

Annual Portfolio Overview Succulent Karoo Region

March 2011

Introduction

The only arid ecosystem to be recognized as a global biodiversity hotspot, the Succulent Karoo, covering parts of southwestern South Africa and southern Namibia, is characterized by its diverse and endemic flora, especially succulents and bulbs. The hotspot is home to 6,356 plant species, 40 percent of which are endemic or unique to the region. In addition to its floral diversity, the hotspot is a center of diversity for reptiles and invertebrates and also supports a variety of mammals and endemic birds.

In 2003, when CEPF first prioritized its investments and analyzed the threats to biodiversity in this region, poverty, lack of capacity, land conversion, and lack of awareness of the conservation value of the landscape were clearly the greatest problems. These were attended, unsurprisingly, by uninformed land-use decisions and invasive plant species taking over patchy and disturbed landscapes. These threats have not abated in the intervening eight years, and if anything, now there are even more worrying issues, at least in South Africa. The country today is under enormous economic pressure: to recover from the global financial crisis of 2009; to ensure that the promise of economic equity matches that of political equity from the post-apartheid era; and to remain a bastion of stability and driver of growth on the continent. In South Africa's Northern and Western Cape provinces, where enormous forces are pushing for increased productivity of land in the name of wealth creation for historically disadvantaged communities, the contravening argument for conservation of unique sites and corridors becomes that much more tenuous.

During CEPF's first five years of investment, from 2003-2008, the focus was on mobilizing local stakeholder participation, securing political support, mainstreaming conservation into planning and policy, engaging key industrial sectors, and retaining and restoring critical biodiversity areas. Success was yielded both in terms of actual hectares of land under better forms of conservation and in terms of conservation targets and priorities becoming better integrated into South African and Namibian institutional frameworks. Significantly, the Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Program, or SKEP, has become an accepted overarching framework for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the hotspot for the period of 2001-2021.

CEPF has now entered a "consolidation" phase to ensure the continuation of its success. In total, the portfolio attempts to respond to several continuing issues: slow adoption of stewardship and other best practices throughout the Northern Cape; very limited funding for civil society in a sparsely populated region; uncertain incentives for landowners to conserve land; and multiple remaining steps to make the Western Cape's Knersvlakte protected area and Namibia's Sperrgebiet National Park into more than just "paper parks." 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 February 2003, and over the subsequent five years, through January 2008, CEPF awarded 89 grants for \$7.9 million. Conservation International served as the initial manager of the coordination unit, but after two years, this task was decentralized to the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and the Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF). The five-year assessment report was completed in November 2008, and all initial-period grant activities were closed by early 2010. As described further below, CEPF has now moved the Succulent Karoo Region into a phase of consolidation grants, with five grants for a total of \$1,409,000 running from January 2010 through December 2012.

The consolidation grants fall within five investment priorities, which themselves build on the strategic directions identified in the 2003 ecosystem profile. The strategic directions in the ecosystem profile focused on specific corridors, engaging industry, research, mainstreaming, awareness-raising, and capacity building. The five investment priorities of the consolidation grants continue in this direction:

1. Sustain stewardship, improved livestock management, and local economic development investments in the Northern Cape Province.
2. Institutionalization of the SKEP learning network and mainstreaming conservation in the Namakwa District.
3. Expansion of mechanisms to make greater use of an existing trust fund (the Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust, managed by World Wildlife Fund-South Africa) for land acquisition and stewardship.
4. Strengthening of the nascent Knersvlakte protected area in the Western Cape Province.
5. Strengthening of the nascent Sperrgebiet National Park in Namibia.

Portfolio Status

Through a targeted and rapid award of 36-month grants, CEPF has committed the entire allotment of funds for consolidation in the region. There are four grants in South Africa and one in Namibia, all to well-established organizations that had received funding during the 2003-2008 investment period. These awards fit into the five investment priorities, as shown in Table 1, Figure 1, and Figure 2. Table 1 represents the entire portfolio for consolidation; CEPF investment in the Succulent Karoo will be effectively over in December 2012. At this time, the Secretariat has no intention of allotting more funds or issuing further calls for proposals.

Coordinating of CEPF Grants

Consolidation programs do not have formal coordinating entities or regional implementation teams beyond the U.S.-based Grant Director. However, in the Succulent Karoo Region, SANBI has formally constituted a SKEP “biome” program (complementing its other programs for fynbos, Eastern Cape, grasslands, freshwater, and marine) and serves as the informal point for CEPF, at least in South Africa. SANBI’s SKEP program is based at the Centre for Biodiversity Conservation in Cape Town’s Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, co-located with Conservation International and relatively close to both WWF and CapeNature. Thus, the relationship between the South African grantees is quite strong.

Table 1. Succulent Karoo Region Consolidation Grants by Investment Priority

Organization	Grant	Amount	Active Dates
<i>Investment priority 1: Sustain stewardship, improved livestock management, and local economic development investments in the Northern Cape Regions of the Succulent Karoo</i>			
Conservation South Africa	Consolidating Implementation of Conservation Action in CEPF SKEP Priorities in the Namakwa District	\$350,000	January 2010 – December 2012
<i>Investment priority 2: Institutionalize the SKEP learning network and mainstream local level governance for conservation</i>			
South African National Biodiversity Institute	Institutionalize the SKEP Learning Network, Embed Local Level Governance and Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation	\$300,000	January 2010 – December 2012
<i>Investment priority 3: Expansion of mechanisms to make greater use of the Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust (LHST) for land acquisition and stewardship arrangements</i>			
WWF – South Africa	Supporting Innovative and Effective Protected Area Expansion through the Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust	\$159,000	February 2010 – December 2011
<i>Investment priority 4: Complete efforts to ensure good management of the Knersvlakte Priority Area in South Africa</i>			
Western Cape Nature Conservation Board	Consolidation of the Knersvlakte Conservation Area	\$300,000	January 2010 – December 2012
<i>Investment priority 5: Complete efforts to ensure good management of the Sperrgebiet Priority Area in Namibia</i>			
Namibia Nature Foundation	Strategic Support to the Consolidation of the Management and Development of the Newly Proclaimed Sperrgebiet National Park and Immediately Adjacent Areas	\$300,000	February 2010 – December 2012
Total		\$1,409,000	

CEPF budgets for the U.S.-based Grant Director to visit the region twice during its three year period. This included a visit to the South African part of the hotspot in March 2011 and meetings with all the grantees other than the Namibia Nature Foundation. The visit included office- and site-based meetings along the corridor between Cape Town and Springbok.

The Grant Director’s March 2011 visit emphasized the need for coordination among the grantees such that they could reinforce and build upon past success. In turn, SKEP is now a stand-alone program and the requested commitment of the CEPF Secretariat is that donors do not abandon the region. The only significant change resulting from the visit will be a modification of the WWF grant to have it end in December 2012, similar to the other four grants. The next visit will take place in the second half of 2012, prior to closure of this region.

Performance Assessment

In relation to the outcomes and targets listed in the logical framework (Annex 1), the pace of performance was as expected, if modest, during the first year of implementation. This was due to delays between the end of initial grants to the award of consolidation grants, organizational challenges, and the inability of grantees to quickly hire appropriate personnel. This pace of performance is reflected in the overall spending rate by the grantees: \$298,000, or 21 percent of allocated funds. That said, the grantees, many of whom have experience from the Cape Floristic consolidation portfolio, have been much more efficient in starting the Succulent Karoo consolidation grants. 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.

In general, progress has varied with the complexity of the grants. The grants for work in the Knersvlakte and Sperrgebiet are to support formalization of protected areas that were created during the first five-year investment period. Work includes management planning, community liaison, boundary demarcation, and all the work necessary to make these places become meaningful as “parks.” While the work is certainly challenging, it is straight-forward and roughly on schedule. Similarly, the grant for the Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust involves analysis of tax incentives and contract law – expert-driven tasks that are also roughly on schedule. On the other hand, the grants to Conservation International and SANBI, which are designed to replicate best practices, generate political support at district and provincial levels, and leverage more funding, require buy-in from multiple parties and are easily disrupted by politics. However, both organizations are robust enough to adapt their work to ensure continued progress.

Portfolio Investment Highlights by Investment Priority

Investment priority 1. Sustain stewardship, improved livestock management, and local economic development investments in the Northern Cape Regions of the Succulent Karoo

This investment priority has three components, the first two of which are centered on the Namakwa District in the Northern Cape, and the third to generate financing for small-scale livelihood and conservation work throughout the Succulent Karoo. The grantee, Conservation International’s South Africa program, now an independent and locally-registered entity called Conservation South Africa (CSA), ensures that local economic development in the Namakwa District supports biodiversity conservation by mentoring community, government, and corporate implementers to implement best practices related to land management, stewardship agreements, livestock production, and livelihood activities. CSA also supports implementation of the Northern Cape Department of Tourism, Environment, and Conservation (DTEC) stewardship strategy in Namakwa District by providing ecological expertise and facilitating district-provincial government links leading to completion of stewardship agreements. Lastly, during the first phase of investment, CSA managed a small grants fund called SKEPPIES. This consolidation grant is designed to establish the fund as an independent sustainable financing vehicle, by completing legal processes, conducting a strategic review for expanding the small grant portfolio, securing new financing, and upgrading systems for project application, approval, and reporting.

CSA leads implementation of this Investment Priority based on its history with SKEP and its long-standing commitment to the Northern Cape. Apart from having been the initial coordinator of CEPF’s investment in the region and the manager of SKEPPIES, CSA has been a leading proponent of stewardship and market-based measures for conservation.

CSA has had to be opportunistic in its work on this grant. It has synergies and momentum with many other partners in the Northern Cape, including its own Conservation Stewards Program, and it has been able to complement livestock and agricultural efforts in the Succulent Karoo with those that it runs in the Cape Floristic region under the auspices of Green Choice. On the other hand, promised contributions to SKEPPIES, particularly from DeBeers Consolidated Mines, have not materialized. This lack of funding, along with the timing of the CEPF consolidation grant, led to significant downsizing of the SKEPPIES staff. There is currently one person full-time on SKEPPIES, as opposed to the several grant and project development officers that it had in 2007. The future direction of SKEPPIES as a stand-alone fund for the Succulent Karoo is under debate. There is the possibility that the mandate for supporting small-scale work in the Succulent Karoo could fall to another, existing fund.

Highlights to date:

- CSA has formally enlisted 45 individual communal livestock farmers in the Kamiesberg region into stewardship agreements under the Biodiversity and Red Meat Initiative. In addition, the team has engaged four private farmers in the Three Peaks area, promulgated management guidelines for each farmer, and worked closely with the Northern Cape provincial stewardship manager to shepherd three new private farmer agreements [in the Hantam region] to the provincial Member of the Executive Committee for signature. In all, 9,000 hectares of land were placed in stewardship and 2,300 hectares were pending approval.
- CSA team members have been active members in the Northern Cape provincial coast stakeholder meetings for concerned parties surrounding Namakwa National Park. With input from CSA and, at least in part, due to its advocacy, DeBeers formally re-zoned 29,000 hectares of its Koingnaas as part of a buffer zone to the park, and South Africa National Parks (SANParks) purchased an additional 11,000 hectares for the buffer.
- CSA entered an agreement and provided support to SANParks to establish a breeding center for Anatolian sheepdogs, which serve as a deterrent to livestock predators and are an alternative to trapping and killing animals such as cheetah and leopard. The first litter of eight puppies was successfully bred and distributed to farmers adjacent to Namakwa National Park.
- Due to CSA engagement, the Government of South Africa's Working for Wetlands program committed Rand 3 million (approximately \$450,000) to a stewardship site in Namakwaland.
- The DBSA committed Rand 850,000 to the SKEPPIES fund for support of small projects.

Investment priority 2. Institutionalize the SKEP learning network and mainstream local level governance for conservation

Complementing Investment Priority 1, this grant to SANBI has three components, the first of which is to ensure that products developed during the first phase of CEPF investment in the Namakwa District, notably in planning, stewardship, land reform, monitoring and evaluation, and project development, are used by relevant government and civil society stakeholders. The second component continues its local emphasis by supporting the Namakwa Biodiversity Advisory Forum (NamBF), which is intended to influence and improve the management practices of local institutions with regard to decision making about biodiversity. The final component ensures that the lessons of the first 5 year investment period are captured in case studies, publications, learning exchanges, and a website and eNews bulletins.

SANBI leads implementation of this Investment Priority based on its national mandate to lead conservation in the country's six biomes per the 2004 National Environmental Management – Biodiversity Act. SANBI is a natural entity to capture and disseminate lessons, and it is doing something very similar in its Grasslands program and through the CEPF consolidation grant in the Cape Floristic region. Its role of being a leader at a district and provincial level is a reflection of the limited capacity in the region and also a natural extension of SANBI's role leading the CEPF coordination unit.

SANBI has had to be opportunistic in its work on this grant. With the 20-year SKEP development program at its mid-point this year, and with the national government now soliciting

concepts in anticipation of GEF-5 (the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility), SANBI personnel have tried to position the Succulent Karoo as a region for dramatically more funding. On the other hand, they have had challenges generating momentum on the Namakwa Biodiversity Advisory Forum, where potential members have not perceived advantages for participating.

Highlights to date:

- A case study based on the Leilifontein Wetland Rehabilitation Project was written and published.
- The SKEP website has been transformed and now houses the SKEP newsletter as well as local Namakwaland newsletters such as “Makam,” published by the Agricultural Research Council, and “Veepos,” published by Conservation South Africa. The website can be found at www.skep.org.za
- Despite challenges, NamBF has met twice and had the participation of the Northern Cape Provincial Chief Director for Land Reform.
- SANBI team members have met with the regional Agricultural Union, the Small Scale Farmers Association, and Agri-Namakwa to promote conservation as a vital element of agriculture, and team members are working with the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation to create a Bioregional Plan.

Investment priority 3. Expansion of mechanisms to make greater use of the Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust (LHST) for land acquisition and stewardship arrangements

In the mid 1990s, WWF South Africa, part of the international WWF federation but an independent, locally registered organization, became trustee of a trust designed to acquire private land and place it conservation. Over the years, the Trust has been incredibly valuable, investing over \$8 million and protecting 172,000 hectares. Paradoxically, however, the trust deed has limited its funds only for land acquisition, which while still a fundamental way of promoting conservation, is just one of several mechanisms. Private land owners holding property valuable for conservation could also be engaged through land swaps, tax incentives, or stewardship easement methods. Thus, the CEPF grant to WWF enables it to explore these mechanisms and possibly “unlock” the trust deed, facilitating the release of as much as \$2 million. The grant is designed to support legal analysis into the South African tax code, create *pro forma* legal contracts covering a range of owner-manager relationships, and support innovative acquisitions in Namaqualand and Knersvlakte. Also, through CEPF support, WWF is able to develop a consensus land target strategy among planners from South Africa National Parks, the Northern Cape Department of Environment, and the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board.

WWF, as the trustee, is the natural leader of the grant. The main change in the grant thus far is that WWF originally planned for the grant to end by December 2011, but now intends to put it in line with the others, ending in December 2012.

Highlights to date:

- With information gathered and analyzed through CEPF support, WWF was able to prioritize land acquisition targets in collaboration with SANParks, Cape Nature, and the Northern Cape Department of the Environment. The Trustees of the fund have prioritized areas throughout the Succulent Karoo, with clearer agreement on areas in the Western Cape than Northern Cape.
- The team prepared a draft booklet on the use of tax incentives for securing and managing properties for conservation. The booklet is based on discussions with the South Africa Revenue Services on ways to reduce the price of a land transaction, or to segregate a management endowment.
- The Trust is now preparing agreements beyond only the purchase of land. It is trying to expand the number of direct beneficiaries beyond only the land owners who are being bought out.

Investment priority 4. Complete efforts to ensure good management of the Knersvlakte Priority Area in South Africa

Over the period of 1999 through 2008, the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board created the Knersvlakte conservation area through the assembly of public lands and the purchase of private farms. Purchases were often made via the Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust. CEPF was a critical funder for the various biologists, spatial planners, community organizations, and Cape Nature as the assembled plots ultimately became a 62,000 hectare functioning conservation area, with a dedicated staff and budget based in Vanrhynsdorp. While CEPF considers this one of its greatest achievements, much remains to be done to ensure the Knersvlakte's sustainability, starting with its formal proclamation as a Provincial Nature Reserve. Cape Nature, as the legal authority responsible for the area, is the natural grantee. Apart from guiding the political process for the formal proclamation, Cape Nature's grant is also designed to support park management planning and implementation, stewardship agreements on neighboring properties, and engagement of local economic development authorities.

While the work of the Cape Nature team has proceeded well on-site, the only shortcoming to date has been a delay in the park proclamation. Subsequent to the announcement of the impending proclamation, in June 2010, there was a two-month period for public comment. During that time, a mining claim was raised with the Department of Minerals and Resources. It is now anticipated that the proclamation will be complete in mid-2011.

Highlights to date:

- Knersvlakte has a ranger and office staff of six; and, it has a seconded work-crew team of eight from the Expanded Public Works Programme.
- 34.8 kilometers of internal fence lines have been removed; external fences have been erected near the Moedverloren farm; invertebrate, plant, and bird assessments have been conducted; and night patrols have ensured no poaching or illegal access.

- Knersvlakte management staff are participating in regular CAPE and SKEP steering committee meetings, (e.g., in relation to corridor development with the Greater Cederberg) and with local groups like the Matzikama Tourism Association. They also attended the Landscape Initiative Knowledge Exchange workshop in November 2010 to develop baseline information.
- Knersvlakte management staff are in ongoing negotiations to use Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust to purchase four additional properties comprising 10,300 hectares.
- The team has begun work to promote stewardship on the Ratelgat property, owned by the Griqua National Conference.
- Representatives from local farmers' associations are participating in the Protected Area Advisory Committee, with particular emphasis on mitigating stock losses by caracal and black-backed jackals.

Investment priority 5. Complete efforts to ensure good management of the Sperrgebiet Priority Area in Namibia

Similar to the Knersvlakte, during the first five years of implementation, CEPF supported the Namibia Nature Foundation as it facilitated the creation of the 2.6 million hectare Sperrgebiet National park, itself part of a combined 25 million hectares of contiguous land under conservation. CEPF grant funds now enable Namibia Nature Foundation to make the park fully functional. It includes engaging with the park's neighboring communities and mining and fishing industries, building park operational capacity, implementing management plans, and conducting research and outreach activities. Namibia Nature Foundation, while a private entity, effectively manages the park on behalf of the Parks and Wildlife Directorate of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

Highlights to date:

- The Park Advisory Board is meeting regularly; park personnel have been trained in environmental impact assessment; and park staff are now using a performance-based incentive program.
- Assessments are underway on infrastructure needs, training needs, and incorporation of HIV/AIDS into park policy.
- Due to CEPF funding, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism has awarded a concession to the local Aus Community, through the Aus Community Conservation Trust. Ten community members have received training as tour guides to visit the wild horse reserve on the edge of the park.

Collaboration with CEPF Donors

By their nature, the five consolidation grants are far-reaching. Even if they are focused on the Succulent Karoo hotspot, the type of work – sharing lessons learned, government capacity building and awareness, ensuring good management of important protected areas – overlaps with that of other donors, like the GEF and World Bank, which have nationwide environmental management programs in South Africa and Namibia. However, one reason for CEPF's continued involvement in the Succulent Karoo, and particularly the Northern Cape, is the lack of significant donor funding in the region. This is perhaps the reality of semi-arid landscapes with a low population density. There is neither the charismatic megafauna, the forests of global significance, or a big group of people attracting investment. It is more likely, in the future, that collaboration with donors in the Succulent Karoo occurs indirectly, via donor investment in mining, energy, or perhaps governance. For now, SANBI, as the lead entity in South Africa, and Namibia Nature Foundation, through its relations with the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism, engage with donors in order to elicit their greater interest in the region.

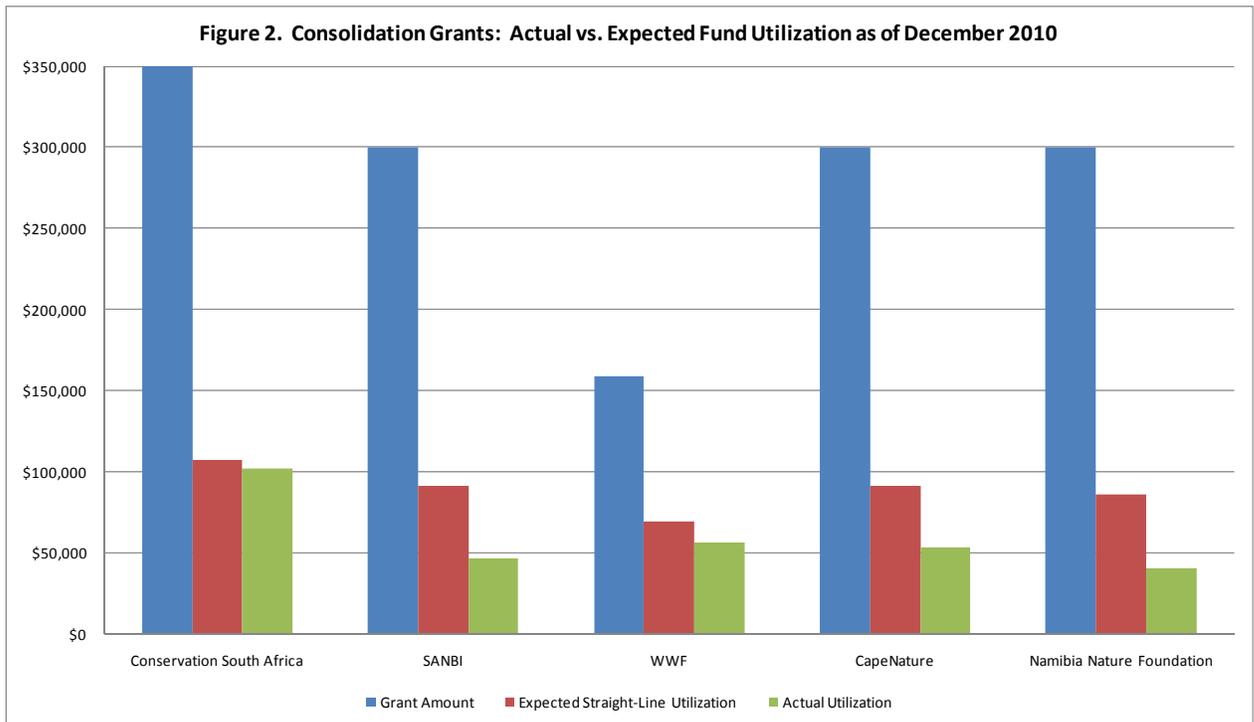
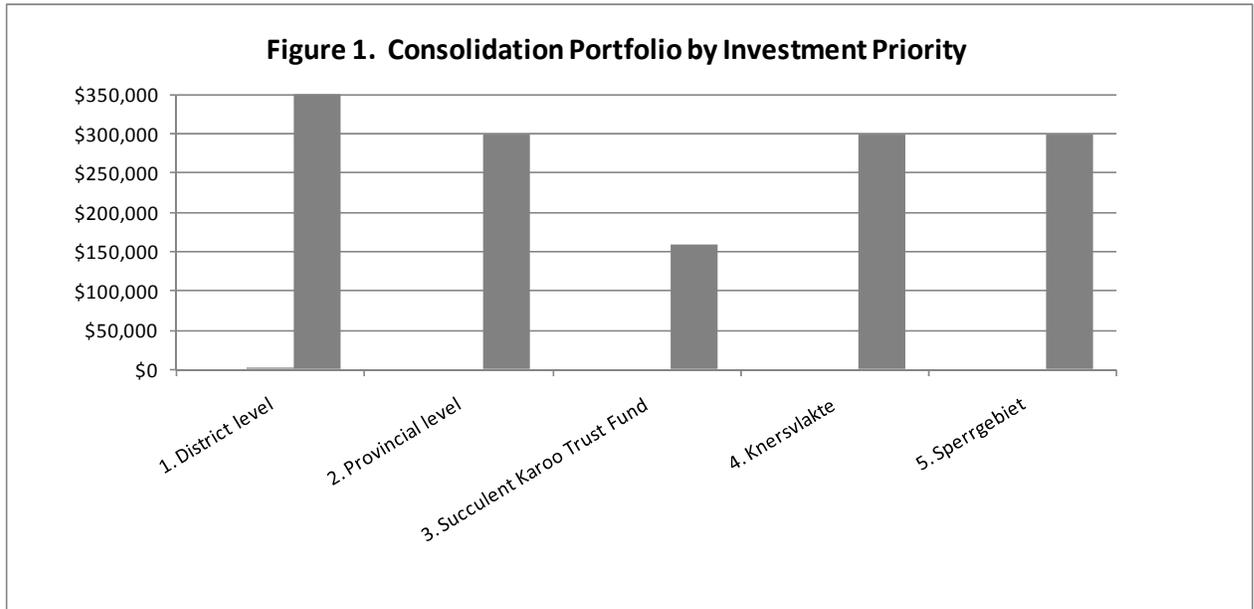
Conclusion

Learning from the Cape Floristic Region, the transition from the first five years of investment to consolidation in the Succulent Karoo was relatively smooth, ensuring minimal loss of momentum from ongoing activities. Now, over a year into implementation, all the grantees are fully staffed and working on schedule.

Among the four South African grantees, as well as other stakeholders in the Northern and Western Cape (e.g., municipal and provincial agencies, public protected areas, private landowners), there is impressive collaboration through bodies like the Northern Cape Stewardship Forum or via the auspices of the board meetings of the Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust. In particular, SANBI, as the leader of the SKEP program, operates with a mandate of leading work on the goals espoused by CEPF. It is also valuable that all the grantees, including Conservation South Africa, are locally-based organizations with long-term commitments, and funding, for the Succulent Karoo. One challenge, or perhaps reality, is that there is limited integration across the border, between the four South African grantees and the one Namibian grantee.

In an environment like the Succulent Karoo, the perennial challenge will be social. There are limited ways to make a living, and the options that do exist are hard and not typically lucrative. Young and educated people leave the region, making it that much harder to address challenging issues of science and governance. The 20-year SKEP program, now at its mid-point, is orienting itself to address such fundamental issues. Compatible land-use solutions, stewardship, decision-making, big payment for ecosystem services schemes, tax incentives, reform of agricultural grazing practices, and efforts which create, literally thousands of jobs are needed to address the big drivers of biodiversity loss in the Succulent Karoo. The CEPF consolidation program is providing an important bridge as the stakeholders plot out the next ten years.

Figures



Annex 1: Succulent Karoo Region Logical Framework for Consolidation

Objective	Targets	Progress
<p>Reinforce and sustain the conservation gains achieved as a result of previous CEPF investment in the Succulent Karoo.</p>	<p>20 civil society actors, including NGOs and the private sector, actively participating in conservation programs</p>	<p>Perhaps as many as 50 different registered organizations, local government agencies, communal bodies, advisory bodies, and collections of trainees and past small grantees are regularly participating in work leading toward CEPF goals. Twenty are listed here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agri-Namaqua Conservation South Africa Biodiversity and Red Meat Initiative Integrated Development Plan Forum Intergovernmental Forum Knersvlakte Protected Area Advisory Committee Liliefontein Red Meat Producers Association Local Economic Development Forum Local engagements in Matzikama Local engagements in Nieuwoudtville Local engagements in Springbok Namakwa Biodiversity Advisory Forums Namibia Nature Foundation Provincial Coastal Committee Richtersveld Conservancy South Africa National Biodiversity Institute Small Miners Forum Union of Communal Farmers Western Cape Nature Conservation Board World Wide Fund for Nature-South Africa
	<p>2 key biodiversity areas, one of 113,000 hectares (Knersvlakte) and one of 2.6 million hectares (Sperrgebiet), with strengthened management</p>	<p>The Knersvlakte should be properly listed at 62,000 hectares, not 113,000. Work is underway on both Knersvlakte and Sperrgebiet and both will have “strengthened management” by December 2012</p>
	<p>\$2,000,000 leveraged</p>	<p>The DBSA contributed R 850,000 for SKEPPIES (approximately US \$123,000). In addition, Cape Nature is providing its project manager and two rangers, SANBI is providing two managers, and office space and utilities are provided by the Springbok municipality and the Northern Cape DENC.</p>

Objective	Targets	Progress
	62,000 hectares in production landscapes with improved management for biodiversity conservation	Three stewardship agreements in the Northern Cape are awaiting formal approval by DENC. Stewardship agreements are in process through the Biodiversity and Red Meat Initiative in Leilifontein and via the Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust.

Intermediate Outcomes	Targets	Progress
<p>Outcome 1: Stewardship and local conservation-based development investments are sustained in priority areas within the production landscape in the Namakwa District; and, an independent SKEPPIES Fund is institutionally consolidated to become a sustainable financing vehicle for conservation in the hotspot.</p> <p>\$350,000</p>	Public-private partnership structure operating effectively in Namakwa District with local environment and development authorities	Biodiversity and Red Meat Initiative is promoting links with Woolworths supermarket chain; Namakwa Area Biodiversity Forum creates collaboration between municipal planners, protected area managers, and agricultural and mining interests.
	16 stewardship agreements (covering 62,000 hectares) completed	Northern Cape Stewardship Forum is working toward 8, not 16, agreements. This is seen as realistic to achieve by December 2012.
	SKEPPIES Fund governance and operations strengthened such that it receives capital contributions from other donors	Strengthening of operations and governance under way; management committee includes DBSA, Namakwa District municipality, CSA, and SANBI. Considerations ongoing on future operations of the fund.
<p>Outcome 2: Enabling environment created through embedded learning network, localized governance, and mainstreamed conservation approaches.</p> <p>\$300,000</p>	Best practices for conservation in the hotspot made available to a wider audience through multiple written and electronic media, and local forums and events	SANBI has established a website: www.skep.org.za Learning network officer is preparing case studies; 10-year SKEP partners conference taking place 28-30 September; Namakwa Area Biodiversity Forum meeting regularly. SANBI promoting biodiversity planning, use of EIAs, and outreach via Hantam National Botanical Garden.
	Management effectiveness tracking tool used in all protected areas managed by the Northern Cape DTEC	Northern Cape DENC is applying METT in two parks; SANParks is applying METTs in three parks
<p>Outcome 3: Innovative acquisition and/or management arrangements executed and legal mechanisms completed for the LHSKT.</p> <p>\$159,000</p>	Strategy for land acquisition in the Northern Cape using the LHSKT developed and agreed to by district and provincial authorities, land owners, and conservation scientists	Consensus has been achieved on acquisition targets in the Northern Cape
	One large individual farmer-owned plot in Namaqualand and one in Knersvlakte placed under improved management via innovative acquisition or stewardship arrangement	Work is under way to improve management on several plots.

Intermediate Outcomes	Targets	Progress
	Set of legal <i>pro formas</i> developed making use of tax incentives to allow for increased land acquisition and stewardship agreements	Draft tax booklet prepared; <i>pro formas</i> in development.
Outcome 4: Knersvlakte protected area management efforts consolidated and expanded. \$300,000	Protected area authority has better trained field staff, financial managers, and operational managers	Six full-time personnel working at Knersvlakte. Protected Area Advisory Committee includes Cape Nature, SANBI, WWF, Griqua community, farmers, Vanrhynsdorp / Matzikama municipal representatives, and Environmental Monitoring Group
	Protected area has improved management systems through use of ecosystem and visitor data	On going
	Corridors and buffer zones in Knersvlakte put under stewardship agreements for improved management	Under way: acquisition targets have been identified and the Knersvlakte manager is in negotiations with land owners.
Outcome 5: Sperrgebiet protected area management efforts consolidated and expanded. \$300,000	Protected area implementing park management, business, and tourism plans	Ongoing
	Surrounding communities make use of their rights and responsibilities in relation to the park such that they receive marginal economic benefits from park	Ongoing