

## CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

### I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Legal Name:**  
*Protea Permaculture*

**Project Title:**  
*Elim Botanical Garden, Endemic Nursery, and Natural Corridors to Geelkop Nature Reserve*

**Implementation Partners for This Project:** None

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

**Date of Report:** July 2008

### II. OPENING REMARKS

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

The *Elim Garden Project* was conceptualized early in 2004 as one of several projects under EHAC (Elim Heritage Action Committee) to link the cultural heritage of the community with tourism related economic development.

Elim is an attractive village established in 1824 as a Moravian Mission station. When slavery was abolished on 1 December 1834, liberated slaves from the surrounding farms were welcomed to create a home in Elim. Today, this community (800 residents) consists of farmers, farm-workers and artisans that have access to and use of 7 500 hectares of land belonging to the Moravian Church of South Africa. The entire village of Elim has been declared a National Monument.

In the region of 3000 hectares of the land is natural uncultivated Fynbos, mostly used for harvesting of Fynbos flowers for the cut-flower industry. A substantial section of this land is the very rare Elim Asteraceous Fynbos. The core of which is to be found within walking distance of the village at the Geelkop Nature Reserve.

Adjacent to the historical precinct of the village is a neglected garden, roughly established around 1850. The re-development of this garden and the upgrading of natural corridors leading to the Geelkop Nature Reserve as well as an endemic Fynbos nursery, form the foundation of the *Elim Garden Project*.



This CEPF funded project was aimed at testing the financial feasibility and preparing the necessary documentation for financing and implementation.

### III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

#### 1. What was the initial objective of this project?

Output	Delivered
<p>Develop concept and implementation plan for garden</p>	<p>Several smaller botanical and municipal gardens in the Western Cape were visited.</p> <p>The recent established Garden Route Botanical Garden was used as a case study to determine possible running costs.</p> <p>Concept plans for the different sections of the garden was developed. The style of the garden will be of natural plantings with a minimalist flowing look. These natural plantings will surround an expansive sloping lawn, edged with footpaths that extend onwards through the natural corridor to Geelkop Nature Reserve.</p> <p>A substantial section of the garden (currently being cleared of non-indigenous trees by SANParks Working for Water project) will be dedicated to thatching reeds - this will be used as a strong link with the tradition of thatching in Elim. A small medicinal garden will also be used as a link with the Elim Heritage centre.</p> <p>A Section 21 company (company not for profit) will be structured with members representing the following organizations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SANParks</li> <li>• SANBI (South African National Biodiversity Institute)</li> <li>• CapeNature</li> <li>• Elim Opsiensersraad</li> <li>• Overberg District Municipality</li> <li>• Cape Agulhas Municipality</li> <li>• Moravian Church of South Africa</li> </ul> <p>And individuals;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gerhard van Deventer (project manager)</li> <li>• Gabby Jonker (Educational expert)</li> <li>•</li> </ul> <p>Few Botanical gardens are viable without extended funding. It is anticipated that the implementation of the Elim Garden Project will be phased over several years as funding becomes available.</p>
<p>Determine the feasibility of the proposed endemic nursery</p>	<p>A feasibility study was done based on interviews with 40 retail nursery owners/managers throughout the Overberg region and Cape Town.</p> <p>During the study it was established that there are a growing interest in hardy, water wise Fynbos plants among the buying public.</p> <p>Among some of the interviewees there was a misconception that all Fynbos are difficult to grow. A marketing strategy to address some of the</p>

	<p>misconceptions is envisioned. Some interviewees found it difficult to find species endemic to this specific region! The current wholesale suppliers of Fynbos plants and other indigenous plants to the targeted nurseries are all situated in the southern Cape region and 300 to 500 kilometers away from suppliers. The very high fuel costs recently reflected sharp on the retail price of plants. The study strongly reflected the need for a local wholesale nursery that can supply endemic/indigenous plants. The need for indigenous trees at reasonable cost was clearly expressed by several nursery owners.</p> <p>A site has been earmarked and layout plans developed. A business plan has been drawn up with the help of the Western Cape development initiative, "Red Door".</p> <p>It is envisaged that a Co-operative will be registered with members from the following Elim based institutions: (One member only from each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elim Primary School</li> <li>• Elim Home for severely handicapped children</li> <li>• Mispah school</li> <li>• Elim Opsiensersraad</li> <li>• Elim youth group</li> <li>• The proposed section 21 company, managing the Elim garden</li> </ul> <p>The future income from the nursery will thus strengthen their respective funding needs. Additional institutional members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SANParks &amp; Working for Wetlands project</li> <li>• Department of Agriculture – Possible greening projects through LandCare initiatives</li> <li>• CapeNature – rehabilitation of alien cleared land on CapeNature reserves</li> <li>• Overberg District Municipality</li> <li>• Cape Agulhas Municipality</li> <li>• Bredasdorp – Gansbaai road project: Implementing Contractor</li> </ul> <p>Small Co-operatives are eligible for ZAR300 000 start-up funding from the South African Department of Trade and Industry.</p>
Mainstream biodiversity corridor management into the provincial road maintenance programme	Not completed
Establish project management system	Project management systems have been incorporated in the business plans. These systems will lead the formation of the legal entities and first steps towards implementation for the garden and nursery projects.

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

The main objective of this project, preparing for the implementation of the *Elim Garden Project*, did not change.

The output: *mainstream biodiversity corridor management into the provincial road maintenance programme*, was not executed due to the postponement of the Agulhas road project.

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

The objective of this CEPF funded project was to study the wholesale and retail nursery trade to determine the feasibility of a new wholesale nursery. This study provided invaluable information on the needs in this market. The study also provided all the information for an effective business and marketing plan and the prospect of startup funding from SA Department of Trade and Industry. The success of this project in reaching its primary objective is captured in the completed business and layout plans.

**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.**

No. The only failure of the project was the output: *mainstream biodiversity corridor management into the provincial road maintenance programme*.

An operational nursery with trained staff will be better equipped to get involved in provincial roadside management. The road-side management goes through a tender process and will be applied for once the road has been built.

**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.**

1. The implementation of the garden will require ongoing financial input in the start up years (minimum of 10 years) that will in terms of financial output not be returned at a profit for ongoing development.
2. A project of this nature requires continuous community and voluntary participation, responsibility, partnerships and inputs.
3. Services can be exchanged by means of sharing resources in order for partners and stakeholders to contribute to the meeting of project objectives. This can take place through activity networks that allow for participatory active learning and human development.

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

- Form the Nursery co-operative with the partners
- Create the garden Section 21 company

It is anticipated that the legal structures for this project will be formed by December 2008.

- Use the developed business plans to actively seek funding for implementation phase.

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

#### 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
Elim Opsienersraad	<b>A</b> Use of venue/meals for meetings	\$100	Some more funding for this purpose is available for future meetings
	<b>B</b> ABI/SANParks funding for Elim Heritage Centre	\$39 000	

**\*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.

This project is an ongoing project. Currently there are two funding possibilities (not secured yet) specifically for the nursery section of the project;

- *SANParks working for water for rehabilitation*
- *Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Startup funding for Co-operatives*  
*Once the legal structures have been established, a fundraising campaign will be launched.*

#### V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

None

#### VI. 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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