

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

Thirteenth Meeting of the Donor Council
World Bank Headquarters, Washington, DC
21 April 2008
1 p.m. – 3 p.m. EST

Report on Progress by the Executive Director

For Information Only:

The Executive Director will highlight key developments since the Twelfth Meeting of the Donor Council on 20 November 2007. For information, a report covering the following activities since that date is attached:

- Partnership Highlights
- Highlights from the Field
- Approved grants (15 October 2007 – 15 March 2008)

Partnership Highlights

Meetings of the Working Group and Donor Council took place during November 2007. Notable decisions from the Donor Council meeting included approval of recommendations from the Working Group related to the selection of Regional Implementation Teams in Indochina, Polynesia-Micronesia, and the Western Ghats. The Council also approved a fund-raising strategy that sets the overarching approach for the partnership to secure a total of \$150 million for implementation of the new 5-year Strategic Framework approved by the Council in July 2007.

The partners signed two new agreements for additional support to CEPF. The World Bank and Conservation International (CI) signed a legal agreement for \$20 million in new support from the Global Environment Facility. The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and CI signed an agreement for \$12 million in additional support from the Foundation for the global program. These new agreements bring the total new commitments for CEPF to \$82 million toward the \$150 fund-raising goal, which includes a first target of \$100 million. At the invitation of the World Bank, a proposal for \$25 million in new support was also submitted to the World Bank's Development Grant Facility in early 2008. A decision is expected mid-year.

In February, an Agence Française de Développement delegation visited CI's Headquarters. The delegation included Executive Director for Strategy and Chief Economist Pierre Jacquet, who is also the CEPF Donor Council member and also representatives of the Operational Department and Infrastructure and Environment Division. Discussions focused on CEPF and also climate change issues and strategy. The event followed a similar French governmental delegation visit to CI in October 2007 reported on in the previous meeting of the Donor Council.

The CEPF Senior Director for External Affairs and the Special Advisor to the Executive Director for the World Bank, Japan met with two representatives from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) USA Office in March. The meeting with Deputy Resident Representative Atsushi Uchida and Program Officer Lupe Staigers focused on further information sharing about the program and potential collaboration opportunities following the CEPF Executive Director's October 2007 meetings in Tokyo with Japanese governmental partners, including the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Environment, and JICA.

Highlights from the Field

Potato farmers in the Cape Floristic Region Hotspot launched a program that will enable responsible farming practices to help protect natural resources and dwindling water supplies. The launch included the release of new best practice guidelines for potato production in the Sandveld or Sand Flats region of South Africa, the focal area for the program. The program draws together CapeNature's Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor Initiative and Potatoes South Africa, an organization representing the industry, as well as other partners and stakeholders. CEPF has supported CapeNature's role in the initiative as part of a project to engage farmers in developing scientific agricultural principles. Plowing of the land in the Sandveld for production of potatoes and rooibos tea has transformed this important coastal landscape into the second most highly threatened ecosystem in South Africa. The core of the production area coincides with an important ecological corridor linking the Greater Cederberg conservation area with the lowlands and the coast. The Greater Cederberg corridor was established as a landscape initiative to minimize the effect of climate change by supporting the free movement of plant and animal species. It centers on the voluntary participation of land owners, communities and the private sector to expand conservation areas on privately owned land.

In the neighboring Succulent Karoo Hotspot, mining is one of the biggest threats for the long-term sustainability of the unique Namaqualand ecosystem. The Namaqualand Restoration Initiative, created by the program director of the Plant Conservation Unit of the University of Cape Town, founded a new restoration business with start-up capital provided by CEPF and De Beers. NM Restoration, which is owned and operated by Namaqualanders, held an intensive five day restoration training course in Namaqualand, which was attended by 47 candidates selected from among 150 applicants. The trainees learned the techniques for successful restoration of areas damaged by mining, including proper handling of topsoil, identification of local plant species to be used in restoration, and methods of selecting, harvesting and storing viable seed, as well as methods of planting the seeds to protect them from the wind and improving the soil altered by the mining process. Forty of the trainees successfully completed the course, 15 of whom have already been employed by the new restoration business. More jobs are also expected to become available when NM Restoration expands its operations in the near future. Previously, *ad hoc* restoration activities of mined areas had been ongoing by different mine operators and farmers across Namaqualand, but a coordinated, scientifically based approach was lacking. The NRI emphasizes engagement with mine operators coupled with restoration expertise and the use of scientifically based field experiments to develop novel restoration methods.

In the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and partners used state-of-the art remote sensing technology and methodologies to produce the first vegetation atlas of Madagascar. The comprehensive atlas is unique in Madagascar in that it provides a modern twist, using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to supply information that can be used to protect and manage Madagascar's diverse flora in a sustainable way. The flora of Madagascar is extremely threatened not only by habitat destruction for agriculture, fuel wood and building materials but also, in the case of certain species, by over-collection for the horticultural trade. This pioneering atlas warns us that only 18 percent of Madagascar's native vegetation remains intact and that a third of Madagascar's primary vegetation has disappeared since the 1970s. It provides an insight into which type of primary vegetation is rarest, which type is disappearing fastest and which type needs to be protected. The atlas incorporates detailed consultations with experts to ensure that the information it provides is of maximum relevance and utility to conservation planners and managers. The Madagascar Vegetation Mapping Project, which resulted in the production of this atlas, was funded by CEPF and managed jointly by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Missouri Botanical Garden, and Conservation International's Center for Applied Biodiversity Science. The atlas has already been used to help prioritize areas for protection through President Marc Ravalomanana's Durban Vision, which aims to substantially expand the protected areas network of Madagascar as well as to enable communities to participate in establishing and managing these areas.

When scientists recently discovered a new species of giant elephant-shrew in south-central Tanzania, they called attention not only to the animal, but also to the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya where CEPF funding is helping to conserve even unknown inhabitants. The distinctively colored *Rhynchocyon udzungwensis* is the size of a small dog, making it the largest of the 16 known species of elephant shrew, or sengi. An international team financed by the CEPF, the National Geographic Society, and the Trento Museum confirmed that the gray-faced sengi was, in fact, a new species. The formal description of the mammal appears in the February Journal of Zoology, marking the first time in more than 126 years that researchers have found a giant elephant-shrew entirely new to science. Giant elephant-shrews, so-named for their long snouts, are not shrews at all; in fact, genes link them to several unlikely relatives, including aardvarks, sea cows and elephants. Two populations of the new gray-faced sengi are known to live within a forested region measuring 115 square miles (300 square kilometers) in the Udzungwa Mountains. The forests in these ancient and isolated mountains are

rich in biodiversity. Among the more unusual species found here are the Udzungwa partridge (*Xenoperdix udzungwensis*), the Phillips' Congo shrew (*Congosorex phillipsorum*), and a new genus of monkey known as Kipunji (*Rungwecebus kipunji*) as well as several reptiles and amphibians. This latest discovery emphasizes the importance of protecting Tanzania's unique forests, where CEPF investment priorities include increasing biological knowledge.

Breeding seabirds are starting to recover on Vatuirā, a small Fijian island where rat eradication already is having a positive impact on the success of ground-nesting species such as black noddies (*Anous minutus*), bridled tern (*Sterna anaethetus*) and black-naped tern (*Sterna sumatrana*). Designated an Important Bird Area (IBA) by BirdLife International, Vatuirā is now officially rat-free as a result of work supported by CEPF and the Australian government's Regional Natural Heritage Programme (RNHP), with technical support given by the New Zealand Department of Conservation and the Pacific Invasives Initiative. CEPF funded the project as part of a 1-year investment program in the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot supported by RNHP and focused specifically on a targeted Invasive Alien Species Program. The projects funded by this program supported demonstration projects focused on preventing, controlling, and eradicating invasive alien species in key biodiversity areas that also raise civil society's capacity to continue to implement these types of initiatives in the future, including during implementation of the new CEPF ecosystem profile for this hotspot. BirdLife International and the Nagilogilo clan of Vatuirā were partners in ridding this internationally important seabird colony of the invasive Pacific rat. With the breeding seabirds, a more vibrant economy is also hatching on this island, as opportunities now exist for ecotourism. BirdLife is training the local community in bio-security to prevent visitors from accidentally re-introducing rats or other invasive species to Vatuirā. Fiji is one of the few nations in the tropical Pacific with a high diversity of seabirds. Of a total of 19 seabird species known to breed within the region, seven rear young on Vatuirā. The island represents one of the world's most important locations for birds. Following on this success, BirdLife is now working with local communities on Ringgold and Mabualau islands to restore more habitat of importance to seabirds.

An analysis by the Conservation Strategy Fund (CSF) of the economic and environmental impacts of proposed road construction in the border region of Mexico, Guatemala and Belize casts doubt on the appropriateness for the Maya Forest of an economic development model based on large public works, as has been proposed by the Plan Puebla Panama and the Mundo Maya initiatives. CSF suggests that there is no conflict between conservation and development goals in the cases it studied in the Mesoamerica Hotspot. Neither goal would be achieved with the proposed investments, the analysis concludes. Instead, both would cause an economic net loss and provoke considerable impacts on the Maya Forest's ecosystems. The study concludes that limited public funds should instead be directed to projects with better prospects of satisfying criteria for economic efficiency, environmental sustainability and social equity. Remote areas—such as those constituting the largest contiguous tropical forest in the Americas north of the Amazon—often are deemed appropriate for road corridors and settlements. However, the authors conclude that developing “empty” areas often involves not only the sacrifice of conservation values but also the real risk that the costs of new infrastructure will outweigh any economic benefits. Research for the CSF study was supported by CEPF, Corredor Biológico Mesoamericano, Mexican Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad, and Safari Club International. The study is part of a CSF initiative to help integrate conservation concerns into the planning of major infrastructure projects throughout Mesoamerica. A summary of the Maya Forest report is available on the CEPF Web site at www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/news/in_focus/2008/jan1008_feature.xml. The full report is available at http://conservation-strategy.org/files/AE_carreteras_mex_gua.pdf (PDF, 2.5 MB).



**Approved Grants
15 October 2007 – 15 March 2008**

Caucasus Hotspot

Strategic Direction 1. Support civil society efforts to promote transboundary cooperation and improve protected area systems in five target corridors

Creation of the System of Protected Areas of the North Caucasus (Green Corridor of the North Caucasus) - Phase II

Create a Green Corridor stretching nearly 1,500 kilometers from the Black to the Caspian seas along the Great Caucasus Range - the backbone of the Caucasus Mountains. The Green Corridor will incorporate protected areas, flora and fauna migration routes, corridors, stepping stones, and multiple-use areas into a continuous and efficiently managed system.

Funding: \$125,948
Grant Term: 2/1/08 - 6/30/09
Grantee: Vsemirnyi Fond Prirody

Development of the Econet Scheme of the North Caucasus on the Base of Analysis of Satellite Images and Topographical Maps - Phase II

Enhance the ability of civil society to influence the process of land-use planning in the Russian portion of the Greater Caucasus Corridor through development of an Econet plan - a high-resolution, landscape-scale conservation planning framework.

Funding: \$28,194
Grant Term: 2/1/08 - 1/31/09
Grantee: Vsemirnyi Fond Prirody

Strategic Direction 2. Strengthen mechanisms to conserve biodiversity of the Caucasus hotspot with emphasis on species, site, and corridor outcomes

Site Network for Birds and Wetlands: Inventory, Protection, and Community Management - Phase II

Expand the CEPF-supported network of Important Bird Areas caretakers into the Russian areas of the Greater Caucasus and Caspian biodiversity conservation corridors by generating new knowledge on the conservation needs of globally threatened species, particularly birds, and by developing and implementing management recommendations at key sites.

Funding: \$54,688
Grant Term: 2/1/08 - 1/31/09
Grantee: Vsemirnyi Fond Prirody

Eastern Arc & Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya

Strategic Direction 1. Increase the ability of local populations to benefit from and contribute to biodiversity conservation

The Change from Central to Community-Based Forest Management in a Biodiversity Hotspot in Tanzania: Evaluating the Effect on Conservation and Poverty Alleviation

Repeat surveys undertaken in 2000-2001 to determine changes in relative densities of wildlife populations, natural resource use and socioeconomic livelihood aspects in households around the Dabaga Ulongambi and West Kilombero Scarp forest reserves, Tanzania. These data will be applied to assess the effects of participatory forest management and provide lessons learned on community conservation of forest resources.

Funding: \$37,620

Grant Term: 12/1/07 - 12/31/08

Grantee: Danish Centre for Forest, Landscape and Planning, University of Copenhagen

Strategic Direction 2. Restore and increase connectivity among fragmented forest patches

Assessment of Potential to Restore and Increase Connectivity of Zanzibar's Coral Forests

Assess opportunities to improve connectivity between Jozani-Chwaka Bay National Park and Kiwengwa Forest Reserve, Muyuni Forest, and the Southern and Eastern coral rag forests. In partnership with the Department of Commercial Crops, Fruits and Forestry and the Jozani Environmental Conservation Association, work with communities in developing conservation corridors and expanding the protected area network.

Funding: \$19,210

Grant Term: 1/1/08 - 12/31/08

Grantee: Wildlife Conservation Society

Forest Conservation in the Matumbi Hills, Rufiji District

Improve community conservation of five forests reserves in Tanzania through participatory forest management with the Forest and Beekeeping Division to create Village Land Forest Reserves as a means for long-term, sustainable forest use. Implement a monitoring plan that tracks changes in forest quality, management effectiveness, and species diversity.

Funding: \$175,000

Grant Term: 7/1/07 - 12/31/09

Grantee: World Wide Fund for Nature

Strategic Direction 4. Establish a small grants program in the hotspot (all 161 sites eligible) that focuses on Critically Endangered species and small-scale efforts to increase connectivity of biologically important habitat patches

A Bilingual Field Guide to the Amphibians of the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya

Publish an up-to-date guide to the amphibians of the region, including accurate descriptions of the natural history and biology, in both English and Kiswahili. Promote further research and conservation of threatened species in this biogeographic realm.

Funding: \$19,540

Grant Term: 9/1/07 - 3/31/09

Grantee: The Research Institute of the State University of New York

Strategic Direction 5. Develop and support efforts for further fundraising for the hotspot

Hotspot Butterflies: Making the Butterfly Exhibit Industry Work for Conservation

Improve the market share of community-raised butterfly pupae supplied to flight houses in Europe and North America. This will, in turn, improve the livelihoods and benefits from conservation for communities engaged in butterfly farming. In conjunction with the butterfly exhibit industry, explore opportunities to stage displays focused on individual hotspots promoting the overall awareness of these biodiversity reservoirs and the threats they face.

Funding: \$15,565
Grant Term: 11/1/07 - 4/30/08
Grantee: International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology

Eastern Himalayas Region

Strategic Direction 2. Secure the conservation of priority site outcomes (key biodiversity areas) in the eastern Himalayas with a particular emphasis on the Bhutan Biological Conservation Complex, Kangchenjunga-Singalila Complex, and North Bank Landscape

Civil Society Networks for Site Conservation in the North Bank Landscape, India

Strengthen and expand grassroots civil society networks in eight key biodiversity areas in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh at the state and national levels, and assist these networks to engage in advancing the conservation of key sites and globally threatened bird species.

Funding: \$114,193
Grant Term: 1/1/08 - 8/31/10
Grantee: Bombay Natural History Society

Integrated Approach to Enhance Protection of Manas Tiger Reserve, a Priority Site Outcome in the Indian part of the Bhutan Biological Conservation Complex

Reduce threats like habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation resulting from over-harvesting of natural resources by local communities in the fringe area of Manas Tiger Reserve. Additionally, strengthen and mobilize community-based organizations, develop a community-based education and awareness program, and support sustainable natural resource-based enterprises.

Funding: \$87,301
Grant Term: 1/1/08 - 12/31/09
Grantee: Dolphin Foundation

Strategic Direction 4. Develop a small grants program to safeguard globally threatened species in the eastern Himalayas

Safeguarding Globally Threatened and Lesser Known Species in the Eastern Himalayas: Small Grants for Species Conservation in Nepal and Bhutan

Implement a small grants program in Nepal and Bhutan to support action-oriented research for conservation of priority species, and implement a monitoring program for priority species outcomes and supporting conservation assessments of lesser known taxonomic groups for inclusion in the IUCN Red List.

Funding: \$659,454
Grant Term: 9/1/07 - 6/30/10
Grantee: World Wildlife Fund, Inc.

Mesoamerica Hotspot (Northern)

Strategic Direction 1. Foster civil society participation in regional decisionmaking on select policies and investments to promote the conservation and sustainable development of the Selva Maya and the Selva Zoque and Chiapas/Guatemala Highlands corridors

Building a Model of Conservation Coffee and Carbon Credit in the Sierra Madre de Chiapas

Establish a payment for environmental service scheme in which eight strategically located communities will adopt best practices in conservation coffee and receive compensation through their carbon savings. In addition, the grant is viewed as a model for the State of Chiapas, which is drafting a new policy for payment for environmental service.

Funding: \$142,983

Grant Term: 2/1/08 - 4/30/09

Grantee: Cooperativa AMBIO Sociedad Cooperativa de Responsabilidad Limitada

Developing a Strategy for Sustainable Tourism for Biodiversity Conservation in the States of Chiapas and Oaxaca, Mexico

Bring together civil society, government, and private sector stakeholders to develop a strategy for sustainable tourism in Chiapas and Oaxaca. The project supports the development of an assessment of the challenges and opportunities, strategy development, recommendations for policy improvement, and establishment of a nature tourism alliance.

Funding: \$60,000

Grant Term: 2/1/08 - 12/31/08

Grantee: Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental, Asociación Civil

Developing Recommendations and an Action Plan to Integrate Biodiversity Conservation into Tourism Policy in Belize and Guatemala

Strengthen tourism policy in Belize and Guatemala in order to foster biodiversity conservation. Conduct a review and analysis of current tourism policy, hold stakeholder workshops in key sites and capital cities, and develop an action plan (with proposals for potential future CEPF investment) aimed at strengthening tourism policy in the two countries and regionally.

Funding: \$66,208

Grant Term: 2/1/08 - 9/30/08

Grantee: Counterpart International

Policy Development and Outreach to Support Private Protected Areas in Belize

Establish a policy for private protected areas in Belize through stakeholder consultations, preparation of draft legislation, and outreach and technical assistance to governmental partners.

Funding: \$20,000

Grant Term: 2/1/08 - 11/30/08

Grantee: Belize Association of Private Protected Areas

Strengthening Municipal and State-Level Public Policy and Institutional Frameworks to Improve Fire Management in Southeast Mexico

Support a participatory process to strengthen municipal and state-level fire management policy and institutional frameworks in the states of Chiapas, Oaxaca and Campeche. The project supports a needs assessment and review of current fire management policy and the development of detailed proposals and strategies for strengthening these policies and frameworks.

Funding: \$60,700

Grant Term: 2/1/08 - 12/31/08
Grantee: Fondo Mexicano para la Conservacion de la Naturaleza, A.C.

A National Co-Management Policy for Protected Areas in Belize

Support the development of a co-management policy and model co-management agreements for adoption by the government of Belize. Activities include increasing capacity of nongovernmental organizations with co-management responsibility for protected areas and developing a communications and fund-raising strategy to promote sustainability of the policy.

Funding: \$66,588
Grant Term: 12/1/07 - 1/31/09
Grantee: Programme for Belize

Strategic Direction 2. Collaborate with other donor-funded projects to facilitate and operationalize successful conservation activities in Northern Mesoamerica's eight most important key biodiversity areas

Building Community Capacity to Prevent and Control Forest Fires in Laguna del Tigre National Park

Increase the capacity of four strategically located communities in Laguna del Tigre National Park to prevent and control forest fires through assistance to strengthen their collaboration, training, equipment, and bi-lateral cooperation with Mexican counterparts.

Funding: \$20,000
Grant Term: 2/1/08 - 9/30/08
Grantee: Wildlife Conservation Society

Building Community Capacity to Prevent and Control Forest Fires in the Sierra Lacandon National Park

Increase the capacity of four strategically located communities in the Sierra del Lacandon National Park to prevent and control forest fires, through assistance to strengthen their collaboration, training, equipment, and bilateral cooperation with Mexican counterparts.

Funding: \$20,000
Grant Term: 2/1/08 - 9/30/08
Grantee: Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza

Strengthening Local Capacity to Prevent and Control Forest Fires in Four Key Biodiversity Areas of Mexico and Guatemala

Build local capacity in strategic areas of Mexican and Guatemalan key biodiversity areas to prevent and control forest fires through training and equipping fire brigades and development of community fire management plans.

Funding: \$112,525
Grant Term: 11/1/07 - 3/31/09
Grantee: Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza, A.C.

Strengthening the Multisectoral Round Table of the Natural and Cultural Zone of Mirador/Río Azul: A Tool for the Protection and Conservation of the Selva Maya

Continue support to the highly successful multistakeholder dialogue on the future direction of development in the Selva Maya of Guatemala through monthly meetings, development of a

5-year strategy, and fund-raising efforts.

Funding: \$20,000

Grant Term: 10/1/07 - 8/31/08

Grantee: Asociación Balam para la Conservación de los Recursos Naturales y Culturales Integrados

Strategic Direction 3. Support priority conservation actions in three priority key biodiversity areas

Protecting Biodiversity in the Selva Maya Corridor Through the Aerial Perspective

Fund the operational costs of providing CEPF partners in Northern Mesoamerica with access to overflights in key biodiversity areas, for threat assessments and fire prevention and detection, as well as for opportunities for community and civil society education.

Funding: \$20,000

Grant Term: 2/1/08 - 6/30/08

Grantee: LightHawk

Strategic Direction 4. Support efforts to prevent the extinction of Northern Mesoamerica's 106 Critically Endangered species

Country-wide Conservation and Management Assessment of Critically Endangered Amphibians in Honduras

Field survey 12 sites important for the conservation of Critically Endangered amphibians to assess their populations and threats. Make conservation recommendations for amphibian conservation, and build awareness and capacity among relevant stakeholders (including government, NGOs, and students) based on the results.

Funding: \$44,554

Grant Term: 1/1/08 - 1/31/09

Grantee: University of Florida

Development of a Regional Conservation Strategy for Critically Endangered Trees and Epiphytes of Northern Mesoamerica

Create a regional strategy to conserve threatened trees and epiphytes in northern Mesoamerica through gathering and distributing distribution and abundance data for focal species, defining national and regional conservation strategies for them, and building a network of regional botanical institutions to foster better coordination of research and conservation activities.

Funding: \$92,600

Grant Term: 11/1/07 - 3/31/09

Grantee: Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, Zamorano

Biogeographical Patterns of Freshwater Fishes in Honduras

Survey key areas for freshwater fish endemism and threat, and issue recommendations for their conservation. Activities will include disseminating results among key stakeholders and publishing findings, training local students to conserve freshwater fishes, and developing awareness about fish conservation.

Funding: \$38,533

Grant Term: 10/1/07 - 10/1/08

Grantee: The University of Southern Mississippi

Succulent Karoo Hotspot

Strategic Direction 2. Engage key industrial sectors in meeting conservation objectives identified by SKEP

Preparing for Conservation and Sustainable Land Use of the Succulent Karoo in Namibia

Raise awareness of conservation issues and support local communities to develop sustainable livelihoods in the Sperrgebiet area of the Succulent Karoo Hotspot. Activities include coordinating partnerships to ensure sustainable development and conservation of the area, creating capacity for development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of community projects, and supporting the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to implement its conservation objectives in Sperrgebiet National Park.

Funding: \$202,402
Grant Term: 1/1/08 - 12/31/08
Grantee: Namibia Nature Foundation

Gouritz Corridor: Biodiversity Tourism Route (Off-the-Beaten Track)

Support biodiversity conservation in the Gouritz corridor of the Succulent Karoo by creating a tourism economy specifically linked to biodiversity conservation. Establish a biodiversity tourism route that will enable the local tourism service providers, tour operators and landowners to benefit from biodiversity conservation.

Funding: \$59,414
Grant Term: 12/1/07 - 11/30/08
Grantee: Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

Land Stewardship and Acquisition Analysis in the Central Little Karoo Based on a Private-Public Partnership, Fine-scale Cost-effective Assessment and the InfoShare Enterprise

Map conservation and acquisition priorities in the Central Little Karoo to inform land stewardship and purchase programs. Facilitate sharing of maps and other data and scientific knowledge and conduct training sessions at selected institutions for application of InfoShare.

Funding: \$36,402
Grant Term: 11/1/07 - 12/31/08
Grantee: Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

Ostrich Industry Biodiversity Management Project

Implement a pilot project to develop detailed farm level best practice management plans for the ostrich industry within the key biodiversity corridor (Swartberg-Rooiberg-Gamkaberg) of the Gouritz Initiative in the Succulent Karoo. Produce an ostrich and biodiversity long-term management strategy, and establish a link to biodiversity and business networks and working groups in the region.

Funding: \$120,185
Grant Term: 11/1/07 - 10/31/08
Grantee: South African Ostrich Business Chamber

Understanding the Koue Bokkeveld Geophytes

Conduct a desktop review and analysis of the literature and knowledge on Koue Bokkeveld/Hantam Roggeveld geophyte diversity and life history traits. Assess to what extent different geophyte species are vulnerable to climate change and land-use threats and disseminate findings to conservationists, land users and decisionmakers.

Funding: \$12,000
Grant Term: 9/1/07 - 12/31/08
Grantee: University of Cape Town

Strategic Direction 3. Retain and restore critical biodiversity in areas under greatest land-use pressure

Developing a Strategic Plan for the Community Conservation Section in the Department of Tourism, Environment and Conservation

Support the community conservation section of the Department of Tourism, Environment and Conservation to develop a 5-year strategy and action plan that sets priorities for off-reserve conservation and leads to the effective implementation of stewardship in the Succulent Karoo.

Funding: \$37,200
Grant Term: 1/1/08 - 12/31/08
Grantee: Botanical Society of South Africa

The Namaqualand Uplands Cape Leopard Trust Conservancy Project: Using Leopards to Unite Farmers in Conservation

Conduct mammal surveys and targeted leopard surveys to generate information that will contribute to the formation of a leopard conservancy ensuring the conservation of leopards and their habitat within the Namaqualand Uplands. Use project data to support farmer efforts to minimize livestock depredation, increase yields, and increase tourism opportunities in the region.

Funding: \$110,459
Grant Term: 1/1/08 - 3/31/09
Grantee: The Cape Leopard Trust

Landscapes and Livelihoods: Strategic Ecological Advice, Mentoring, and Support for Biodiversity-Based Livelihoods in Namaqualand

Establish an effective Namaqualand-based field ecologist position to support and capitalize on the biodiversity-based livelihood opportunities created by the Namaqualand Restoration Initiative and Namaqua Wilderness Initiative and other projects, and to create continuity for these projects and emerging opportunities beyond 2008.

Funding: \$109,100
Grant Term: 10/1/07 - 2/28/09
Grantee: Dr. Peter Carrick

Investigate Innovative Mechanisms to Restore and Retain High Priority Succulent Karoo in the Cederberg Conservancy

Provide training and supervision to the Cederberg Conservancy to improve management capacity within the conservancy, ensure practical implementation of management activities and conservation objectives, and help realize the programs and projects identified in the management plans prepared by the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor Project Management Unit.

Funding: \$114,250
Grant Term: 9/1/07 - 12/31/08
Grantee: Western Cape Nature Conservation Board

Vulnerability of a Key Iconic Species, Aloe Dichotoma, to Past and Future Climate Change

Guide conservation authorities, land managers, and land owners in enabling the persistence of key species and rare genotypes in situ in the face of climate change by using Aloe dichotoma as a case study. Activities include developing a spatially explicit demographic model useful for identifying key vulnerable stages in the life cycle of Aloe dichotoma and potential solutions and implementing a monitoring program to indicate climate change impacts.

Funding: \$36,160
Grant Term: 9/1/07 - 12/31/08
Grantee: University of Cape Town

Actions for Improved Vegetation Management on the Bokkeveld Plateau

Improve awareness and enhance natural resource management on the Bokkeveld Plateau by producing a veld management booklet for landowners highlighting best practice grazing management for the area and species that can be used as indicators for veld condition assessment. Also assess the current extent and recent historical distribution and expansion of cultivated land on the plateau, with emphasis on Rooibos tea in the Fynbos vegetation types.

Funding: \$20,000
Grant Term: 8/1/07 - 6/30/08
Grantee: Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

Strategic Direction 4. Mainstream conservation priorities into land-use planning and policymaking

Creation of a SKEP Database

Establish a SKEP database which will serve as a repository of articles, theses, gray literature, and other information resources available relating to the Succulent Karoo Hotspot. Activities include supporting an information technologist and increasing the capacity of stakeholders to understand and access the database and related materials.

Funding: \$19,564
Grant Term: 11/1/07 - 10/31/08
Grantee: Botanical Society of South Africa

Exploring Options for Governance and Co-ordination of the Gouritz Initiative

Advance conservation in the Little Karoo by performing an interim role to support the Gouritz Initiative (GI) Secretariat in clarifying its vision, functions, roles and responsibilities, as well as institutional options for its governance. Explore options for coordination of the GI planning domain, and the possible functions, roles, responsibilities and institutional arrangements that will be required of participating institutions and stakeholders.

Funding: \$20,000
Grant Term: 11/1/07 - 6/30/08
Grantee: Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa