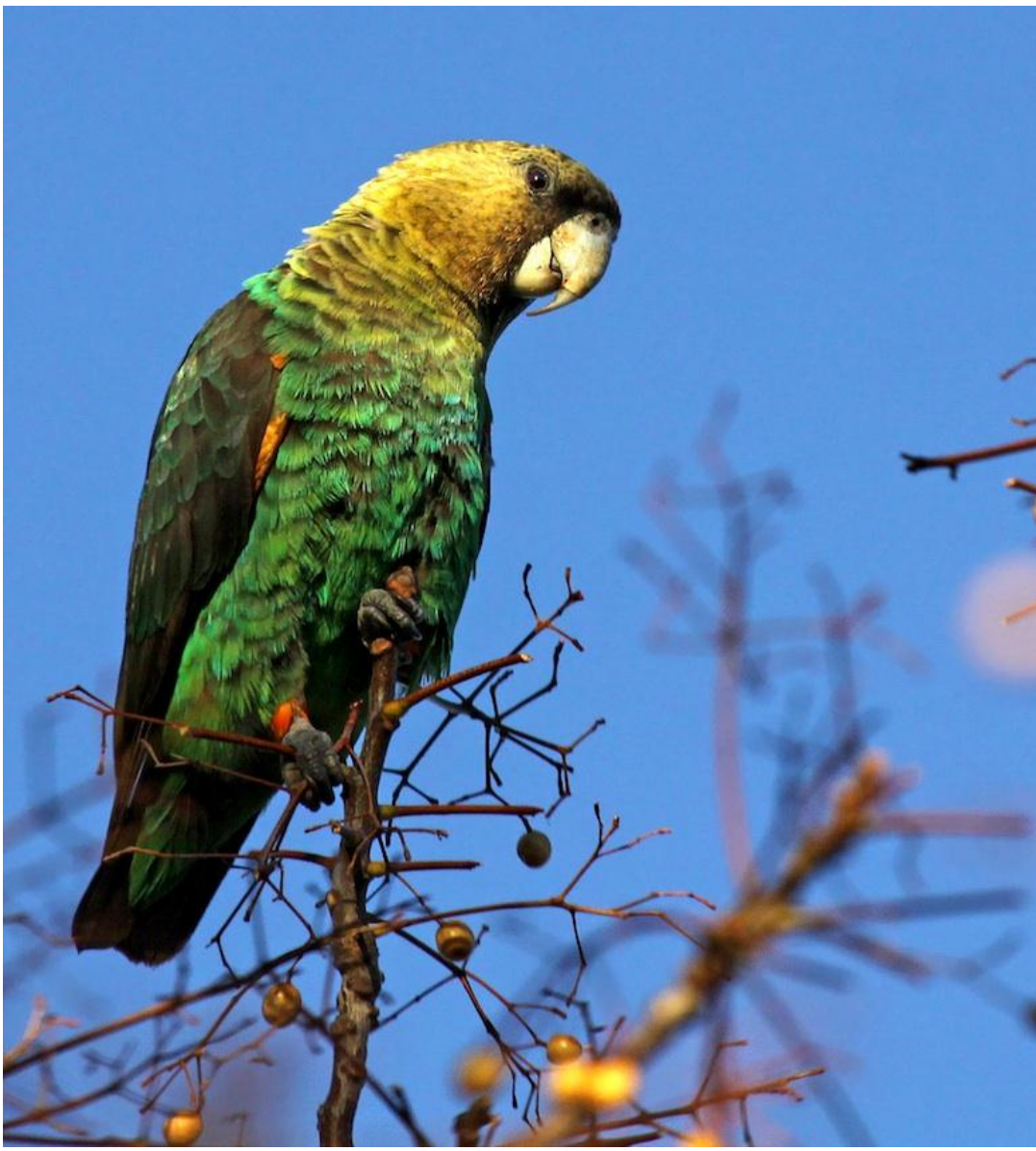
iziKhwenene Project

Saving South Africa's national parrot by planting our national tree…

50th Anniversary 1960-2010
Percy FitzPatrick Institute

THE WILD BIRD TRUST



iziKhwenene Project

Community-Based Research & Conservation Initiative

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

to

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
Conservation International
2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 500 I Arlington, VA 22202 USA

Presented by

THE WILD BIRD TRUST

In collaboration with

agriculture, forestry & fisheries
Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	The Wild Bird Trust
Project Title:	IziKhwenene Project
Date of Report:	September 2013
Report Author and Contact Information	Dr Rutledge S. Boyes Scientific Director: Wild Bird Trust PO Box 149, Hogsback, 5721, South Africa Tel: +27 45 962 1102 Mobile: +27 72 85 85 644

CEPF Region: Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot

Strategic Direction: Strategic Direction 2: Expand conservation areas and improve land use in 19 key biodiversity areas through innovative approaches "Within the southern Eastern Cape key biodiversity areas, the Mountain Zebra National Park Complex and the Hogsback-Stutterheim, CEPF will support civil society facilitation of landowner/user processes; increasing capacity for technical support; and raising awareness about stewardship and associated tax breaks to encourage conservation status for the few remaining fragments within these high-value lands."

Grant Amount: US$82,740
Project Dates: 1 August, 2011 to 31 July, 2013

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

1. **Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology (University of Cape Town)** is responsible for all research that supports conservation action and provides students each year for audits and monitoring.
2. **Baboon Research Unit (University of Cape Town)** partnered on all forest assessments undertaken as part of the iziKhwenene Project.
3. **Rance Timber** has supported project logistics with trailers and trucks. The Kubusi Sawmill provides bark compost for use in the micro-nurseries.
4. **Amathole Forestry Company** has provided access to nursery space in Hogsback Village and have assisted with office space and the clearing of invasive vegetation.
5. **Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)** have been our most important project partner and have given us full access to 50,000 hectares of indigenous forest and a long lease on the iZingcuka Forest Station.
6. **BirdLife South Africa** was an active partner until January 2012 when their community-based conservation project on ecotourism development moved to Ixopo (KwaZulu-Natal).
7. **Border Rural Committee** was helpful with contacts in Keiskammahoek, but have otherwise not been part of the project.
8. **Mazda Wildlife Fund** sponsored a pick-up for the entire project period.
9. **University of Fort Hare (Alice)** has continued as a partner in the Cape Parrot Sanctuary and have provided nursery space at the experimental farm.
10. **Eastern Cape Parks** have visited the iziKhwenene Project several times and consulted on tourism and trails development, but have not been directly involved in the iziKhwenene Project.
11. **Hogsback Inn** has provided funding and support for the micro-nurseries.
12. **Arminel Hotel** has run several fundraising events for the iziKhwenene Project.
13. **Participatory Forest Management Forum** partnered on fundraising in Hogsback Village and have assisted with community meetings and establishing new community partnership via the forum.
14. **Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs (DEDEA)** partnered on all Cape Parrot conservation work, including law enforcement in the wild-caught bird trade and the issuance of necessary permits.
15. **BirdLife Border** and **BirdLife Eastern Cape** assisted with population monitoring.

Conservation Impacts

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

The iziKhwenene Project supports better land management by teaching local communities how to grow, care for, and plant indigenous trees in and around Afromontane forest patches between Hogsback and Stutterheim. The project uses the Cape Parrot or “isiKhwenene” as an ecosystem ambassador to focus support for the restoration of degraded forest patches that support several endemic species. We have increased local capacity by educating DAFF forest workers, DAFF forest scientists, managers, students, interns and volunteers. We established the iZingcuka Forest Station in partnership with DAFF to educate and increase local capacity in indigenous forest management (e.g. tree-planting for the next 10 years) and species conservation (e.g. nest boxes). Indigenous forests between Hogsback and Stutterheim are recognized by DAFF and the IUCN as the most important forests in South Africa. The Wild Bird Trust is currently investigating the feasibility of a carbon credit project to support the next 10 years of tree-planting and alien vegetation removal.

This community-based conservation project has managed to bring together local community leaders via the Participatory Forest Management Forum, resulting in regular, open dialogue about forest management and communal benefit. All aspects of the project support biodiversity conservation by restoring habitat for Cape Parrots and other forest endemics (e.g. Hogsback Frog, Knysna Turaco and Narina Trogon). We work with DAFF staff on a daily basis to better manage planting sites and existing forest patches. The project team work closely with DAFF Scientific Services on all research, as well as the intern program. DAFF has undertaken to support us in the establishment of two new forest reserves, thus increasing the total protected area between Hogsback and Stutterheim from 1.5% to over 15%. We are also discussing the establishment of more forest stations and operations nodes for the project down the mountain range.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

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

Long-term impacts of the iziKhwenene Project include the following:
1. The emergence of thousands of Podocarpus, Harpehylum, Olea, Vepris and Calodendrum trees within the next 10 years in areas where they are currently lacking.
2. The establishment of groves of mature indigenous trees in communally-owned forest patches within 25-50 years as part of the "Forest Cusodians" program.
3. Instantaneous increase in diversity of the understory of key Afromontane forest patches along the Amathole mountain range.
4. Fruits from Harpephylum caffrum and Olea europaea africana planted by WBT will become available to Cape Parrots and Samango Monkeys within the next 7-10 years.
5. Occupation of up to 25% of the artificial nest boxes by Cape Parrots, resulting in increased breeding success and adult survival.
6. “Cape Parrot Sanctuary” will have an established canopy of wild plums and yellowwoods within the next 15 years - in time to replace the existing pecan trees.
7. Local communities will be invested in the long-term, sustainable management of their forest resources, as well as the rehabilitation of Afromontane forest patches over the next few generations.
8. Cape Parrot population increase for the first time in recorded history.

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

Short-term impacts of the iziKhwenene Project include the following:
1. Establishment of strong partnerships with local communities along the Amathole mountain range between Hogsback and Stutterheim.
2. "Forest Custodians" program has proven that this model works and can attract corporate sponsorship.
3. Completion of the most comprehensive forest inventory ever undertaken in the Amathole region with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF).
4. Establishment of two community-owned small businesses, including the nest box workshop and “Cape Parrot Sanctuary” pecan business.

5. Refurbishment of an indigenous tree nurseries and the development of two additional community-run indigenbous tree nurseries in the Amathole region.
6. Skills development in at least six local communities in the Amathole region, including job creation for over 20 people.
7. Two senior scientists at DAFF will receive their Masters degrees as part of the iziKhwenene Project.
8. Over 600 artificial nest boxes will become available to Cape Parrots and other cavity-nesting bird species.

Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

1. The iziKhwenene Project has planted 13,820 Afrocarpus falcatus, 4,235 Harpehylum caffrum, 3,140 Olea europea africana, 485 Celtis africana, 460 Vepris spp., and 570 Calodendrum capense trees (Total = 20,810 indigenous trees planted). These saplings will become established within the next 10-25 years in areas where they are currently absent and were once abundant. Restoration planting focuses on degraded Afromontane forest patches with little re-growth and communally owned land adjacent to these forests. The oldest trees are now 170cm in height and just over 4 years old.
2. The “Forest Custodians” Project has established five fenced-off indigenous tree orchards of 500-1,000 trees each in partnership with Hala, Sompondo, Gilton, Zingcuka and Upper Zingcuka. All have been fenced off to prevent damage by livestock. Survival rates of 70-95% have been achieved and supplementary planting is planned for 2014.
3. The project has planted over 9,000 indigenous trees into indigenous forest patches after both aerial and ground surveys establish that restoration planting us necessary.
4. The project has now planted almost 7,500 Harpephylum caffrum and Olea europaea Africana in areas where Cape Parrots and Samango Monkeys are known to feed. It is estimated that fruit will become available within the next 3-5 years due to fast growth rates. The project has re-planted and refurbished 1076 indigenous trees that were planted on the University of Fort Hare (Alice) grounds as part of the “Green Campus Initiative” and awareness campaign to make students aware of Cape Parrots on campus and provide a feeding patch for the parrots.
5. The project has erected 258 wooden nest boxes along the Amathole Mountain range and now have 4 occupied nest boxes being used for breeding. This represents almost 2% of the available boxes and we aim to achieve the occupation of over 50 nest boxes by 2015.
6. 221 Afrocarpus/Podocarpus yellowwoods, 253 Celtis africana, 174 Olea europea africana and 325 Harpephylum caffrum were added to the 54 pecan trees in the fenced off “Cape Parrot Sanctuary”, which is managed by the Wild Bird Trust. We aim to remove most of the pecan trees by 2020.
7. The project benefits over 460 local community members benefitting with up to 40 community members employed in the planting, seed-collecting, fencing or clearing teams, as well as the nest box construction and erection teams, at any one time. We are in the local villages everyday educating local communities about the importance of conserving their natural heritage.
8. The outbreak of Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease (PBFD) virus has declined in the local Cape Parrot population and the first breeding successes in 3 years were recorded last year. Population assessments demonstrate that the local population is now breeding successfully and juvenile mortality appears to be declining. The project aims to have positive population growth by 2015.

Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

1. The iziKhwenene Project have established village partnerships in five villages along the Amathole mountains, including Hala, Sompondo, Zincuka, Hogsback, and Gilton. We have established iziKhwenene Project village forums in each village and meet with senior community members once or twice a month. We are currently forming new partnership in Upper and Lower Zingcuka, as well as Cata and Dontsa.
2. The “Forest Custodians” Project has attracted several charitable donors, including ABAX Investments and the Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust (administered by BOE). Olivetti is interested in sponsoring 5 trees per appliance they produce to make them carbon neutral over 10 years. We are currently in discussions with Native Energy about setting up a carbon credit project within the iziKhwenene Project.
3. The most comprehensive forest inventory of the Amathole Mountain Range is still underway and projected to be finished in July 2014.

4. The Cape Parrot Pecan Cooperative and the community-run micro-nurseries have been a huge success with both small enterprises generating valuable income for local communities.
5. The project chose to establish 30 micro-nurseries instead of refurbishing existing government-run nurseries. The aim was to involve as many local community members as possible in the restoration of nearby Afromontane forest patches. Eight growers with micro-nurseries were upgraded to growing 300 trees each, four more to 200 each. The next step will result in the emergence of a few small businesses supplying trees for the project. Plans are in place for 25 new micro-nuseries in the villages surrounding the iZingcuka Forest Station. By December 2014 the project aims to have the capacity to produce over 100,000 indigenous trees per annum. This is a significant opportunity for local villages.
6. Skills development in already happening in Hala, Sompondo, Zingcuka, Hogsback and Gilton with up to 42 local community members employed by the project at any one time. Bi-monthly visits to micro-nurseries aim to improve care for trees and ensure germination is stimulated correctly. The iZingcuka Forest Station has now hosted over 70 volunteers, interns, students and staff members in the last six months. The primary focus of the forest station is skills development in the local community.
7. Two senior scientists at DAFF continue their Masters degrees as part of the iziKhwenene Project.
8. The project had erected 258 Cape Parrot nest boxes by June 2012. The decision was taken to halt production and erection until we learn more about design and placement from the first occupations. There are now four nest boxes occupied by Cape Parrots and more are expected in coming years. In January 2014 (after the current breeding season) we will erect a further 42 nest boxes in the vicinity of iZingcuka Forest Station.

Please provide the following information where relevant:
Hectares Protected: 5,700 hectares
Species Conserved: Cape Parrot, Samango Monkey and over 100 other forest specialists.
Corridors Created: Each new forest reserve function as “conservation corridors” between commercial plantations, afro-alpine grasslands, wetlands, and Afromontane forest patches.

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

- The iziKhwenene Project planted almost 3,000 indigenous trees more than planned in the project proposal and still have 2,500 *Afrocarpus falcatus* saplings ready for planting by December 2013. Climatic conditions have allowed us to grow saplings faster than expected, thus allowing the project to plant more trees. Corporate sponsors and charitable donors have allowed us to spend more on tree production in the network of “micro-nurseries”.
- Decision to decentralize nursery operations and establish 30 “micro-nurseries” on smallholdings in partnered villages resulted in local communities investing themselves in the long-term goals of the iziKhwenene Project. This is a multi-generational effort to restore these forests and buy-in from local communities will be essential.
- Decision to only employ one person per household aided the spread of benefit within specific villages, thus supporting long-term sustainability for this multi-generational effort to restore the Afromontane forest patches and associated indigenous forests between Hogsback and Stutterheim.
- Partnership with DAFF has been keystone due to access to land, issuance of permits, provision of technical and logistical support, and the leasing of the iZingcuka Forest Station.

Challenges towards achieving short- and long-term impact objectives:

- Fuel costs and logistical difficulties of maintaining community partnerships across the 150 km from Hogsback to Stutterheim along the Amathole Mountain Range. The roads are in very poor condition and many villages are hard to access in the rainy season. By July 2012 we realized that we needed to focus the iziKhwenene Project on forest patches and village partnerships between Hogsback, Zingcuka and Cata. More nodes are planned for 2014 and await supplementary funding. These new village partnerships and forest stations will focus on the establishment and management of two new forest reserves planned for 2014.
- Wooden nest boxes proved to be very expensive to manufacture at the community-run workshop due to cost of sourcing and transporting materials, lack of skills and the necessity to hire carpenters to do training and supervise the workshop, and the high cost of rope access specialists to erect

nest boxes with local communities. After erecting 258 nest boxes we decided to wait 12 months before erecting another 342 nest boxes, as we wanted to learn more about nest box design and placement from Cape Parrot nesting successes in the erected nest boxes.

- Cattle and goats have proven to be a problem in the indigenous fruit orchards planted near partnered villages. We have had to fence off all of these forest plots and now hire permanent forest managers in each village.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

An important spin-off from the iziKhwenene Project is that the Cape Parrot has become very well-known in the local villages and is a point of interest at the government departments. The project has captivated the imaginations of both South Africans and people overseas, as can be seen in the massive Cape Parrot Project group on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/capeparrotproject/ National Geographic came out to South Africa to film the iziKhwenene Project and produced this short video: video.nationalgeographic.com/video/specials/in-the-field-specials/boyes-cape-parrot/ This year we also did an award-winning 14-minute insert for a popular nature show on South African television: http://youtu.be/TJtyNnHL5XU We have been on the South African news several times and are frequently in the media with updates and developments. The idea that we are planting our national tree, the yellowwood, to save our national parrot, the Cape Parrot, is very compelling, especially considering that we are doing this with local villages and plan to continue this work for decades.

Community grower watering her first "micro-nursery" in Hala Village. Mrs Mayeke has since been upgraded to a much larger nursery. (Nic Armstrong / Cape Parrot Project)

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:
Indigenous Forestry Project - Community-based conservation project to plant indigenous trees from community nurseries in target Afromontane forests. This includes the "Forest Custodians" program and enrichment planting in indigenous forests.

Component 1 Actual at Completion:
The iziKhwenene Project planted 20,810 indigenous trees in target Afromontane forest patches and community forest plots. We exceeded targets for this part of the project and aim to have 25,000 trees planted by December 2013. The long-term aim of the Phase 2 of the izizKhwenene Project is to plant 1 million indigenous trees over the next 10 years with local communities and government.

Component 2 Planned:
Amathole Nest Box Project - Community-based conservation project to erect artificial nest boxes in indigenous forests to supplement nest cavity availability for Cape Parrots and other cavity-nesting bird species.

Component 2 Actual at Completion:
The project managed to erect 258 of the 300 Cape parrot nest boxes built at the community-run nest box workshop. The nest boxes proved too expensive to build and erect in suitable trees, and we decided to learn from nest boxes already erected before erecting more. This nest box project is the largest in South Africa and will be important to ongoing research into the application of nest boxes as a conservation tool. We aim source additional corporate funding to build and erect an additional 300 nest boxes in 2015.

Component 3 Planned:
Fort Hare Pecan Co-operative ("Cape Parrot Sanctuary") - Community partnership to manage an orchard of 60 pecan trees that is visited by up to 200 Cape Parrots every year for 3-4 months.

Component 3 Actual at Completion:
The pecan orchard was damaged by hailstorms in January 2011, but have recovered to produce 2 tonnes of pecan nuts after the parrots have finished feeding. The largest flock of Cape Parrots to visit the Cape Parrot Sanctuary was 278 and the orchard has become important in keeping the large flocks of Cape Parrots off nearby commercial pecan farms. The pecan orchard has three important functions: a) Income for local community; b) Keystone food resource for local Cape Parrot population, and c) Keeps flocks from feeding on commercial farms and facing persecution as a crop pest.

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

Growers gathered at the Sompondo Village community hall for a meeting. (Nic Armstrong)

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.

- **Community incentives** are better paid for by funding a suitably sized community project every 6 months. Cash payments to the community leadership results in inequitable distribution of funds received for a community service. The iziKhwenene Project has paid for the refurbishment of a community hall, 50 x chairs for community meetings, and fencing grazing areas. We are currently making plans to plant fruit trees, dig large share-pits, and establish worm farms as community incentives that build ever-lasting partnerships.
- **Signboards and publicity material** (e.g. t-shirts, posters and caps) are important in securing wider community support by entrenching the parrots and the project in local pop culture.
- **Annual "tree audits"** are a valuable management tool that highlight problems (e.g. the use of bone meal when planting encourages disturbance by wild pigs) in planting protocols and allows the Wild Bird Trust to offer the opportunity to sponsor these trees for 25 years of audits and protection as part of the iziKhwenene Project.
- **Maximizing community involvement** through the 1-person per household policy for seed-collection, tree-planting and clearing teams, as well as the micro-nurseries in all partnered villages. The iziKhwenene Project is a story of "people and parrots" that needs buy-in from local villages. See: http://youtu.be/TJtyNnHL5XU
- **Frost, snow and ice** in the tall, emergent trees during winter made nest box erection impossible between June and September.
- **Bad weather, degraded dirt roads and poor housing conditions** in local villages made the tree-planting operations very difficult. Staff were often absent or late due to transport issues, and eventually we had to pick up all staff at great expense to the project. All future tree-planting will be between September and May each year due to the damage by frost to saplings and poor work conditions.
- The **impact of livestock** (e.g. cattle, pigs, sheep and goats) on our indigenous tree plots near villages adjacent to indigenous forests was unexpected. Llivestock denuded all 500 *Harpephylum caffrum* and *Olea europea africana* in the forest plot near Hala Village. We had to erect costly fences around all community forest plots that form part of the "Forest Custodians Program". Unfortunately, the cost of the fence was taken out of their bi-annual incentive payments over two years. All forest plots still struggle with livestock breaking in during winter, but forest caretakers in each village are solving that problem.
- **"Not all project participants are going to be good horticulturalists."** The micro-nursery project in our village partnerships are an important way to introduce local communities to the idea of growing indigenous trees for planting and helps us select growers to support in the future within our partnered villages. We are not obliged to re-stock a grower that did not perform well and have already upgraded several growers to larger nurseries. Small enterprise development is the next step and we plan to help market indigenous tree sales from these community-owned nurseries.
- **Corporate funding** is more likely when conservation projects (e.g. community-based tree-planting) support the development of community-owned small enterprises (e.g. nurseries and workshops).
- **SMS and social media** (e.g. Facebook and Twitter) are becoming an effective way to communicate with project participants in local communities. Automated systems are available to deliver messages and meeting alerts via mobile phones.
- All community-based conservation projects are subject to **delays**. All stakeholders must be patient and build all projects for long-term sustainability.

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

- **Decentralizing all operations** by establishing "nodes" within the project area from which "micro-nurseries" can be supplied and supported, all tree-planting operations can be coordinated, and all village partnerships maintained. Involving people as many local community members as possible was central to the success of the iziKhwenene Project.
- **Scheduled community meetings** must be held as frequently as possible. Conservation projects can pay fewer incentives and get more if you have a manager dedicated to managing the relationship with the local community.

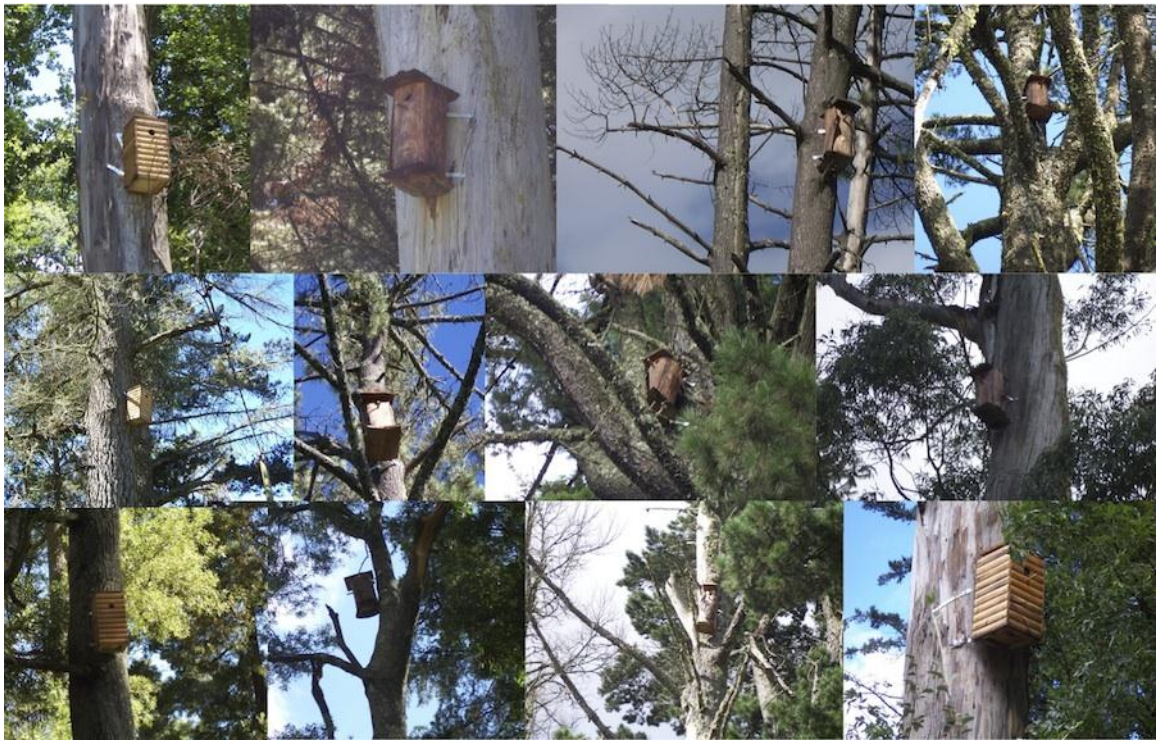
- **Small enterprise development** must be part of the community-based conservation project. For example, the micro-nurseries could lead to commercial tree nurseries in local villages.

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

- **Strong partnerships with government** (i.e. DAFF) are important to the long-term sustainability of community-based conservation projects and facilitate access to land, resources and government funding.
- **Project partners** must be involved every step of the way and all partners should meet up to four times a year to discuss developments relevant to the community-based conservation project.
- **Education and awareness programs** need to be repetitive and the message needs to be simple. Our message is “help us plant out national tree, the yellowwood, to save our national parrot, the Cape Parrot”.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

- **Quantitative measures of success** (e.g. number of trees surviving or number of nest boxes occupied) are essential in the management and improvement of community-based conservation projects. We audit all planted trees every 6 or 12 months to monitor survival rates and prescribe supplementary planting in areas where losses exceed 10%.
- **Local governments** in developing countries, like South Africa, are often under funded and have poor capacity to undertake the tasked management of natural resources like forests. These government departments (e.g. DAFF) have an important human resource that with the necessary funding and logistical support can be very helpful to community-based conservation projects.
- The use of **flagship species as “ecosystem ambassadors”** is very effective in promoting project aims to local communities. For example, the Cape Parrot is a forest specialist and needs the forest to be restored, which encapsulates what we are doing. This is easy to understand and for local communities to identify with.



Cape Parrot nest boxes erected over the last 24 months as part of the iziKhwenene Project. We have already had our first occupations by Cape Parrots and look forward to more… (Wongama Copiso / Cape Parrot Project)

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
Abax Foundation (South Africa)	A	$24,800	Annual contribution from the foundation to fuel expenses on iziKhwenene Project
Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust (South Africa)	B	$26,400	Grant from charitable trust to fund the initial nursery partnerships, the project vehicle and quad bike, and the salary of community forest plot caretakers.
National Geographic Society	B	$19,800	Conservation Trust grant in support of research into a circovirus in the wild population.
Prins Bernhard Natuurfonds (Netherlands)	B	$20,150	Grant for DNA sequencing work on the virus that threatens the wild population.
The Wild Bird Trust (South Africa)	B	$15,000	Charitable donations from donors in support of the operations of the iziKhwenene Project.
Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology (South Africa)	C	$10,000	Funding for the project from the Department of Science and Technology's Centre of Excellence at the institute.

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.)*

View of Hala Village from Hogsback Pass in Eastern Cape. (Steve Boyes / Cape Parrot Project)

Sustainability/Replicability

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

The long-term sustainability of the iziKhwenene Project has been achieved through the strong partnership with DAFF and local government, academic support from the Percy FitzPatrick Institute, and broad support from local communities within the project area. We have secured a long-term lease for the Zingcuka Forest Station as our first project node outside of Hogsback. We make it very clear to local community partners that we are hear for the next few decades and see this as a conservation project that will employ their grand-children. Phase 2 of the iziKhwenene Project will focus more on education and awareness programs in schools and community halls. Our work in partnered villages demonstrates that public relations materials like t-shirts, posters and caps are very important in establishing community-based conservation projects. The restoration of the degraded Afromontane forest patches is about natural heritage and supporting local communities as the custodians of these forests with heritage rights to the land is essential.

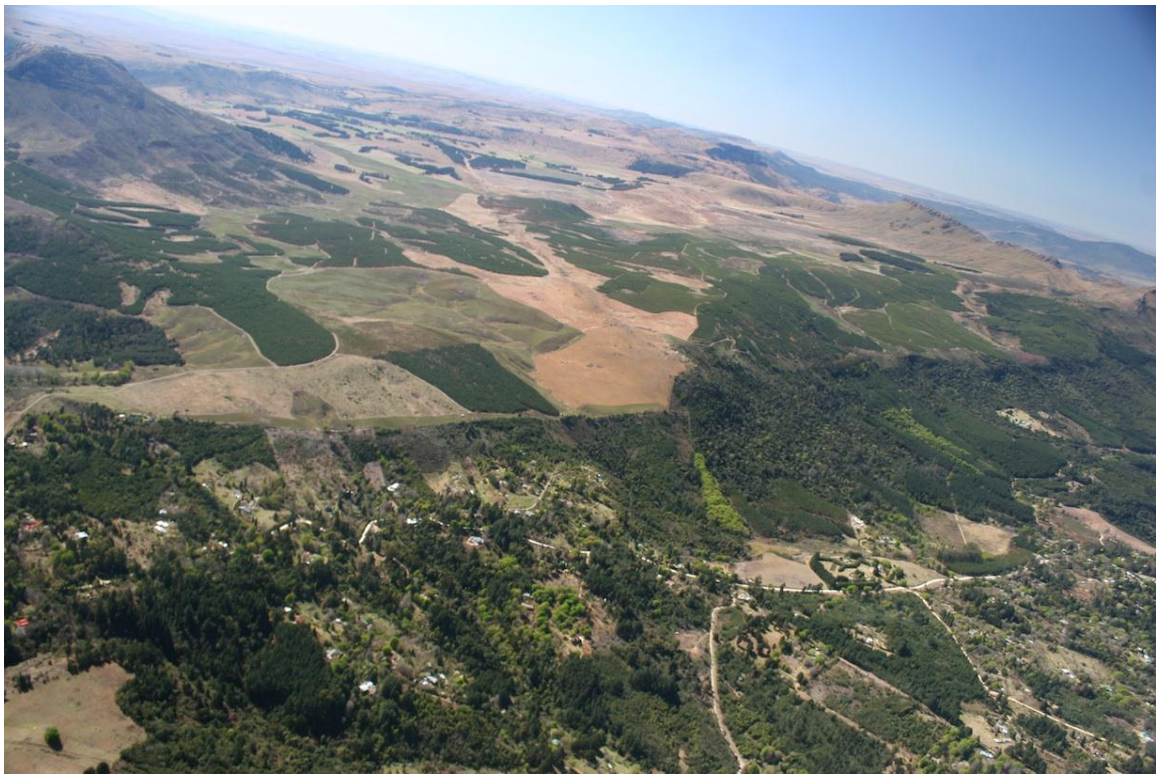
Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

Social media and cellular networks have proven invaluable in getting updates, information and meeting dates to local community partners. These villages are among the poorest in South Africa, yet cellphones allow us to text or notify local community members using Facebook. The Cape Parrot Project group on Facebook has almost 6,.000 members, which makes it the largest species-specific conservation group on Facebook. Community-based conservation projects need to take advantage of new technologies and establish new ways of sharing information with rural communities. These tools are shaping our woirld and could make a huge difference in rural, under-developed areas.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

The iziKhwenene Project involves activities that have no adverse impacts on the local community or the environment, but rather stimulate positive change for both, protecting both natural and cultural heritage.



An example of degraded Afromontane forest patches near Hogsback Village. (Steve Boyes)

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Acknowledgements

The iziKhwenene Project is dedicated to the late Prof. Phil Hockey, Director of the Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornothology, for his tireless support of our Cape Parrot conservation work. We would like to thank Conservation International and the Wildlands Conservation Trust for facilitating and supporting this CEPF grant to stimulate positive change for Cape Parrots, the forests they depend upon, and the local communities that live nearby. This grant has enabled us to launch a long-term community-based conservation project that installs local communities as the rightful stewards and custodians of the remaining Afromontane forest patches along the Amathole Mountain Range.

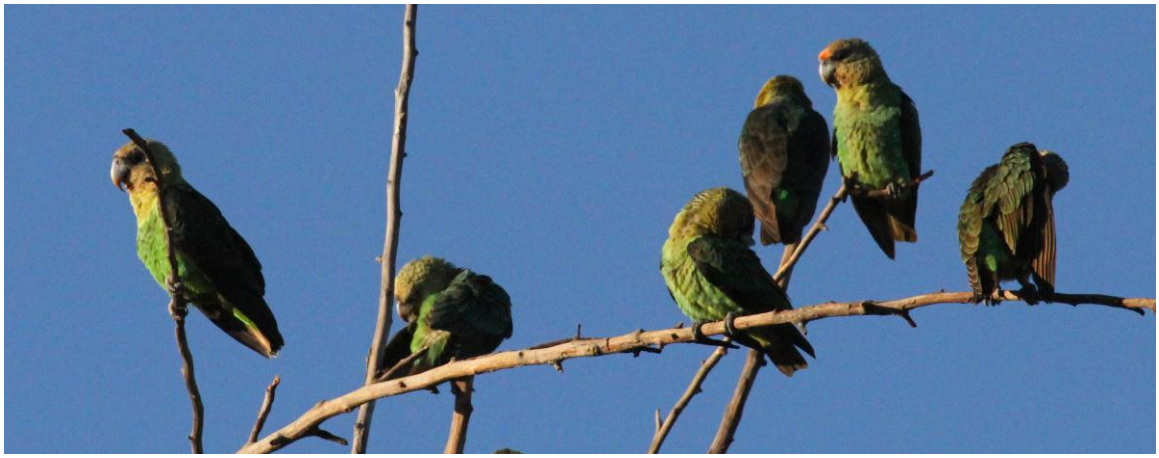
Our primary project partner, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), are thanked for the important support provided to all aspects of the iziKhwenene Project. Rance Timber and Amathole Forestry Company are also thanked for their ongoing support of the project in the Hogsback area. Birdlife Border and Birdlife Eastern Cape must be commended for their commitment to monitoring local populations. There are many unnamed graphic designers, artists, reporters, scientists, conservationists and ordinary South Africans that need to be acknowledged for their important contributions to the project.

The iziKhwenene Project team would like to thank the following people for their contributions of time, funds, creativity and guidance: Peter Mather-Pike, Grant Clark, Rory Blake, Graham Russell, Roelie Kloppers, John Hilton, Rodnick Biljon, Dr Rob Little, Chris Tobler, Humphrey Le Grice, Wongama Copiso, David Nkosi, Nick Theron, Nic Armstrong, Dr Kirsten Wimberger, Pieter Hugo, Chris Boyes, and many others.

The Wild Bird Trust look forward to working with the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund on Phase 2 of the iziKhwenene Project that aims to plant 500,000 indigenous trees in the next five years using infrastructure and management systems put in place during Phase 1. By 2024, we aim to have planted over 1 million trees along the Amathole Mountain Range and then will switch to monitoring planting success and the active management of all planting sites and protected forests for another 25-50 years. The goal is to establish fully-independent forest patches that are not vulnerable to fire or livestock, and are protected by law.

Online media and videos

- Article written by National Geographic on Cape Parrot conservation: http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/06/130615-cape-parrot-endangered-south-africa-science
- Video produced by National Geographic Missions Media on the iziKhwenene Project: http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/specials/in-the-field-specials/boyes-cape-parrot/
- iziKhwenene Project on a popular nature show in South Africa: http://youtu.be/TJtyNnHL5XU
- Presentation on the iziKhwenene Project at the 2013 National Geographic Explorer Symposium: http://youtu.be/vAiP1iOv23M
- News inserts on iziKhwenene Project on the national broadcaster in three languages:
  http://youtu.be/hs_Yhb-Syes
  http://youtu.be/Hu4bKE08uLo
  http://youtu.be/YtzrQtwxzTU



Cape Parrot in the warm sun after a cold winter night. Almost 30% of the global population now visits the Cape Parrot Sanctuary everyday for 5 months. (Steve Boyes / Wild Bird Trust)

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.

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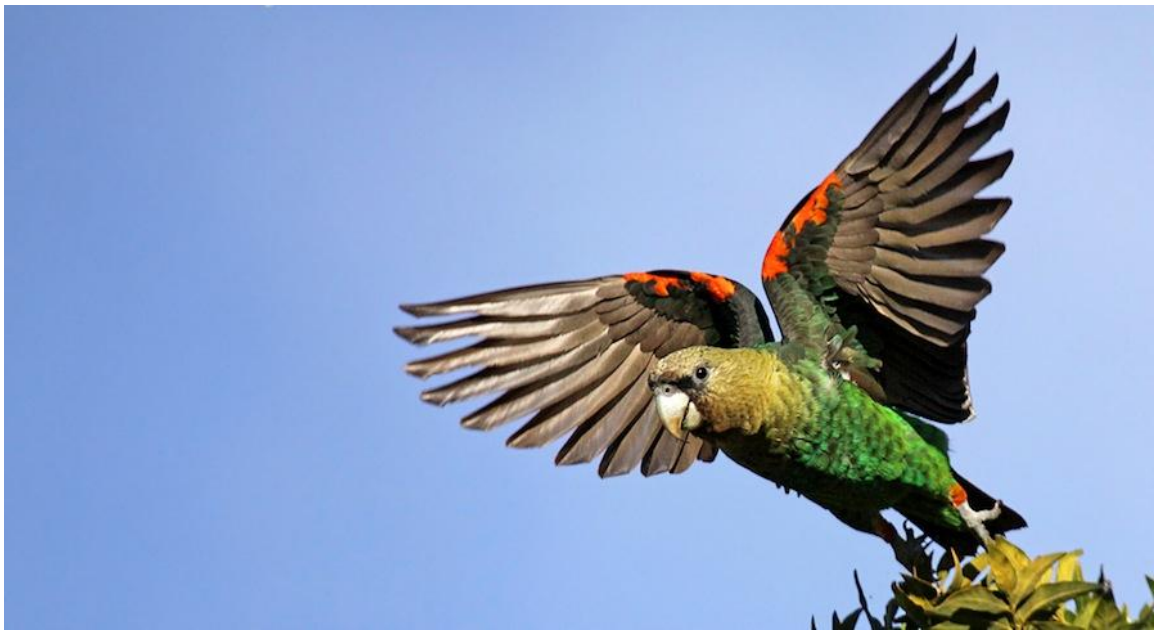


Healthy Cape Parrot flying from a wild plum tree that is in fruit. We need to teach them how to find these trees more effectively… (Rodnick Biljon)

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets

(Enter Grant Term)

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.

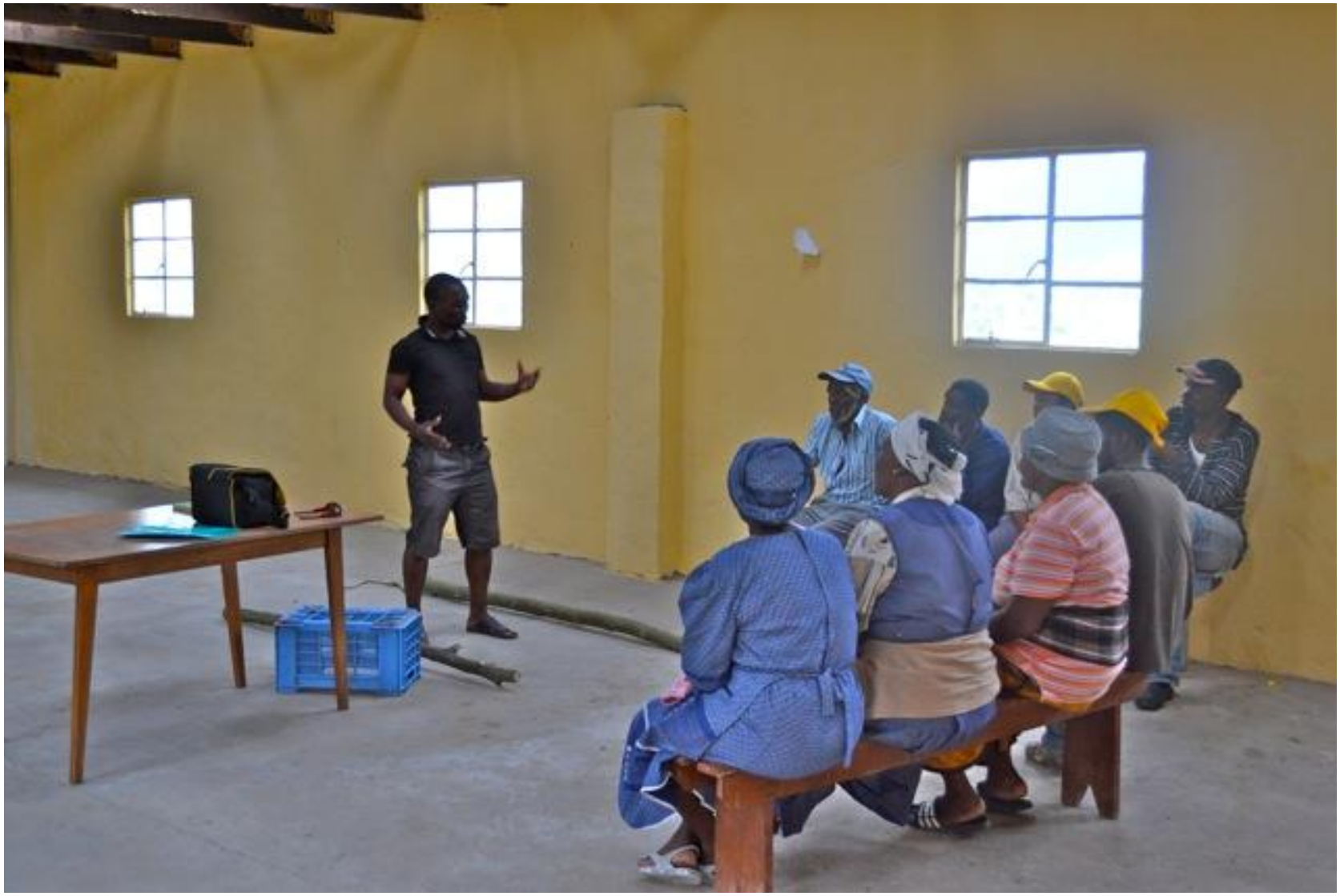
Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from 1 July, 2012 to 30 June, 2013 (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	Yes	42700 hectares	42700 hectares	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) manage 42,700 hectares of indigenous forest along the Amathole Mountain Range. The project team interact with DAFF at all levels on sustainable forest management.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	Yes	(5700 hectares) - pending	(5700 hectares) - pending	iziKhwenene Project is in the process of establishing a new forest reserve to be gazette in 2014. This reserve is one of the last representative Afromontane forest patches remaining and it will be called “Wolfridge Forest Reserve”.
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.	Yes	42700 hectares	42700 hectares	Our partnership with DAFF has served to strengthen biodiversity conservation and natural resource management in a key biodiversity area.
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes	2000 hectares	2000 hectares	Our work in seven local villages has resulted in improved land management and tree-planting outside od protected areas. Communal land ownership puts tens of thousands of hectares under the control of these villages.
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1below.	Yes	7	7	See Table

Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

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

Name of Community	Community Characteristics								Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit												
									Increased Income due to:												
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists/nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services	Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc)	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance.	Other
Hogsback	X		X				X		X	X				X	X	X				X	
Sompondo		X	X				X		X			X		X	X	X				X	
Gilton		X	X				X		X			X		X	X	X				X	
Hala		X	X				X		X			X		X	X	X				X	
Upper Zingcuka		X	X				X		X			X		X	X	X				X	
Lower Zingcuka		X	X				X		X			X		X	X	X				X	
Aukland		X	X				X		X			X		X	X	X				X	
Total	**1**	**6**	**7**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**7**		**7**	**1**		**6**		**7**	**7**	**7**				**7**	

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



Planting team from Sompondo Village listening to the Community Manager, Wongama Copiso. (Nic Armstrong / Cape Parrot Project)