

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Khusel'indalo South Africa
Project Title:	Umzimvubu Catchment Partnership Programme—Building Local Institutions, Innovative Strategies, and Financial Sustainability for Restoration and Conservation of the Umzimvubu Catchment
GEM ID	61486
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CEPF Region: Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Biodiversity Hotspot

Strategic Direction: Strategic Direction 3: Maintain and restore ecosystem function and integrity in the Highland Grassland and Pondoland Corridor

Grant Amount: \$ 301,946

Project Dates: 12 Jan 2012- 30 June 2015

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

All of the UCPP partners have been involved in planning discussions and have supported Khusel'indalo's application and implementation of this project through coordination, lessons sharing, strategic inputs and discussions, and in-kind support. However, the following organisations have played a particularly strong role:

Environment and Rural Solutions (local): ERS is a social enterprise that is a key partner of CSA in all implementation activities. Co-host of the UCPP, co-implementer of the stewardship pilots and contributor to the climate assessments and response strategy development .

Endangered Wildlife Trust (local): EWT is a local NGO that is active UCPP member that helped promote land stewardship models. They have an active stewardship programme in the upper catchment and are doing great awareness and engagement with commercial farmers around crane and habitat conservation.

LIMA: A National NGO that is an active UCPP member was involved in helping develop and test models of rangeland stewardship with communities in the upper Mzimvubu.

Kishugu: A national NGO that is an active UCPP member promotes fire prevention awareness and actions with local communities in the upper Mzimvubu. They were involved in burning a firebreak that helped support land stewardship objectives under the UCPP.

Mehloding Trust and Royal Bakoena Development Trust: CBOs in the upper Mzimvubu that are active UCPP members that are supporting ecotourism and other green enterprise development.

Sustaining the Wild Coast (local): SWC is a local NGO that is involved in the UCPP and represented through Sinegugu. They are more directly involved in the lower region of the catchment and are well connected with traditional leadership. Although they have been less

directly involved in the overall UCPP activities, they have played a key role in supporting the integrity of environmental regulations in the region and has shared lessons with their anti-mining engagements to the UCPP members in the upper catchment that now face a fracking threat.

National Department of Water Affairs(local): Member of the UCPP who assisted the project in understanding how the UCPP into a formal role within the decision-making structures of government.

Alfred Nzo District Municipality (local): Alfred Nzo is an active UCPP member. They co-hosted a water summit and an Adaptation Summit and a Climate Change Response Strategy development workshop in which research needs and research outputs were shared with officials and policy makers on key issues related to development planning and regulation enforcement. They also developed a 5-year strategy that aligns with the catchment management strategy and the climate vulnerability assessment into their district planning and budgeting.

Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Authority: The ECPTA is also an active UCPP member that has played a lead role in supporting the stewardship plan and associated outputs by providing their spatially identified conservation layers and mechanisms.

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

The intent of CEPF's investment in the MPAH was to empower civil society to deliver conservation outcomes that contribute to and can be sustained by sustainable development. It sought to pioneer new approaches and partnerships that could have lasting effects for biodiversity in the landscape and to be used for leveraging additional investment into priority areas. This project has contributed to all of these desired goals. The UCPP is a national model of partnerships focused on coordinated conservation action. Whilst originally prioritizing restoration and stewardship, the UCPP is now also using its collective power to stand up against mining threats in the catchment as well as to raise greater public awareness of how special the region is through celebrations of Environment Days (such as World Environment and World Wetland Day.) The impact in the region cannot be underestimated. Farmers, local government, schools and businesses are now all aware of the region's global importance and have a new pride and self-interest (from the stewardship incentives catalyzed) to see it conserved. The larger more established NGOs have seen the benefit of supporting smaller CBOs, even taking on interns and working with financial systems to help their chances of getting their own funding for desired conservation projects in the future. The climate vulnerability strategies scientific rigour on assessing impact and identifying priority areas based on environment and social criteria is setting a new standard for local government assessments and budget alignment to build climate resilience for their people and the landscapes they live in.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal):

Well informed and coordinated efforts by civil society and government programmes are restoring and maintaining biodiversity and ecosystems services, especially freshwater services, on over 435,000ha in the Umzimvubu Watershed--directly improving livelihoods of >300 households within a five year time-frame, and building resilience to climate impacts for over 1 million people living in the river basin within a twenty year timeframe

Actual Progress toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

The UCPP and ANDM Climate Change Forums created through this project have dramatically improved coordination and cooperation both among civil society, within local government departments, and between the two. There is a better understanding and spatial awareness of ecosystem service priorities and these are now guiding the next five year strategy and budgeting by the ANDM and UCPP partners. Specifically, this has translated into focal areas for Dept of Env Affairs Expanded Public Works Programme for Restoration and the attached pdf summarises the investment and impact to date by the UCPP in the Catchment. The collaboration created by the UCPP directly contributes to the leveraging of the socio-economic impact as each organisation drew on the others specialty for in-kind support (eg. LIMA teams provided erosion control training and CSA providing auctioning support to each other's EPWP project).

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal):

* A clear, scientifically robust, and comprehensive strategy for conservation of the biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Umzimvubu Catchment is developed and supported by a broad spectrum of stakeholders.

*More than 10 organisations and universities, 3 government departments, and 2 traditional authorities are regularly and cooperatively working together towards the common goal and innovative approached to biodiversity and catchment management as articulated and refined in a UCPP strategy.

*A spatially explicit assessment of the role of ecosystems in reducing vulnerability to climate change is informing municipal planning processes and associated projects and budgeting and lessons from this effort are captured into a nationally relevant handbook for municipal planning.

*Systems for valuing and measuring ecosystem services are developed and provide a foundation for measuring improved returns on government Expanded Public Works Programmes and Stewardship/PES future investments.

Actual Progress toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

All of the above were achieved. A new Five Year Strategy which is based on the priority EbA areas has been drafted with the inputs of the UCPP members and fully buy-in of the ANDM. The UCPP is a recognized and valued forum for engagement on conservation issues and has been mentioned in numerous national forums as a flagship of grassroots, science, and policy coordination. The Climate Vulnerability Assessment led to receiving a local government tender, the first for an environmental NGO, to lead a process to develop the District Climate Change Response Strategy which now sets out their targets and will guide investments toward restoration and conservation of priority EbA areas as well as other sustainable development activities (e.g. reducing emissions through transition to renewable on municipal buildings and schools). Systems for measuring ES, as developed by the EWT EGS tool, were given inputs from and through this project. And the ANDM M&E Framework for measuring climate resilience (which focuses on healthy ecosystems as an indicator of resilience) were developed from the foundation provided by this project. Lessons from the climate change response strategy development have been integrated into the National "Let's Respond Tool-kit" Process and we are currently finalists for providing the expert input into the National Adaptation Plan on the basis of this experience. Similarly, we are now looking at values of restoration returns from the EPWP programme both in terms of water and grazing services (pdf attached) and this is being seen as a new way to evaluate these returns.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: 14,500 ha under improved grazing (direct CSA support from this project) + 600 ha of alien invasive vegetation removed (through leveraged funding from the DEA NRM and with partners)

Species Conserved:

Corridors Created:

Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.

The government EPWP systems have provided a challenge to work with as they are designed to measure job creation targets and have less interest in ecosystem benefits. This project allowed us to establish a baseline from which we can measure ecosystem impacts better over time and gave us and all the UCPP partners a platform from which we could collectively engage the DEA on aspects of their reporting and requirements around the environment. The UCPP also still has a concentrated impact in the upper catchment on two tributaries and while we have been highly successful here, there is still much work to be done both downstream and in the southern tributaries where a dam is now proposed. Our intervention at the ANDM Water Summit did manage to get some ecosystem service considerations integrated into the design, but we now need to follow up to make sure that these are implemented. Additionally, though EWT has made great strides with securing ECPTA support for stewardship agreements, there is still much work to be done on the informal and communal land stewardship recognition as the biodiversity in these areas is restored.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Perhaps we can say an unexpected positive impact was the support we received from the traditional authorities. Without their support (which would have been impossible without the programme manager for this project) all of the restoration work would have been slower and less sustainable. There is a new desire and interest in land management for social upliftment and the Royal Bakoena Community Trust has sent several of its members to intern with CSA over the last two years to build their capacity. This is a great impact and will ensure that the project is sustained through their leadership.

Project Components

Project Components: *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

Component 1 Planned: Improved Governance and Regional Capacity for PES and Stewardship Programmes for Biodiversity Conservation and Freshwater Ecosystem Management: The UCPP coordinates government, traditional authorities, NGOs, business, and civil society and their projects to ensure lessons are shared, synergies are maximized, and results are amplified to larger government and corporate policy levels through a formal MOU by the end of the first quarter of the project and is formally transitioned in the Water Management Forum or an advisor to the Management Forum by the end of the project

Component 1 Actual at Completion: The UCPP governance forum continues to be going strong and the lessons sharing and inputs into national government policy are fantastic with contributions to climate change, agriculture, and stewardship policy and tool-kits being the

main achievements. The members are in the process of establishing themselves as a formal Water Management Forum. Unfortunately, as mentioned in our original assumptions, we had to wait for the Provincial process to be completed and this is still taking time. Through the last SANBI Exchange between the UCPP and the Mgeni Management Forum, there is new energy and insights on how to proceed with this registration and we are hopeful to have this complete in the first half 2016. The Director of the Provincial Catchment Management Authority invited three members of UCPP to serve in the Business Case Development Group for the Eastern Cape CMF establishment. This was done into to make sure we have a say in how the EC CMA should be formalised. National Department has also been told by the provincial office to use UCPP as a stakeholder in all catchment work in the Province. We have enjoyed a presence as a result attendance by national senior management of Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in all our UCPP meeting. We have just been asked to act as Project Advisory committee by National Office of DWS on Reserve quantity and quality determination.

Additionally, in July 2013, the project established a Climate Change Committee with the officials of the Alfred Nzo District to investigate and embed concepts and planning that consider ecological systems as part of the climate adaptation, disaster risk, and water and food security efforts of the Municipality. This also is now formally integrated into Municipal structures and meets at least 3 times a year to discuss targets.

Component 2 Planned: Improved Knowledge of Ecosystem Values, Restoration Techniques, and Climate Vulnerability is effectively informing municipal policy and budgeting, EPWP work programmes, and stewardship activities in the region: Through the UCPP, a coordinated research programme exists and is informing both the existing expanded public works projects and proposed PES/stewardship schemes and in the Umzimvubu Region, (past UCPP meetings indicate a potential priority focus on restoration techniques and value, rangeland management impacts on ecosystem services, and climate vulnerability.

Component 2 Actual at Completion: An entire tool-kit for rangeland restoration has been developed and a new research programme funded by the Red Meat Development Trust has been organized to look at ecosystem, water, and livestock production indicators from different management practices. This will continue to inform the roll-out of the EPWP ecoranger programme regionally and nationally. For climate change, there is a wealth of information on impacts and potential response strategies available as a result of the project (See final ANDM docs) and this information and the associated M&E Framework will track long-term EbA developments and associated resilience.

Component 3 Planned: Institutional alignment for formalizing and coordinating communal and commercial stewardship efforts outside the protected areas within the Umzimvubu Watershed: Through the UCPP, a multi-stakeholder stewardship programme exists and is facilitating roll-out of stewardship according to an agreed strategy and action plan defined by at least 5 spatial priorities (see UCPP 20 year Strategy and CEPF Ecosystem Profile on spatial priorities) and five institutional mandates (EWT, CSA, ECPTA, ERS, DEDEA.

Component 3 Actual at Completion: Although significant developments have taken place with regards to stewardship agreements with commercial and communal farmers, and awareness of institutional efforts, this is potentially an area that still needs more structure/formalization. CSA has focused on developing the Meat Naturally model of conservation agriculture agreements that has grown tremendously in scope and scale with the involvement of the EPWP wage incentives and EWT and ERS work with ECPTA has resulted in greater support for stewardship application in the original Ongulusnek and Cederberg Flats priority areas. In 2016, using climate VA, the UCPP members will need to have a meeting to particularly look at this again and focus alignment and strategy development for the next 5 years.

Component 4 Planned: Effective Monitoring and Evaluation Baselines and Tools are Developed: As part of their function in the Secretariat of the UCPP, CSA has designed and captured baseline data on key aspects of the Umzimvubu ecology, social and economic development into a GIS-based database that can be updated annually and accessed by any member of the UCPP for informing decision-making, project design, or policy development as well as measuring impacts of interventions (e.g. conservation or infrastructure development).

Component 4 Actual at Completion: Similar to Component 3, there is much informal coordination and use of the UCPP web-site and Rangeland Restoration dropbox and meetings to share information. There is also a database of relevant baseline studies, research papers and projects available. However, though some of these are now accessible on SANBI platforms, most of these are still only accessible to UCPP members who have requested access. This may be the only level of effort required as, due to the success and awareness of the UCPP in general, people do know how to source the information they need via the network and sustaining and maintaining a formal separate database to those provided on SANBI is felt, at the moment, to be unnecessary.

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

Only the policy and database formalization processes were unrealized. However, this did not affect the overall impact of the project.

Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

Climate Vulnerability Assessment, Climate Change Response Strategy Technical Report and Five year Action Plan

UCPP 5 year strategy

Rangeland Restoration Tool-kit: Tool kit focused on activating and monitoring livestock-based restoration of rangelands.

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

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

There are several features of the project that are based on models developed by CEPF-funding in the other hotspots in terms of structures, tools, and M&E methodologies. For example, the use of conservation planning maps, and the application of the "Let's Respond" climate adaptation tool-kit for municipal mainstreaming of environmental information. Having the direct experience of working with former CEPF landscape level projects really allowed the UCPP to flourish from the start. The commitment of the stakeholders and real openness in the NGO and CBO community

is perhaps a bit unique but I think this openness to partnerships (say between EWT and CSA and ERS) is a tribute to past CEPF investments in South Africa.

Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

Lots of lessons about stakeholder engagement from the CAPE and SKEP programme were applied here—eg having a theme for each UCPP meeting kept the interest alive. Green Choice Lessons Learned from the Farmer Field Book which was a comprehensive but too complex tool-kit led to the development of a new approach to a two-tiered monitoring of citizen science supported by “hard science”.

We learned a lot about implementing stewardship through the Natural Resource Management EPWP programme and developed new tools and a process to help other “Implementing Agencies” learn and these are captured in the Restoration Tool-kit.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

The components of formalization of networks and information flow were unrealized, and yet the outcomes desired from the formalization were all achieved. This maybe risky due to lack of structure should the driving personalities disappear, however, there may also be a lesson here in keeping it simple that allows for organic coordination versus structure that requires maintenance and financial flows.

Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of the CEPF investment in this project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Hansen Family Foundation	C	\$185,000	
SWFF	C	\$500,000	
Dept of Env Affairs	C	\$3,400,000	
EU	A	\$245,000 (CSA component)	Funds replication of the UCPP and stewardship activities in the Umzimkulu and Amatholes
Massmart	A	\$338,000	Not yet approved, but an 80% prospect to support accredited farmer training as part of building stewardship capacity

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

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

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

The project components will be sustained by the UCPP and CSA is a committed partner for at least the next 20 years. As such, we will find funding to maintain and grow the desired long-term outcome and beyond. More details on how various elements of the project will be sustained is provided below:

Governance structure: the UCPP has been hailed as a potential structure that can evolve into the Umzimvubu's Catchment Forum--a structure required by law but that only exists in 2 catchments in the country. As a Forum in a poor catchment, the structure can be sustained through the formalisation process but will likely remain a public-private partnership in terms of financing until economic development in the region develops enough tax revenue to fund the structure. For example, the 2 other functioning catchment forums receive revenue from the water tax. In the Alfred Nzo District, tax is received from only 6% of users and most of the population in the region lives under the basic service requirement level and so alternative mechanisms for financing the Forum will necessarily be explored in the formalisation process. It should be noted that already the UCPP structure and MOU has been adopted by the stakeholders and SANBI for the Mgeni Catchment area in KwaZulu Natal, and CSA-EWT-WESSA are now partnering to also mobilise a similar governance process in the Amathole Catchment.

Vulnerability Assessment and Building Municipal Capacity and Planning for Climate Adaptation that utilises benefits of healthy ecosystems for disaster risk reduction: The Vulnerability Assessment and process of embedding ecosystem restoration and protection into climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies is pivotal to the future of the country. GIZ is funding CSA to develop a handbook on how to embed climate change information into local municipal planning and contributions from this project will inform that amplification tool.

Rangeland Restoration and Stewardship: The stewardship strategy can ultimately become and/or inform policy that related to EPWP and Dept of Agriculture funding strategies. The approaches developed during the CEPF project are part of the foundation for a business plan for a new social enterprise, Meat Naturally.

Monitoring and Evaluation Tools: The database, tools and research programme will be made available to local, provincial, and national level planning departments and uploaded onto the SANBI Biodiversity Advisor Web-site for informing all future development applications.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

In August/September, Meat Naturally became a finalist for the Global Securing Water for Food Innovation Award which will create a new social enterprise that can work nationally to restore landscapes and support income generation for communal farming groups who steward these landscapes.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

Additional Comments/Recommendations

The Umzimvubu Upper Catchment Project of Khusel'indalo set out to build on the successful governance of CAPE, the stewardship successes, lessons, and market networks of the Biodiversity and Red Meat Initiative operating in Namaqualand (which uses an adaptation of CI's Conservation Stewardship Programme model and SA Biodiversity Stewardship Model) and the monitoring protocols and policy inputs provided by the Green Choice Initiative. All of these initiatives received support from the CEPF (when the organisation was still a branch office of Conservation International) and this project allowed us to significantly amplify policy and market impacts by capitalising on the synergies from these prior and ongoing efforts. I think this growth in experience, truly enabled by CEPF, has provided CSA with a strong foundation and an ethos of building smaller civil society capacity. This is also really really crucial to the long-term success of sustaining the investments into the activities identified in the Ecosystem Profile.

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

Sinegugu Zukulu
szukulu@conservation.org

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved over the project period (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	N		
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	N		
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Y	14,500	Improved rangeland management, erosion control, and Invasive plant clearing was enabled through stewardship agreements in Ward 7, 14, and 21 in the last 3 years.
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Y	Same as above	
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	Y		

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table

Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

Please complete this table if your project provided concrete socioeconomic benefits to local communities. List the name of each community in column one. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes. In the bottom row, provide the totals of the Xs for each column.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics							Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit												
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists/nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Increased Income due to:			Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc)	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance.	Other—restoration jobs provided in the stewardship agreements
									Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities									
Motseng		X					X		X									X		X
Letlapeng		X					X		X									X		X
Diqalapeng		X					X		X									X		X
Mvenyane		X					X		X									X		X
Mzongwana		X					X		X									X		X
Total																				

If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit:

