

Annual Portfolio Overview Succulent Karoo Region

January – December 2011

Introduction

The only arid ecosystem to be recognized as a global biodiversity hotspot, the Succulent Karoo, covering parts of southwestern South Africa and southern Namibia, is characterized by its diverse and endemic flora, especially succulents and bulbs. The hotspot is home to 6,356 plant species, 40 percent of which are endemic or unique to the region. In addition to its floral diversity, the hotspot is a center of diversity for reptiles and invertebrates and also supports a variety of mammals and endemic birds.

In 2003, when CEPF first prioritized its investments and analyzed the threats to biodiversity in this region, poverty, lack of capacity, land conversion, and lack of awareness of the conservation value of the landscape were clearly the greatest problems. These were attended, unsurprisingly, by uninformed land-use decisions and invasive plant species taking over patchy and disturbed landscapes. These threats have not abated in the intervening nine years, and if anything, now there are even more worrying issues, at least in South Africa. The country today is under huge economic pressure: to recover from the global financial crisis of 2009; to ensure that the promise of economic equity matches that of political equity from the post-apartheid era; and to remain a bastion of stability and driver of growth on the continent. In South Africa's Northern and Western Cape provinces, where enormous forces are pushing for increased productivity of land in the name of wealth creation for historically disadvantaged communities, the contravening argument for conservation of unique sites and corridors becomes that much more tenuous.

During CEPF's first five years of investment, from 2003-2008, the focus was on mobilizing local stakeholder participation, securing political support, mainstreaming conservation into planning and policy, engaging key industrial sectors, and retaining and restoring critical biodiversity areas. Success was yielded both in terms of actual hectares of land under better forms of conservation and in terms of conservation targets and priorities becoming better integrated into South African and Namibian institutional frameworks. Significantly, the Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Program, or SKEP, has become an accepted overarching framework for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the hotspot for the period of 2001-2021.

CEPF is now in a "consolidation" phase to ensure the continuation of its success. In total, the portfolio attempts to respond to several continuing issues: slow adoption of stewardship and other best practices throughout the Northern Cape; very limited funding for civil society in a sparsely populated region; uncertain incentives for landowners to conserve land; and multiple remaining steps to make the Western Cape's Knersvlakte protected area and Namibia's Sperrgebiet National Park into more than just "paper parks." These factors threaten the long term success of conservation efforts, and addressing them therefore remains a focus for CEPF.

Niche for CEPF Investment

Overview

The ecosystem profile for the region was formally approved in February 2003, and over the subsequent five years, through January 2008, CEPF awarded 89 grants for \$7.9 million. Conservation International served as the initial manager of the coordination unit, but after two years, this task was decentralized to the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and the Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF). The five-year assessment report was completed in November 2008, and all initial-period grant activities were closed by early 2010. As described further below, CEPF has now moved the Succulent Karoo Region into a phase of consolidation grants, with five grants for a total of \$1,409,000 running from January 2010 through December 2012.

The consolidation grants fall within five investment priorities, which themselves build on the strategic directions identified in the 2003 ecosystem profile. The strategic directions in the ecosystem profile focused on specific corridors, engaging industry, research, mainstreaming, awareness-raising, and capacity building. The five investment priorities of the consolidation grants continue in this direction:

1. Sustain stewardship, improved livestock management, and local economic development investments in the Northern Cape Province.
2. Institutionalization of the SKEP learning network and mainstreaming conservation in the Namakwa District.
3. Expansion of mechanisms to make greater use of an existing trust fund (the Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust, managed by World Wildlife Fund-South Africa) for land acquisition and stewardship.
4. Strengthening of the nascent Knersvlakte protected area in the Western Cape Province.
5. Strengthening of the nascent Sperrgebiet National Park in Namibia.

Portfolio Status

Through a targeted and rapid award of 36-month grants, CEPF has committed the entire allotment of funds for consolidation in the region. There are four grants in South Africa and one in Namibia, all to well-established organizations that had received funding during the 2003-2008 investment period. These awards fit into the five investment priorities, as shown in Table 1, Figure 1, and Figure 2. Table 1 represents the entire portfolio for consolidation; CEPF investment in the Succulent Karoo will be effectively over in December 2012. At this time, the Secretariat has no intention of allotting more funds or issuing further calls for proposals.

Coordinating of CEPF Grants

Consolidation programs do not have formal coordinating entities or regional implementation teams beyond the U.S.-based Grant Director. However, in the Succulent Karoo Region, SANBI has formally constituted a SKEP “biome” program (complementing its other programs for fynbos, Eastern Cape, grasslands, freshwater, and marine) and serves as the informal coordinator for CEPF, at least in South Africa. SANBI’s SKEP program is based at the Centre for Biodiversity Conservation in Cape Town’s Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, co-located with Conservation International and relatively close to both WWF and CapeNature. Thus, the relationship between the South African grantees is quite strong.

Table 1. Succulent Karoo Region Consolidation Grants by Investment Priority

Organization	Grant	Amount	Active Dates
<i>Investment priority 1: Sustain stewardship, improved livestock management, and local economic development investments in the Northern Cape Regions of the Succulent Karoo</i>			
Conservation South Africa	Consolidating Implementation of Conservation Action in CEPF SKEP Priorities in the Namakwa District	\$350,000	January 2010 – December 2012
<i>Investment priority 2: Institutionalize the SKEP learning network and mainstream local level governance for conservation</i>			
South African National Biodiversity Institute	Institutionalize the SKEP Learning Network, Embed Local Level Governance and Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation	\$300,000	January 2010 – December 2012
<i>Investment priority 3: Expansion of mechanisms to make greater use of the Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust (LHST) for land acquisition and stewardship arrangements</i>			
WWF – South Africa	Supporting Innovative and Effective Protected Area Expansion through the Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust	\$159,000	February 2010 – June 2012
<i>Investment priority 4: Complete efforts to ensure good management of the Knersvlakte Priority Area in South Africa</i>			
Western Cape Nature Conservation Board	Consolidation of the Knersvlakte Conservation Area	\$300,000	January 2010 – December 2012
<i>Investment priority 5: Complete efforts to ensure good management of the Sperrgebiet Priority Area in Namibia</i>			
Namibia Nature Foundation	Strategic Support to the Consolidation of the Management and Development of the Newly Proclaimed Sperrgebiet National Park and Immediately Adjacent Areas	\$300,000	February 2010 – December 2012
Total		\$1,409,000	

CEPF budgets for the U.S.-based Grant Director to visit the region twice during the three year period. This included a visit to the South African part of the hotspot in March 2011 and meetings with all the grantees other than the Namibia Nature Foundation. The visit included office- and site-based meetings along the corridor between Cape Town and Springbok. The Grant Director was also able to attend, as a side trip from a visit to the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany hotspot, the SKEP Partners Conference in Van Rhynsdorp (adjacent to Knersvlakte) in October 2011. Representatives from Namibia Nature Foundation attended that event.

Performance Assessment

In relation to the outcomes and targets listed in the logical framework (Annex 1), the pace of performance was as expected through the second year of implementation. Grantees maintained the pace of expenditures, as well, having utilized over \$1 million, or 77 percent of committed funds, through 30 June 2012.

In general, progress has varied with the complexity of the grants. The grants for work in the Knersvlakte and Sperrgebiet are to support formalization of protected areas that were created during the first five-year investment period. Work includes management planning, community liaison, boundary demarcation, and all the work necessary to make these places become meaningful as “parks.” While the work is certainly challenging, it is straight-forward and roughly on schedule. Similarly, the grant for the Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust involves analysis of tax incentives and contract law – expert-driven tasks that are also roughly on schedule. On the other hand, the grants to Conservation International and SANBI, which are designed to replicate best practices, generate political support at district and provincial levels, and leverage more funding, require buy-in from multiple parties and are easily disrupted by politics. However, both organizations are robust enough to have adapted their work to ensure continued progress.

Portfolio Investment Highlights by Investment Priority

Investment priority 1. Sustain stewardship, improved livestock management, and local economic development investments in the Northern Cape Regions of the Succulent Karoo

This investment priority has three components, the first two of which are centered on the Namakwa District in the Northern Cape, and the third to generate financing for small-scale livelihood and conservation work throughout the Succulent Karoo. The grantee, Conservation International's South Africa program, now an independent and locally-registered entity called Conservation South Africa (CSA), ensures that local economic development in the Namakwa District supports biodiversity conservation by mentoring community, government, and corporate implementers to implement best practices related to land management, stewardship agreements, livestock production, and livelihood activities. CSA also supports implementation of the Northern Cape Department of Tourism, Environment, and Conservation (DTEC) stewardship strategy in Namakwa District by providing ecological expertise and facilitating district-provincial government links leading to completion of stewardship agreements. Lastly, during the first phase of investment, CSA managed a small grants fund called SKEPPIES. The current consolidation grant is designed to establish the fund as an independent sustainable financing vehicle by completing legal processes, conducting a strategic review for expanding the small grant portfolio, securing new financing, and upgrading systems for project application, approval, and reporting.

CSA leads implementation of this Investment Priority based on its history with SKEP and its long-standing commitment to the Northern Cape. Apart from having been the initial coordinator of CEPF's investment in the region and the manager of SKEPPIES, CSA has been a leading proponent of stewardship and market-based measures for conservation.

CSA has had to be opportunistic in its work on this grant. It has synergies and momentum with many other partners in the Northern Cape, including its own Conservation Stewards Program, and it has been able to complement livestock and agricultural efforts in the Succulent Karoo with those that it runs in the Cape Floristic region under the auspices of Green Choice. On the other hand, promised contributions to SKEPPIES, particularly from DeBeers Consolidated Mines, have not materialized. This lack of funding, along with the timing of the CEPF consolidation grant, led to significant downsizing of the SKEPPIES staff. The future direction of SKEPPIES as a stand-alone fund for the Succulent Karoo is under debate. There is the possibility that the mandate for supporting small-scale work in the Succulent Karoo could fall to another, existing fund.

Highlights to date:

- CSA signed volunteer conservancy agreements with two private farmers in the Three Peaks priority area leading to the formal protection of 1,500 hectares. The Three Peaks conservancy protects 54 plant species, 64 insect species and one vegetation type listed as critically endangered on the IUCN red list. All of these newly protected species can be found only in this remote corner of Namaqualand, east of Garies on the N7 Highway and south of Leilifontein. The conservancy is named after the three major peaks in the area: Rooiberg, Eselskop and Weeskind.

- CSA conducted biodiversity assessments on an additional three farms and are working with a local NGO, Nurture Restore Innovate, to develop farm management guidelines on these properties.
- CSA is promoting voluntary conservancy agreements due to bureaucratic roadblocks to the signing of formal stewardship agreements by the Member of the Executive Council in the Northern Cape Province. While formal stewardship is preferable, the conservancy agreement is an appropriate adaptive management response, as these still lay the ground for future conservation efforts.
- All existing stewardship agreements in the work area were renewed and an additional one was added, bringing the total to 36. These agreements are based on the Conservation Stewards Programme model.
- The Biodiversity and Red Meat Initiative helped spur a reduction of 229 small stock units and supported the restoration of the Leliefontein fountain.

Investment priority 2. Institutionalize the SKEP learning network and mainstream local level governance for conservation

Complementing Investment Priority 1, this grant to SANBI has three components, the first of which is to ensure that products developed during the first phase of CEPF investment in the Namakwa District, notably in planning, stewardship, land reform, monitoring and evaluation, and project development, are used by relevant government and civil society stakeholders. The second component continues its local emphasis by supporting the Namakwa Biodiversity Advisory Forum (NamBF), which is intended to influence and improve the management practices of local institutions with regard to decision making about biodiversity. The final component ensures that the lessons of the first 5 year investment period are captured in case studies, publications, earning exchanges, and a website and eNews bulletins.

SANBI leads implementation of this Investment Priority based on its national mandate to lead conservation in the country's six biomes per the 2004 National Environmental Management – Biodiversity Act. SANBI is a natural entity to capture and disseminate lessons, and it is doing something very similar in its Grasslands program and through the CEPF consolidation grant in the Cape Floristic region. Its role of being a leader at a district and provincial level is a reflection of the limited capacity in the region and also a natural extension of SANBI's role leading the CEPF coordination unit.

SANBI has had to be opportunistic in its work on this grant. With the 20-year SKEP development program at its mid-point in 2011, and with the national government now soliciting concepts in anticipation of GEF-5 (the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility), SANBI personnel have tried to position the Succulent Karoo as a region for dramatically more funding. On the other hand, they have had challenges generating momentum on the Namakwa Biodiversity Advisory Forum, where potential members have not perceived advantages from participating.

Highlights to date:

- SANBI held its second annual capacity development workshop in Springbok, focusing on (1) municipalities and local governance, and (2) adaptation to climate change.
- The SANBI learning unit in Cape Town produced eight case studies documenting best practice from the first five years of CEPF investment.
- SANBI convened Namakwa Biodiversity Action Forum meetings in July and November of 2011, and for the first time, had the participation of the Department of Energy, which oversees mining.
- SANBI convened the SKEP Partners Conference in October with 120 participants representing 60 organizations. The meeting was held in Vanrhynsdorp, adjacent to the Knersvlakte protected area. Participants included multiple past and current CEPF grantees as well as government and private sector stakeholders. The meeting focus was on looking ahead to the next ten years of conservation in the Succulent Karoo. Participants emphasized to one another the need to work together and to be collectively self-sufficient.

Investment priority 3. Expansion of mechanisms to make greater use of the Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust (LHSKT) for land acquisition and stewardship arrangements

In the mid 1990s, WWF South Africa, part of the international WWF federation but an independent, locally registered organization, became trustee of a trust designed to acquire private land and place it conservation. Over the years, the Trust has been incredibly valuable, investing over \$8 million and protecting 172,000 hectares. Paradoxically, however, the trust deed has limited its funds only for land acquisition, which while still a fundamental way of promoting conservation, is just one of several mechanisms. Private land owners holding property valuable for conservation could also be engaged through land swaps, tax incentives, or stewardship easement methods. Thus, the CEPF grant to WWF enables it to explore these mechanisms and possibly “unlock” the trust deed, facilitating the release of as much as \$2 million. The grant is designed to support legal analysis into the South African tax code, create *pro forma* legal contracts covering a range of owner-manager relationships, and support innovative acquisitions in Namaqualand and Knersvlakte [noting that the money from the Trust, itself, is used for the purchase of land, while the funds from CEPF pay for the strategic and managerial elements of managing the acquisition process.] Also, through CEPF support, WWF is able to develop a consensus land target strategy among planners from South Africa National Parks, the Northern Cape Department of Environment, and the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board. WWF and the LHSKT operate with a *willing-buyer / willing-seller* approach.

WWF, as the trustee, is the natural leader of the grant. The main change in the grant thus far is that WWF originally planned for the grant to end by December 2011, but now intends to put it in line with the others, ending in December 2012.

Highlights to date:

- Tax lawyers working for the LHSKT developed a protocol that was vetted with the South Africa Revenue Service. When a landowner sells land to the Trust, by following the protocol, the owner receives tax incentives at different points in the land transaction that, in

effect, reduce tax obligations and/or protect a management endowment for the target property.

- WWF produced a booklet, aimed at landowners, describing the environmental and tax advantages of putting land in stewardship.
- The LHSKT manager is leading negotiations on two land acquisitions Knersvlakte and Namaqualand, and acquisitions in the West Coast and Avontuur are close to completion. The Trust, itself, will pay for the land, and while the final price has yet to be agreed upon, CEPF and WWF consider this a mutual leverage of the respective investments.
- WWF held an auction for its Naauw Kloof property. Although WWF declined to accept any offers, the auction tested the market for the private purchase of land under stewardship.

Investment priority 4. Complete efforts to ensure good management of the Knersvlakte Priority Area in South Africa

Over the period of 1999 through 2008, the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board created the Knersvlakte conservation area through the assembly of public lands and the purchase of private farms. Purchases were often made via the Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust. CEPF was a critical funder for the various biologists, spatial planners, community organizations, and Cape Nature as the assembled plots ultimately became a 62,000 hectare functioning conservation area, with a dedicated staff and budget based in Vanrhynsdorp. While CEPF considers this one of its greatest achievements, much remains to be done to ensure the Knersvlakte's sustainability, starting with its formal proclamation as a Provincial Nature Reserve. Cape Nature, as the legal authority responsible for the area, is the natural grantee. Apart from guiding the political process for the formal proclamation, Cape Nature's grant is also designed to support park management planning and implementation, stewardship agreements on neighboring properties, and engagement of local economic development authorities.

While the work of the Cape Nature team has proceeded well on-site, the only shortcoming to date has been a delay in the park proclamation. Subsequent to the announcement of the impending proclamation, in June 2010, there was a two-month period for public comment. During that time, a mining claim was raised with the Department of Minerals and Resources. This was followed by objections from neighboring farmers who are concerned that the reserve will lead to an increase in the number of "damage-causing" animals (e.g., black-backed jackal, caracal, leopards) that take refuge in the reserve and exit the fences to hunt livestock on the adjacent properties. Cape Nature continues to advocate for park proclamation via its Cape Town headquarters while on-site reserve staff address farmer concerns. The reserve staff actively attend farmer association meetings, have solicited input from farmers on "damage causing animal hotspots," and worked with farmers to place camera traps and conduct other ground-truthing exercises on these hotspots. Reserve staff have also taken farmers to a field demonstration site where there are two adjacent plots of land, one managed for livestock and one "unmanaged" as a reserve. The incidence of damage-causing animals is no higher on the reserve than it is on the livestock farm. The goal is to disabuse farmers of the notion that Knersvlakte represents a threat to their livestock.

Highlights to date:

- The park management team, with expanded abilities due to CEPF support, was able to engage eight people from the towns of Nuwerus and Vanrhynsdorp, whose salaries were paid by the Expanded Public Works Programme, to remove, move, and build fences and conduct maintenance on farm buildings.
- The Knersvlakte Protected Area Advisory Committee met regularly. The committee includes multiple local stakeholders and discussed, among others, ways to provide assistance to subsistence farmers adjacent to the protected area.
- The park managers provided in-school training lessons in local schools at two points during the year, led field trips in the park for students and visiting researchers, and held information sessions on Succulent plants at the local nursery.
- CEPF supported Cape Nature as it facilitated a three-day knowledge exchange in August between members of the Knersvlakte team, the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor, the Gouritz Corridor, Namaqualand National Park, the Northern Cape Department of Environment, SKEPPIES grantees, and stakeholders in the Biodiversity and Red meat Initiative. Discussions centered on funding options for small grant projects, climate change, the ostrich industry, managing conflicts between farmers and “damage-causing animals,” and expansion of conservation areas.
- The Knersvlakte team worked with the local succulent nursery and the Matzikama Municipality to run adult education and community outreach sessions. A total of 65 people attended three separate one-day sessions over the course of the year.
- Cape Nature and SANBI (Investment Priority 2) collaborated with a professional film company producing a series of 25-minute documentaries on South African conservation. The series, called “Caretakers,” now includes a film titled, “Knersvlakte,” available at <http://www.caretakers.co.za/films.php>.
- CEPF supported capacity building for the Knersvlakte staff to better enable them to manage the park. Staff received training in field ranger qualification skills, incident investigation, bird identification, first aid, firefighting, GIS and Arcview, snake handling, and occupational health and safety training.

Investment priority 5. Complete efforts to ensure good management of the Sperrgebiet Priority Area in Namibia

Similar to the Knersvlakte, during the first five years of implementation, CEPF supported the Namibia Nature Foundation as it facilitated the creation of the 2.6 million hectare Sperrgebiet National park, itself part of a combined 25 million hectares of contiguous land under conservation. CEPF grant funds now enable Namibia Nature Foundation to make the park fully functional. It includes engaging with the park’s neighboring communities and mining and fishing industries, building park operational capacity, implementing management plans, and conducting research and outreach activities. Namibia Nature Foundation, while a private entity, effectively manages the park on behalf of the Parks and Wildlife Directorate of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

During the year, there were various challenges for the grantee and the CEPF in the supervision of the grantee. First, the grantee has seen a change in its senior leadership and in its lead project officer. A second challenge has been from the portfolio perspective. Where at one time, there may have been visions of closer bilateral cooperation between South Africa and Namibia in management of the Succulent Karoo, at the current time, there is little connection between the major consolidation entities. Last is the difficulty in supervising this grant, being the only grant in Namibia and then a day's drive from Windhoek. At least regarding the second two challenges, SANBI has made efforts at collaboration, inviting representatives from the Namibia Nature Foundation to the Succulent Karoo exchange in December 2011. The Grant Director was also able to discuss issues directly with the Foundation staff at that time.

Highlights to date:

- The Ministry of Environment and Tourism is continuing the process of formally “de-proclaiming” 70 percent of the park as a diamond mining area, an important, if obvious, step toward ensuring protection.
- Namibia Nature Foundation facilitated a series of HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention trainings for all park personnel. While this might seem tangential to park management, the park was at risk of literally losing human capacity to the disease.
- The Foundation continues to train and facilitate the placement of park wardens, rangers, laborers, and ecologists.
- The Foundation facilitated the joint training of tourism concession management for 15 park staff with staff from South African National Parks.
- The Foundation hosted a conference on mining in protected areas that focused on threat mitigation.

Collaboration with CEPF Donors

By their nature, the five consolidation grants are far-reaching. Even if they are focused on the Succulent Karoo hotspot, the type of work – sharing lessons learned, government capacity building and awareness, ensuring good management of important protected areas – overlaps with that of other donors, like the GEF and World Bank, which have nationwide environmental management programs in South Africa and Namibia. However, one reason for CEPF's continued involvement in the Succulent Karoo, and particularly the Northern Cape, is the lack of significant donor funding in the region. This is perhaps the reality of semi-arid landscapes with a low population density. There are neither the charismatic megafauna, forests of global significance, or a big group of people attracting investment. It is more likely in the future that collaboration with donors in the Succulent Karoo occurs indirectly via donor investment in mining, energy, or perhaps governance. For now, SANBI, as the lead entity in South Africa, and Namibia Nature Foundation, through its relations with the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism, engage with donors in order to elicit their greater interest in the region.

Conclusion

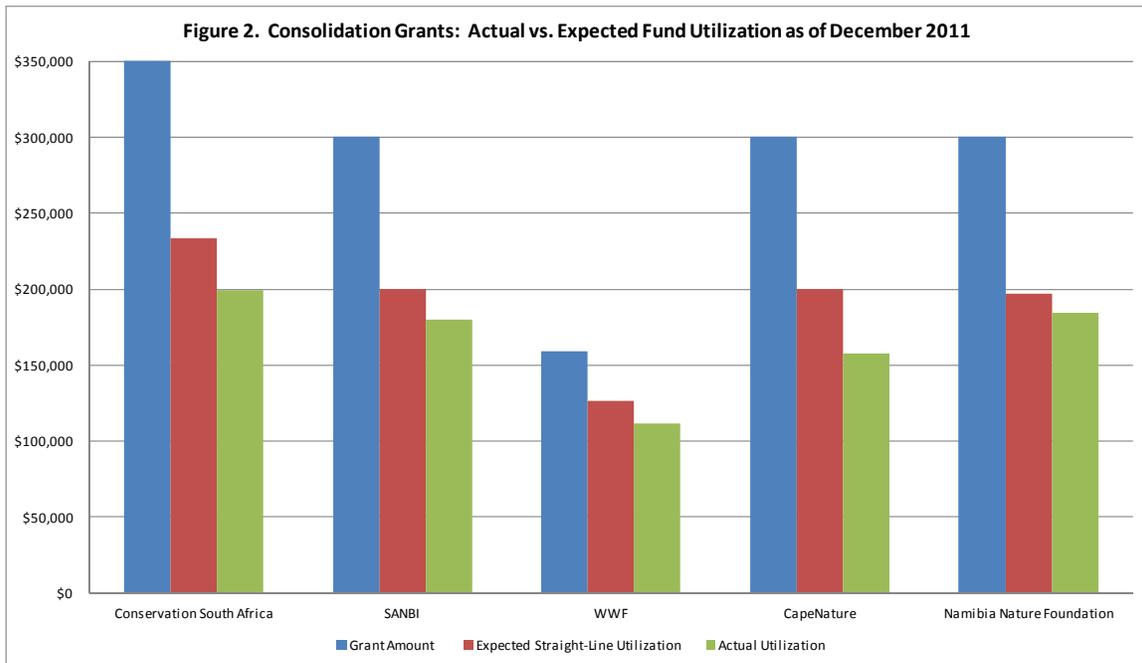
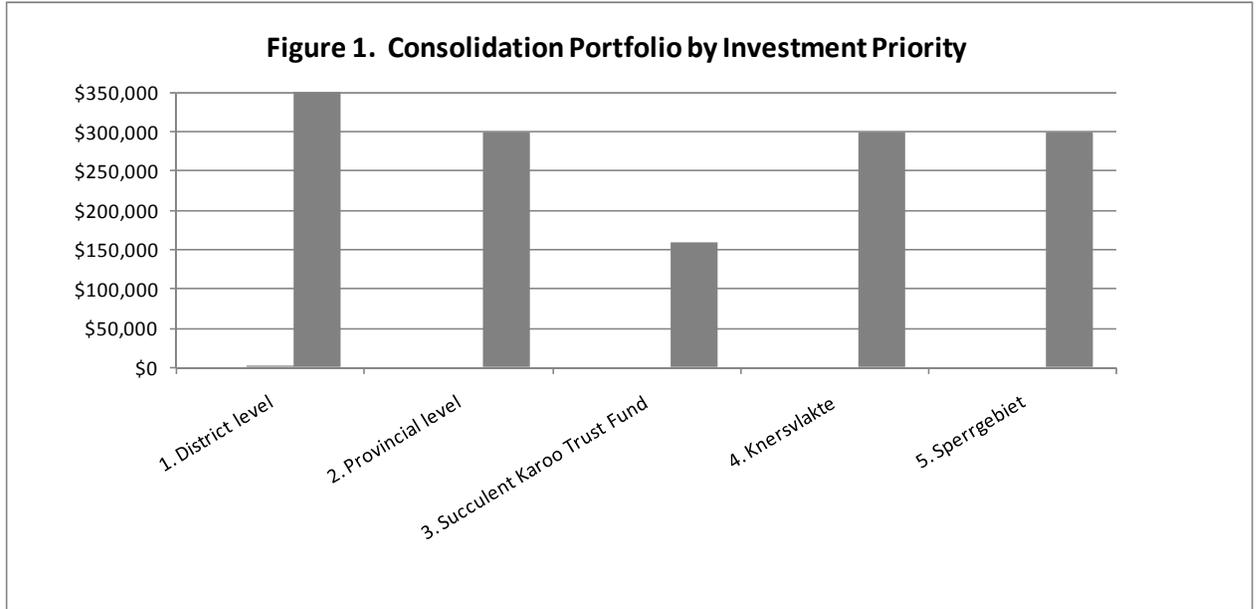
Learning from the Cape Floristic Region, the transition from the first five years of investment to consolidation in the Succulent Karoo was relatively smooth, ensuring minimal loss of momentum

from ongoing activities. Now, over a year into implementation, all the grantees are fully staffed and working on schedule.

Among the four South African grantees, as well as other stakeholders in the Northern and Western Cape (e.g., municipal and provincial agencies, public protected areas, private landowners), there is impressive collaboration through bodies like the Northern Cape Stewardship Forum or via the auspices of the board meetings of the Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust. In particular, SANBI, as the leader of the SKEP program, operates with a mandate of leading work on the goals espoused by CEPF. It is also valuable that all the grantees, including Conservation South Africa, are locally-based organizations with long-term commitments, and funding, for the Succulent Karoo. One challenge, or perhaps reality, is that there is limited integration across the border, between the four South African grantees and the one Namibian grantee.

In an environment like the Succulent Karoo, the perennial challenge will be social. There are limited ways to make a living, and the options that do exist are hard and not typically lucrative. Young and educated people leave the region, making it that much harder to address challenging issues of science and governance. The 20-year SKEP program, now at its mid-point, is orienting itself to address such fundamental issues. Compatible land-use solutions, stewardship, decision-making, big payment for ecosystem services schemes, tax incentives, reform of agricultural grazing practices, and efforts which create, literally thousands of jobs are needed to address the big drivers of biodiversity loss in the Succulent Karoo. The CEPF consolidation program is providing an important bridge as the stakeholders plot out the next ten years.

Figures



Annex 1: Succulent Karoo Region Logical Framework for Consolidation

Objective	Targets	Progress
<p>Reinforce and sustain the conservation gains achieved as a result of previous CEPF investment in the Succulent Karoo.</p>	<p>20 civil society actors, including NGOs and the private sector, actively participating in conservation programs</p>	<p>Perhaps as many as 50 different registered organizations, local government agencies, communal bodies, advisory bodies, and collections of trainees and past small grantees are regularly participating in work leading toward CEPF goals. Twenty are listed here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agri-Namaqua Conservation South Africa Biodiversity and Red Meat Initiative Integrated Development Plan Forum Intergovernmental Forum Knervlakte Protected Area Advisory Committee Liliefontein Red Meat Producers Association Local Economic Development Forum Local engagements in Matzikama Local engagements in Nieuwoudtville Local engagements in Springbok Namakwa Biodiversity Advisory Forums Namibia Nature Foundation Provincial Coastal Committee Richtersveld Conservancy South Africa National Biodiversity Institute Small Miners Forum Union of Communal Farmers Western Cape Nature Conservation Board World Wide Fund for Nature-South Africa
	<p>2 key biodiversity areas, one of 113,000 hectares (Knervlakte) and one of 2.6 million hectares (Sperrgebiet), with strengthened management</p>	<p>The Knervlakte should be properly listed at 62,000 hectares, not 113,000. Work is underway on both Knervlakte and Sperrgebiet and both will have "strengthened management" by December 2012</p> <p>12,554 hectares of private farm land put into stewardship through two years of consolidation</p>
	<p>\$2,000,000 leveraged</p>	<p>The DBSA contributed R 850,000 for SKEPPIES (approximately US \$123,000). In addition, Cape Nature is providing its project manager and two rangers, SANBI is providing two managers, and office space and utilities are provided by the Springbok municipality and the Northern Cape DENC.</p> <p>\$110,000 committed by Citi Group to ongoing SKEPPIES projects</p>

Objective	Targets	Progress
	62,000 hectares in production landscapes with improved management for biodiversity conservation	Three stewardship agreements in the Northern Cape are awaiting formal approval by DENC. Stewardship agreements are in process through the Biodiversity and Red Meat Initiative in Leilifontein and via the Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust.

Intermediate Outcomes	Targets	Progress
<p>Outcome 1: Stewardship and local conservation-based development investments are sustained in priority areas within the production landscape in the Namakwa District; and, an independent SKEPPIES Fund is institutionally consolidated to become a sustainable financing vehicle for conservation in the hotspot.</p> <p>\$350,000</p>	Public-private partnership structure operating effectively in Namakwa District with local environment and development authorities	<p>Biodiversity and Red Meat Initiative is promoting links with Woolworths supermarket chain; Namakwa Area Biodiversity Forum creates collaboration between municipal planners, protected area managers, and agricultural and mining interests.</p> <p>University of Stellenbosch contributed to study on eco-branding of meat produce.</p> <p>CSA continues to advocate to De Beers Consolidated Mines and to the Ministry of Mineral Resources to ensure minimum impact at the Namaqualand Mine site.</p> <p>Biodiversity and Red Meat Initiative publishes a quarterly newsletter, "The Stockpost."</p> <p>229 stock offloaded through BRI; that is, 229 fewer stock on the landscape</p>
	16 stewardship agreements (covering 62,000 hectares) completed	<p>Northern Cape Stewardship Forum is working toward 8, not 16 agreements.</p> <p>36 individual communal stewardship agreements in Leliefontein and stewardship agreements with 5 private farmers all active, all practicing "zero predator control." Combined 3,554 hectares of private land in stewardship. 4 additional agreements in process.</p> <p>Katie Hansen Foundation has provided funding for five rangers to study predators.</p> <p>Kamiesberg Municipality considering proclamation of "Three Peaks Conservancy."</p> <p>Voluntary stewardship agreements being used while waiting for formal proclamation process by provincial authorities.</p>

Intermediate Outcomes	Targets	Progress
	<p>SKEPPIES Fund governance and operations strengthened such that it receives capital contributions from other donors</p>	<p>Strengthening of operations and governance under way; management committee includes DBSA, Namakwa District municipality, CSA, and SANBI. Considerations ongoing on future operations of the fund.</p> <p>Citi Group committed \$110,000 to strengthen the business components of 14 SKEPPIES projects.</p> <p>Two peer mentors engaged to provide project implementers with support on business skills.</p> <p>Projects discussed on radio and via video at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=3r3QFAY00e0&feature=related www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=3r3QFAY00e0</p> <p>Formal links established with South African Small Enterprise Development Agency to support NRM-based enterprises in Namaqualand.</p> <p>Expanded Public Works Programme now recognizes all active SKEPPIES projects as eligible for job creation credits.</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Enabling environment created through embedded learning network, localized governance, and mainstreamed conservation approaches.</p> <p>\$300,000</p>	<p>Best practices for conservation in the hotspot made available to a wider audience through multiple written and electronic media, and local forums and events</p>	<p>SANBI has established a website: www.skep.org.za Learning network officer is preparing case studies; 10-year SKEP partners conference taking place 28-30 September; Namakwa Area Biodiversity Forum meeting regularly. SANBI promoting biodiversity planning, use of EIAs, and outreach via Hantan National Botanical Garden.</p> <p>Learning exchanges held on land use management, capacity building, climate change, and integration of biodiversity plans into municipal decision-making.</p> <p>5 case studies completed; SKEP e-newsletter released monthly, SMS pilot project running.</p> <p>Networks facilitated via: Namakwa Biodiversity Forum, Komagaas Environmental Justice Network, Provincial Coastal Committee, Small-Scale Miners Association, Agri-Namakwa.</p> <p>Department of Energy (Mining) attending NAMBAF meetings.</p>

Intermediate Outcomes	Targets	Progress
	Management effectiveness tracking tool used in all protected areas managed by the Northern Cape DTEC	Northern Cape DENC is applying METT in two parks; SANParks is applying METTs in three parks Reserves in Succulent Karoo are scoring higher overall than national average.
Outcome 3: Innovative acquisition and/or management arrangements executed and legal mechanisms completed for the LHSKT. \$159,000	Strategy for land acquisition in the Northern Cape using the LHSKT developed and agreed to by district and provincial authorities, land owners, and conservation scientists	Consensus has been achieved on acquisition targets in the Northern Cape
	One large individual farmer-owned plot in Namaqualand and one in Knersvlakte placed under improved management via innovative acquisition or stewardship arrangement	Work is under way to improve management on several plots. Naauwkloof property auction takes place Griqua national Committee property in process of being put into stewardship
	Set of legal <i>pro formas</i> developed making use of tax incentives to allow for increased land acquisition and stewardship agreements	Draft tax booklet prepared; <i>pro formas</i> in development. Draft language submitted to Department of Environmental Affairs and National Treasury proposing greater percentage of stewardship participants benefit from tax incentives
Outcome 4: Knersvlakte protected area management efforts consolidated and expanded. \$300,000	Protected area authority has better trained field staff, financial managers, and operational managers	Six full-time personnel working at Knersvlakte. Protected Area Advisory Committee includes Cape Nature, SANBI, WWF, Griqua community, famers, Vanrhynsdorp / Matzikama municipal representatives, and Environmental Monitoring Group Park personnel attending trainings and knowledge exchange sessions covering multiple topics: health and safety, first aid, herbicide application, chainsaw operations, fence construction, human resources management, operations management, bookkeeping, competitive procurement 16 people from local community given temporary employment with brush clearing and basic park maintenance.
	Protected area has improved management systems through use of ecosystem and visitor data	Management plan prepared and being implemented Knersvlakte Advisory Committee meeting regularly and discussing, among other items, visitor planning and monitoring. Neighboring farmers are part of Committee, as well.

Intermediate Outcomes	Targets	Progress
	Corridors and buffer zones in Knersvlakte put under stewardship agreements for improved management	<p><i>Under way: acquisition targets have been identified and the Knersvlakte manager is in negotiations with land owners.</i></p> <p>Meetings held with Griqua National Conference Management and agreed to target a farm belonging to GYProc for stewardship</p>
<p>Outcome 5: Sperrgebiet protected area management efforts consolidated and expanded.</p> <p>\$300,000</p>	Protected area implementing park management, business, and tourism plans	<p>Park infrastructure and staffing plan was finalized and in process of being put in place.</p> <p>Training for park personnel in HIV/AIDS, tourism concession management.</p> <p>Process underway toward 70% de-proclamation of park area to prevent future diamond mining.</p> <p>Materials have been secured and contracts underway to develop signs, posters, and other park information.</p>
	Surrounding communities make use of their rights and responsibilities in relation to the park such that they receive marginal economic benefits from park	Four stakeholder groups have been formed, each with a representative committee, terms of reference, and work plan.

Text in blue represents updates for calendar year 2010.

Text in black represents updates for calendar year 2011.