

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Western Cape Nature Conservation Board t/a CapeNature
Project Title:	Consolidate and Strengthen Cape Nature's Corridor Network
Date of Report:	30 April 2012
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CEPF Region: Cape Floristic Region

Strategic Direction:

General investment priority: Consolidate and Strengthen Implementation Efforts for the Expansion of Protected Areas (corridors and stewardship) and Address the Weaknesses and Gaps that Exist to Ensure Sustainability for these Accomplishments.

Grant Amount: \$324,000.00

Project Dates: 1 September, 2008-31 December, 2011

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

- (1) Cederberg Steering committee (consists of more than 25 partners, including NGOs, Communities, local authorities and governmental partners) (direct involvement).
- (2) Gouritz Corridor partners (consist of more than 20 partners, including NGOs, communities, local authorities and governmental partners)
- (3) Stewardship Reference group (consists of more than 20 partners, including NGOs, local authorities and governmental partners)
- (4) Joint Management Committee of the Cape Floral Region Protected Area World Heritage Site (consists of the conservation agencies responsible for the management of the CFRPA WHS).

Conservation Impacts

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

The Corridors project is implemented to consolidate achievements at the landscape level within the Cape Floral Region (CFR). This CFR is arguably one of the most diverse areas on the planet containing nearly 3% of the world's plant species. The CFR is not only high in terms diversity but also in terms of endemism and is one of the global biodiversity hotspots. The CFR is however also one of the regions with the highest percentage of threatened species. Key threats to the biodiversity of this region include; habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation, fires, alien invasive species and global climate change. The implementation of landscape scale conservation initiatives such as biodiversity corridors sought to improve security of priority biodiversity, link broad habitat units across landscape gradients and to ensure ecosystem wide processes. Earlier investments by CEPF provided the opportunity to plan and successfully implement landscape

scale conservation through biodiversity corridors. The consolidation investment sought to upscale and sustain efforts and achievements of the earlier investments. This Consolidation project provided the opportunity to institutionalize and embed landscape scale conservation to ensure long term sustainability. The Project has provided the opportunity to develop dedicated capacity for landscape scale conservation, an effective policy environment, effective governance and ongoing capacity building.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

The project investment has led to the consolidation of the work undertaken in earlier funding investments through the embedding of landscape scale conservation, including corridors, organizationally within CapeNature as a key programme of work that is reflected as a strategic corporate priority. The programme of work is also embedded at local and provincial levels of government. It has also provided a platform to better integrate efforts at the landscape level with the inclusion of the World Heritage sites and biosphere reserves. The project provided support for the development of the draft corridor policy and guideline documents. This has created greater awareness, synergy and collaboration at the landscape scale. The project has provided an opportunity to support capacity building and knowledge exchange at the landscape level and has acted as a key platform to leverage funding.

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

Corridors are embedded as a key component in the 5 year strategic Plan for Cape Nature which is aligned with the Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning.

Actual Progress toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

The project has supported the development Corridors Programme and provided for the opportunity to institutionalize the work that had been done through previous CEPF and other donor investments. Corridors are embedded within the 5 year strategic plan of CapeNature. The corridor mechanism has also been included in the Western Cape Protected Area Expansion (WCPAES) Strategy (2010). This document is aligned to the National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES). Corridors are one of the key indicators of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning's Monitoring and Evaluation framework for the Western Cape Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

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

Corridors are embedded in the annual planning cycle (Annual Performance Plan) as well as the Biodiversity Monitoring System (BMS) that feeds into the planning cycle of the Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning.

Actual Progress towards Short-term Impacts at Completion:

The Corridors Programme is embedded within the planning systems of CapeNature. The two landscape corridors, GCBC and the GGBC, report onto the Biodiversity Monitoring System (BMS) on a quarterly basis. The Corridors Programme reports into the Annual Performance Plan on a quarterly basis.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected:

The project was focused on the consolidation of work within Corridors as implemented by the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board. The project had no specific targets towards hectares protected. The project has supported the overall protected area strategy and stewardship engagement within the two Landscape Corridors (GCBC and GGBC).

Species Conserved:

The project was focused on the consolidation of work within Corridors as implemented by the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board. The project had no specific targets towards species conserved. The Groot Winterhoek Freshwater Corridor has, as one of its core focus areas, worked on raising awareness and foster stewardship about the 8 endemic fish species found in the upper tributaries of the Olifants river. This is vitally important as all 8 of the endemic fish species found in the tributaries are listed on the species Red Data list of IUCN.

Corridors Created:

The project was focused on the consolidation of work within Corridors as implemented by the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board. The project provided support to the two landscape corridors (Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor (GCBC) and the Greater Gouritz Biodiversity Corridor GGBC). The Groot Winterhoek Freshwater Stewardship Corridor which is a core corridor within the GCBC. The development and securing of funding support to implement this core corridor was key to consolidate efforts for freshwater stewardship.

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

The Project has been catalytic in consolidating the work on planning and implementation of landscape scale conservation, primarily the landscape corridors, which was initiated with earlier GEF and CEPF investments.

The project has played a key role in better supporting the work done on biodiversity stewardship.

The project has also played a key role in leveraging funding to support future projects.

The project has been able to support broad capacity building and knowledge exchange within corridors that also support work within the biosphere reserves and the Cape Floristic Region Protected Areas World Heritage Site.

The Project has initiated the development of guidelines and a draft corridor policy that guide corridor planning and implementation in the long term.

A long term challenge remains the lack of staff and dedicated capacity for the landscape initiatives. It is noted that conservation agencies are not always well resourced and there is a skills scarcity in some areas. There is ongoing engagement with key partners including local authorities, government departments and NGO partners to explore avenues and potential solutions challenge.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The CEPF investment has provided the opportunity to consolidate the efforts at the landscape scale (corridors, world heritage sites and biosphere reserves) and has provided a platform to open discussions on e.g. using landscape initiatives as learning and research hubs.

The lack of capacity has been noted as a key challenge but it should also be noted that this has also sparked a collaborative effort amongst partners in the landscape. This development of structures such as the GCBC working Group was directly in response to the need to coordinate (and collaboration) efforts around implementation as well as the pooling of scarce resources.

Project Components

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

Component 1 Planned: *Developed strategic institutional capacity and staff function to address and strengthen corridor, biosphere and world heritage site planning and implementation within Cape Nature.*

Component 1 Actual at Completion:

The project has played a key role in consolidating the efforts and achievements with Landscape scale conservation within the Western Cape. The grant facilitated the development of the Corridors, World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve Programme within CapeNature to support and guide planning and implementation around landscape scale conservation. The grant funded the Programme manager position for the first three years. The Programme manager position is a permanent position on the CapeNature organogram. This was an important aspect to ensure the long term support and for landscape scale conservation and the institutionalization of the programme of work. Additional capacity to support implementation of landscape scale conservation has been allocated to CapeNature's corporate organogram. The positions highlighted in this organogram are currently unfunded but it is a key priority within the Programme to lobby for the funding of those positions.

Corporately, landscape scale conservation has been identified as a priority over the next five years.

Landscape scale conservation (Corridors, World Heritage sites and Biosphere reserves) has been included, as a key mechanism, within the Western Cape Protected Areas Expansion Strategy. This strategy document is aligned to the National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy. The Corridors Programme also represents CapeNature on the National Climate Change Committee (which has been renamed the Climate Change Working Group).

The Programme has developed the draft corridor policy to guide planning and implementation of the existing corridors managed by CapeNature as well as corridors identified through systematic conservation planning.

The landscape corridors are strengthened through effective governance structures that include the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor (GCBC) Steering Committee, GCBC Working Group and Gouritz Corridor BioPlus Collaborative Extension Group.

The Programme is also responsible for the interim coordination of the Joint Management Committee (JMC) the governance structure of the Cape Floristic Region Protected Area World Heritage Site (CFR PA WHS). The Joint management Committee is responsible for the coordination of the management activities of the CFR PA WHS which includes fundraising, awareness, capacity building, research coordination, outreach and stakeholder participation and engagement.

The Programme is also participates in the World Heritage Site Managers Forum Meeting. This structure seeks to build capacity, ensure networking and knowledge exchange amongst the site managers of the various South African and Southern African Region World Heritage sites. The Programme also represents CapeNature on the National World Heritage Convention Committee meeting.

The Programme also represents CapeNature on the National Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Committee. This structure is a coordination mechanism for the South African Biosphere Reserves. The Western Cape has 3 designated Biosphere Reserves and another in the process. The biosphere reserves play an important role in supporting biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Component 2 Planned: *Strengthened stewardship negotiation and site-maintenance "best practice operational procedures" within CapeNature, with increased and meaningful stewardship contributions to the conservation economy.*

Component 2 Actual at Completion:

The Western Cape Protected Areas expansion strategy guides expansion and includes the two landscape corridors as well as the smaller linkage and habitat corridors that have been identified through fine scale planning products. A key mechanism for the expansion of protected areas has been through utilizing the stewardship methodology, developed by the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme within CapeNature. Landscape scale conservation makes use biodiversity

stewardship to secure priority biodiversity in the landscape. The Programme has developed a best practice guideline for stewardship at the landscape scale. This document will be included in the existing Biodiversity Stewardship Operational Manual.

The Biodiversity Stewardship Programme and the Corridors, WHS and BR Programme have drafted a landscape scale conservation strategic plan that seeks to strengthen biodiversity stewardship and supports better and closer coordination between the two programmes of work. The Programme has developed the proposal for piloting a freshwater stewardship corridor within the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor (GCBC). The Groot Winterhoek freshwater stewardship corridor has been implemented since 2009 and has been a key driver in raising awareness about indigenous fish species and the threats posed to them. The freshwater stewardship corridor also sought to secure priority biodiversity within a core corridor of the larger GCBC.

The Biodiversity Stewardship Programme have also been able to leverage funding to implement vocational farm worker training on stewardship sites, including those within the landscape corridors. This training is an important step towards strengthening site maintenance in the longer term.

The programme has also supported the early discussions on the planning and implementation of the Riverlands- Pella corridor, which is a key lowland corridor, with high priority biodiversity.

A key challenge in the long terms is to ensure effective capacity for stewardship negotiation and maintenance. The two Programmes have undertaken to explore all possible avenues to secure the necessary resources to ensure sustainability.

Component 3 Planned: *Investigated and secured additional funding streams for CapeNature corridor, biosphere and world heritage site development and implementation.*

Component 3 Actual at Completion:

The Programme has submitted concept notes for funding as part of the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF 5). The protected areas concept note was jointly submitted by the National Parks Authority (South African National Parks- SANPark) along with the some of the provincial conservation authorities including CapeNature. The Project Identification Form has been submitted and has been approved. The key areas of work that this funding proposal would seek to address include, stewardship, management effectiveness, corridor development and implementation, support for strengthening of buffers areas in biosphere reserves, financial sustainability for protected areas and capacity building. This would provide a five year investment across at least three of the biodiversity hotspots in South Africa.

The Programme has also submitted a funding proposal to the Table Mountain Fund (TMF) aimed at building capacity for climate change adaptation within local authorities. This is a key priority at the landscape level as local authorities are important partners in this scale. These authorities are also vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

CapeNature has a dedicated fundraiser and one of the key priorities for fundraising corporately is landscape scale conservation. The programme has also developed a landscape scale fundraising strategy to coordinate fundraising efforts within the landscape.

The landscape corridors have also been fortunate to have additional support from the funding sources for core corridors such as the Groot Winterhoek Freshwater Stewardship Corridor.

Component 4 Planned: *Developed and fostered a learning network to address capacity, training and sharing of lessons regards corridors, biospheres, world heritage sites.*

Component 4 Actual at Completion:

The landscape corridors have been a hub for building capacity. The Programme has facilitated knowledge exchanges to facilitated learning and capacity building opportunities within the various activities within landscape corridors. Some of the first Biodiversity and Business projects were initiated within the landscape corridors and included the Potatoes, Rooibos and Ostrich best

practice projects. These projects have been a critical collaborative effort between industry and conservation to ensure the long term security of biodiversity and to encourage best farming practice. Some of the best practice projects have surpassed any early expectation and others have had a slower progression. This opened up the opportunity to share experiences between industries. The Programme facilitated the knowledge exchange between the Rooibos and Ostrich best practice projects. The aim of the knowledge exchange was to explore opportunities to strengthen the ostrich best practice project. Key recommendations from the exchange include the need for the ostrich industry to i) undertake a benchmarking exercise, and ii) support transparency, openness and integrity through effective marketing and communication.

The Programme also facilitated a knowledge exchange between the landscape corridors (Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor, Gouritz Corridor/Biosphere Reserve) the Knersvlakte conservation area, the Wildlife Programme and the Northern Cape Partners. The exchange was aimed at supporting the learning that has happened at the landscape level and included stewardship, corridor development, damage causing animals and climate change. This exchange was also used as a platform to open discussion between the two conservation agencies around local issues and lessons learned on stewardship and damage causing animals. The exchange also opened up key discussions on areas of work that need further support such as human wellbeing and tourism development.

The Cape Floral Region Protected Areas World Heritage Site (CFRPA WHS) consists of 8 properties of which CapeNature is responsible for 6. The site managers for these six sites participated in management training to support capacity building. This is part of the Programme's long term objective towards raising the profile of the World Heritage site.

The Programme along with the CapeNature Mentorship Programme and the Environmental Education and Youth Development Programme has also facilitated a Spring school as part of CapeNature's capacity building for internal staff members. The aim of the spring school was to use landscape education as a methodology to raise the profile of the properties that make up the CFRPA WHS and to develop individual products for each of the sites. This was also an opportunity to involve local communities and schools to participate in landscape education.

A key part of the Programme's activities has been to strengthen relationships with partners in the landscape. This Programme hosted the Biodiversity Champion's awards within the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor to acknowledge the contribution that landowners, communities and other partners have made to support biodiversity conservation. The Programme also supported the Gouritz Corridor to host their Biodiversity Champions awards.

The Programme also implemented climate change awareness interventions within the different landscape initiatives, including the Youth Expo hosted by the Cape Winelands District Municipality within the Cape Winelands Biosphere Reserve, the Climate Summit hosted by the Provincial department of Environmental Affairs and development planning and the Heritage Day event with the Clanwilliam Living Landscape Project.

The Programme also supported with the international Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) conference held on the West Coast by the Bergvliet Local Authority. The Bergvliet Municipality is also a Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) participant.

The Programme also supported with the translation and reprint of the Krokitor Booklet, which was developed originally to explain the corridor concept to school children. This was important as the booklet could now be used to reach a wider audience.

A key challenge identified by landowners and communities have been the issue of damage causing animals. The Programme has through this funding been able to co fund the development of a booklet to help communal farmers to monitor and record incidents with damage causing animals. This was accompanied by a training and capacity building session in partnership with the CapeNature Wildlife Management Programme and supported by the Western Cape Provincial Department of Agriculture.

The Programme also participated in the landscape Initiatives Knowledge Exchanges which serves to share knowledge and experiences and build capacity.

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

Ideally the project would have liked to submit more funding proposals but due to capacity constraints it was opted to invest in larger and longer term project proposals e.g. GEF 5. This however has not had a negative impact overall as co-funding and in kind contributions by donors and partners have strengthened the programme of work. Landscape scale conservation is also one of the corporate fundraising priorities.

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

Best practice guideline for stewardship in landscape initiatives.

Landscape scale fundraising guideline document.

Research gap analysis for the landscape initiatives.

Draft CapeNature Corridor Policy.

Lessons Learned

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

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

As the project was aimed at consolidating efforts, the project design sought to create an enabling environment for landscape scale conservation. This contributed to the overall success of the programme of work. The emphasis of embedding the consolidation effort internally and forging closer collaboration with other key programmes of work within CapeNature, including Wildlife Management, Biodiversity Stewardship and Environmental Education and Youth Development was an important aspect. The fostering of learning and knowledge exchange and the leveraging of funding to support further landscape scale conservation was critical for long term sustainability.

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

A key aspect of project implementation was to ensure internal buy-in and promotion of landscape scale conservation through awareness, capacity building and knowledge exchange.

Engaging with and through governance structures at the landscape level have also been an important element to ensure success. In some instances the development of additional layers of governance such as the working groups and collaborative extension groups are important in coordinating collaborative implementation and pooling of resources. One of the key lessons learned through this project has been the importance of local government as a key implementation partner. Local government has played a pivotal role in implementation of landscape corridors and biosphere reserves.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

The development of effective governance and coordination structures are very important for projects to work at the landscape scale.

It is important to ensure that local government plays an active role in supporting implementation, especially where there is a strong development mandate.

Even where government or conservation agencies lead implementation, it should always be supported by strong civil society partnerships.

There needs to be an appreciation for the scale and time frames at which these initiatives take place. Building partnerships are long term investments and cannot just be forged over the lifespan of a project, it is therefore critical to understand the long term implications and to ensure that the necessary measures are put in place to nurture those partnerships.

Consolidation projects should have a strong emphasis on creating enabling environments.

Additional Funding

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

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
WWF	Grantee Leveraging	\$35 962	This funding support was for the first year of implementation of the Groot Winterhoek Freshwater Corridor
CapeNature	Project Co Funding	\$56 908	This was the direct contribution by CapeNature for the operationalizing of the Corridors, WHS and BR Programme.
TMF	Grantee leveraging	\$79 464	This funding support was for the second and third year of implementation of the Groot Winterhoek Freshwater Corridor
West Coast District Municipality	Project Co Funding	\$34 285	This funding was a direct investment in the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor to support corridor implementation
Expanded Public Works Projects (EPWP)	Regional/Portfolio leveraging	\$ 263 284	This is some of the investment from EPWP projects within the landscape Corridors and Biosphere Reserves.

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

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

Sustainability/Replicability

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

The project played a critical role in the institutionalization of landscape scale conservation from project based implementation to a dedicated programme of work. A key component to promote sustainability and even potential replicability with projects of this nature leans heavily on support, both internally from organizations and staff and externally from partners. Project objectives or components need to be embedded through dedicated capacity, an effective policy environment, effective governance and ongoing capacity building.

A key challenge is that most project timeframes are not long enough to fully support and develop partnerships that are required to deliver in the longer term.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

N/A

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

N/A

Additional Comments/Recommendations

The CEPF investment in landscape scale conservation has been pivotal not only in the current funding investment but also in laying the groundwork for the consolidation phase, through earlier investments.

As mentioned in earlier, the CEPF investment has been able to create an enabling environment to support long term sustainability for landscape scale conservation in the Western Cape.

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

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

Please include your full contact details below:

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*****If your grant has an end date other than JUNE 30, please complete the tables on the following pages*****

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets

1 September 2009- 31 December 2011

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	N/A			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	N/A			Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	N/A			
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	N/A			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	N/A			

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

