

Annual Portfolio Overview: Cape Floristic Region

November 2009

Introduction

The Cape Floristic Region is home to the greatest non-tropical concentration of higher plant species in the world. Over two thirds of the region's 9,000 species of plants are endemic to this biodiversity hotspot. Hugging the coastline along the far southwestern tip of the African continent, this 78,555-square-kilometer hotspot lies entirely within South Africa. Given its small size, it is remarkable for containing 3 percent of the world's plant species. However, less than 20 percent of the land area remains undisturbed from alien species or degradation.

The Cape Floristic Region also boasts considerable diversity and endemism among its fauna, with, for example, more than 55 percent of the 44 frog taxa and 16 of 19 species of freshwater fishes being endemic. Invertebrate diversity is noteworthy as well. Of the 234 species of butterfly in the region, 72 are endemic. The hotspot also hosts a remarkable assemblage and diversity of earthworms.

The greatest threat to biodiversity in the Cape Floristic Region is expansion of agricultural and urban land use. Agricultural land use has consumed 26 percent of the region and has devastated lowland areas. The invasion of alien species is the second greatest threat, with as much as 70 percent of the remaining natural vegetation covered by low-density or scattered patches of alien plants. Additional threats include lack of a coordinated approach to conservation planning, fragmented legal and institutional frameworks, insufficient technical capacity, and lack of public involvement in conservation. The last factor is particularly important, as more than 80 percent of the Cape Floristic Region is held by private or communal landowners.

At the start of investment in 2002, CEPF entered an important funding niche by focusing on NGO and private sector participation. CEPF supported innovative mechanisms and projects that served as models for the future. This included support for the establishment, expansion and improved management of biodiversity corridors, the involvement of civil society in corridor conservation, and improvement of the institutional environment promoting conservation. By the completion of the initial five-year investment, CEPF had contributed substantially to the creation of new protected areas, expansion of existing protected areas and improved land management in protected areas, production landscapes and on private land. A much larger constituency is now participating in biodiversity conservation, as represented by the Cape Action for People and the Environment Programme (C.A.P.E.). Regular conferences, forums, workshops, meetings, announcements and a variety of governance structures function to keep the C.A.P.E. community connected, and continue to raise awareness and promote learning and capacity building across the region.

At the same time, there are areas where more work is needed. Important initiatives begun by CEPF and C.A.P.E. are not yet financially sustainable; they need additional assistance to ensure they remain on sound footing. Further, insufficient capacity among government agencies and civil society continues to impede conservation work. Involvement of various sectors, specifically the business sector, has commenced, but must be stronger to achieve conservation objectives. These factors threaten the long term success of conservation efforts, and addressing them therefore remains a focus for CEPF.

Niche for CEPF Investment

Overview

The ecosystem profile for the region was formally approved in December 2001, and over the subsequent five years, through December 2006, CEPF awarded 65 grants for close to \$6 million. The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) served as the manager of the coordination unit for the CEPF portfolio. The five-year assessment report was completed in April 2007, and as of August 2009, all initial-period grant activities were complete, with only five grants remaining in administrative close-out procedures. As described further below, CEPF has now moved the Cape Floristic Region into a phase of consolidation grants, with nine grants for a total of approximately \$1.6 million running from July 2008 through September 2011.

The consolidation grants fall within six investment priorities, which themselves build on the strategic directions identified in the 2001 ecosystem profile. The strategic directions in the ecosystem profile focused on supporting civil society, community and private sector involvement in the conservation landscapes and protected areas in the Cape region's biodiversity corridors. The six investment priorities of the consolidation grants continue in this direction:

1. Consolidate and strengthen implementation efforts for corridor conservation.
2. Improve project development and implementation through support to grassroots communities.
3. Support the sharing of lessons learned across and beyond corridors within the Cape Floristic Region.
4. Engagement with the business sector.
5. Capacity development in implementing agencies.
6. Securing support from government.

The consolidation phase continues the geographic emphasis from the first five years of investment; namely: focus on the "mega-reserve" corridors (i.e., conservation units of greater than 500,000 hectares) of Baviannskloof, Cederberg and Gouritz, as well as the lowlands of the southwest, southeast and northwest.

Portfolio Status

Through a targeted and rapid award of 3-year grants, CEPF has committed the entire allotment of funds for consolidation in the region. There are nine grants to seven organizations. These awards fit into six investment priorities, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 represents the entire portfolio for consolidation. At this time, the Secretariat has no intention of allotting more funds or issuing further calls for proposals.

Coordinating CEPF Grantmaking

Consolidation programs do not have formal coordinating entities or regional implementation teams beyond the U.S.-based Grant Director. However, in the Cape Floristic Region, SANBI

continues to host the C.A.P.E. Coordination Unit with funds from multiple donors, and the nine CEPF-funded grants fit within the C.A.P.E. structure. Thus, through its offices at the Centre for Biodiversity Conservation in Cape Town's Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, SANBI serves as an informal coordinator for CEPF.

Performance Assessment

In relation to the outcomes and targets listed in the logical framework (Annex 1), performance to date is slow, overall. The slow pace of progress is reflected in the overall spending rate by the grantees: only \$134,000, or 8 percent of allocated funds. However, the pace of work is explained by several factors, the first of which is that three of the grants are under one year of implementation. Further, we must consider the nature of consolidation activities themselves, which have broad constituencies and ambitions to institutionalize conservation approaches – work which does not expect to yield results within a year.

Table 1. Cape Floristic Region Consolidation Grants by Investment Priority

Organization	Grant	Amount	Active Dates
<i>Investment priority 1: Consolidate and strengthen implementation efforts for corridor conservation</i>			
Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve	Sustaining the gains of the business plan of the Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve	\$150,000	July 2008 – June 2011
Western Cape Nature Conservation Board	Consolidate and strengthen Cape Nature's corridor network	\$324,000	Aug. 2008 – June 2011
Wilderness Foundation	Baviaanskloof mega-reserve consolidation project	\$110,000	Oct. 2008 – Sept. 2011
<i>Investment priority 2: Improve project development and implementation through support to grassroots communities</i>			
Table Mountain Fund	Improving project development and implementation through support to new entrants to conservation and community-based organizations in the Cape Floristic Region	\$166,000	Dec. 2008 – June 2011
<i>Investment priority 3: Support the sharing of lessons learned across and beyond corridors within the Cape Floristic Region</i>			
SANBI	Support the sharing of lessons learned across and beyond corridors within the Region	\$150,000	July 2008 – June 2011
<i>Investment priority 4: Engagement with the business sector</i>			
Conservation International	Consolidation of CAPE conservation gains: engaging agricultural industries in South Africa	\$193,054	July 2008 – June 2011
WWF – South Africa	Consolidation of conservation gains: engaging the business sector in South Africa	\$106,651	July 2008 – June 2011
<i>Investment priority 5: Capacity development in implementing agencies</i>			
Table Mountain Fund	Building capacity in conservation implementing agencies in the Cape Floristic Region	\$300,000	Nov. 2008 – June 2011

Organization	Grant	Amount	Active Dates
<i>Investment priority 6: Securing support from government</i>			
Wilderness Foundation	Cape Floristic Region: communicating conservation	\$150,000	July 2008 – June 2011
	Total	\$1,649,705	

Progress is not uniformly slow, of course. The Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve and the Wilderness Foundation corridor grants are both managing according to plan, and SANBI, CI and WWF are making progress within the context of their activities. On the other hand, Table Mountain Fund and the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board have expended less than 1 percent of their funds because of inability to recruit proper staff. Both groups have assured the Grant Director that internal organizational changes and recruitment will be complete within the quarter, that work will be well underway before the end of 2010, and that the slow utilization rate of funds belies the progress they have made.

Many of the consolidation grantees have stated that the lesson, thus far, is to ensure a minimum delay between the close of grants during the initial five year period and the start of consolidation grants. They have discussed the loss of momentum and staff attrition during the interim period, hampering their ability to now achieve quick results.

Portfolio Investment Highlights by Investment Priority

Investment priority 1. Consolidate and strengthen implementation efforts for corridor conservation

This investment priority seeks to secure the corridor concept within the parastatal institutions that will ultimately have responsibility for ensuring the future sustainability of the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor, Gouritz, Baviaanskloof, the West Coast Biosphere Reserve, and several lowland regions.

Highlights to date:

- Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve – The grantee (CWCBR) completed a feasibility study for a trails and tourism program, and tourism companies and communities have submitted business plans to Nedbank Property Investment, Nedbank Green Trust and DBSA for potential funding. Working toward negotiation of stewardship contracts, the CWCBR completed site assessments for Elandsfontein and Cape Columbine. Negotiations between landowners and Western Cape Nature Conservation Board (CapeNature) and SANParks are underway to determine the best stewardship agreement. The first industrial portion contractual agreement has been submitted to the Board of AfriSam for discussion and recommendation. Meanwhile, CWCBR has increased its membership by two local NGOs and three support groups.
- Baviaanskloof Mega-reserve – The Wilderness Foundation, working with the Eastern Cape Parks Board, has instituted use of Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT). The tool showed improved scores between 2005 and 2009, reinforcing its value in the eyes of park managers and verifying their identification of management actions to improve. Eastern Cape Parks has now, by design, taken over two efforts formerly managed by the grantee, the Baviaanskloof Steering Committee and the Partners Programme.

Investment priority 2. Improve project development and implementation through support to grassroots communities

CEPF will support the integration of previously disadvantaged communities living in corridor areas through sub-grants for eco-friendly livelihood programs. Table Mountain Fund will increase project development and implementation skills of community based organizations. Unfortunately, Table Mountain Fund, like its managing entity in South Africa, WWF, has been going through organizational changes and has suffered from staffing constraints. Activity is expected to begin before the close of 2009.

Investment priority 3. Support the sharing of lessons learned across and beyond corridors within the Cape Floristic Region

SANBI, as the host of the CAPE Coordination Unit, is in a natural position to replicate lessons within and beyond the region.

Highlights to date:

- SANBI has engaged a Learning Network/Communications Officer who is actively updating the Web site and electronic newsletter. SANBI, as an organization, is also involved a national campaign stating the case for biodiversity, and it has produced 17 case studies related to monitoring and evaluation and four related to stewardship agreements.
- SANBI facilitated a learning exchange between community partners of the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor and Cape Flats Nature and also led the 2009 C.A.P.E. partners' conference.

Investment priority 4. Engagement with the business sector

This investment priority will improve the ability of stakeholders to engage with selected businesses and the agricultural industry, including promotion of best practice and further use of stewardship to incorporate private lands into the conservation estate.

Highlights to date:

- In support of the C.A.P.E. GreenChoice program that promotes sustainable production of food, flower and fiber crops, Conservation International participated in the National Sustainable Livestock Forum, worked on criteria and indicators for land management in the meat industry, and worked with the National Wool Growers Association on farm management guidelines.
- WWF maintained relationships in the rooibos and potato industries, various government departments, the Restaurant Association of South Africa, major retailers, and others. The Biodiversity and Wine Initiative was making progress with Shoprite Checkers and Woolworths, and Pick n Pay was developing producer audit criteria for potatoes.
- WWF, as a GreenChoice partner, attended national exhibitions, organized public debates on the environmental impacts of food production and assisted with a study exploring consumer motivation for purchasing sustainable food products.

Investment priority 5. Capacity development in implementing agencies

This investment priority will increase the likelihood of sustained conservation gains by developing capacity in the key implementing agencies, and more broadly in building landscape-level partnerships and coordination. Unfortunately, as with Investment Priority 2, Table Mountain Fund has not made any progress in this area due to staffing constraints.

Investment priority 6. Securing support from government

The work of the Wilderness Foundation in this area will garner political support from government officials by personally and directly introducing them to the need for biodiversity conservation through exposure visits on wilderness trails, followed by complementary communication materials and lobbying. Work has been delayed due to elections, making it difficult to identify and secure participation from appropriate officials. Further, the Wilderness Foundation is redesigning the program to gain synergies with trails programs in other South African biomes.

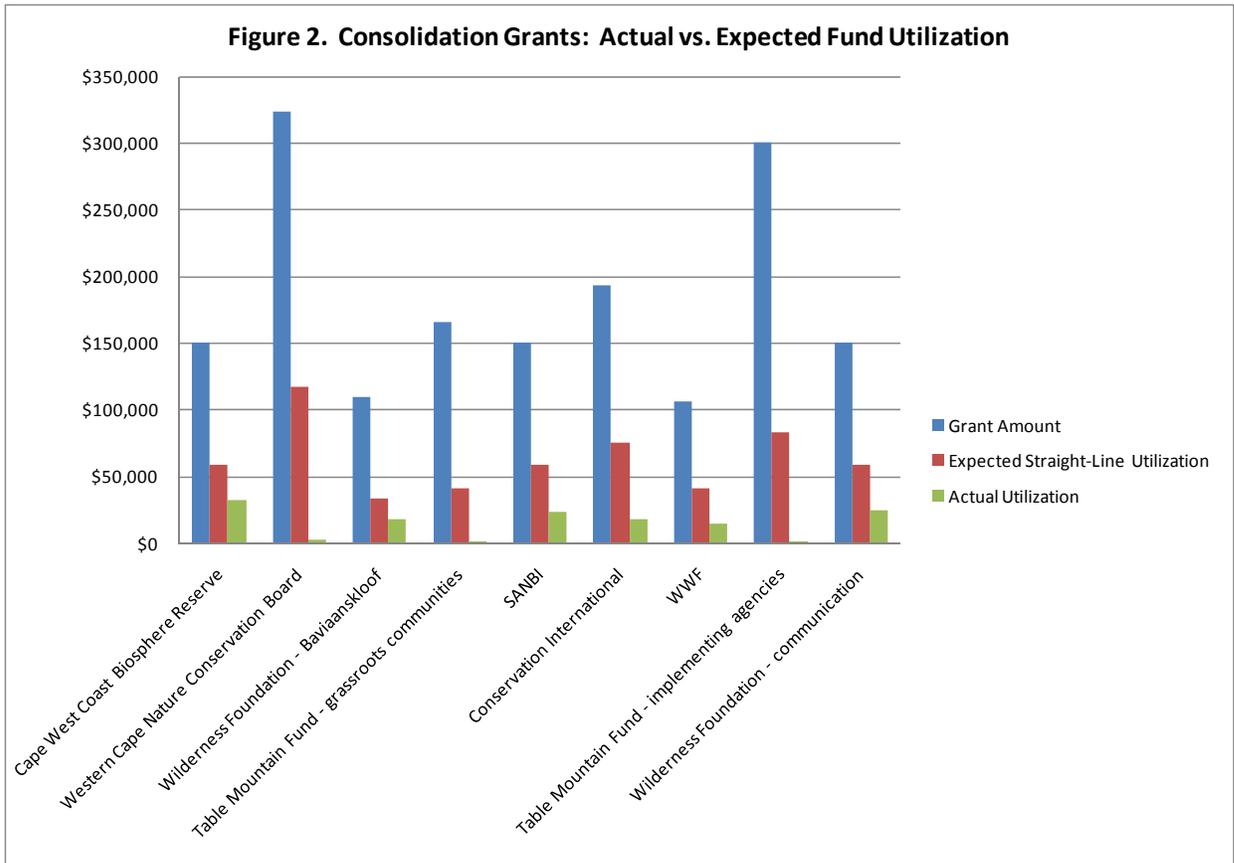
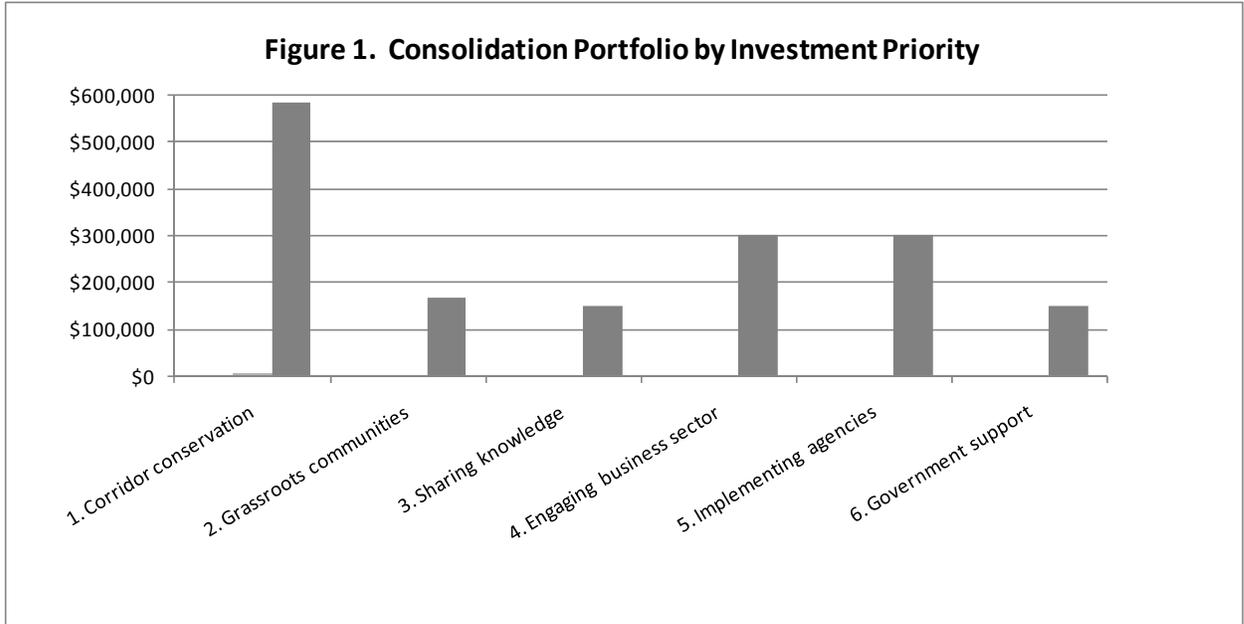
Collaboration with CEPF Donors

By their nature, the nine consolidation grants are far-reaching. Even if they are focused on the Cape Floristic Region, the type of work – sharing lessons learned, business sector engagement, government capacity building and awareness – overlaps with that of other donors, like the GEF and World Bank, which have programs nationwide. The C.A.P.E. program, in particular, receives support from those two donors. However, there is no direct collaboration with other donors to achieve logframe targets.

Conclusion

With six of nine grants active for at least a year, overall progress has been slow. As noted, this has been due to staffing problems for two of the grantees and perhaps because of national elections making it difficult to reach government decisionmakers. Beyond these unique circumstances, which we expect the grantees to overcome, it is possible that the grantees are over-committed or that they lost momentum between the close of the initial grants and the beginning of consolidation grants. The Grant Director will help the grantees modify the budgets and activities in the grant agreements, when needed, so that consolidation outputs can still be achieved.

Figures



Annex 1: Cape Floristic Region Logical Framework for Consolidation

Objective	Targets	Progress
Reinforce and sustain the conservation gains achieved as a result of previous CEPF investment in the Cape Floristic Region.	At least 11 civil society actors, including NGOs and the private sector, actively participate in conservation programs guided by the Cape Floristic Region ecosystem profile and Program for Consolidation	5 NGOs have joined the Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve; stewardship discussions underway in Elandsfontein and Cape Columbine
	6.3 million hectares of key biodiversity areas with strengthened protection	547,261 hectares, composed of: 6,500 of private AfriSAM land in the Cape West Biosphere Reserve 9,000 hectares of privately held land in Cape West in stewardship negotiations 331,761 of land containing Swartland Shale Renosterveld and Sand Fynbos 200,000 in Baviaanskloof Nature Reserve
	3 projects located outside protected areas integrate biodiversity conservation in management practices	4 active projects, including AfriSAM land and Cape West stewardship efforts named above; 113,127 hectares set aside by the Biodiversity and Wine Initiative; and 3,000 hectares from the biodiversity and citrus initiative in the Gamtoos River Valley (part of the Baviaanskloof mega reserve linking the formal protected area to the coast)
	3 stakeholder networks strengthened to support long-term conservation action by replicating and scaling up CEPF successes	2 networks in progress
	2 public-private partnerships mainstream biodiversity in the agriculture sector	Underway
	100% of targeted communities involved in sustainable use projects demonstrate tangible socioeconomic benefits	14+ communities involved: Atlantis, Mamre, KhoiSan, Saldanha, Peternoster, Heiveld Cooperative, Agulhas Plain, Hopefield, Langebaan; Darling, Pella; Velddrif; St. Helena, Britannia Bay, and various wine workers communities

Intermediate Outcomes	Targets	Progress
<p>Outcome 1. Long-term sustainability of five corridors is secured (Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor, Gouritz Initiative, Baviaanskloof Mega-Reserve, West Coast Biosphere Reserve and the lowland regions that have been targeted for stewardship interventions).</p> <p>\$584,000</p>	<p>Industrial biodiversity corridor in Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve consolidated.</p>	<p>All components underway; 57 tourism organizations and ten communities agree to corridor plans</p>
	<p>Partnerships formed with National Department of Public Works, Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs, and Provincial Department of Planning.</p>	<p>Negotiations underway</p>
	<p>Capacity strengthened to address and strengthen corridor, biosphere and world heritage site planning and implementation within CapeNature.</p>	<p>No progress to date</p>
	<p>5 Biodiversity and Citrus sites will be used to pilot farm level planning activities for wider adoption by a further 5 properties.</p>	<p>Field work has been carried out on 6 citrus farms in order to carry out farm level planning and auditing.</p>
	<p>Management of Baviaanskloof Nature Reserve improved as measured by METT.</p>	<p>June 2009 METT score of 54, as compared to 2005 score of 39.</p>
<p>Outcome 2. Local communities contribute to the sustainability of four Cape Floristic Region biodiversity corridors.</p> <p>\$166,000</p>	<p>Across a minimum of two localities, 10 CBO partners are effectively trained and mentored to develop and implement 45 environmental projects.</p>	<p>No progress to date</p>
<p>Outcome 3. Cape Floristic Region Phase 1 lessons captured and shared throughout the hotspot.</p> <p>\$150,000</p>	<p>6 learning exchange events, annual conferences in 2009 and 2010, and workshop on mainstreaming biodiversity planned, organized, facilitated and evaluated.</p>	<p>1 – Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor and Cape Flats Nature</p>
	<p>Lessons published in multiple media and made available to stakeholders.</p>	<p>21 case studies complete, Web site updated</p>
	<p>2 knowledge exchanges with other hotspots facilitated.</p>	<p>1 – Conservation Connections conference held</p>

Intermediate Outcomes	Targets	Progress
<p>Outcome 4. Stakeholders understand and engage in sustainable and biodiversity-friendly industry initiatives.</p> <p>\$299,705</p>	<p>1 document developed that informs future strategies on business and biodiversity initiatives and strategies implemented.</p>	<p>Document in draft form</p>
	<p>1 network of interest groups formed.</p>	<p>GreenChoice attending conferences and building network</p>
	<p>1 resource center created and maintained.</p>	<p>Sustainable farm and livestock management guidelines in draft</p>
	<p>Qualitative and quantitatively measured growth in sales of biodiversity-friendly products results from committed retailers and a more informed consumer base.</p>	<p>Underway</p>
<p>Outcome 5. Key implementing agencies and institutions have the capacity to sustain conservation gains.</p> <p>\$300,000</p>	<p>Capacity development strategy developed and embedded within multiple municipalities within the region.</p>	<p>No progress to date</p>
	<p>LED officers identified and trained using CI IDP training model.</p>	<p>No progress to date</p>
	<p>Workplace-based intervention developed and piloted at one priority municipality in the Western Cape for a minimum of 15 individuals.</p>	<p>No progress to date</p>
	<p>Young professional program and mentorship development program implemented.</p>	<p>No progress to date</p>
	<p>1 database updated to allow for broader contact and follow-up with graduates.</p>	<p>No progress to date</p>
<p>Outcome 6. Selected high-level government officials understand and support long-term conservation of the Cape Floristic Region.</p> <p>\$150,000</p>	<p>48 government officials exposed to the challenges and opportunities that conservation faces on an ongoing basis.</p>	<p>No progress to date</p>
	<p>Two coordinated and consistent communication and informational activities take place to ensure wider buy in and support.</p>	<p>No progress to date</p>

Annex 2: Articles from Local or International Press

“Biodiversity and Wine Buzz,” the Newsletter of the Biodiversity and Wine Initiative. January 2009.
www.bwi.co.za/downloads/newsletters/BWI_NEWSLETTER_January%202009.pdf

“CAPE Environment,” the newsletter of the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA), Western Cape Region. Volume 3, 2008: July, August, September.
www.cepf.net/Documents/cenewsletter_3_2008.pdf

“Coordinated Avifaunal Roadcounts (CAR) Newsletter.” Animal Demography Unit, Department of Zoology, University of Cape Town. 25 December 2008.
<http://web.uct.ac.za/depts/stats/adu/pdf/carnews25.pdf>

“Nature’s News,” the Newsletter of the Nature’s Valley Trust. Issue 25, April 2009.
www.cepf.net/Documents/NaturesNewsApril2009.pdf