

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Namibia Nature Foundation

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): *Preparing for Conservation and Sustainable Land Use of the Succulent Karoo in Namibia*

Implementation Partners for this Project:

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): January 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008

Date of Report (month/year): March 2009

II. OPENING REMARKS

Provide any opening remarks that may assist in the review of this report.

Many opportunities exist to drive benefits for the ecosystem, as an effective foundation has been laid. These include the expansion of the protected area, awareness raising, engaging industry in the ecosystem, and supporting communities in the early stages of their new sustainable development ventures.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: *Namibian communities living in and around the succulent Karoo embracing the conservation objectives of SKEP as part of their long-term sustainable development activities*

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	
1. <i>SKEP seen by communities as assisting them to develop sustainably, and creating an understanding of the conservation priorities and importance of the succulent Karoo in communities in and around it</i>	Promoting the SK through culture, tourism and conservation festival took place in Keetmanshoop on the 6-7th November 2008.
2. <i>Consideration of SKEP conservation goals in mine planning and operations in the area</i>	Active engagement with various stakeholders, including Scorpion Zinc mine happened during the launch pad for action as part of the Promoting the SK through culture, tourism and conservation festival in Keetmanshoop on the 6-7th November 2008.

Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.

In overview, SKEP Namibia has dynamically pursued the implementation of its strategy for the first phase of its operation. It has become a well known entity in the SK, as well as in Namibian conservation circles. Regional government has endorsed the project, and has pledged their support to pursuing sustainable development in the region. Regional awareness of the SK and the importance of its biodiversity are growing, but is not yet fully understood at all levels in society. Initial interactions with mining companies in the region have been positive, and tools have been developed through SKEP to reduce the impact of this conflicting land-use on the ecosystem.

SKEP Namibia’s support to the development of the soon to be proclaimed Sperrgebiet National Park (SNP) has been its most important impact in ensuring formal protection of portions of the SK. The imminent proclamation of the SNP will celebrate the efforts of SKEP in securing the protection of this area and its globally significant ecology, and ensuring that planning of infrastructure and activities within the park were informed by meaningful and accessible scientific information and stakeholder concerns.

Many opportunities exist to drive benefits for the ecosystem, as an effective foundation has been laid. These include the expansion of the protected area, awareness raising, engaging industry in the ecosystem, and supporting communities in the early stages of their new sustainable development ventures.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs:

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1: SKEP Namibia management unit (including steering body, and technical management body) in place to drive SKEP activities in Namibia.	
<i>1.1. Quarterly steering body meetings organised and attended reviewing progress on outputs</i>	Two Quarterly steering body meetings took place in Keetmanshoop and Aus
<i>1.2. Open SKEP regional office in Luderitz</i>	Namdeb have agreed to donate Ontanda centre in Kolmanskop to SKEP. A proposal is underway.
<i>1.3. Actively promote SKEP objectives through displaying posters, attending public meetings for developments in the succulent Karoo.</i>	Integrated conservation and development plan for the Namibian component of a potential transfrontier conservation area along the lower orange river 3 progress meetings has been attended in Windhoek .

Output 2: Capacity building mechanisms created for the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of community projects in the succulent Karoo	
<i>2.1. 2 x training events with communities on sustainable livelihood and development opportunities (March and September)</i>	Training with communities on sustainable livelihood and development opportunities took place in Aus.
<i>2.2. 1 x training event for SKEP staff and sub-grantees (January)</i>	Training on facilitation, finance & project management were given to SKEP staff and sub-grantees. Pictures, proceeding and reports available on request from CI (Cape Town) and SKEP offices.
<i>2.3. Capacity Building for Project Coordinator</i>	Not done. Approval of proposal and grant were done after registrations. Coordinator registered for short courses.
Output 3: Small grants programme to fund sustainable rural livelihoods projects and prioritised scientific gap-filling research operational and prioritized.	
<i>3.1. Visioning excercise to determine sustainable priority projects (February)</i>	Visioning excercise done with communities in SK region (Namibia) to determine sustainable priority projects of which some were approved and completed. Pictures and sub-grantee reports available from SKEP offices.
<i>3.2. Potential projects reviewed and 4 approved by steercom for funding (March)</i>	Potential projects reviewed and 4 approved. Progress and completion reports available from SKEP and sub grantees offices.
<i>3.3. 4 Contracts awarded (April)</i>	2 contracts awarded (November)
<i>3.4. Grant ceremony with official handover of funding (April)</i>	official handover of funding took place. Pictures available from ASKEP office.
<i>3.5. Evaluate and report on progress of grant use (June and December)</i>	Progress monitoring and evaluation meetings took place June and December 2008.evaluation reports and impact assessment report and completed booklet available from SKEP secretariat.
Output 4: Support to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to implement their conservation objectives in the Sperrgebiet National Park.	
<i>4.1. Implement "event book" monitoring system in the Sperrgebiet National Park (June)</i>	event book" monitoring system in the Sperrgebiet National Park effectively implemented. Reports available from MET Sperrgebiet offices (Trygve Cooper).
<i>4.2. Train MET staff on "event book" monitoring system in the Sperrgebiet National Park (June)</i>	MET staff trained on the event book monitoring system in the SNP. Reports available from MET Sperrgebiet offices (Trygve Cooper).

4.3. Fund critical operational requirements of the Sperrgebiet National Park wardens (as required)	critical operational requirements of the Sperrgebiet National Park wardens funded and appreciated. See MET quarterly reports. Available on request.
4.4. Produce interpretive material for Sperrgebiet National Park info centre. (1 x flyer, 4 posters)(October)	Interpretive materials for Sperrgebiet National Park info centre have been produced. Flyer and posters have been printed.
4.5. Awareness support to MET on launch of Sperrgebiet National Park (February)	Production of hand bags with the theme (Sperrgebiet- Unlocking the forbidden wilderness) for the launch and 5 logos (CEPF, CI, NNF, SKEP, MET) embroidered on. Radio talks, park talks, media releases, Good morning Namibia on NBC TV done and still in progress. Launch of the SNP only on 06 February 2009. Media clips will be available from SKEP after the event.
Output 5: Gaps in knowledge of the succulent Karoo ecology identified, prioritised, and interest solicited with academic research institutions for filling these gaps.	
5.1. 1 x workshop with South African and Namibian scientists and students to identify and agree on information gaps (July)	1 x workshop with South African (Richtersveld) and Namibian communities were done on information gaps, understanding medicinal plants and how to link culture and tourism. Proceedings and pictures available from SKEP office.
5.2. Produce a list of research gaps (August)	list of research gaps available from the above mentioned workshop
5.3. Provide logistical support for research projects (throughout) Tents, basic camping facilities and limited transport	GPS, cameras and other equipments and transport provided on the Insects research in SNP. See reports of Enviro-Consrtiun and the National museum. Contact Ms. Tharina Bird (Arachnologist) for pictures and findings
Output 6: Generally improved awareness of the conservation objectives and functions of SKEP in Namibia.	
6.1. Organise succulent Karoo day in June 2008.	Booklet titled "My Garden of Eden" complete and launched at Diaz Primary School in Luderitz. The booklet is is compilation of poems from the various schools who participated in SK day poem competition in Aus.
6.2. Organise succulent Karoo Nama cultural festival in November 2008	Promoting the SK through culture, tourism and conservation festival took place in Keetmanshoop on the 6-7th November 2008.
6.3. Production and distribution of quarterly SKEP newsletter to relevant stakeholders.	Quarterly SKEP Produced and will be distributed to relevant stakeholders
6.4. 2 x media releases introducing the SKEP brand and objectives in the popular press. (June)(November)	SK day in Aus, Launch of the booklet titled My Garden captured and broadcasted on NBC

	20h00 news. Talks about SKEP on Radio 99. SKEP articles placed in various newspapers.
Output 7: Documented evaluation of the impact of SKEP phase 1 projects	
<i>7.1. 1 x Lesson learned workshop with grantees, steercom and relevant stakeholders (May)</i>	Strategic planning workshop based on lessons learned was conducted in Windhoek, and facilitated by Mr. Owen Henderson. Reports available from SKEP office
<i>7.2. Develop best practice guide based on proceedings of workshop and grantee reports (October)</i>	Best practice guides included in impact assessment report of both SKEP phases
<i>7.3. Impact Assessment study of SKEP Phase 1 projects (Jan)</i>	Impact Assessment report is available and is to be pasted on the NNF/SKEP website
<i>7.4. Attend CEPF/SKEP impact assessment workshop in Cape Town (April)</i>	CEPF lessons learnt and consultative Workshop in Cape Town attended in April. Proceedings available from SKEP S.A office.
<i>7.5. Attend Lessons learnt Biome Wide(on Best practices) workshop in South Africa</i>	Biome Lessons learnt workshop with South Africa postponed on request of South Africa counterparts. New dates to be announced.

Describe the success of the project in terms of delivering the intended outputs.

In overview, SKEP Namibia secretariat worked very hard to deliver the intended outputs. This range from organising events, workshops, meetings to engage the communities, government, politicians, scientists into the SKEP activities in the SK biome. Effective documentation of the SKEP impact in the SK biome. Effective management unit drive SKEP activities in Namibia. Improved awareness of conservation, capacity building mechanism created, effective support to the MET. Small grant programme effectively used to fund sustainable livelihoods projects and research projects.

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

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

Aus Town land management plan developed and endorsed. Sperrgebiet management plan developed and endorsed.

VI. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT

Describe any lessons learned during the various phases of the project. Consider lessons both for future projects, as well as for CEPF's future performance.

SKEP encouraged communities within the SK to submit proposals for projects which support the SKEP priorities in the area. The lack of capacity within the communities to express their ideas effectively in formal proposals for funding was problematic. Capacity building was embarked on by SKEP to assist communities in producing quality proposals which could attract local and international donor agencies.

Sound community proposals which made funding of projects possible.

Outputs catalyzed through the Process
 Capacitated communities with enhanced writing and business skills.

The actions of SKEP to understand the capacity needs within the communities, and identifying means to solve the problem made it possible for the capacity logjam to be removed.

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

Improving livelihoods while at the same time empowering and capacitating the communities in the SK to take ownership of their unique living landscape. Maintaining biodiversity is highly catalyzed by this.

Project Execution: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/failure)

Community and political buy-in, both at local and national government level.

VII. ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Date Received	Notes
Scorpion Zinc Mine	C	N\$ 25 000	October 2008	
GTZ	C	N\$15 000	November 2008	
		\$		
		\$		
		\$		
		\$		
		\$		
		\$		

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

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*
- B** *Complementary funding (Other donors contribute to partner organizations that are working on a project linked with this CEPF project)*
- C** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*

D *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Provide details of whether this project will continue in the future and if so, how any additional funding already secured or fundraising plans will help ensure its sustainability.

During the Promoting the Succulent Karoo through Culture and Tourism Festival it was suggested that the SKEP use the review report document and the strategy document to seek for long term funds to sustain the programme and the coordinating unit for the period 2009 – 2012. The possible suggested donors/or source of funding are the Fauna & Flora International which the Scorpion Zinc mine representative promised to help link SKEP to, UNDP - CPP, WWF, and NAMDEB scrap fund. The participants expressed a strong feeling for SKEP to continue beyond the CEPF funding.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

VIII. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. One way we do this is by making programmatic project documents available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these in our newsletter and other communications.

These documents are accessed frequently by other CEPF grantees, potential partners, and the wider conservation community.

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