

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

Assessment of the Wildlands Response to the CEPF Working Group Request for Clarification on the Regional Implementation Team proposal for the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Biodiversity Hotspot

7 July 2010

Background

On 18 June 2010, the CEPF Working Group met to review proposals submitted by the Wildlands Conservation Trust (Wildlands) to serve as the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Biodiversity Hotspot. The Working Group instructed the CEPF Secretariat to seek clarification from Wildlands on three questions that emerged during the review of their proposal. This memo responds to the Working Group's request and provides an assessment of Wildlands' response. The memo is accompanied by two new documents submitted by Wildlands in response to the Working Groups' inquiry.

The Secretariat contacted Wildlands on 21 June 2010, and Wildlands submitted a response on 2 July 2010.

Assessment of Wildlands Response

Request number 1: Provide the CV for Ms. Nobuhle Buthelezi, proposed project administrator.

Wildlands proposal of 13 May 2010 named Ms. Buthelezi as the full-time project administrator, but did not include her résumé. As she is the only person proposed at full-time level of effort, the Working Group was unable to adequately assess her qualifications, given the importance of her job.

Wildlands response

Wildlands has replied by removing Ms. Buthelezi's name from consideration and providing, as an alternative, Mr. David Gilroy. Mr. Gilroy's résumé is included with this memo.

CEPF assessment

The Secretariat has reviewed Mr. Gilroy's résumé and, based on his academic background and professional experience, considers him to be a suitable candidate to fill this position.

Request number 2: Provide more details on Wildlands' history of receiving grants, contracts, and other funding from bilateral and multilateral development organizations such as those represented by CEPF.

The Wildlands application of 13 May 2010, including its CEPF Grant Writer file, supplemental proposal file, and corporate brochures and financial documents show the organization to be well-managed and fully capable of implementing a grant program of similar size, scope, and

complexity as that required of the Regional Implementation Team. While recognizing this, the Working Group requested further information on Wildlands' history of working with bilateral and multilateral donor funds.

Wildlands response

Wildlands has replied by updating its supplemental prose proposal file, included with this memo. Specifically, Wildlands has updated its discussion of Institutional Experience (see pages 2-3 in Wildlands –RIT Proposal – 2 July 2010.pdf file) with a brief table and explanatory text.

CEPF assessment

Since 2007, Wildlands has received \$431,000 in grants from the Danish International Development Agency, the European Union (via a sub-grant from Gijima, a South African communications technology company), and the GEF (via the UNDP) to conduct work promoting livelihoods in Maputaland, the “greening” of Durban, and community-based natural resources management. Further, given that Wildlands was founded in 1988, manages a trust of \$7 million, and implements a project portfolio that was in excess of \$2 million in 2009, and given that the organization has undergone satisfactory audits from Price Waterhouse Coopers, the Secretariat considers the organization readily capable of serving as the Regional Implementation Team.

Request number 3: Provide further discussion on the options that Wildlands considered for conducting RIT functions in Mozambique and why it determined that the structure/approach it ultimately proposed represents the best value to CEPF.

The Wildlands proposal of 13 May 2010 includes a staffing approach with a part-time independent consultant as the Mozambique liaison. The Working Group expressed concern that this would not be sufficient, or that an alternative structure with a partner organization in Mozambique might be more appropriate.

Wildlands response

Wildlands has replied by updating its supplemental prose proposal file (Wildlands – RIT Proposal – 2 July 2010.pdf). Specifically, Wildlands has updated its Project Rationale and Approach (see pages 5-7 in the attached file) and Management Systems and Approach (page 10 in the above mentioned file) to explain how its proposed structure will achieve CEPF goals in Mozambique.

CEPF assessment

Wildlands has explained that the limited budget has precluded it from creating a partnership with a Mozambique-based civil society organization. It further explains that the actual work demands in Mozambique, where only three prioritized key biodiversity areas are located, allows for a less intensive staffing/organization structure. Specifically, Wildlands discusses how the proposed liaison and project team leader will be able to address the five major elements of the logical framework in Mozambique: coordinating and communicating CEPF investment; soliciting, reviewing, and evaluating proposals; providing monitoring and evaluation of individual grants and the overall portfolio; managing a small grants program; and assisting civil society groups in designing, implementing, and replicating conservation activities.

Wildlands also demonstrates an understanding of the potential challenges of transferring funds from a South African bank account to organizations in Swaziland and Mozambique.

The Secretariat considers this response as adequate and appropriate given the funding limitations for the Regional Implementation Team.

Overall CEPF Assessment of Wildlands Response

Wildlands has prepared a thorough response to the Working Group's concerns. Prior to executing a grant agreement, the Secretariat expects to negotiate with Wildlands regarding its logical framework, performance tracker, scopes of work for individual personnel, and its detailed budget. In so doing, the Secretariat expects that there will be further elaboration on how Wildlands will best engage organizations in Mozambique and Swaziland, as well.