

**CEPF and Poverty Reduction:  
A Review of the CEPF Succulent Karoo Portfolio**

**May 2006**

Although the target of Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) investments is biodiversity conservation, the benefits from intact habitats and healthy ecosystems extend well beyond biodiversity. CEPF is undertaking an effort to analyze the relationship between the projects it supports and poverty reduction.

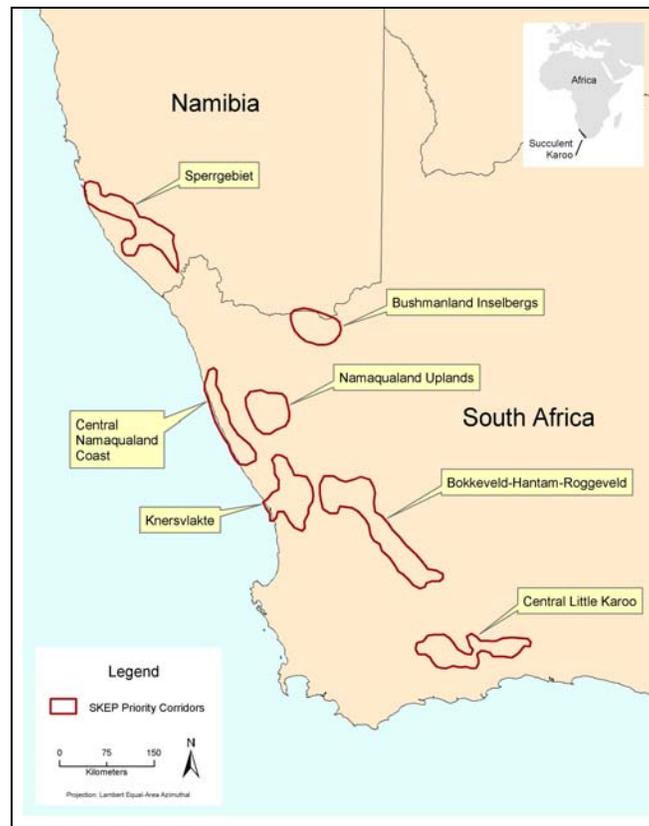
This analysis includes a socioeconomic study across the CEPF geographic funding area and a project- and portfolio-specific assessment performed through administering questionnaires to grantees. The socioeconomic information provides CEPF with more detailed information about the areas where it invests, and can be layered with existing biodiversity data to present a more comprehensive picture of the priority areas. Project-specific information, collected through questionnaires, provides specific data on key indicators. In addition, this report incorporates narrative examples of how CEPF-supported conservation projects contribute to poverty reduction.

The project-level information is presented in a standard format that is then globally aggregated as a part of the regular quarterly reporting to the CEPF donor partners. This approach has so far been completed in four regions: Atlantic Forest, Philippines, Southern Mesoamerica, and Succulent Karoo. The following report presents the results from the Succulent Karoo, emphasizing the seven CEPF priority corridors within that hotspot.

CEPF's Succulent Karoo ecosystem profile is based largely on priority conservation corridors defined by the Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Program (SKEP), with CEPF adopting seven of the nine corridors defined by SKEP: Bokkeveld-Hantam-Roggeveld, Bushmanland Inselbergs, Central Little Karoo, Central Namaqualand Coast, Knersvlakte, Namaqualand Uplands, and Sperrgebiet (Figure 1).

Data from various, complementary sources were used for the analyses presented in this report. For the entire region and each corridor, we compiled and examined available socioeconomic data from the two countries that contain the Succulent Karoo: Namibia and South Africa. For individual projects, we collected and analyzed data from CEPF grantees. This report summarizes the data analysis at a regional scale, at a corridor scale, and for individual projects.

Figure 1. Map of SKEP priority corridors targeted by CEPF



### Initiative-Wide (Regional) Level

The Succulent Karoo Hotspot stretches across two countries in southern Africa: South Africa and Namibia. South Africa contains more than 80 percent of the 116,000-square kilometer hotspot geographic area, along with about 98 percent of the hotspot’s population (in 2000). Although South Africa is one of the most developed countries on the African continent, standard measures of socioeconomic conditions such as the human development index and the poverty index indicate strong similarities between it and Namibia, characterized in general by widespread poverty (Table 1). Much of the hotspot is rural, with increasing population densities in the south where it intersects more densely settled regions east and north of Cape Town, South Africa. Portions of the Central Little Karoo Corridor and the Knersvlakte Corridor occur in more densely settled parts of the hotspot, with the remaining priority corridors occurring primarily in more sparsely settled rural areas.

**Table 1. National development and poverty levels for Succulent Karoo**

	<i>Namibia</i>	<i>South Africa</i>
Human Development Index: value (rank <sup>a</sup> )	0.627 (#125)	0.658 (#120)
Human Poverty Index: value (rank <sup>a</sup> )	33.0 (#60)	30.9 (#56)
% population living on less than \$2 per day	55.8	34.1
% population living on less than \$1 per day	34.9	10.7

a : Rank among less developed countries globally

Source: United Nations Development Programme-Human Development Reports online:  
<http://www.undp.org/statistics/data/countries.cfm>

### **Corridor Level**

To explore the socioeconomic context of CEPF corridors in the Succulent Karoo Hotspot, this study examined variables widely recognized as indicators of poverty, focusing on both population and housing characteristics. This can be shown in map form, presented for small geographic units called *enumeration areas* in Namibia and *small areas* in South Africa. Recent (2001) data on persons lacking education, households lacking electricity, and households lacking piped water are available for small geographic units in both countries, enabling analysis across their shared border. Mapping the percentage of people lacking education indicates that the corridors are mixed, though the vast majority of each contains geographic units where 10 percent or more of the resident population has had no education (Figure 2). Mapping households lacking electricity indicates that this development indicator also varies among corridors, though electricity is not widespread and several of the corridors comprise small geographic areas where half or more of the households lack electricity (Figure 3). Finally, mapping access to piped water (including communal pipes, in the case of Namibia) shows that CEPF corridors contain geographic units where many have access to piped water as well as units where many do not have such access (Figure 4).

To place the analysis of socioeconomic variables in national context, for each priority corridor we compared the values of the three indicators mapped—education, electricity, and piped water—to the national averages for each of these variables. Results show the percent of geographic units worse than the national averages (Table 2). The variation seen in mapping these indicators persists in the tabular presentation of results with respect to national tendencies, with certain corridors (e.g., Central Namaqualand Coast Corridor) tending to be worse than national averages, others (e.g., Central Little Karoo and Knersvlakte corridors) tending to be better than averages, and the remainder varying among indicators. In reading this table, it is important to remember that both Namibia and South Africa contain considerable poverty, and the averages used as benchmarks are consistent with overall socioeconomic conditions. For example, being better than a national average of 14.3 percent of the population lacking education (the average for South Africa), or 67.6 percent of the households lacking electricity (the average for Namibia) is not necessarily an indication of good human conditions.

Figure 2. Percentage of people lacking education, 2001.

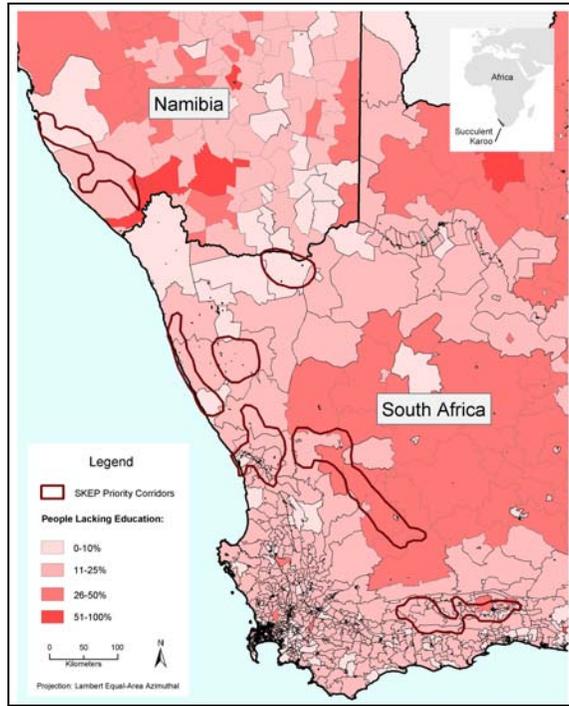


Figure 3. Percentage of households lacking electricity, 2001

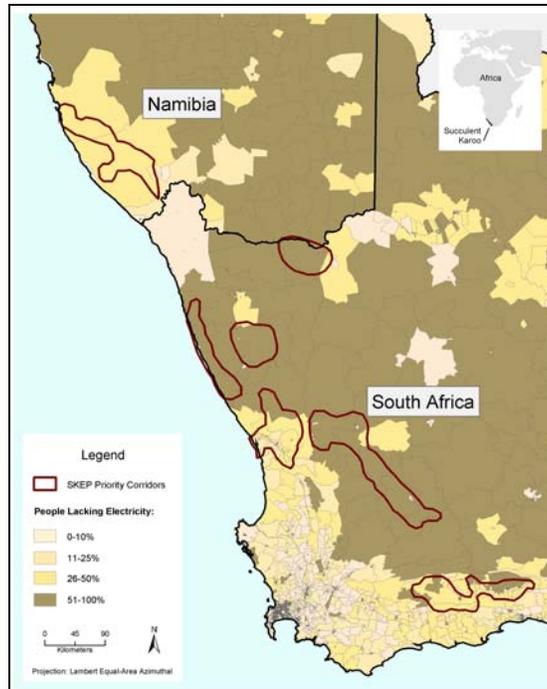


Figure 4. Percentage of households lacking piped water, 2001.

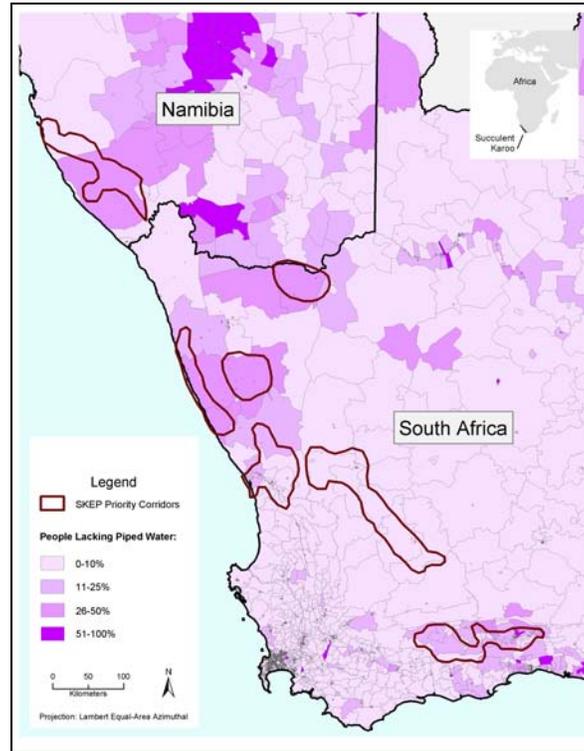


Table 2. Selected poverty indicators for geographic areas in Namibia and South Africa that occur at least partially in CEPF priority corridors, compared to national averages: 2001

Corridor	Total Geog. Units	Worse than National Average		
		Lacks Education	Lacks Electricity	Lacks Piped Water
Bokkeveld-Hantam-Roqgeveld	28	78.6%	39.3%	0.0%
Bushmanland Inselbergs	10	100.0%	40.0%	30.0%
Central Little Karoo	117	13.7%	25.6%	13.7%
Central Namaqualand Coast	6	16.7%	66.7%	83.3%
Knersvlakte	58	25.9%	24.1%	19.0%
Namaqualand Uplands	14	14.3%	64.3%	21.4%
Sperrgebiet	3	66.7%	66.7%	33.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>28.8%</b>	<b>83.5%</b>	<b>16.5%</b>

### Individual Project Level

To examine how CEPF projects contribute to poverty reduction in the Succulent Karoo, we surveyed CEPF grantees to gather project level data. To date, response rate has been strong, with 64 percent of the 33 region-specific projects in the portfolio completing questionnaires (Table 3). The data in the table below represent the information collected from the 21 projects that responded to the questionnaire.

Table 3. Summary from CEPF questionnaire responses, Succulent Karoo

Indicator	Strategic Direction <sup>a</sup>						Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
No. Projects Reporting	2	4	6	3	5	1	<b>21</b>
CEPF Funding <sup>b</sup>	348,894	640,059	362,988	48,561	140,152	28,867	<b>1,569,521</b>
No. Projects Offering							
Training	1	2	4	1	3	1	<b>12</b>
Workshops Offered	9	1	4	0	2	0	<b>16</b>
Jobs Created	2	17	6	1	9	3	<b>38</b>
Persons Trained	6	55	17	1	155	12	<b>246</b>
Organizations Created or Strengthened	5	0	5	0	4	0	<b>14</b>
Network or Alliance Organizations	32	12	13	7	8	0	<b>72</b>

a: Strategic directions for Succulent Karoo:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Expand PAs/corridors through partnerships | 4. Include conservation in planning/policy-making |
| 2. Engage industry in SKEP objectives        | 5. Increase awareness of Succulent Karoo          |
| 3. Retain and restore critical biodiversity  | 6. Catalyze the SKEP program                      |

b: US dollars

A key finding of this study is that CEPF grantees report both direct and indirect contributions to poverty reduction. Direct contributions include job creation and training. Indirect contributions to poverty reduction include the creation or strengthening of local organizations. Several indirect contributions are difficult to summarize statistically. Other indirect effects, such as indirect job creation or economic multiplier effects, were beyond the scope of this study.

We used the three-heading framework on the links between biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction, presented to the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Donor Council in November 2004, as the basis for information-gathering from individual projects. Selected results of analyzing the questionnaire data appear below under those same headings: Building Income or Assets for the Poor, Facilitating Empowerment of the Poor, and Reducing Vulnerability and/or Enhancing Poor People's Security.

#### Building Income or Assets for the Poor

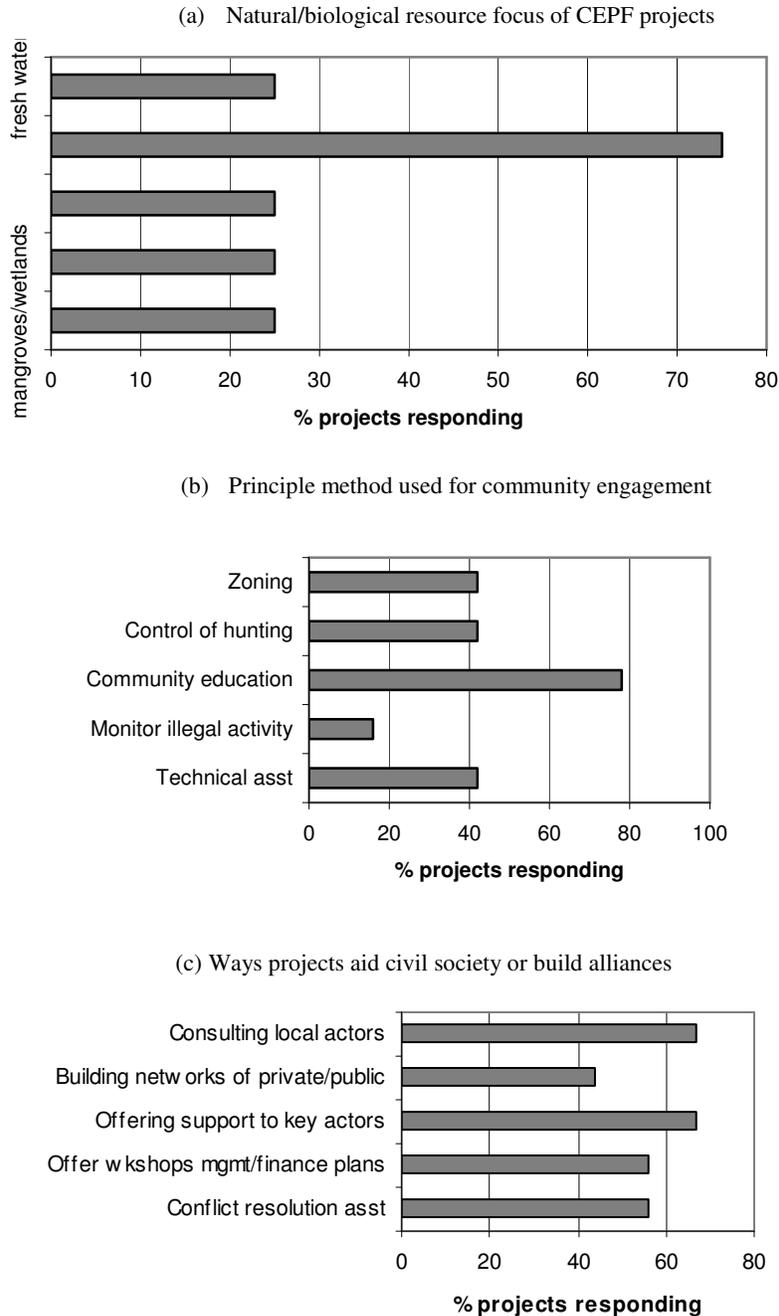
To obtain information from CEPF projects on building income or assets for the poor, the questionnaire focused on the following issues:

- biological and natural resource assets;
- human resource assets;
- conditions for secure management: household or community; and
- conditions for secure management: civil society.

In the Succulent Karoo portfolio, project support to improve resource management mainly focused on wildlife, with other attention equally placed on fresh water, soil, mangrove, wetland, and forest management (Figure 5a). Projects used a variety of methods to engage communities in resource management, with an emphasis on community education about the consequences of wise and unwise management, zoning, technical assistance, and control of hunting (Figure 5b). Management of natural and biological resources is extremely important for poor rural

communities that depend on the products of healthy ecosystems for much of their food, fuel, clothing, medicine, and shelter.

Figure 5. CEPF projects and the management of natural and biological resource assets in the Succulent Karoo Hotspot



The focus of most grantees in this portfolio is on corridor-scale conservation, and actions that occur beyond household scales. Such corridor-scale actions include capacity building, education, and training for civil society organizations on corridor-level biodiversity conservation priorities, and emergency response to help safeguard globally threatened species and their habitat. Grantees work with local community organizations or promote multi-actor networks that assemble different stakeholders, supporting activities that improve resource management (Figure 5c).

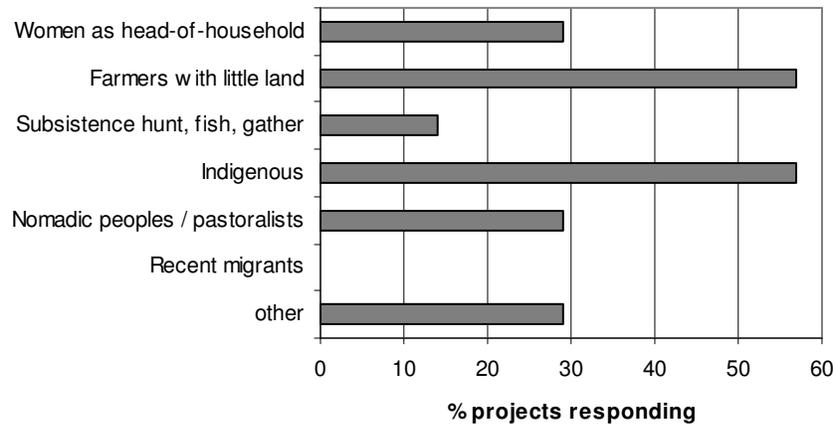
CEPF projects have provided training in management and finance planning, along with direct support to help these groups become successful and independent. This is particularly relevant when considering the representation of civil society organizations and small stakeholder groups in this portfolio: local groups generating capacity for sound resource, project, and financial management and awareness of the conservation priorities of their corridor and regional landscape can apply these skills to actions supporting poverty reduction.

Finally, CEPF projects in the Succulent Karoo Hotspot contributed to secure management at both the household and community levels by creating or strengthening approximately 14 local organizations and building alliances between these organizations and 72 other institutions. All of these efforts to create or strengthen local organizations and networks help empower local rural communities by increasing the information flowing to them and their capacity to respond to markets, government, projects, the legal system, or other sources of change. Effective local institutions have been shown to use such capabilities to help reduce poverty in the communities where they work.

Facilitating Empowerment of the Poor

CEPF investments in biodiversity conservation often help empower the poor. Many CEPF investments directly support civil society efforts to help communities and local people participate in and benefit from conservation efforts. The questionnaire collected data on the categories of poor people engaged by CEPF projects. Unfortunately, only one-third of projects (33.3 percent) were able to quantify the types of local family groups engaged. Those who were able to respond worked primarily with indigenous families and near-landless or landless farmers (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Categories of poor families engaged by CEPF-funded projects in the Succulent Karoo Hotspot



One CEPF project, “The Gouritz Initiative: Securing Biodiversity and Harnessing Social and Economic Opportunities in Key Corridors,” specifically targets the poor in several priority conservation corridors. With the objective of developing a *living landscape* in the corridors, the project helps local people to ensure that the freshwater and terrestrial environments supporting their livelihoods remain functional and viable. The project provides jobs in natural vegetation restoration projects, which are aimed specifically at communities where people are poor and lacking in the necessary skills. Through this and training of teachers, the Gouritz Initiative hopes to reach a point where it employs approximately 200 people in the communities, for a period of at least five years.

Reducing Vulnerability and/or Enhancing Poor People’s Security

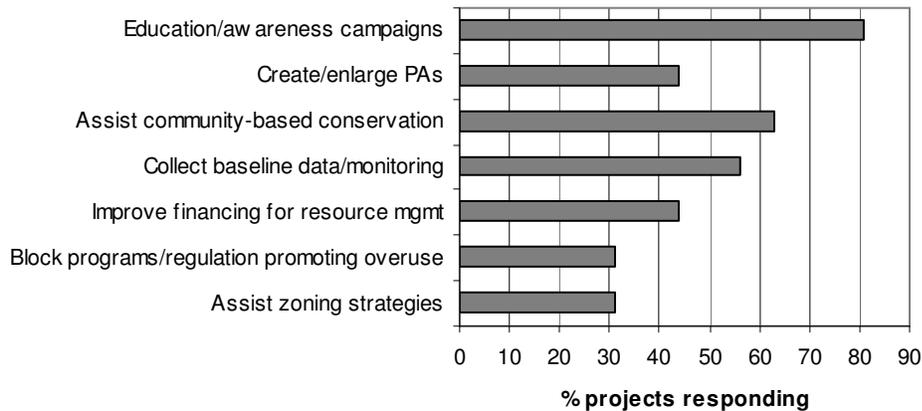
The questionnaire obtained information on reducing resource depletion, resource degradation, and effects of shocks and disasters. About three-quarters (76 percent) of respondents reported that their projects addressed resource depletion. The primary means of achieving this goal was through education and awareness campaigns, as well as through community-based conservation, and assisting in baseline monitoring/data collection (Figure 7a).

Given the emphasis on corridor-scale conservation by SKEP, it is not surprising that the most common method of reducing resource degradation was through implementing restoration and corridor programs (Figure 7b). These activities not only support better resource management in wildlife corridors and riparian areas, but they are also extremely important for the poor. Projects also sought to reduce resource degradation by assisting with watershed management and promoting traditional land use practices. Once again, actions that improve local resource management are vital to the poor, as maintaining the quality of these resources is essential to the survival of rural people with limited means.

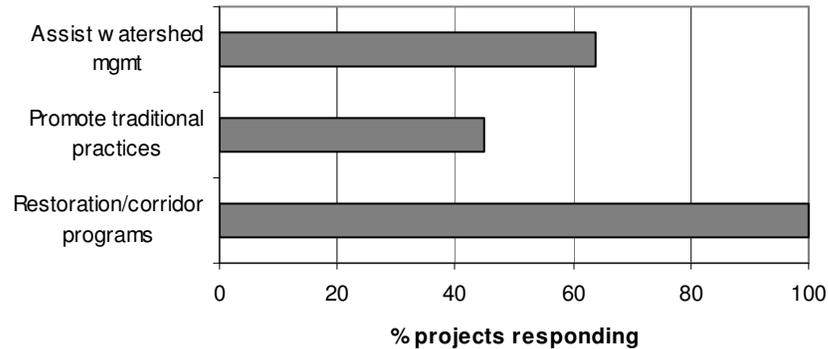
Several CEPF grantees reported that their projects helped to reduce community vulnerability to shocks and natural disasters. Projects reduced vulnerability through technical assistance in reforestation and agriculture, thereby creating (or conserving) habitat that reduces the impacts of severe natural events (Figure 7c). Projects also reported using education or awareness campaigns as a means of reducing vulnerability to shocks and disasters. Such measures are important in areas where the challenge of meeting basic human needs can lead people towards activities that increase their vulnerability to severe events—such as broad deforestation that increases susceptibility to impacts from storms or the effects of drought—and where other types of protection from shocks and disasters, and assistance following such events, are unavailable.

Figure 7. CEPF projects and reducing vulnerability in the Succulent Karoo Hotspot

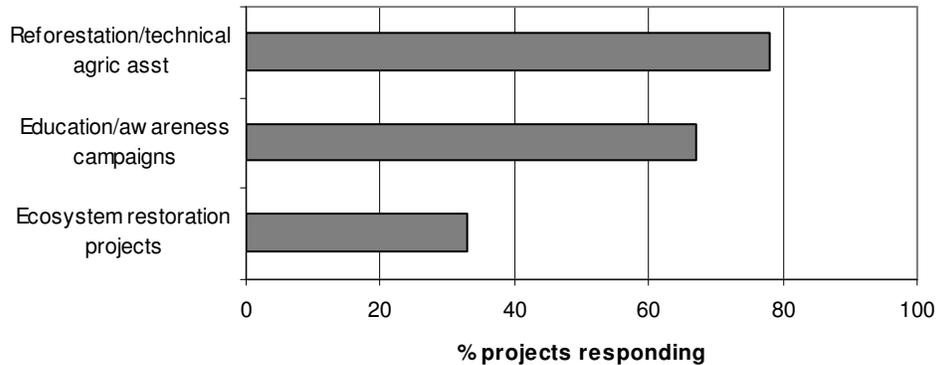
(a) Methods used to reduce resource depletion



(b) Methods used to reduce resource degradation



(c) Methods used to reduce vulnerability to shocks and natural disasters



One project that supports resource management, known as “The Namaqualand Restoration Initiative,” trains local peoples in restoration techniques for two priority areas that previously were mined intensively. This project also develops relationships with land managers (mining operators and farmers), advises them on the use of more environmentally friendly methods, and assists in disseminating these techniques to an increasingly broader network of managers. The training of people from local communities is also paired with environmental education and awareness of the special natural heritage of the Succulent Karoo.

### Conclusion

Available socioeconomic data indicate that CEPF-supported projects in the Succulent Karoo of South Africa and Namibia often occur in rural areas with a high level of poverty. Within these areas of poverty, CEPF grantees tend to focus largely on poorer households that are indigenous, have little or no land, or depend directly on wild resources as subsistence hunter-gatherers. CEPF projects directly and indirectly contribute to poverty reduction and improve human conditions in these regions while achieving their primary objective of biodiversity conservation. Direct impacts include creating jobs and providing training to local peoples. Indirect impacts include creating local organizations, strengthening civil societies, and other activities that maintain and restore the ecosystems upon which many poor people in the Succulent Karoo rely.