

Annual Portfolio Overview
Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Biodiversity Hotspot
August 2014

1. Introduction

Stretching along roughly 800 miles of the Indian Ocean coast and 200 miles inland to the Great Escarpment, from Port Elizabeth in South Africa's Eastern Cape Province, north through KwaZulu-Natal, further covering much of Swaziland and southern Mozambique, the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot is characterized by an endemic vegetation type called subtropical thicket. Subtropical thicket – a condensed forest of thorny trees, shrubs, and vines – is an ecosystem driven by elephants, black rhino, and Cape buffalo that trample down paths and disperse seeds through their digestive tracks.

The region is named for its three main centers of endemism: Maputaland in the north, typified by lush riverine and estuary habitats, diverse savannah, foothill grasslands, and dune forests; Pondoland in the middle, typified by a matrix of forests, grasslands, and rushing river valleys; and Albany in the south, typified by thickets and ecotones that shade into the *fynbos* of the Cape Floristic and the plants of the Succulent and Nama Karoo habitats. There are 1,900 endemic plant species in the hotspot, of which 534 are either Vulnerable, Endangered, or Critically Endangered per the IUCN Red List. While vertebrate diversity and endemism are lower than that of plants, they are still remarkable. Furthermore, the sub-equatorial waters are centers of diversity for sharks, rays, skates, and coastal fish. In addition to the endemic species, the region is also home to the many charismatic species – lions, elephants, hippos – that characterize the classic African safari tourism experience.

The political and cultural landscapes are as varied as the biological diversity. Approximately 18 million people live in the portions of the three countries that fall within hotspot boundaries. Portuguese-speaking Mozambique, stable after several years of post-colonial turmoil and with some unusual legacies regarding land ownership from its past socialist government, is less developed than its neighbors, but is aggressively courting overseas investment – particularly from China – around its mineral wealth. Swaziland is a monarchy whose economy and land have been dominated by a relative few corporate, tribal, and individual interests. South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal Province, with the major commercial center of Durban, is a long-standing center of wealth and development in the country and is home to globally renowned protected areas. The Eastern Cape Province, on the other hand, has suffered more from the legacy of apartheid. Comprising the former “homeland” territories of Siskei and Transkei, the region has high levels of unemployment and a history of public sector mismanagement.

Similar to many hotspots, Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany suffers from the tensions between national and local governments seeking to provide economic opportunities for their people while also conserving the underlying natural capital. Sugarcane and plantation forestry dominate the agricultural landscape and continue to encroach on key biodiversity areas, as does urban expansion, both from migrants seeking an escape from rural poverty and from resort and tourism development along the coast. Mining is always a threat, but now as worrisome are the discussions around infrastructure development to support those efforts, such as port construction.

CEPF's response to these threats is to engage civil society as a partner in conservation. Mirroring the political state of the hotspot, the capacity of grassroots groups remains low in Mozambique, Swaziland, and the Eastern Cape. Thus, the challenge for CEPF is twofold in that we wish to both conserve biodiversity while also building the capacity of our local partners.

2. Niche for CEPF Investment

Overview

The ecosystem profile for the region was formally approved in April 2010 and the five-year investment period began in September of that year with the commencement of the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) grant. The total allocation to the region is \$6,650,000 with the plan being that all money is obligated and all grants are closed by August 2015.

The hotspot encompasses 274,000 km² and, as identified during the ecosystem profiling process, contains 72 key biodiversity areas (KBAs) and 12 conservation corridors. The stakeholders who participated in the profile – led by Conservation International and the South African National Biodiversity Institute and including over 150 others from civil society, government, and donor agencies – prioritized these KBAs and corridors, considering the limited pool of CEPF funds, the immediacy of need for some locations, and the fact that some KBAs, like the larger national and provincial parks, are already well-resourced. The result is that CEPF investment focuses on 22 KBAs and two corridors in the hotspot, to be addressed within the context of CEPF’s niche for investment; namely: *supporting civil society in applying innovative approaches to conservation in under-capacitated protected areas, KBAs, and corridors, thereby enabling changes in policy and building resilience in the region’s ecosystems and economy to sustain biodiversity in the long term.* This is expressed via five Strategic Directions:

1. Strengthen protection and management in under-capacitated and emerging protected areas in three priority key biodiversity areas (KBAs).¹
2. Expand conservation areas and improve land use in 19 key biodiversity areas through innovative approaches.²
3. Maintain and restore ecosystem function and integrity in the Highland Grasslands and Pondoland corridors.
4. Create an enabling environment to improve conservation and management of Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany priority sites.
5. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a regional implementation team (the RIT).

The CEPF Donor Council has made initial allocations to each of the Strategic Directions, as follows:

Strategic Direction 1: \$800,000
Strategic Direction 2: \$3,000,000
Strategic Direction 3: \$1,500,000
Strategic Direction 4: \$650,000
Strategic Direction 5: \$700,000

¹ The three KBAs are Ponto d’Ouro Partial Marine Reserve in Mozambique, the Eastern Swazi Lebombo transboundary area in Mozambique and Swaziland, and the areas adjacent to the Mkambati and Dwesa-Cwebe reserves in the Pondoland North Coast of South Africa’s Eastern Cape.

² Of the 19 KBAs, one is in Mozambique: Manhica. The other 18 are in South Africa: Boston, Ethekewini South, Greater Greytown, Greater Itala, Hogsback/Stutterheim, Lower Mzimvubu, Lower Tugela, Midlands, Mistbelt Grasslands, Mountain Zebra complex, Northern Drakensburg foothills, Northern Eastern Cape, Pongola-Magudu, Port Elizabeth, Port St. John’s Forest, Southern Drakensburg foothills, Umzimkulu, and Vernon Crooks.

Portfolio Status

CEPF grant-making formally began with the RIT Grant to the Wildlands Conservation Trust (Wildlands) in September 2010. The grant is for the full amount of the Strategic Direction – \$700,000 – with no plans for any further obligation as of this time.

The Secretariat and RIT have released calls for Letters of Inquiry to solicit applications for the other strategic directions. Table 1 summarizes the full-and-open calls released to date.

Table 1. MPAH Open Calls for Letters of Inquiry

Release Date	Due Date	LOIs Received*
September 4, 2010	October 15, 2010	52
November 1, 2010	February 15, 2011	52
December 1, 2011	February 15, 2012	56
June 1, 2012	August 12, 2012	26
July 15, 2013	September 2, 2013	23
Total LOIs Received		209

* Includes LOIs submitted for both core and small grants.

Note that Wildlands accepts small grants on a rolling basis, and thus has received more total applications than those itemized in open calls for proposals. There have also been four short-list or sole-source requests for proposals. In total, we have received 245 letters of inquiry for small and core grants, and of these, we have advanced 88 to a second stage LOI or full proposal. As of this writing, including the RIT, a total of 84 grants had been awarded and 31 were active, per Table 2.

Table 2. Awarded (Active and Closed) and Pipeline Large and Small Grants by Strategic Direction

Strategic Direction	Allocation	Awarded Grants (count)	Awarded Grants (total USD)	Pipeline Grants (count)	Pipeline Grants (total USD)
SD 1	\$800,000	10	\$1,079,889	0	0
SD 2	\$3,000,000	40	\$2,941,633	1	\$19,944
SD 3	\$1,500,000	16	\$930,522	1	\$19,850
SD 4	\$650,000	17	\$891,190	2	\$24,384
SD 5	\$700,000	1	\$700,000	0	\$0
Total	\$6,650,000	84	\$6,543,234	4	\$64,178

Readers should consider the total dollar values for pipeline grants as estimates. The final values will be subject to negotiations between the CEPF Secretariat and the applicant, and in all likelihood, will be lower than that reflected here.

The discrepancy between the allocated and awarded amounts for any strategic direction are a function of the imperfect estimation process at the time of the Ecosystem Profile and subsequent adaptive management by the portfolio managers. There has been a purposeful decision to “over-award” in Mozambique and Swaziland, and in capacity building and the creation of networks [via SD 1 and 4]. At the same time, SD 3 deals with payment for ecosystem services and corridor-level approaches in South Africa that require sophisticated project concepts from high capacity groups. There is a question of

whether CEPF and its typical grantee are best suited to undertake the work envisioned under that strategic direction.

Coordinating CEPF Grant-Making

The Wildlands Conservation Trust (Wildlands) holds the \$700,000 grant to serve as the Regional Implementation Team. Wildlands is a 15-year old South African NGO with operations based primarily in KwaZulu-Natal. Its headquarters are in Hilton, a suburb of the provincial capital, Pietermaritzburg, and in the heart of the hotspot. Wildlands is a prominent organization in the National Committee of the IUCN and is a member of an executive council of other conservation groups in South Africa (e.g., WWF-South Africa, Conservation South Africa, Endangered Wildlife Trust, Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa). As a member of these groups, Wildlands regularly reports to its peers and invites their feedback on proposals and strategy, ensuring transparency of CEPF investment decisions. As the RIT, Wildlands is also responsible for managing the small grants fund, which the CEPF Secretariat issues as a separate grant. The current ceiling is \$800,000, from which Wildlands can issue grants of up to \$20,000.

With a fixed cost from the CEPF Secretariat of \$700,000 and the relatively high labor costs of South Africa, the RIT has a very lean team, reflected in Table 3. The team leader, based in Hilton, is Kevin McCann, with long experience in provincial government agencies working on the formal South African concept of biodiversity stewardship. Kevin formally bills 60 percent of his time to the CEPF grant, with the remainder of his time devoted to other Wildlands responsibilities, although the organization contributes much of this back to CEPF. Also based in Hilton, the Mark Gerrard, the Conservation Grants Manager, is fully funded by CEPF. During the past year, Wildlands promoted the former RIT team leader, Roelie Kloppers, to chief operating officer to better manage the growth of the organization, some of which is due to its success in managing the CEOF portfolio.

While Wildlands direct-bills only the amount of the time in Table 3, the organization has committed to provide all the time necessary of its personnel to fulfill the obligations of the RIT Terms of Reference. This includes the time of marketing and communications support to the RIT for regular updates on the Wildlands website and via social media; synergies with the organization's fully-staffed programs for tree-planting, environmental education, recycling, event-based fund-raising, and geographic information systems; and the time of the COO (Roelie Kloppers) and Chairman (Andrew Venter), who actively promulgate the goals of CEPF in the hotspot. The full cost of the level of effort that Wildlands provides far exceeds that direct-billed to CEPF.

Apart from the programs described above, Wildlands, spurred by its success in managing CEPF, has received a grant from the South African government to manage a "Green Jobs" program where it places young people in government-paid internships. As the manager of this program, Wildlands is able to direct additional labor to CEPF grantees working directly in priority locations. Further based on its success with CEPF, Wildlands has started its own Blue Fund grants program, with money it raises from its own donors, to support conservation work in the coastal areas of the Eastern Cape, virtually coincident with the Pondoland priority conservation corridor.

Table 3. RIT Staffing

Position	Name	Base of Operations	Time Direct-Billed to Grant	Qualifications
Team Leader	Kevin McCann	Hilton	60%	Expertise in stewardship processes and provincial environmental policy
Conservation Grants Manager	Mark Gerrard	Hilton	100%	Expertise in community based natural resources management
Financial Manager	Shanitha Singh	Hilton	5%	BA in accounting; responsible for management of Wildlands revenue of over \$1 million per year
Cross-program synergy	Roelie Kloppers	Hilton	5%	PhD in ecology with field research and 10 years work experience in the hotspot; major writer of Ecosystem Profile; conversant in Portuguese and Zulu
Liaison and Strategy	Andrew Venter	Hilton	0%	PhD in ecology with field research and 20 years work experience in the hotspot; overseer of Wildlands' major growth since 2002

Performance Assessment

Performance per the logical framework and the goals of the Ecosystem Profile is shown in Annex 7 and is meeting expectations. In addition to this, performance is high in terms of other managerial and qualitative measures.

- ***Efficiency of operations.*** The RIT grant was awarded in September 2010. In the subsequent four years, the team managed eight procurement processes, reviewed 245 letters of inquiry, moved 88 forward for individual grants, and obligated 98 percent of the portfolio.
- ***Engagement of civil society.*** CEPF has awarded 88 grants to 59 organizations. Of these, only two of the core grant recipients are not from Mozambique, South Africa, or Swaziland: the Italian organization CESVI to lead efforts in southern Mozambique and Conservation International's South Africa office to promote a payment for ecosystem services scheme in the upper Umzimvubu catchment area. Of the remaining organizations, 28 are first-time recipients of international funds or as smaller groups which can use their association with CEPF – and its donors – as a springboard to a broader and more demanding pool of funders.
- ***Breadth of operations.*** The mandate of the Ecosystem Profile is to work in 22 KBAs and two corridors. Per Table 4, we have made grants in all but two of the KBAs: Boston and the Lower Umzimkulu, both in KwaZulu-Natal.

Table 4. Grants per KBAs and Corridors

No. *	KBA / Corridor Name	Grantees
KBA 4	Boston	No awarded grants
KBA 12	Ethekwini South	Duzi uMngeni Conservation Trust (DUCT)
KBA 17	Greater Greytown Complex	Botanical Society of South Africa (BotSoc)
KBA 18	Greater Ithala Complex	BotSoc
KBA 23	Hogsback-Stutterheim	Wildbird Trust, Border Rural Committee, Cata CPA, Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)
KBA 29	Licwati Forest and Eastern Swazi Lebombo	VIDA, Lubombo Conservancy
KBA 32	Lower Mzimvubu	WESSA Phase 2
KBA 33	Lower Tugela Valley	Zinkwazi Ratepayers Association, SA Association for Marine Biological Research
KBA 35	Manhica District	Ecosol
KBA 42	Midlands	Birdlife SA, BotSoc, Dargle Conservancy, Game Rangers Association, Treverton Trust, Masifukalane Support Group, DUCT, WWF-SA
KBA 43	Mistbelt Grasslands	BotSoc, KZN Crane Foundation
KBA 44	Mt. Zebra National Park Complex	Wilderness Foundation
KBA 52	Northern Drakensberg Foothills	Wilderness Action Group
KBA 53	Northern Eastern Cape	Conservation South Africa, Environmental & Rural Solutions, Cedarville Conservancy
KBA 59	Pondoland North Coast	Sustaining the Wild Coast, Community Organization Resource Centre, BotSoc, WWF-SA, Eco-logic, Wilderness Foundation
KBA 60	Pongola-Magudu	Wildlife Act, Africa Conservation Trust, Space for Elephants
KBA 61	Ponta d'Ouro	CESVI, LUPA, Kawuka JDA, Madjadjane Community Association, ORAM, Centro Terra Viva, African Safari Lodge Foundation, Birdlife SA, Peace Parks Foundation
KBA 62	Port Elizabeth Complex	Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA)
KBA 63	Port St John's forests	WESSA Phase 1
KBA 66	Southern Drakensberg Foothills	EWT, BotSoc, Mabandla Community Trust
KBA 69	Umzimkulu Complex	No awarded grants
KBA 70	Vernon Crookes	BotSoc
CRD 4	Highland Grasslands	Conservation South Africa
CRD 10	Pondoland	WESSA, Wilderness Foundation

* Numbering per Conservation Outcomes map.

- Progress toward goals.** The logical framework and performance monitoring plan provide more details, but progress to date and projected progress suggest that the portfolio will fall short of the three major biophysical targets described in the ecosystem profile: 1,400,000 of KBAs with strengthened management; 300,000 of new protected areas included in the previous target; and 1,465,000 hectares of production land managed for sustainable use. The reasons for this are multiple, but can be distilled to two: the targets in the profile may be unreasonable given the resources; and that while grants are awarded for numerous reasons, the size of contribution to the highlight targets not a major discriminator. Rather, grants are awarded, appropriately, recognizing the trade-off between working with small civil society organizations in challenging or critical environments versus making grants to large organizations or quasi-state agencies that might affect larger land areas.

There has not been any lack of performance in the fourth year. Rather, the RIT and Secretariat will need to respond to the following challenges as CEPF investment comes to a close.

- “Consolidate” efforts through the remaining year, ensuring that ongoing grants come to completion, that completed efforts are sustained, that networks are created and maintained, and that the vision of the Ecosystem Profile is appropriately adopted by others.
- Develop and implement a strategy that builds on, institutionalizes, and creates sustainable financing for conservation efforts begun in the Cape Floristic, continued in the Succulent Karoo, and now active in this hotspot.
- Position the portfolio or momentum from grantees to (1) respond to emerging threats, such as hydraulic fracturing for natural gas and (2) respond to local government stakeholders concerns about employment generation.
- Build the capacity of organizations such that they can manage their own finances well and be in a position to receive more donor funds.

3. Portfolio Highlights by Strategic Direction

Strategic Direction 1: strengthen protection and management in under-capacitated and emerging protected areas in three priority key biodiversity areas

This Strategic Direction focuses on the Ponto d’Ouro (Mozambique), Mkambati/Dwesa-Cwebe (Eastern Cape), and Eastern Swazi Lebombo (Swaziland) KBAs. Together these areas encompass 650,000 hectares. They merit special attention within the context of the Ecosystem Profile because of their low management capacity, their physical relationship to the surrounding impoverished communities, and in the case of Ponto d’Ouro and Mkambati, their important seascapes.

Strategic Direction 1 Highlights to Date

- The Matutuine consortium of grants – led by Cesvi, an Italian community development NGO with a long-term presence in Mozambique, and including LUPA, ORAM, and Kawuka JDA – came to a close, although Cesvi, itself, has continued funding to consolidate the work. Together they addressed the multiple issues to turn the Futi Corridor and transfrontier conservation area (called the Maputo Special Reserve in Mozambique) into more than a “paper park.” The consortium worked in ten small towns to variously raise awareness on the reserve and people’s rights and responsibilities, create the legally mandated community natural resource use committees, and promote livelihood activities that are consonant with improved management of the Reserve.
- Also in Matutuine, the Ponta do Ouro Partial Marine Reserve lies immediately east of the Maputo Special Reserve. There, the grant to Centro Terra Viva supported monitoring of sea turtle nesting sites, but at a broader level, filled the gaps between the efforts of the reserve authorities and private partners with an interest in conservation (i.e., some of the tourism operators) by educating and engaging local communities. The team recorded 1,273 loggerhead and 53 leatherback turtle tracks; 1,905 loggerhead and 38 leatherback nests; and tagged 173 loggerheads and 6 leatherbacks. Marine turtle mortality was reduced by 10 percent from prior to project inception and 200 members of the local communities became actively involved in turtle monitoring and patrols.

- Grants to the African Safari Lodge Foundation (ASLF) and BirdLife South Africa have both promoted sustainable tourism and lead to private sector employment in southern Mozambique. The former was a small contribution on the part of CEPF to a much larger – \$3 million – effort initiated by the International Finance Corporation to support the development of the Anvil Bay eco-lodge at Ponto Chemucane. CEPF support allowed the ASLF to provide training in best practice on sustainable resource use and local employment. The lodge was set to open in August 2014 with eighteen people trained at the Southern African Hospitality School in South Africa. Meanwhile, BirdLife has been working with a nascent group, the Associação Ambiente, Conservação e Educação Moçambique (AACEM), to identify birding tourism routes within the Futi Corridor, train guides, and ultimately, promote the experience to potential South African tourists. Since the start of the grant, AACEM has noted 2,500 website visitors per month, completed a series of trade fares for ten bird tour operators, attended four international trade shows, and trained twenty community bird guides in southern Mozambique.
- In Swaziland, the grant to the Lubombo Conservancy will lead to the proclamation of a 25,000 hectare protected area along the country's eastern border and, conceivably, improve biodiversity management in the production (mainly sugarcane) landscape across almost a quarter of the country. The grant brings together multiple groups of land managers – government protected areas, a private irrigation scheme, individual landowners, and a community landowner – in a formal legal and so creates the foundation of a civil society network in Swaziland. This grantee has also been a positive influence in the design of a GEF Conservation project, the Strengthening the National Protected Area System of Swaziland (SNPASS) project, which has adopted a landscape/ecosystem approach. In turn, SNPASS has allocated \$1.2 million to the Lebombo Conservancy. Beyond Swaziland, the Lebombo Conservancy is participating in the Usuthu-Futi-Tembe trans-frontier conservation area, extending into Mozambique and South Africa. Further, the Lebombo Conservancy has improved relations between the Mhlumeni community and the managers of the neighboring Mlawula Nature Reserve, begun to market the *Lubombo Eco Trails Initiative*, and raised Euro 120,000 in co-financing.

Strategic Direction 2: expand conservation areas and improve land use in 19 key biodiversity areas through innovative approaches

The Ecosystem Profile process identified 18 KBAs in South Africa and one in Mozambique that are not part of the current protected areas network. CEPF is making grants that promote innovative approaches to expanding private and communal protected areas, integrate conservation practice into land-reform agreements, expand the area under improved management, and promote sustainable livelihoods.

Strategic Direction 2 Highlights to Date

- The Pongola-Magudu KBA in northern KwaZulu-Natal is home to large rangeland mammals, such as rhino, elephant and wild dogs. CEPF's grants are strategically aimed at creating biodiversity corridors that link formal protected areas with communal multi-use areas. Working in that mosaic of private production land, communal land, and formally protected land, the Space for Elephants Foundation facilitated the creation of the 14,500 hectare Thanda Royal Mduna Reserve and an additional 2 500 hectares of buffer zone known as Bartle Combine cattle station. In so doing, they reducing the incidence of subsistence poaching, rhino poaching by organized criminal syndicates, and enabling communities to benefit from ecotourism. The new Thanda Royal Mduna Reserve has a

formal management plan, agreements with surrounding communities on buffer zone management, actual cash flow from the Thanda Game Reserve to the Ngonyama Trust to support alternative livelihood projects, and plans to establish a “bush college” to train people in integration of inGuni cattle with wildlife conservation.

- In the Port St. Johns region of the Eastern Cape, WESSA worked with local communities to restore and manage indigenous coastal forest. Working with the GEF-funded Wild Coast Project, WESSA first addressed community fears that conservation plans would lead to them losing access to resources. WESSA led discussions for communities to consider the values of their forests and the best way to use them sustainably. They also addressed issues of forest boundaries and governance – where there is lack of clarity over whether state authorities or community groups have decision-making power. WESSA facilitated agreements among the Eastern Cape Department of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (DAFF), the Wild Coast Forest Users Association, and traditional leadership. With agreement, 48 community members assisted in the physical removal of invasive alien plants, grassland rehabilitation, and planting of high yield tree species and medicinal plants. In addition, there was training for the managers of ten participatory forest management committees, 25 craft-makers, and awareness training that reached 390 adults and 8,000 school children.

Strategic Direction 3: maintain and restore ecosystem function and integrity in the Highland Grasslands and Pondoland corridors

This strategic direction supports corridor-level efforts by focusing on catchments, estuaries, regulations affecting riparian and coastal zones, carbon markets, and engagement of government-sponsored, labor-intensive natural resource management programs. As noted previously, there has been an “under-award” of grants in this Strategic Direction, in part due to lack of appropriate applicants submitting qualified proposals, and possibly in part due to what grants constitute Strategic Direction 2 (stewardship/sites) versus Strategic Direction 3 (corridors). Many of the Strategic Direction 2 grants certainly contribute toward corridor goals.

Strategic Direction 3 Highlights to Date

- The Umzimvubu River flows from the Drakensburg Mountains on the border of Lesotho, through the Eastern Cape and into the Indian Ocean at Port St. Johns. It is one of the last major rivers in South Africa without dams, and through its course, flows through protected areas, farmland, and towns. Conservation South Africa, Environment and Rural Solutions, the Endangered Wildlife Trust, the Wildlife Environment Society for South Africa, and the Cedarvale Conservancy have all received grants to work within this river basin and build the institutional architecture necessary for an eventual payment for ecosystem services scheme. The grantees are, variously, establishing monitoring systems, engaging communities in watershed restoration and protection, and engaging public and private sector stakeholders in a formal river basin partnership.
- The Africa Conservation Trust is working in the Greater Itala Complex, a corridor that consists of protected areas and private land used primarily for cattle grazing. ACT is working with communities and the provincial protected area authority, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, to coordinate land-use planning with park management, particularly in terms of fences and the movement of elephants, rhinos, and buffalo.

Strategic Direction 4: create an enabling environment to improve conservation and management of Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany priority sites

This strategic direction supports grants that strengthen civil society and further educational opportunities for the staff of CSOs in Mozambique and Swaziland. It also supports grants that create a network of organizations across the hotspot and ensure effective conservation at a broad scale.

Strategic Direction 4 Highlights to Date

- SANBI continues to promote a network of conservation organizations and institute a knowledge-capture and learning exchange system within the hotspot modeled on its similar programs for the Cape Floristic and Succulent Karoo regions.
- Birdlife South Africa has established a network partner in Mozambique, the Associação Ambiente, Conservação e Educação Moçambique (<http://www.mozambiquebirds.com>). Called AACEM, the partner is promoting birding tourism and is an important civil society advocate in southern Mozambique.

4. Collaboration with CEPF Donors, Other Donors, and Local Government

CEPF and its grantees have collaborated directly and indirectly with donors and host country government agencies at multiple levels.

In this hotspot, every individual grantee is working directly with a local counterpart, whether a district government body or a provincial or national agency. As a condition of grant award, the RIT and Secretariat require that applicants provide a letter of endorsement from a local government agency. Collaboration sometimes takes the loosest form of cognizance and approval by the local authority of the grantee activity, but more frequently, involves much more detailed and robust cooperation with mutual responsibilities.

At a higher level, several of the larger organizations, including the RIT (Wildlands Conservation Trust), as well as WESSA, WWF-South Africa, the Wilderness Foundation, Endangered Wildlife Trust, and Conservation South Africa, and the Africa Conservation Trust all purposefully work with provincial and national government agencies as part of broader initiatives. In that sense, those groups are using CEPF funds to support their organizational objectives of promoting conservation and sustainable development by government bodies. CEPF encourages this.

Beyond CEPF's donors, the RIT continues to connect with other funders of the broad CEPF mission in the hotspot, including the South African Department of Environmental Affairs for funds to implement the Youth Environmental Services Programme, rhino conservation initiatives, and corporate donors.

Across the hotspot, Wildlands ensures that individual grants and the overall portfolio are aligned with the efforts of national, provincial, and local government.

- Wildlands is a member of the national committee of the IUCN, which is chaired by the Director General of the Department of Environmental Affairs and includes representatives of all national

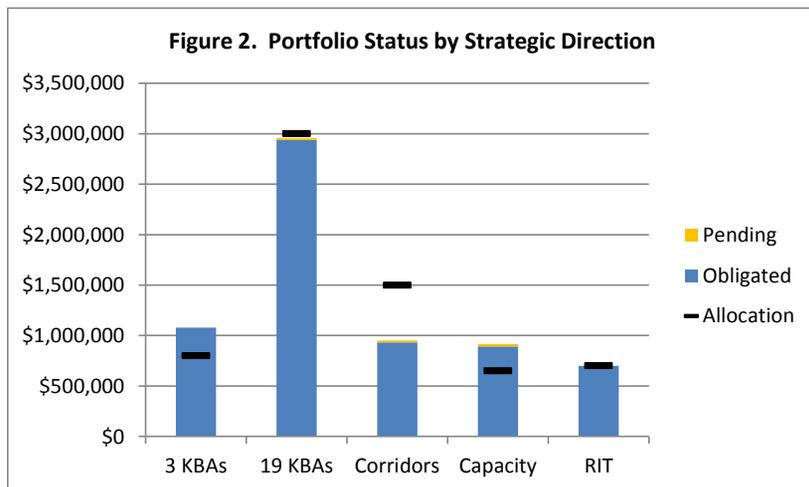
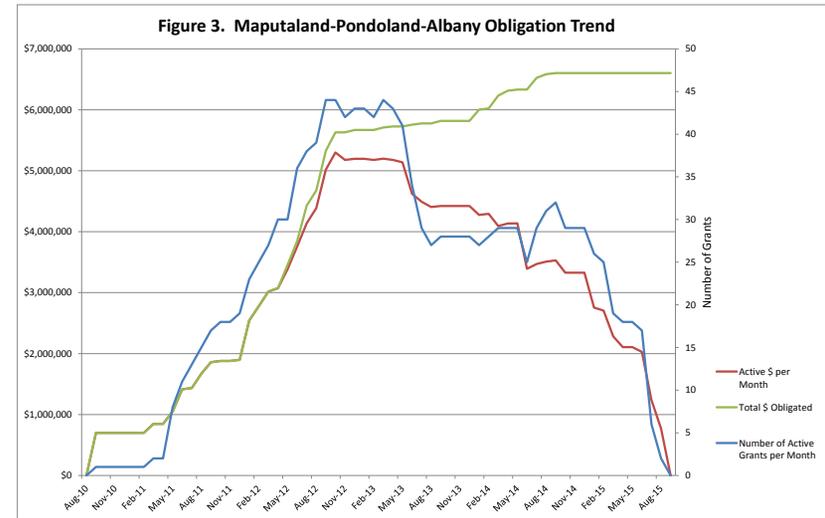
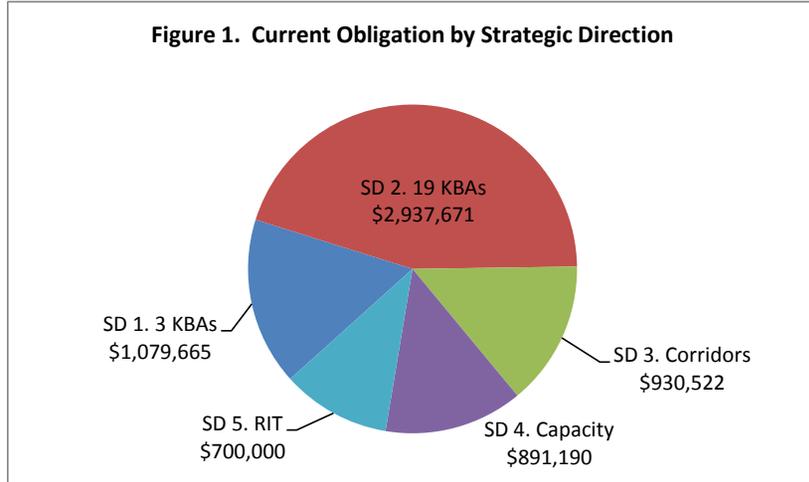
and provincial conservation authorities in the MPAH. At each meeting, which takes place quarterly, Wildlands provides a detailed report of the CEPF investment. These reports are included in the minutes and circulated to all IUCN members in South Africa.

- Wildlands attends all quarterly meetings of the Eastern Cape Implementation Forum, chaired by the Eastern Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and attended by local and provincial authorities and local representatives of national government agencies.
- Wildlands is a member of the KZN Provincial Stewardship Coordination Committee that meets quarterly to agree on priorities for stewardship in the province. The provincial authority, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, will only declare stewardship on properties previously approved by the Committee.

5. Conclusion

After almost four years of investment, the CEPF grants portfolio in Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany is proceeding well toward portfolio targets and positively affecting conservation in the region. In the final year of investment, the challenge will be to position the portfolio to ensure long-term sustainability.

6. Summary Figures



7. Update of the Logical Framework

Objective	Targets	Results
Strengthening the involvement and effectiveness of civil society in conservation and management of globally important biodiversity	At least 40 civil society actors actively participate in conservation programs guided by the ecosystem profile	50 civil society organizations are engaged directly in CEPF efforts
	1,400,000 hectares of key biodiversity areas (5% of the hotspot) with strengthened protection and management, including at least 300,000 hectares of new protected areas	Expected results from ongoing work: 1,100,000 hectares of KBA with strengthened management 240,000 hectares of new protected areas
	1,465,000 hectares in production landscapes managed for biodiversity conservation or sustainable use	Expected results from ongoing work: 1,100,000 hectares of production landscape with improved management

Intermediate Outcomes	Intermediate Indicators	Results
Outcome 1: The conservation status of under-capacitated and emerging protected areas in 3 priority key biodiversity areas strengthened	At least 2 public-private partnerships and civil society initiatives supported that facilitate planning and implementation of the Ponto d'Ouro Partial Marine Reserve, Lebombo Transfrontier Corridor (both in Mozambique) and protection of the Mkambati and Dwesa-Cwebe reserves in Pondoland North Coast, South Africa	2 public-private partnerships developed in the eco-tourism sector through grants awarded to Birdlife SA and African Safari Lodge Foundation
\$800,000	At least 4 innovative approaches promoted and strengthened to safeguard threatened habitats in the Licuati Forests and Eastern Swazi Lebombo (in Mozambique and Swaziland)	Grant award to the Lubombo Conservancy for development of a Protected Environment in Eastern Swaziland to strengthen and safeguard the threatened cycad species in the Lubombo Mountains Grant awarded in Mozambique to VIDA for innovative community conservation project

Intermediate Outcomes	Intermediate Indicators	Results
<p>Outcome 2: Conservation areas expanded and land-use management improved in 19 priority key biodiversity areas through innovative approaches</p> <p>\$3,000,000</p>	<p>At least 20 innovative approaches developed and implemented to expand protected areas on private and communal lands, particularly lands with threatened species and habitats underrepresented in the current protected area network</p>	<p>Grants awarded in 19 of the 22 KBAs identified. Grants are using stewardship, community conservation, partnership with for-profit tourism operators, environmental education, and employment generation work as the basis of protection.</p>
	<p>8 land reform agreements have integrated conservation practice to expand conservation management and sustain livelihood opportunities</p>	<p>2 land reform stewardship agreements have been signed concerning the formal proclamation of the Somkhanda Game Reserve and the Mduna Royal Reserve. Agreement is in process in the Camdeboo/Mountain Zebra corridor and in the Mkhambathi Game Reserve (Wild Coast).</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Maintain and restore ecosystem function and integrity in the Highland Grasslands and Pondoland corridors</p> <p>\$1,500,000</p>	<p>15 innovative projects developed and implemented that expand conservation management and benefit people in threatened catchment, freshwater, and estuarine ecosystems</p>	<p>The grant to WWF for its water balance program is an important step in the creation of a “market” for water conservation. Conservation South Africa’s grant entailed the collaboration of multiple local, provincial, and national agencies to create a river basin strategy with the long-term plan of creating a payment for ecosystem services scheme. Multiple small grants – Cedarville Conservancy, Duzi uMngeni Conservation Trust, Eco-Logic Consultants, Mabandla Community Trust, and Sustaining the Wild Coast further worked to improve management regimes in catchment areas.</p>
	<p>Environmental regulations have improved implementation, leading to maintained functional ecosystem corridors, particularly rivers and coastal zones</p>	<p>WESSA is promoting a biosphere reserve in the Midmar-Albert Falls region of the Midlands KBA.</p>
	<p>3 projects instituted to enable restoration of degraded lands according to optimal carbon sequestration and stewardship plans</p>	<p>WWF and NCT are both implementing forest carbon or sustainable forest management/certification projects.</p>
	<p>Government-sponsored large-scale NRM programs have improved effectiveness in the Corridors through improved knowledge and support for implementation</p>	<p>SANBI authored policy advice on how to better use government programs. Individual grants to Zinkwazi Beach, BRC, WESSA-Nsubane, WESSA-Nelson Mandela Bay, and the Wilderness Foundation are leveraged the efforts of these public employments programs.</p>

Intermediate Outcomes	Intermediate Indicators	Results
<p>Outcome 4: The capacity for conservation and management of Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany priority sites increased</p> <p>\$650,000</p>	<p>50 staff from civil society organizations in Mozambique and Swaziland receive training and educational opportunities</p>	<p>Via nine grants in Mozambique and one in Swaziland, over 50 staff and 200 community members participated in grant implementation, which by implication, involved training in project management, clearing of invasive species, monitoring of threatened species, and alternative livelihood activities.</p>
	<p>At least one civil society network established to increase and coordinate civil society participation and facilitate lessons sharing to promote linkages that ensure effective conservation action at a broad scale</p>	<p>2 networks (MPAH-wide and Midlands) established. Existing rhino conservation networks supported. Existing South African conservation community alliance supported.</p>
<p>Outcome 5: A regional implementation team provides strategic leadership and effectively coordinates CEPF investment in the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot</p> <p>\$700,000</p>	<p>100% of groups receiving grants achieve a satisfactory score on final performance scorecard</p>	<p>All relevant grants to date have closed in a satisfactory manner.</p>
	<p>Regional Implementation Team performance in fulfilling the approved terms of reference</p>	<p>The RIT is meeting all internal performance requirements</p>
	<p>At least two learning exchanges and/or participatory assessments hosted and documented</p>	<p>Mid-term assessment, support for two KZN stewardship forum meetings, learning exchanges with CAPE and SKEP grantees</p>

8. All Awarded Grants, by Start Date

No.	GEM	Organization	SD	KBA	Country	Obligated Amount	Title/Description	Start Date	End Date
1	57889	Wildlands Conservation Trust	5		South Africa	\$700,000	RIT	1-Sep-10	31-Aug-15
2	59033	Wildlife ACT	2	60	South Africa	\$146,182	Wildlife ACT Fund Community Conservation Project	1-Mar-11	30-Jun-12
3	59088	African Conservation Trust	2	60	South Africa	\$116,178	Expansion of PA Network South of Somkhanda Game-Reserve	1-May-11	31-Oct-12
4	58807	Cedarville Conservancy	3	53	South Africa	\$20,000	Alien vegetation removal and improved grazing practices	1-May-11	30-Apr-12
5	58807	Community Organisation Resource Centre (Alliance of Rural Communities)	4	59	South Africa	\$20,000	Environmental school awareness	1-May-11	30-Apr-12
6	59268	Conservation South Africa	4	n/a	South Africa	\$16,886	Embedding Lessons and Leveraging Networks from the CFR and SK CEPF Experience in MPAH	1-May-11	30-Jun-12
7	58807	Sustainable Seas Trust (Wild Reach)	4		South Africa	\$9,514	Community education outreach	1-May-11	30-Apr-12
8	58807	Sustaining the Wild Coast	3	59	South Africa	\$19,966	Mkambati (west, south) community empowerment	1-May-11	30-Apr-12
9	58807	Endangered Wildlife Trust	4	n/a	South Africa	\$18,912	GIS and Data Coordination for the MPAH	1-Jun-11	31-May-12
10	59053	WESSA	2	62	South Africa	\$186,702	Nelson Mandela Bay Urban Conservation Programme	1-Jun-11	31-May-13
11	59048	Wilderness Foundation	2	multiple	South Africa	\$160,386	Management Effectiveness in Protected Areas in Albany, Amathole-Sneeuberg, and Pondoland	1-Jun-11	31-May-13
12	58807	Landmark Foundation	2		South Africa	\$0	Predation Management Manual	1-Jul-11	30-Jun-12
13	58807	SANBI	4	n/a	South Africa	\$19,870	Capacity building strategy facilitation	1-Jul-11	30-Jun-12
14	59611	Dargle Conservancy	2	42	South Africa	\$154,329	Midlands conservancies	1-Aug-11	31-May-14
15	59587	Wild Bird Trust	2	23	South Africa	\$82,695	Cape Parrot conservation	1-Aug-11	31-Jul-13
16	58807	Wilderness Action Group	2	52	South Africa	\$20,000	45,000 hectares of grasslands into stewardship	1-Sep-11	31-Aug-12
17	59663	Zinkwazi Beach Ratepayers and Residents Association	2	11	South Africa	\$167,335	Lower Tugela Biodiversity Protection Project	1-Sep-11	31-May-14
18	58807	Peace Parks Foundation	1	61	South Africa	\$19,966	Ndumo Interventions Project	1-Oct-11	30-Sep-12

No.	GEM	Organization	SD	KBA	Country	Obligated Amount	Title/Description	Start Date	End Date
19	58807	Game Rangers Association of Africa	2		South Africa	\$19,797	Protected areas management system	1-Dec-11	30-Nov-12
20	59102	Space for Elephants	2	60	South Africa	\$161,750	Safeguarding Critical Habitat for Elephant and Rhino as Flagship Species in the Pongola -- Magude Key Biodiversity Area	1-Jan-12	30-Sep-14
21	59784	Endangered Wildlife Trust	2	66	South Africa	\$227,394	Southern Drakensberg Wetlands and Wattled Cranes	1-Jan-12	31-Dec-14
22	59606	Botanical Society of South Africa	2	42	South Africa	\$176,793	Plant assessment in KZN KBAs	1-Jan-12	31-Mar-15
23	59621	Birdlife-SA	2	42	South Africa	\$77,000	Grasslands KBAs stewardship	1-Jan-12	30-Jun-13
24	59603	Environmental & Rural Solutions	2	53	South Africa	\$217,429	Ongeluksnek custodianship (Northern Eastern Cape)	1-Feb-12	31-Dec-13
25	58807	Mabandla Community Trust	3		South Africa	\$19,650	Umgano Project Mentoring (environmental education and training of field rangers)	1-Feb-12	31-Jan-13
26	58807	Treverton Trust	2		South Africa	\$19,738	Educator development in environmental learning in the greater Midlands region	1-Mar-12	28-Feb-13
27	59783	Wilderness Foundation	2	44	South Africa	\$219,780	Mountain Zebra Wilderness Corridor Partnership	1-Mar-12	28-Feb-14
28	58807	South African Association for Marine Biological Research	2		South Africa	\$17,879	Nonoti Estuary Biophysical Assessment	1-Apr-12	30-Mar-13
29	58807	Southern African Wildlife College	4		South Africa	\$19,999	Workshop to aid in determining the human capacity needs for the Lubombo TFCA	1-Apr-12	30-Mar-13
30	58807	WWF-SA	1		South Africa	\$17,935	Introductory course to Marine Protected Area Managers for improving management effectiveness and working towards collaborative management of the Wild Coast Marine Protected Areas	1-Apr-12	30-Jun-12
31	59096	WWF-SA	3	C4	South Africa	\$258,712	Water Neutral Scheme	1-May-12	30-Jun-15
32	59609	Border Rural Committee	2	23	South Africa	\$92,880	Northern Keiskammahoek/Hogsback conservation	1-May-12	30-Jun-14
33	58807	LUPA – Association for Community Development	4	61	Mozambique	\$20,000	Educação Ambiental para conservação da biodiversidade da região corredor Futi	1-May-12	30-Apr-13

No.	GEM	Organization	SD	KBA	Country	Obligated Amount	Title/Description	Start Date	End Date
34	58807	Masifukulane Support Group	2		South Africa	\$7,359	Natural ways of improving soil fertility for homestead food production (composting and manure utilization) women capacity development	1-May-12	31-Oct-12
35	58807	Eco-Logic Consultants	3		South Africa	\$18,160	Super foods in Pondoland	15-May-12	30-Apr-13
36	61614	African Safari Lodge Foundation	1	61	Mozambique	\$175,008	Ahi Zameni Chemucane Support Project	1-Jun-12	31-May-14
37	58807	Cata Communal Property Association	2		South Africa	\$11,797	Compost Toilets in Cata	1-Jun-12	31-May-13
38	61529	Centro Terra Viva – Estudos e Advocacia Ambiental	1	61	Mozambique	\$48,567	Leatherback and Loggerhead Marine Turtle Conservation Programme, Southern Mozambique	1-Jun-12	31-May-13
39	58807	University of Kent	4		Mozambique	\$5,263	Rhino learning network	1-Jun-12	31-May-13
40	58807	Voluntariado Internacional para o Desenvolvimento Africano	4	61	Mozambique	\$17,879	Conhecimento e Inovação – Associações em acção no distrito de Matutuine	1-Jun-12	31-May-13
41	59591	WESSA	2	59	South Africa	\$113,151	Nsubane forest livelihoods	1-Jun-12	31-May-13
42	61525	Birdlife-SA	4	29,35,C7,C9	Mozambique	\$245,550	Expanding and Strengthening Civil Society at National and Local Levels in Mozambique and Swaziland Through the Development of Bird Watching Tourism at Key Biodiversity Areas	1-Jul-12	31-Dec-14
43	59578	Lubombo Conservancy	1	29	Swaziland	\$269,960	Lubombo Conservancy creation	1-Jul-12	30-Jun-15
44	58807	KZN Crane Foundation	2		South Africa	\$20,000	Stewardship Mechanism	1-Jul-12	30-Jun-13
45	58807	Preservation of the Mkondeni Mpushini Biodiversity (PMMB) Trust	3		South Africa	\$4,605	Preservation of the Mkondeni Mpushini Biodiversity (PMMB) Trust	1-Jul-12	30-Jun-13
46	58807	Preservation of the Mkondeni Mpushini Biodiversity	3		South Africa	\$4,605	Hydrological Surveys of the Mpushini/Mkhondini Biodiversity Area	1-Jul-12	31-Aug-13
47	58807	SANBI	2		South Africa	\$20,000	Growing Together	1-Jul-12	30-Jun-13
48	58807	Wildlife ACT	2	60	South Africa	\$20,000	Somkhanda community education project	1-Jul-12	30-Jun-13
49	61510	CESVI	1	29	Mozambique	\$249,052	Reduction of human pressure on the Licuati forest in Matutuine District	1-Aug-12	31-May-14

No.	GEM	Organization	SD	KBA	Country	Obligated Amount	Title/Description	Start Date	End Date
50	58807	Duzi uMngeni Conservation Trust	3		South Africa	\$4,605	Mayday for rivers	30-Aug-12	30-Jul-13
51	61888	ORAM	1	61	Mozambique	\$94,477	Titsomba Ta Hina (Our Wealth)	1-Sep-12	28-Feb-14
52	61619	SANBI	4	All	South Africa	\$336,700	Developing civil society capacity to improve conservation and management of Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany priority sites: Planning for an Integrated Approach	1-Sep-12	31-Jul-15
53	61514	Kuwuka JVA	4		Mozambique	\$99,332	Strengthening the Capacity of a Local Civil Society Organizations' Platform for Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Community Development in Licuáti Sand Forest	1-Sep-12	31-Dec-13
54	61623	LUPA – Association for Community Development	1	61	Mozambique	\$95,927	Biodiversity Conservation in Futi Corridor Project	1-Sep-12	28-Feb-14
55	58807	Shelve Wizard-Ecosol GIS	4		South Africa	\$20,000	Strengthening biodiversity management in Southern Mozambique	1-Sep-12	31-Aug-13
56	61486	Conservation South Africa	3	C4	South Africa	\$301,946	Umzimvubu Catchment Partnership Programme—Building Institutions and Financial Sustainability for Restoration and Conservation of the Upper Umzimvubu Catchment	1-Oct-12	28-Feb-15
57	58807	African Conservation Trust	2		South Africa	\$20,000	Ithala conservation project	15-Nov-12	30-Sep-14
58	58807	Endangered Wildlife Trust	2		South Africa	\$20,000	Amphibian conservation project in Hogsback	15-Nov-12	30-Sep-14
59	62366	SANBI	3		South Africa	\$39,876	Improve Government-Sponsored Labor-Intensive NRM Programs	1-Mar-13	31-Mar-14
60	58807	Janette du Toit	4		South Africa	\$859	Sharing Lessons at the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot Forum	1-Mar-13	31-May-13
61	58807	WWF-SA	4		South Africa	\$426	Sharing Lessons from the Grasslands Project at the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot Forum	1-Mar-13	31-May-13
62	58807	Treverton Trust	3		South Africa	\$16,471	Enviro-wise Learning	1-Apr-13	30-Apr-14
63	58807	Environment Learning and Teaching	2		South Africa	\$20,000	Educator Development in Environmental Teaching	1-Jun-13	28-Feb-15

No.	GEM	Organization	SD	KBA	Country	Obligated Amount	Title/Description	Start Date	End Date
64	58807	Africa Insight	1		South Africa	\$8,855	Lubombo Transfrontier Conservation and Resource Area Forum	1-Jun-13	30-Jun-13
65	58807	All Out Africa	2		South Africa	\$19,665	Conservation and Study of Gyps africanus by means of a Vulture Restaurant	1-Jul-13	30-Jun-14
66	63834	Eco-Pulse Consulting cc	2		South Africa	\$25,000	Exploring the Opportunity to Pilot Mitigation Banking in the E Thekwini Municipality	1-Sep-13	31-Jul-15
67	58807	Living Lands	3		South Africa	\$8,235	Thicket Forum Annual Conference	1-Sep-13	31-Dec-13
68	58807	Sustainability Forum	3		South Africa	\$8,235	Feasibility study for the development forum's KZN Midlands Green Map	1-Sep-13	31-Dec-13
69	64007	Endangered Wildlife Trust	2		South Africa	\$48,834	Development of Methodology to Measure Change in Environmental Goods and Services	1-Jan-14	31-Jan-15
70	64000	African Conservation Trust	3		South Africa	\$79,196	Securing the Provision of Ecosystem Services in the Greater Itala Complex	1-Jan-14	30-Jun-15
71	64018	Environmental & Rural Solutions	2		South Africa	\$57,644	Unlocking MDTP Resources: Expansion of Community Stewardship Areas in the Upper Mzimvubu Watershed	1-Jan-14	30-Jun-15
72	58807	Institute of Natural Resources	2		South Africa	\$20,000	Support the Selection of Economic Instruments to Incentivize Improved Natural Resources Management in Target Areas in the Umzimvubu and Umgeni Catchments	1-Feb-14	31-Jul-14
73	64911	CESVI	1		Mozambique	\$99,918	Decreased Local Human Pressure in the Usuthu-Tembe-Futi and the Lubombo Conservancy Goba Transfrontier Conservation Areas of Mozambique and Swaziland	1-Mar-14	31-Dec-14
74	58807	BirdLife South Africa	2		South Africa	\$9,975	Monitoring Flagship Birds to Contribute to Improved Management of Grasslands in the Mzimvubu Catchment	1-Mar-14	28-Feb-15
75	64014	Zinkwazi Blythedale Conservancy	2		South Africa	\$50,000	Lower Tugela Biodiversity Protection Project, Thukela Marine Protected Area (TMPA)	1-Mar-14	28-Feb-15

No.	GEM	Organization	SD	KBA	Country	Obligated Amount	Title/Description	Start Date	End Date
76	64140	NCT Forestry Co-Operative Limited	2		South Africa	\$50,000	Project Ozwathini: Sustainable Land Use Through Biodiversity Stewardship and Forest Certification in a Community Forestry Setting on Tribal Trust Land	1-Mar-14	31-Jul-15
77	64008	WESSA	2		South Africa	\$80,000	Strengthening Sustainable Land Use Practices, Management and Local Economic Opportunities in the Ntsubane Forest Complex (Wild Coast)	1-Apr-14	31-May-15
78	58807	Current Conservation Community Interest Company	4		South Africa	\$20,000	Developing an online social network for conservationists in the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot	1-May-14	28-Feb-15
79	58807	Eco-Logic Consultants	2	South Africa	South Africa	\$20,000	Wild Coast Tree Seed Oils and Forest Rehabilitation Project	1-Jul-14	30-Jun-15
80	58807	Southern African Wildlife College	4		South Africa	\$20,000	Support for the transformation of the Somkhanda Community into a better managed community based natural resource management project project in KZN, SA	1-Jul-14	30-Jun-15
81	58807	Wild Bird Trust	2		South Africa	\$20,000	iziKhwenene Project	1-Jul-14	30-Jun-15
82	65300	WWF-SA	3		South Africa	\$56,265	Forest Carbon Market Development in the Eastern Cape	1-Jul-14	31-Jul-15
83	65467	WESSA	3	61	South Africa	\$69,995	Midmar to Albert Falls Biosphere Reserve	1-Jul-14	31-Aug-15
84	58807	Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region Non-profit Company	2		South Africa	\$20,000	Institutional capacity to coordinate and align different initiatives towards the development of a regional action plan to nurture and sustain the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services to livelihoods and resilient economic development.	1-Aug-14	28-Feb-15