CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Jonathan Colville

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Conservation Priorities for Insects of the Kamiesberg Uplands

Implementation Partners for This Project:

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): July 1, 2005 - March 31, 2006

Date of Report (month/year): May 2006

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

Conservation priorities for insects of the Kamiesberg Uplands is a small project which forms part of a larger Kamiesberg Uplands conservation initiative. The project collected insect data for inclusion, with other data (e.g. plant survey data) in a fine scale conservation plan for the Kamiesberg Uplands. Although there is considerable endemism for many insect groups at a high taxonomic level (often family), and many higher level insect taxa have their greatest adaptive radiation in the Succulent Karoo, insects have been generally underrepresented in conservation planning within the Succulent karoo. It is unfortunate that this potentially large dataset is all but ignored in profiles of the Succulent Karoo, where faunal endemism and species richness is dominated by insects. This projected hoped to incorporate insect data in identifying conservation priorities, and to increase awareness of the rich insect diversity associated with the Succulent karoo.

III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

The main objective of this project was to assemble baseline data on the composition, distribution, spatial habitat requirements and conservation status of the insect fauna of the Kamiesberg Uplands.

2. Did the objectives of your project change during implementation? If so, please explain why and how.

The overall objectives remained unchanged throughout the project.

3. How was your project successful in achieving the expected objectives?

The project was successful in that a large amount of interesting and new information has been assembled on the insect fauna of the Kamiesberg Uplands. Many new insect species were discovered on the Kamiesberg Uplands. A checklist of the endemic and near endemic insects of the Kamiesberg Uplands was compiled. Furthermore, exploration of the high altitude, isolated

fynbos remnants, resulted in the exciting discovery of the presence of two ancient Gondwanan insect groups.

4. Did your team experience any disappointments or failures during implementation? If so, please explain and comment on how the team addressed these disappointments and/or failures.

Unfortunately the project was unable to implement the training and monitoring component involving park rangers from the Namaqua National Park. This component of the project coincided with a change in personnel at the Namaqua National Park and we were unable to coordinate the starting of this component of the project. However, we were able to enlist the help of two local land owners in the year-round monitoring (of emergence times) and collection of targeted insect groups. This relationship has already proved fruitful as several interesting insect species, with new records of emergence times, have been collected by these land owners.

5. Describe any positive or negative lessons learned from this project that would be useful to share with other organizations interested in implementing a similar project.

Negative lessons learnt from this project relate to the long time frame required to obtain identifications of insect species. Specialist insect taxonomists for the many different groups of insects are scattered throughout the world. Not only are many insect groups very speciose, but their taxonomy is based on obscure characters requiring a highly trained eye, and detailed microscope work. Thus insect identification can take an extended amount of time and should be factored into the project time-frame. However, a positive lesson learnt from this experience has been the willingness and enthusiasm, displayed by both South African and international taxonomists, in their efforts to help identify, and provide information about the insects that this project collected from the Kamiesberg Uplands.

6. Describe any follow-up activities related to this project.

Several of the new species of insect found during the project will be described in scientific papers by the various specialist taxonomists. A short scientific paper will be written to highlight the find of Gondwanan insect elements as far north as the Kamiesberg Uplands, in the Succulent karoo. A follow up field trip is planned this year to try and locate an extremely rare and spectacular species of Lacewing (last collected in 1930, and only known from the Kamiesberg), which is thought to have gone extinct due to habitat loss. Additional information on the type locality was located during the current project, and it is hoped that this species will once again be found.

7. Please provide any additional information to assist CEPF in understanding any other aspects of your completed project.

IV. 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	Notes

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.

V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In general, there is a need to increase awareness of the important contribution of the insect biodiversity component of the Succulent Karoo. Insect research in the Succulent karoo is mostly restricted to the charismatic pollinator groups. Furthermore, for many insect groups in the Succulent karoo, specimen collection records indicate a bias towards old collection dates of thirty years or older. There is an urgent need to try and increase our knowledge of this important biodiversity component. I strongly recommend that future requests for baseline funding for research on insect profiles of the Succulent karoo be supported.

I wish to thank CEPF for their support and guidance during the project. I would also like to thank the following people for assistance in the field and/or help with insect identifications: Anthony Roberts, Peter Bradshaw, Tony Brinkman, Dr Mike Picker, Dr Jonathan Ball, Belinda Day, Dr David Barraclough, Dr Ferdy C. de Moor, Holger Dombrow, Dr Lorenzo Prendini, Dr Greg Edgecombe, and Prof. Peter Cranston.

VI. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF aims to increase sharing of experiences, lessons learned and results among our grant recipients and the wider conservation and donor communities. One way we do this is by making the text of final project completion reports available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these reports in our newsletter and other communications. Please indicate whether you would agree to publicly sharing your final project report with others in this way.
Yes __**YES**
No _____

If yes, please also complete the following:

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