

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Environmental & Rural Solutions
Project Title:	59303: Ongeluksnek Biodiversity Custodianship through Innovative 'People & Parks' Cooperation
Date of Report:	Feb 2014
Report Author and Contact Information	Nicky McLeod & Sissie Matela nicky@enviros.co.za and sissie@enviros.co.za

CEPF Region: MPAH

Strategic Direction: 2

Grant Amount: US\$ 217 429

Project Dates: Jan 2012 – Dec 2013

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

EASTERN CAPE PARKS & TOURISM AUTHORITY:

conservation custodian for protected area, mandate for expansion of area, and People & Parks programme. Has regular interaction with grantee, and assisted with facilitation and monitoring of daily activities, such as vulture hide establishment and alien clearing. Ensured alignment of project outcomes with Strategic management Plan for reserve.

MALOTI DRAKENSBERG TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION PROJECT:

co-ordination body for state authority conservation activities along the watershed: much of the highlands grasslands KBA falls within the MDTP zone. Assisted with planning, linkages, leveraging extra support and funding contributions e.g. materials for school outreach and vulture hide. Actively supported much of the facilitation and was a key roleplayer.

SANBI:

Assisted with some conceptual aspects as well as endorsing formation of UCPP from a national biodiversity roleplayer perspective.

CONSERVATION SA:

Provided support for institutional interactions, and some liaison with villages around protected area. Involved at project steering committee level, as well as being co-secretariat of the partnership establishment (UCPP).

DEDEAT:

provincial environmental competent authority, with biodiversity protection mandate. Involved in endorsing much of the project work, and participating at project steering committee level. Field officers often joined activities.

Conservation Impacts

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

Fostered improved community-authority partnerships which are leading to improved land custodianship, with a protected area as the biodiversity core, and which can be replicated in adjacent communal tenure areas across the Highlands Grasslands. Actively formed network of local, regional and national roleplayers with 20 year vision for the conservation of the Umzimvubu catchment.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

- Support for establishment of new Communal Property Association (Motseng CPA) to take ownership of 805ha adjacent to protected area, applying holistic landscape management tools such as revitalization of 'dohorhase' (traditional managed livestock herding system) for improved rangeland management and post-clearing alien plant control – draft model for replicability in surrounding communal tenure areas. Model makes use of cattle as part of landscape restoration toolbox.
- Target alien clearing exceeded by 170% (100ha became 270ha through developing new techniques)..
- 2,5 year DEA funded Natural Resource Management Land User Incentives project approved in conjunction with CSA to expand clearing and rangeland management efforts around protected area.
- Concept of horse-based catchment clearing teams taken up by adjacent implementer, and endorsed by National WfW after co-hosting site visit with national director:
- Establishing transfrontier conservation links with adjacent RAMSAR site in Lesotho to highlight strategic and international significance of Ongeluksnek area as upper catchment in threatened highlands grasslands.
- Vulture site development and monitoring links with BVTF, with extensive community outreach and monitoring support.
- Establishment of civil-society driven Umzimvubu Catchment Partnership Programme (UCPP) with 31 signatories to MoU, including State, Traditional Leadership, Local Authorities, NGOs and community organisations. First forum of its kind in the country, according to DWA, and requested to contribute to regional CMA (catchment management agency) formation.
- Intensive and positive collaboration between roleplayers, which scales up effectiveness of all actions, through learning exchanges and efficiency of operations.

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

- Improved stewardship of 14 000 hectares in the upper catchment zone, contributing to restored ecosystem integrity of the Highlands Grasslands corridor
- Removal of 30% of the alien plant coverage in the protected area with mechanisms in place for continued sustained management
- Improved long term livelihood opportunities for over 40 rural households through green jobs, grazing and tourism benefits.

Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

IMPACTS	PROGRESS	PENDING / CHALLENGES
Improved stewardship of 14 000 hectares in the upper catchment zone, contributing to restored ecosystem integrity of the Highlands Grasslands corridor	Extensive capacity building and partnerships developed to increase stewardship activities and effectiveness within and around protected area and across upper catchment, extending both south west and east towards KZN, learning from this project's experiences. Alien plant problem being tackled more effectively and vulture feeding and site management protocol in practice. Grazing plans being developed with all communities surrounding reserve Groundcover under cleared areas has improved through leaving shade trees and reseeding, reducing erodibility of grasslands in and around reserve.	Apart from areas cleared of alien plants, safe vulture feeding site and grazing plans being developed, demonstrable impacts are yet to be seen as these take several seasons to take effect. Runaway fires still a major problem within and around protected areas.
Removal of 30% of the alien plant coverage in the protected area with	270 ha of estimated 600ha of infestation under control through CEPF investment, but requires urgent follow up, to be undertaken by ECPTA.	Difficult bureaucracy with state and para-statal groups for uptake of innovative approaches within national

mechanisms in place for continued sustained management	Meetings facilitated between ECPTA and WFW for follow up maintenance. ERS will provide technical support and guidance to new reserve manager for alien clearing activities inside reserve.	structured programmes and annual cashflow allocations.
At least 40 households from villages represented on the Forum have increased income from project interventions	25 households have had direct income from green jobs (alien clearing teams), with 84 (including original 25 trained employees) now employed on new DEA NRM project for 2,5 years. Received financial literacy training to support prudent domestic finance management. Several households have invested in fencing for establishment of impressive home gardens.	Returns from livestock improvement efforts still to be realized once grazing plans and agric support arrangements are operational

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

- One signed PES agreement with clear benefits detailed
- One vulture restaurant and hide established with clear management strategy and carcass supply
- Protected area extended and fenced by 600 hectares with clear management agreement - at least 100 ha of infested grassland and trails cleared of alien infestation and restored
- Signed co-management agreement completed for custodianship of protected area •Stewardship agreement in place (for land use of non-proclaimed communal land surrounding reserve)
- At least 40 households from villages represented on the Forum have increased income from project interventions

Actual Progress Towards Short-term Impacts at Completion:

SHORT TERM IMPACTS	PROGRESS	PENDING / CHALLENGES
Protected area extended and fenced by 600 hectares with clear management agreement - at least 100 ha of infested grassland and trails cleared of alien infestation and restored	Reserve properties and boundary verified, including proposed 1200ha extension pending land claim resolution: Chief amenable, Claims Commission outcome still pending. 270ha alien infestation cleared with first follow up complete. Restoration commenced 45km trails mapped, 15km developed / protected	Process required by NEMPAA for proclamation to be applied once claim resolved. Requires extensive public consultation. Restoration of cleared areas requires ongoing skilled management by ECPTA Trails require maintenance, maps to be approved and produced by ECPTA.
One vulture restaurant and hide established with clear management strategy and carcass supply	Management protocol drafted, extensive awareness outreach done, ONR represented on Bearded Vulture Task Force. Hide site finalized, designed, approved by ECPTA, co-funding approved by MDTP, construction commenced (delayed by hiatus in reserve manager changeover)	Turnover of reserve staff hindered progress, Carcass supply opportunistic and erratic, making arrangements with MDTP for fund to support purchase of unproductive livestock from local villages
Signed co-management agreement completed for custodianship of protected area	Forum and Traditional council ready, pending outcome of land claim Awareness raising around custodianship for all villages around reserve, with Motseng as focus	Claim outcome will determine stakeholders for management.
One signed PES	No signed agreement: DEA has	PES models in SA still unconvincing.

agreement with clear benefits detailed	allocated 2 year funds to develop land user incentives for alien control in upper catchment. Partners working on water tariff options for Water Service Authorities but limited progress.	District Municipality as WSA has no profits as servicing largely indigent constituency.
Stewardship agreement in place (for land use of non-proclaimed communal land surrounding reserve)	Intensive land and livestock training and support for Motseng community provided, as first potential stewardship group on communal land in catchment. CPA deed being drafted to include custodianship terms e.g. agreed grazing plan, which will be endorsed against title deed. CPA deed drafted including basic stewardship clauses for group to take transfer of 800ha of land adjacent to reserve.	Bishop's letter confirming donation still awaited

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: 15 000 ha directly

Species Conserved: 2 endangered vulture species (Cape Griffin and Bearded Vulture), the latter being critically endangered. Provision of safe feeding site with management protocol, and establishment of a viewing hide.

Corridors Created:

Wider footprint of conservation awareness amongst villages around reserve buffer, leading to improved range management eventually leading to improved grasslands habitat corridor, and safer habitat for foraging vultures and grassland species.

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

- High staff turnover in Reserve, breaking continuity of efforts and investments
- Unresolved land claim restricts proclamation and co-management planning
- Complex social facilitation processes and limited support from Local Municipality
- Bureaucracy within state and parastatal authorities making turnaround and response and innovation a challenge
- Clinching certain outputs 100% without full support from necessary roleplayers

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Only positive ripples where outreach was further than expected, and responses more positive!

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. Expansion and improved management of 13 000ha Ongeluksnek Nature Reserve, and improved stewardship of 2000ha surrounding communal lands			
SPECIFIC PRODUCTS / DELIVERABLES	MAIN ACTIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS (PLANNED & UNFORESEEN)	Percent completed	SHORTFALLS, FAILURES & PLANNED FOLLOW UP ACTION
1.1. Border post relocation, or operational adjustment to reduce biodiversity impacts in reserve, for full activation within 4 years, endorsed by BCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written submission prepared and presentations made to BCOCC and NCC regarding border post relocation options. Site visit to border crossing and pass co-hosted with MDTP for BCC (Lesotho & SA), DEA and ECPTA. Relocation proposal endorsed by NCC and BCC, Proposal with national Department of Home Affairs for their endorsement and approval. Ongeluksnek was included in the national process that identified priority border posts for upgrade. 	90%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue pressure on Ministry (with MDTP) to endorse relocation proposal Support drafting of conditions and EMP for relocation activities to ensure limited disturbance to protected area and vulture site
1.2. Expand protected area by 600ha by December 2013, and resolve legal boundary of formal proclaimed protected area within Ongeluksnek Nature Reserve.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Properties verified as per original Transkei Nature Conservation Act with surveyor; area and boundary corrected, fence line tracked and verified for extensions and new fence presently being erected by ECPTA. Identified need to re-proclaim correct reserve property under NEMPAA once the land claim has been resolved. Discussions with DRD&LR (Land Affairs), ECPTA and Traditional Authority productive regarding inclusion of 1200 ha Drakenrock property presently owned by the SA Property Trust once the land claim by the Bakoena Traditional Council is resolved, as well as exchange of proposed Mariazell V for Tennyson property once Motseng land transfer is complete (see 1.4) 	80% 90%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain pressure on Land claims Commission for resolution of claim over reserve land and Drakenrock. Support ECPTA to compile and submit application for proclamation of extended area under NEMPAA.
1.3. Co-management agreement between land claimants and custodians signed within 1 year, with clear governance structure, and use and management policy for protected area and buffer zone formalized.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No progress on land claim due to delays at national level, so no co-management agreement progress. Support for Chief Lebenya, Reserve Liaison Forum members and Motseng leadership to increase capacity and awareness of community representatives for involvement in conservation and custodianship activities. Bakoena TC Chief, and Motseng CPA chairperson and several members of liaison forum attended national Land reform and Biodiversity Workshop with DRD&LR, where they made a short presentation on their situation and progress. 	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution of land claim is beyond scope of project team: impacting on finalization of management agreements, pending outcome of claim Regular updates are held with the Chief. Continue pressure on Land Claims Commission for resolution Set aside some project funds from exchange gains to support ECPTA when claim finalized
1.4. Stewardship agreements in place guiding management of rangelands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 805ha land parcel adjacent to the reserve being secured for Motseng community (surveyed, ready for transfer of title), with DRD&LR supporting CPA establishment. CPA deed founded on stewardship principles through community mobilization and capacity building 	75%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete CPA registration with DRD&LR, once small faction dispute resolved Transfer surveyed property to Motseng CPA with stewardship endorsement on title deed

<p>in conservancy / buffer zone to reduce degradation and increase livelihood returns: improved management practices agreed to on 1000ha communal rangeland adjacent to reserve to extend restoration and protection of ecosystem services in reserve buffer zone, and increase grazing value.</p>	<p>process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 Livestock support and range management workshops held to date, and content includes ensuring that the community understands their responsibility as neighbours to a protected area. Community willing to start herding their cattle together as tool for land rehabilitation, and develop a model to demonstrate to the protected area authorities, to negotiate controlled grazing access as fire management tool inside reserve. • Use of cattle for restoration of degraded areas (post alien clearing and fire) commenced but needs several seasons for effects to show • Ecoranger concept has been introduced and expansion planned to the rest of ward 14 around PA: intro sessions held with villages. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete stewardship support process based on grazing plan and restoration of degraded areas • Complete model of community range management and publish
--	--	--	--

Comment [U1]: Not sure what you wanted to say here.

Component 2.

Ecotourism attractions and activities which protect biodiversity, are established and promoted within 2 years, including a vulture hide and restaurant, plus a network of mapped and marked hiking trails, with clear opportunities identified for involving local people in service provision.

SPECIFIC PRODUCTS / DELIVERABLES	MAIN ACTIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS (PLANNED & UNFORESEEN)		SHORTFALLS, FAILURES & PLANNED FOLLOW UP ACTION
<p>2.1. Simple vulture hide and restaurant completed within 18 months, with parking, access, educational materials and signage, as well as management and carcass supply policy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulture feeding site selected and monitored for 12 months concurrent with establishing carcass supply and management protocol . Safe supply with community finalized with small fund form gains set up to compensate owners for damaged or dead animals. • Hide location and design endorsed by relevant support groups (BVTF, EWT BoPWG). Co-funding for hide construction sourced via ECPTA and MDTP and construction commenced Workshops with commercial farmers held to raise awareness about problems associated with veterinary drugs – several farmers donating safe carcasses when available. • Assisted MDTP with translation of BV awareness posters and educational material. Widely distributed. • Hosted quarterly meeting of Bearded Vulture Task Force, and Ongeluksnek area now well represented as key roleplayer on BVTF, with latter including this area in annual helicopter based nesting survey. • Had vulture awareness and count day with 6 local schools. MDTP provided hats and t-shirts for all participants. Good DEDEAT support. 	<p>80%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of hide hindered by high turnover of reserve staff (manager, conservator, senior rangers) who were driving process on ground in conjunction with ERS and MDTP support. • Regular sourcing of carcasses (including collection) still challenging – needs constant liaison with farmers and immediate response for collection

<p>2.2. Development of marked trail network for hiking, horse riding and mountain biking totaling at least 20km completed by end of second year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft trail network verified and extended with two new trails in Tsethe valley identified for hiking and mountain bikes: GPS tracked and tested with volunteers, added to database of trails. Basic map produced for use by visitors. • Trails information supplied to CEO via former manager. Copies provided at reserve for visitors. • Several efforts made to plan with Commercial section of ECPTA, along with maps and website links, but no follow up received. 	<p>70%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disappointing lack of support and interest for Ongeluksnek from commercial section of ECPTA. • Push development of Transfrontier Conservation area to give reserve status it deserves! • Push production of user friendly updated activities brochure by Commercial section
<p>2.3 Operational framework for involvement of local people in ecotourism-related service provision endorsed by EC Parks & Tourism Agency, and incorporated into their employment policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catering for visitors at the lodge is done by the local residents and some of the controls such as the lodge booking have been handed to the local staff. • Local people have been sending out alerts on injured animals to make sure that they are collected for the vulture feeding site. • Local guesthouse in Matat actively marketing reserve as local must-do attraction 	<p>40%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The high management and staff turnover at the reserve is a big concern as it is affecting finalisation, implementation and continuity of effective plans. • Skills audit still to be undertaken based on servicing requirements for reserve. • Meeting with commercial section set for early March 2014 to set up framework
<p>2.4. Marketing channels for nature reserve established with at least 3 domestic operators, an interactive website/blog and local booking management office system, by penultimate quarter of project cycle.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reserve membership with Route56Matat Tourism Association revived, supported hosting of visit by tourism journalist, with insert in national publication. • Commercial section responded positively to requests for specials to promote lodge and bushcamp, and occupancy rates up for 2013. • Website linking with other initiatives such as Nine Peaks Challenge, resulting in increased queries. Has increased profile of reserve as a base for accessing KwaDuma peak, highest in EC, south of reserve • Ongeluksnek website revitalized by Friends of ONR, as not yet taken up by ECPTA Commercial section 	<p>60%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECPTA reservations office in East London only will continue to be a problem – still motivating for local guesthouse to additional become booking office
<p>Component 3. Improved management of protected area, with 100ha of the uppermost catchment cleared of alien invasive plants, contributing to biodiversity and ecosystem function restoration. Headwaters of all streams in difficult access zones within protected area will be cleared of alien infestation within 2 years. Manual clearing approach to be followed with no herbicide application.</p>			

Comment [U2]: Do you know by what margin?

<p>3.1. Accurate mapping produced detailing extent of degradation and alien infestation in and around protected area in upper catchment quinary, by second quarter of project (month 6), to enable long term clearing plan and accurate budgeting for further fund raising for clearing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed maps produced after detailed digitizing and random ground truthing with GPS and ecology specialist • Clearing plan developed for reserve, and attempts to link with state allocated WfW implementer IDT made through several discussion sessions to collaborate on mapping and clearing by local contractors in reserve • Support for reserve and regional manager provided through linking with regional WfW programme for improved collaboration. 	<p>95%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearing methodology deployed by ERS is different from that used by WfW contractors, and efforts made to standardise methods for easy monitoring and follow-up were partially successful. • Technical effectiveness of long term WfW implementer is questioned, with some areas worse off than before. Increase efforts to improve approach..
<p>3.2. At least 100ha of difficult access upper catchment zone within protected area cleared of alien vegetation infestation, through training and employment of 24 local people, who will be equipped to continue work with further funding to be raised beyond this phase. This will include fostering of stewardship approach for clearing teams as small enterprises who can enter into potential PES agreements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 270 ha of upper catchment cleared with follow up, including reseeding of burnt areas, by 25 local people trained in manual clearing techniques and safe herbicide use for follow up foliar spraying • These 25 trained people have been absorbed into new DEA funded NRM programme ('new look' WfW) for 2.5 years, many as team leaders and supervisors. • Workers trained in basic domestic financial literacy to assist with most effective use of green jobs income. Many have bought livestock, completed homestead construction and started up small enterprises in the village based on livestock production. 	<p>100%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targets were exceeded due to combination of good work ethic by the local people and diligent monitoring. • Follow-up will be very important for at least the next two to three years to ensure that re-infestation does not take place. • Regular meeting were held with the reserve forum to keep them informed as the reserve management and staff will have to take up a lot of the follow-up responsibilities.
<p>3.3. Lessons from clearing activities in challenging access communal areas consolidated into paper for publication, including possible income generation options for biomass processing, and shared with Working for Water programme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National WfW director hosted on horseback visit to area in collaboration with FireWise, a UCPP partner implementing alien clearing in adjacent ward 13, with whom lessons are shared and for whom ERS now provides an office base and support for their area managers and horse teams. • Several presentations made to peers, WfW regional office and UCPP partners regarding improved methods and approaches. Paper drafted. Horseback based team concept taken up by FireWise and endorsed by WfW as part of next funded phase currently underway. • Biomass buyer sourced and negotiations held but no commitment yet. • ERS and UKZN produced a paper for publication on wattle as a paradox species in the communal landscape. • Basic wattle clearing induction manual drafted • Training and awareness provided for local DEAEET officers and communities in eastern end of catchment 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete basic induction manual for communities on control of alien spread through woodlot management and ecoranger deployment. • Provide training alien control to DEDEAT officers and target communities in catchment in response to recent requests • Pursue biomass buyers and support community leaders to reach fair supply agreements. • Complete and circulate to relevant target groups best practise restoration paper from various presentation material sources and photographs

who want to explore stewardship without dependance on state funding.

Component 4.

Institutional and PES trade arrangements formalised by end of project cycle, for sustainable upper catchment conservation and expansion of target area in wider corridor.

<p>4.1. Formal PES agreements finalized between custodians of target area/sellers (upper catchment in reserve area) and resource buyers, by March 2013.</p>	<p>Not achieved....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.5 year WfW contract secured for area around reserve, and ECPTA signing MoU with WfW to take on follow-up inside reserve. • UCPP partners (SANBI, CSA) engaging with DWA National Water Resource strategy and tariff structure for Water Service Authorities. • 	<p>25%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alfred Nzo District has a largely indigent constituency who receive free basic services with limited tariff returns to contribute to PES system. • "Working for" programmes are a good interim measure for payment for upstream ecological services • Continue to develop models for catchment restoration which are phased in terms of "working for" inputs graduating to "returns from productivity on healthy land" • Explore INR's design tools matrix to assess other possible incentives, and test.
<p>4.2. Comprehensive communal land stewardship model consolidated and shared through relevant networks, based on learnings from this initiative, by end of this two year project cycle, i.e. September 2013.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good progress at Motseng: described in 1.4 earlier • Model being consolidated in collaboration with CSA, EWT, INR and WESSA. • Representation on EC Stewardship Forum with next meeting to be hosted in Matatiele; presentation made at East London meeting in mid 2013 on communal custodianship challenges and lessons • Sharing with UCPP on progress and learnings through field visits and presentations • HLLM and ecoranger concept spreading beyond Motseng in collaboration with CSA under DEA funded programme, as well as Ntenetyana dam clearing project continued by LIMA on work started by ERS with District Municipality 	<p>85%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete model compilation and share with relevant networks, especially ECPTA and DEDEAT who have stewardship mandates
<p>4.3. Catchment co-ordination task team representing key stakeholders is established and endorsed by relevant authorities and stakeholders by September 2013, with sound policy guidelines for planners, and resourcing to champion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hugely successful and acclaimed forum established, with MoU signed by 30 partners including DWA, DEDEAT and local authorities, with quarterly meetings. Driven in partnership with CSA. Hailed by DWA as first of its kind and a model for CMA development, • Neighbouring Districts requesting assistance with applying same model in their areas. • Links with Lesotho Transfrontier project have resulted in chances to comment on catchment management plans for adjacent Letsie alpine endemic area in Lesotho, and formation of transfrontier liaison forum with the reserve as the central focus, and potential expansion along alpine area into RAMSAR site in Lesotho as transfrontier conservation 	<p>100%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange next meeting for March 2014 in Matatiele, including DWA discussion on CMA development on agenda, as well as updates form all members. • Consolidate learnings on forum establishment and share with relevant networks • Continue to monitor pertinent issues, such as Umzimvubu dam, CMA establishment, Water Resource Act amendments, etc and share with members to support advocacy efforts.

next phase of project beyond this two year period.	corridor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UCPP meetings held quarterly, ERS acting as secretariat to CSA chairperson elected in June 2013. Proceedings and network information circulated to all members. 		
Component 5. Prepare, adhere to and submit cash management procedures and records			
5.1. Tasks based on components 2 and 3 clearly costed, indicating persondays, areas and time frames to allow for cashflow projection and timeous payment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done and completed. Records in office 	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action required
5.2. All work allocated on tasked-based contracts, with signature by team supervisor regarding rates and deliverables per task	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete, with maps and signed contracts on file 	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action required
5.3. Completed tasks inspected by project co-ordinator / reserve manager and/or clearing consultant within 7 days of completion notification by team supervisors. Tasks signed of if satisfactory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site inspections carried out regularly by project manager, involving manager and conservator when available. Complete, records on file More than 100ha completed: 270ha done based on different work approach based on restoration rather than clearing. 	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action required on this deliverable, but ERS will continue to monitor cleared areas for effectiveness, and make recommendations through reserve manager for appropriate follow up by state appointed teams.
5.4. All labour related payments timeously (within 14 days of task completion approval) paid out to workers appointed to assist trail maintenance and alien plant clearing activities, with original dockets signed by all wage recipients and filed at ERS office (see activities 5.1 to 5.4 for details).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracts signed and all payments were made on time very minor labour issues were addressed on time without any disruption to the work. All documents on record, audit complete and approved 	100%	24 of the people employed under the programme are now deployed by the DEA NRM programme, and a large proportion of them as supervisors, team leaders and Health and Safety Officers. They had to write aptitude tests and they qualified with exceptional scores compared to new employees not previously involved in the project, indicating capacity increase based on involvement.

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

Yes – see above. Mainly related to unresolved land claim, and awaiting Departmental processes to be completed.

PES agreement also frankly a failure if one views it in the strict sense of the word, but successful if one views the “working for” programmes as a form of PES: 2,5 year programme secured for funding alien clearing and rangeland restoration using many of the lessons gained from this CEPF supported initiative.

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

- Vulture site management protocol (methodology)
- Various Presentations on best practice approaches to catchment restoration and alien clearing and grassland restoration (PPT format)
- Wattle paradox paper compiled with University of KZN
- Map of corrected properties comprising protected area of Ongeluksnek/Malekhalonyane nature reserve
- Tool for effective community mobilization for range improvement

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)

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

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

Program components that rely heavily on inputs from state controlled entities are quite difficult to manage and have contributed to the non-completion of some of the expected deliverables. Issues such as unresolved land claims and decisions on the relocation of the border post from inside the protected area are key to the achievement of the overall goal.

Partnerships are exponential if well maintained! A little sweat and some impetus, plus active collaboration creates positive feedback loops and a very efficient operational environment.

Reserve staff have been critical to the implementation: the reserve managers and administrator have all been extremely co-operative, but turnover of the former has resulted in pauses in progress when processes have to commence again from scratch with new personnel. The regional manager has been a constant and supportive factor, but has a huge number of reserves to support and consequently cannot always be available to resolve issues or attend planning meetings.

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
MDTP	A	US\$ 7 000	Contribute to establishment of vulture hide in reserve
DEA	C	US\$ 850 000	Alien clearing and range management in grasslands

**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.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

1. The pending land claim which affects the reserve and much of the surrounding area has still not been resolved, which has prevented several outcomes from being completed, due to moratorium on change of status on any state land under claim. However, all the necessary steps have been taken to ensure that once the claim is resolved, action can commence immediately by ECPTA staff with support from ERS and Friends of Ongeluksnek.
2. An unforeseen factor, which constitutes an ongoing risk, is the turnover of reserve and ECPTA staff. The period of the project saw 3 reserve managers, with dismissal of two field rangers who had been crucial components of the vulture site management. The reserve is remote, and it appears that staff turnover will remain a feature, prompting the need for some feature of constancy to be supported, such as the neighbouring communities and the liaison forum. ERS staff have been working with the reserve and adjacent communities since 1998, and while the dynamic has changed significantly, certain of the local role players have remained constant. The passing on of institutional memory, which is at risk of being lost, is essential, and the role of constant local role players all the more important.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

No safeguard issues have arisen, other than some small internal quibbles in the Motseng community which contributed to delay in formulating stewardship agreements for the new CPA. These are being amicably resolved, and have been 'blessings in disguise' as they have raised

potential future stumbling blocks which are now flagged and strategies discussed to address them. Has led to huge increase in local co-operation between community members and leadership.

The unresolved land claim situation is beyond influence, but has huge social influence...

Additional Comments/Recommendations

HIGHLIGHTS

- Support for establishment of new Communal Property Association (Motseng CPA) to take ownership of 805 ha adjacent to protected area, applying holistic landscape management tools such as revitalization of 'maboella' (traditional managed livestock herding system) for improved rangeland management and post-clearing alien plant control – draft model for replicability in surrounding communal tenure areas. Model makes use of cattle as part of landscape restoration toolbox.

- Target alien clearing exceeded by 170% (100 ha became 270 ha through developing new techniques)

- Concept of horse-based catchment clearing teams taken up by adjacent implementer, and endorsed by National WfW after co-hosting site visit with national director: 2,5 year DEA funded Natural Resource Management project approved in conjunction with CSA to expand clearing and rangeland management efforts.

- Establishing transfrontier conservation links with adjacent RAMSAR site in Lesotho to highlight strategic and international significance of Ongeluksnek area as upper catchment in threatened highlands grasslands.

- Vulture site development and monitoring links with BVTF, with extensive community outreach and monitoring support.

- Establishment of civil-society driven Umzimvubu Catchment Partnership Programme (UCPP) with 29 signatories to MoU, including State, Traditional Leadership, Local Authorities, NGOs and community organisations. First forum of its kind in the country, according to DWA, who is looking to the forum as a potential role model for the CMA (catchment management agency)

- Intensive and positive collaboration between roleplayers, which scales up effectiveness of all actions across upper catchment grasslands.

The opportunity created by this CEPF support has unlocked an infinite network, and opened a myriad doors and channels, resulting in a major increase in collaborative focus and efforts in the highlands grasslands and profiling of the ecological importance of the catchment to the social fabric of Umzimvubu river basin. Institutional and authority response is noticeably growing.

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:

Name: Nicky McLeod

Organization name: Environmental & Rural Solutions (ERS)

Mailing address: P.O. Box 14, Matatiele, 4730

Tel: +27 39 737 4849

Fax: +27 39 737 4892

E-mail: nicky@enviros.co.za

*****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

January 2012 – December 2013

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.	yes	12 400	12 400	Ongeluksnek / Malekhalonyane Nature Reserve
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	yes	800	2800	Motseng Communal Property Association (800ha) plus grazing plans under communal stewardship scheme in surrounding 2000 ha
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	15 200	20 000	In immediate vicinity of nature reserve buffer, as well as wider area across ward 14 / Thaba Chicha area with consequent DEA funded range restoration project
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	yes	800	800	Motseng communal property area, through stewardship workshops to build on traditional knowledge of range management and landcare, and find more co-operative land management approaches
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	yes	3	3	3 village areas, through employment on alien clearing projects, as well as improved communal grazing planning, which is still to manifest returns

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following 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													
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists/nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Increased Income due to:			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	
									Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities										Payment for environmental services
Motseng		X	X				X			X	X								X	X	
Moiketsi		X	X				X			X	X								X		
Letlapeng		X	X				X			X	X								X		
Total																					
If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit:																					