

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: __Walk with Me/ Hamba Nam

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Walk with Me Indigenous Forest Trails

Implementation Partners for This Project: SANParks
Mountain to Ocean Forestry Company

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): 1 December 2006 – 31 December 2007

Date of Report (month/year): 29 January 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?

The project aimed to establish a guided hiking trail in partnership with the South African National Parks (SANParks) in the indigenous forest surrounding Karatara Forestry Village, a previously disadvantaged rural community adjacent to the Knysna State Forest.

More specifically the project objectives were to:

- Establish the hiking trail, and
- Establish a small nature based business that would involve local residents in nature based business.

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

There were no changes to the project objectives

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

The project was successful in laying most of the trail, however the second objective of launching the nature based business could not be achieved due to difficulties experienced. These are detailed under point 4 below.

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 project experienced disappointment mainly as a result of SANParks and Mountain to Ocean (MTO) not being able to commit to the project as a result of their own internal restructuring processes. This resulted in huge delays, beyond the scope of the original timeframes for the project.

After extensive discussions with both organizations, SANParks finally provided a license to operate on their land in October 2007. The pathway on their land could then finally be laid. This work was completed in December 2007.

To date, MTO has still not committed to the project.

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.

This project has yielded valuable lessons about working in partnership with especially state organizations. Firstly, considering the substantial delays experienced with finalizing approval for the work to begin on SANParks land, and the inability of MTO to commit to date, it is important that one first finalises these contractual arrangements before one proceeds to access funding to undertake the work. Going forward, any future projects undertaken where contractual arrangements are needed, will be finalized first before funding is sourced.

Secondly, the project timeframes did not allow for any delays in finalizing the contracts with the partners. One needs to build in time for negotiating through the bureaucracies of state partners.

Thirdly, if one does not constantly follow up with the relevant officials, nothing gets done.

Finally, due to the temporary nature of the work on offer, new labourers were constantly needing to be trained to do the work as the workforce would constantly change do to better more stable opportunities emerging.

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

Follow-up activities include:

- The finalisation of the trail (MTO sections),
- Launch of the trail, and
- The establishment of the nature based business.

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

N/A

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
SANParks	For Equipment	In-kind	
	Nature Guide Training	In-Kind	

	Transport to training	In-kind	

***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

Many thanks to CEPF for supporting this project.

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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