem for faster internet access and an email account was opened. A petty cash bank account was opened and after negotiation with the bank no bank charges were levied.
Output 2: 6 Stewardship agreements for priority properties on the Bokkeveld plateau have been drawn up, as a foundation for final signature and implementation in phase 2.	The landowners of the six properties have seen a draft contract for entering into a stewardship agreement. Once these contracts are legally sound the final draft will be presented to the landowner for signature. The BSP has participated in meetings and correspondence with the Western Cape and

	Kwazulu Natal stewardship programs to ensure that the contract proformas and procedures followed are standardized as much as possible across the provinces. Legal advice has also been shared across the provinces.
<i>2.1. High biodiversity and priority farms for action in the Bokkeveld have been identified by Y1Q4</i>	This indicator was achieved through two expert driven workshops. Farms identification in the North of the project areas was driven by the need to ensure conservation of representative portions of the array of biodiversity features, while farm identification in the South was driven by the need for strengthening the corridor and a link to the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor. A CAPE fine scale plan was also done for this region. Once the final map from this project has been completed it will give guidance to the focus of stewardship action into the future.
<i>2.2. Map indicating key target properties has been developed and printed by Y2Q1</i>	The map indicating the properties identified in the expert workshops was created. This map was used in various meetings as an indication of the high biodiversity importance, and the priority list for stewardship action of the Bokkeveld Stewardship Project.
<i>2.3. All priority sites have been visited (interaction notes available) by Y2Q2</i>	22 sites were identified through the planning process, 18 of these sites were visited. A farm map was compiled indicating the potential natural veld that could be considered for inclusion in a stewardship agreement. An A1, laminated, colour farm map indicating land use as well as biodiversity information was created for each of the landowners who committed time to the site visit
<i>2.4. At least 6 properties on the Bokkeveld have had stewardship agreements developed by Y3Q2</i>	Through the establishment of contract nature reserves and the biodiversity agreements on 6 properties, 11875.26 ha of land currently zoned for agriculture, now have draft management plans which will guide all the activities that will take place on these properties. Unfortunately due to delays in the development and approval of the legal aspects of these contracts, the agreements are not signed and sealed, but the landowners are willing and waiting. The Stewardship facilitator appointed by DTEC is continuing to maintain relationships with the landowners and is liaising with the legal representative to ensure that these agreements are finalized as soon as possible.
Output 3: Stewardship opportunities in the Hantam and Roggeveld have been identified and captured in a database for developing agreements in phase 2. These opportunities may also include stewardship models built around farm planning and agricultural extension.	During the development phase of the project the thought process for implementation of this output included the development of conservation committees in pilot sites which could later be used as a basis for identification of farms that would potentially be considered for stewardship agreements. However at the start of 2006 one of the farmers from the Hantam initiated a Calvinia Agricultural Study Group. It seemed to be counter productive to try to establish individual conservation committees. Initial discussions with DTEC also highlighted that with the current staff capacity in the department it would be impossible for the department to service any stewardship sites that were established remotely from current provincial nature reserves. The project team thus concluded that the most effective use of time would be in the support of the study group. The project team was influential in supporting the study group to develop a proposal that was submitted to CEPF, this project proposal was however not supported. The study group met quarterly with meetings focusing on all aspects of the farming business. Topics ranged from strategy planning, grazing and veld management, managing the farming business, Anatolian livestock guarding dogs, farm "inventions" (these ranged from a very effective kraal, cribs made from recycled tyres, pipe laying, solar hot water systems and lamb tail docking equipment) and the vegetation of the region.
<i>3.1. Champion farmers have been appointed in each of the pilot sites by Y2Q1</i>	Did not take place see above
<i>3.2. Landowner willingness survey has been completed by land users with high biodiversity and priority farms by Y2Q4</i>	Did not take place see above
<i>3.3 Good practice examples of appropriate conservation action have been catalogued By Y3Q1for designing Land Care based management intervention for stewardship in phase 2</i>	Did not take place see above
<i>3.4. High priority farms in the Hantam and the Roggeveld have been identified and at least 6 properties have been targeted for stewardship interventions in phase 2 by</i>	Did not take place see above

Y3Q2	
Output 4: DTEC adopts stewardship models and staff for role out in phase 2, with support from SANBI or DAL.	DTEC has shown its commitment to stewardship and an increase conservation estate on the Bokkeveld Plateau through its uptake of the stewardship facilitator as a permanent staff member based in Nieuwoudtville. A stewardship facilitator is also based in Springbok. Two posts are being advertised for Upington and Kimberley. Ensuring that the models developed by the BSP become an integral part of the <i>modus operandi</i> of the provincial department is yet to be proved. The relationship between the project team and the department of Agriculture has not been developed to its full potential, however the support for the 6 properties for conservations stewardship is secure. SANBI's role on the Bokkeveld Plateau became a reality during the duration of the project with the establishment of the Hantam National Botanical Garden. The focus of this garden will be conservation (an additional 3000 ha have been added to the conservation estate) and research. Through the BSP it is hoped that communication of research needs and results will be effectively communicated between the Garden and the landowners of the region.
4.1. Commitment from host institution for long term ownership of the extension officer post and a commitment to expansion of the project to roll out through out the Northern Cape into the future Y2Q4	The Stewardship facilitator was appointed in a contract post in Aug 07 and in Aug 08 this post was converted to a permanent post. DTEC also requested the assistance of Botsoc in the development of a 5 year strategy for the roll out of stewardship on the Bokkeveld Plateau and in the rest of the province. A consultant has been appointed to assist in the development of the strategy which will be completed by Dec 08
4.2. The stewardship agreement protocols are completed and enabling environment for DTEC's legal process is in place and available for use in phase 2 by Y3Q2	The legal process and agreements have caused the biggest delay in the completion of goals set for the Bokkeveld Stewardship Project. In the duration of the project a provincial legal advisory was approached, but it was soon apparent that the capacity was not sufficient to ensure that sound product were created. A lawyer was then appointed by the BSP. A memorandum of understanding was signed by DTEC to accept the products produced by the project for role out into the rest of the province. Crucial questions regarding some legal issues are being addressed nationally and BotSoc and the BSP have been able to play an instrumental role in ensuring that communication between implementing provinces has take place.
4.3. Staff transitioned into appropriate institution by Y3Q2	This was achieved, see above.
Output 5: Related projects both in the region and the Northern Cape Province have been engaged and lessons between projects have been shared.	This output was successfully achieved see below.
5.1. Northern Cape Stewardship Forum (NCSF) meetings attended (in order to learn and share lessons) once a quarter for the duration of the project	Each quarter the NCSF meetings were attended, the BSP played an instrumental role in hosting these meetings as well as ensuring that the agenda was relevant. This forum has been a key place for lesson sharing and information dissemination. The role payers in the forum have contributed to towards the development of the tools designed by the BSP and will continue to function in the province.
5.2. Interaction with other individuals working with stewardship and in the arid zone environment though out the duration of the project but specially attending the Arid Zone Forum annually	In both 2007 and 2008 the BSP staff attended the Arid Zone Ecology Forum. At both of these meetings we helped to facilitate learning between farmers and scientists through the organization of farmers workshops. These were both well attended and appreciated by both farmers and scientists. Western Cape stewardship workshops and SKEP meetings were also attended.
5.3. Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor steering committee meetings have been attended once a quarter through out the duration of the project; bi-monthly meetings with GCBC stewardship team are attended for the duration of the project	The GCBC steering committee meetings were attended with the BSP being party to the development of the strategy for this program for the following 5 years. The bi-monthly meetings were held in the beginning of the project which ensured that the duplication of work and resources was limited. These meetings helped to define the roles that the staff in each team was playing. Advice and direction was also given where needed, thus ensuring that the same mistakes were not made. Once there was clarity on roles and responsibilities the duration between these meetings was extended and the necessary communication took place via email or telephonically. Steering Committee meetings continue to be attended by the stewardship facilitator.
5.4. Interact and give support to new and existing projects in the region (by assisting with idea conceptualisation, networking and individual interaction) that will ensure an increase in biodiversity conservation	The BSP contributed to the establishment of the Akkerendam Steering committee. This committee has been ratified by the local council and meets regularly. Local government, conservation, members of the public, department labour and political appointees are part of the steering committee. The BSP has helped to guide the outcomes of this project and

<i>throughout the duration of the project</i>	<p>given advice and input where possible. The BSP is also currently motivating for the appointment of a full time reserve manager for the Akkerendam Nature Reserve.</p> <p>The integrated permits project emerged out of the BSP advisory working group and BotSoc assisted in the writing and implementation of this project. This project is believed to be a catalytic step in improving the relationship between Agricultural and Environmental decision makers as well as the land users who are affected by land use decisions</p> <p>The BSP also assisted the Calvinia Agricultural Study group in project development, unfortunately this project was rejected.</p>
Output 6: 3 properties are declared under the Protected Areas Act and this process has been formalised and established in DTEC.	DTEC is committed to ensuring that stewardship in the province, especially on the Bokkeveld Plateau becomes a reality as this will assist the province in meeting the targets of the Protected Areas expansion strategy. The internal provincial legal procedures need to be finalized. The uptake of the stewardship strategy (due for completion Dec 08) will also assist in the establishment of this process in the provincial department.
<i>6.1. 3 contracts signed by the MEC</i>	All the landowners of the six properties have been given a draft contract, this is to familiarize them selves with the content of these documents. Once the final legal contracts are available they will be given to the landowners and DTEC has committed to ensuring that these stewardship sites are signed by the MEC and obtain their legal status
<i>6.2. Rezoning process for the 3 properties has been completed</i>	Unfortunately due to the lag in finalizing the legal proformas this output was not completed within the time frame. DTEC has, however, committed to ensuring that all processes that are necessary for the declaration of the properties will be completed once the landowners have signed the legal agreements.
<i>6.3. Restrictions have been registered against three title deeds</i>	The Bokkeveld Stewardship Project appointed a legal consultant to assist with the development of proforma contracts. It is the opinion of this consultant that the contracts should be written in such a way that at the signing of the contract the landowner gives a lawyer power of attorney for the registration of the title deeds. No restrictions have been registered, but again it must be noted that DTEC has committed to ensuring that all processes that are necessary for the declaration of the properties will be completed once the landowners have signed the legal agreements.
Output 7: A model for expansion of the botanical garden through stewardship has been developed 3 priority properties are identified possible inclusion as contractual portions of the garden.	The model for the expansion of the botanical garden and reintroduction of the cultivated lands into the agricultural community is currently being developed. This process is taking longer than expected and is hoped to be completed by the end of November 2008.
<i>7.1. Scoping exercise with SANBI, municipality, BotSoc etc in partnership with the new garden manager has been convened</i>	2 workshops were held on the 26 and 28th May, with both biodiversity specialists and agricultural specialists.
<i>7.2. Land available for utilisation has been identified</i>	Maps have been obtained and discussions held with SANBI & experts. Dept Agric refused to attend unfortunately, but efforts have been made to re-include them in the process.
<i>7.3. Interim strategy for short term grazing tender has been developed</i>	Draft documents were prepared as background information documents for informing the stakeholder workshops, these were used as discussion points for the workshops.
<i>7.4. Options for utilising this land, including lease, auction or other alternatives (all to be linked as an incentive mechanism to biodiversity stewardship approach for securing conservation priority land in surrounding region) has been identified</i>	All relevant land-use options were identified in the background information docs, and were refined in the workshop discussions.
<i>7.5. Preferred option with relevant stakeholders has been confirmed and draft model for implementing this option has been prepared</i>	Preferred options were identified in the workshop discussions. These have been captured in the Final Draft Strategy for the Garden.
<i>7.6. Stakeholder consultation has taken place and a final model prepared</i>	Final Draft Strategy has been prepared, ready for distribution to SANBI for incorporation into their management plan for the Garden, pending final review and comment by SANBI and BotSoc.
<i>7.7. Approval of SANBI and relevant role</i>	This is scheduled to take place before the end November.

Describe the success of the project in terms of delivering the intended outputs.

Making conservation stewardship a reality in the Northern Cape was the primary goal of the BSP. The outputs were designed to make this a reality. I can only describe the success of the project as “the discovery of a rough diamond” the “find” has taken place, but the cutting and polishing still is an ongoing process.

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

Although output three was not met this did not negatively impact the project and its outcomes and the main goal of the project was to use the Bokkeveld Plateau as a testing ground for conservation stewardship in the province, to develop proforma documentation and the process for securing private land for conservation. This has taken place. The uptake of the stewardship facilitator in DTEC has also meant that outputs that were not completed within the time frame of the project will continue to completion though the department.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

No Safeguards were triggered during this project. Project staff are, however, contributing to a process investigating land reform and biodiversity stewardship synergies, and in ensuring that while political tensions play themselves out on the Bokkeveld, the unique biodiversity assets will not suffer.

VI. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT

Describe any lessons learned during the various phases of the project. Consider lessons both for future projects, as well as for CEPF's future performance.

- **Communication** - with local role players is key to successful buy in of a new project
- **Time frames** - Working with government department's procedures and protocols can take much longer than expected
- **The right course of action** - When a negative situation arises (i.e.) illegal ploughing, it is best to first approach the perpetrator before initiating legal action, if the response is negative then take legal action
- **Enforcing deadlines** - Working with consultants is time consuming and needs a contingency plan when deadlines are not met, in the future consider a penalty clause that has financial implications
- **Quick response** - During the duration of such a long project and with so many stakeholders involved, clashes of personalities are inevitable, responding quickly is key to ensure no “festering of the wound”
- **Pay attention to perceptions** - Ensuring that what landowners and other role players are hearing is actually what you are saying. A perception about an outcome is that persons reality and it is essential to ensure that there is a common understanding of the outcome especially when terminology is new to one of the parties
- **Problem solving** - If you are unsure of how to tackle a problem speak about it to someone you trust or your supervisor, the longer you leave dealing with the issue the more intense the pressure becomes and this is counter productive to meeting dead lines
- **Be a peoples person** - Be constantly aware of the person you are dealing with and not just their title and job description, building relationships and working with that person in a manner that they find comfortable is key to moving forward in achieving the goals of the project
- **Community involvement** - A key success of our project is the permanence of the stewardship facilitator as a member of the Nieuwoudtville community. Involvement in non work related community activities also assisted in relationship building.

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

- Building in time for a Project Advisory Working Group was key to the success of the project as this ensured that a local perspective was considered during decision making processes
- The failure of output three could have been avoided if we had taken the time to fully understand the capacity constraints of the department
- The seriousness of the lack of legal staffing within the department resulted in not being able to complete output seven. In retrospect, expecting to move from nothing to MEC signature in such a short space of time was over ambitious.

Project Execution: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/failure)

- Securing office space within the Department was very useful as this made the transition for the stewardship facilitator from BotSoc employment to Departmental employment much simpler. The office set up also ensured a relationship with the reserve manager, who was able to assist in understanding various roles and responsibilities of the staff and functioning of the department.
- Being visible at non-work related community activities assisted in relationship building.
- Taking the maps back to the farmers we interviewed assisted in building the credibility of the project, the landowners appreciated the feed back and receiving something they could use in farm planning.
- The expectations of the Calvina Agricultural Study Group members which were not met when the project was rejected, resulted in disappointment from various stake holders

VII. 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	Date Received	Notes
Department of Tourism, Environment and Conservation	A	\$27000	Aug 07 – end date of project	Stewardship facilitators salary
Department of Tourism, Environment and Conservation	A	\$2300	Jan 06 – June -08	Office space
Mazda wildlife fund	A	\$23000	Jan 06 – June -08	Vehicle
		\$		

***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.

This project was designed to continue into the future through the Department of Tourism, Environment and Conservation. We feel this has been successfully achieved and funding will be obtained through the provincial budget.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is not always easy to quantify in real terms what this project has achieved. Prior to this project there was no conservation extension officer active in this area and no active awareness creation was taking place amongst most of the commercial farmers in the area, in whose hands most of the critical biodiversity lies. Despite this, many of the commercial farmers have shown a willingness to participate in conservation actions, most coming on board after seeing that the project was here to stay and that it had a transparent conservation objective.

The current very serious economic pressures on landowners often results in clashes with biodiversity conservation objectives. This is compounded by the fact that the Department of Agriculture has expansion targets that frequently also clash with biodiversity conservation targets. Provincial co-operation between the agricultural and conservation departments to provide a more unified approach to prioritizing biodiversity conservation areas versus agricultural expansion areas is desperately needed. If these two departments cannot agree on biodiversity conservation and agricultural expansion areas it leaves the landowners unacceptably in the middle of a serious dispute between two government departments, which should be communicating and giving coinciding advice and guidance.

In summary, understanding the pressures on today's farmers is crucial when approaching them to participate in biodiversity conservation projects. Gaining the co-operation and assistance from the department of agriculture is as just as vital.

VIII. 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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