

## **Annual Portfolio Overview**

### **Cape Floristic Biodiversity Hotspot – Consolidation Program**

#### **December 2011**

#### **1. 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.

The CEPF consolidation program for the region recognized that more work was needed. Important initiatives begun by CEPF and C.A.P.E. were not yet financially sustainable; insufficient capacity among government agencies and civil society impeded conservation

work; and greater engagement of the business and agriculture sectors was needed to achieve conservation objectives. Addressing the factors to ensure the long-term success of conservation efforts was the focus for CEPF.

## 2. Niche for CEPF Investment

### 2.1. Overview

The ecosystem profile for the region was formally approved in December 2001. Between May 2002 through June 2009, CEPF awarded 55 grants to 39 unique organizations for a total of \$5,310,322.76. 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.

Over June 2008 through December 2011, CEPF made an additional nine grants to seven organizations for a total of \$1,584,910.32 focusing on six investment priorities, which themselves built on the strategic directions identified in the 2001 ecosystem profile. The strategic directions in the ecosystem profile focused on facilitating engagement of civil society, communities, and the private sector in the management of conservation landscapes and protected areas in the Cape Floristic Region's biodiversity corridors. The six investment priorities of the consolidation grants continued 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 continued 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 Baviaanskloof, Cederberg and Gouritz, as well as the lowlands of the southwest, southeast, and northwest.

### 2.2. Portfolio Status

Through a targeted and rapid award of 3-year grants, CEPF committed the entire allocation of funds for consolidation in the region upon inception, as shown in Table 1.

**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	\$282,010	Aug 2008 – Dec 2011
Wilderness Foundation	Baviaanskloof mega-reserve consolidation project	\$109,928	Oct 2008 – Sept 2011

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Grant</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Active Dates</b>
<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	\$164,797	Dec 2008 – Sept 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 – Sept 2011
<i>Investment priority 4: Engagement with the business sector</i>			
Conservation International	Consolidation of CAPE conservation gains: engaging agricultural industries in South Africa	\$191,983	July 2008 – Dec 2011
WWF – South Africa	Consolidation of conservation gains: engaging the business sector in South Africa	\$88,546	July 2008 – Sept 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 – Dec 2011
<i>Investment priority 6: Securing support from government</i>			
Wilderness Foundation	Cape Floristic Region: communicating conservation	\$147,647	July 2008 – June 2011
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,584,910</b>	

### **2.3. Coordinating CEPF Grant-Making**

Consolidation programs did not have formal coordinating entities or Regional Implementation Teams beyond the U.S.-based Grant Director. However, in the Cape Floristic Region, SANBI hosted 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 served as an informal coordinator for CEPF.

### **2.4. Performance Assessment**

Performance is best understood in relation to 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 the short-term. The logical framework in Section 6 summarizes the results of the work. The program was successful, overall. Learning from this region was absolutely replicated in the Succulent Karoo and Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany (Investment Priority 3) and the biodiversity friendly “organic” and “branded” agricultural product market is now strong in both the Cape and throughout the country, providing an economic feedback loop for conservation (Investment Priority 4.) The three targeted corridors were all functioning better as management entities by the close of the grants, and these models were replicated elsewhere in the country (Investment Priorit 1). Investment Priority 2 had modest goals – to provide micro-grants to support local

projects, and these happened with varying success. Investment Priorities 5 and 6 were about sustainability – building the capacity of partner NGOs and government agencies, and “mainstreaming” conservation within the latter. These are both long-term undertakings. The grants achieved modest success that the grantees are prepared to continue.

### **3. Portfolio Highlights by Investment Priority**

#### ***3.1. Investment Priority 1. Consolidate and strengthen implementation efforts for corridor conservation***

This investment priority sought 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.

- Upon grant completion, the Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve had opened offices on the major tourist routes within its boundaries and these offices were working in partnership with all regional Tourism Bureaus. The headquarters of the Biosphere Reserve provides support to local community stakeholders via a dedicated Conservation Manager and the National Department of Environmental Affairs committed to provide funding for the long-term employment of a Programme Manager position for each of the Biosphere Reserves of South Africa.
- Upon grant completion, the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board had rebranded itself as CapeNature. Cape Nature worked through the Cape Floral Region Protected Areas World Heritage Site. CapeNature managed six of the eight properties in the World Heritage Site, providing on-site managers and staff, training the staff, and improving the profile of each property to represent a World Heritage Site. CapeNature also hosted a Biodiversity Champions award program in the Greater Cederberg and Gouritz Corridors, to promote the contributions of local communities, landowners, and partners supporting biodiversity conservation. To further coordinate conservation efforts, CapeNature staff participated on the National Man and Biosphere Committee: a mechanism to share best practices across all South African biospheres reserves.
- The Wilderness Foundation promoted the use of stewardship in the Baviaanskloof Mega-Reserve. The reserve was functioning as a mosaic of privately owned land and formally protected plots, integrating the better agriculture techniques of the Biodiversity and Citrus Initiative. The Wilderness Foundation helped establish the use of the Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool. The Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency assumed project responsibilities from the Wilderness Foundation as the grant came to an end, committing to continue use of the METT and engagement of community stakeholders.

#### ***3.2. Investment Priority 2. Improve project development and implementation through support to grassroots communities***

CEPF supported the integration of previously disadvantaged communities living in corridor areas through sub-grants for eco-friendly livelihood programs.

As Table Mountain Fund (TMF) brought its work to a close, 35 CSOs had received technical support and had placed an intern with the West Coast Biosphere Reserve Company. CSO training was in the entire project cycle and thereby expanded TMF’s project implementation

base. In other words, as TMF raised more funds, it had more groups with which it could work. Furthermore, TMF awarded 48 “micro grants” to support environmental management and sustainable economic development projects in conjunction with municipal Integrated Development Plans within the West Coast, Gouritz, and Baavianskloof reserves. TMF organized its micro-grantees and CSO partners into clusters for mutual support.

### **3.3. Investment Priority 3. Support the sharing of lessons learned across and beyond corridors within the Cape Floristic Region**

SANBI, as the host of the C.A.P.E. Coordination Unit, was in a natural position to replicate lessons within and beyond the region. SANBI produced multiple case studies, a series of handbooks, conservation stewardship studies, and print books such as *Celebrating Conservation and Biodiversity for Development*. SANBI also organized and hosted the 2011 C.A.P.E. Partnership Conference, with a focus on conservation and agriculture. Over 200 people from the fields of conservation, agriculture, farming, education discussed methods for production landscapes, sustainable farming and natural solutions to mainstream biodiversity conservation.

### **3.4. Investment Priority 4. Engagement with the business sector**

This investment priority sought to 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.

The grant to Conservation International closed with production of:

- Written materials on Living Farms.
- Written and audiovisual materials on Business and Biodiversity.
- Written and audiovisual materials on the Green Choice program.
- The iFarm record-keeping system.
- Best practices on rooibos (redbush tea) and communal livestock production.
- Market-ready products including rooibos, red meat, wine, citrus, flowers, honey, and seafood.

The grant to WWF codified audit standards for biodiversity-friendly wine production and rooibos and engaged flower producers in broader landscape conservation in the Agulhas region.

### **3.5. Investment Priority 5. Capacity development in implementing agencies**

This investment priority sought to 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.

Notable results from the grant to Table Mountain Fund were:

- The creation of two-year intern-mentor programs and associated short films to profile the value of capacity building
- Mainstreaming of conservation into the Local Economic Development (LED) and Integrated Development Planning (IDP) offices in the municipalities of West Coast and Eden District.
- Capacity building for individual LED and IDP officers.

### **3.6. Investment Priority 6. Securing support from government**

This work sought to 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. Ultimately, the Wilderness Foundation expanded its focus to include not just parliamentarians and advisors, but also municipal officials, private landowners, winemakers, artists, and business leaders involved in conservation. With a broad diversity of conservation messaging a shared responsibility was instilled to bring greater cohesion to biodiversity conservation across the Cape Floristic Region.

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

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

### **5. Conclusion**

CEPF invested, successively, in three hotspots in South Africa: the Cape Floristic Region; the Succulent Karoo (including parts of Namibia); and Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany (including parts of Swaziland and Mozambique). While the hotspots are unique, they abut one another, obviously are centered in the same country, have similar or the very same sets of stakeholders, and at least within South Africa, are subject to same legal and institutional regimes. Thus, even as the investment in the Cape Floristic Region ended, CEPF's work in South Africa continued. Lessons from the Cape Floristic Region were carried to the other two hotspots; leading organizations that received funds in the Cape Floristic Region to often receive funds from the other investments, allowing the groups to strengthen their efforts; and government engagement and policies that were first addressed in the Cape Floristic Region to be further addressed in the other two hotspots.

The series of CEPF investments effectively continued the consolidation of conservation efforts in the Cape Floristic Region. As CEPF exited the hotspot, confidence in the continuation of these efforts was high. The Cape Floristic Region is relatively small, located in South African provinces committed to conservation, in an area with high civil society capacity and relatively high local wealth, and is the focus of a committed national movement for conservation. CEPF expects that South Africa, as a nation and as a source of funding, will be responsible for ensuring conservation gains in this region. Further gains will surely occur in the context of broader conservation efforts in the country.

## 6. Update on progress towards the goals in the Logical Framework

This CEPF Consolidation Program in the Cape Floristic Region comprised nine grants across six investment priorities. The “indicators” in the table below show the expected results under each investment priority, while the “results” show the actual achievement of the nine grants.

**Table 2. Logical Framework from the Consolidation Portfolio**

Objective	Indicator	Result
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 civil society organizations (not counting SANBI or Table Mountain Fund) received grants. However, the total seven grant recipient groups then reached over 45 additional “civil society actors,” including Table Mountain Fund reaching 35 community-based organizations, the Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve engaging five NGOs for stewardship agreements in Elandsfontein and Cape Columbine, and WWF and Conservation International reaching multiple agricultural product associations.
	6.3 million hectares of key biodiversity areas with strengthened protection	Protection of 547,261 hectares of KBAs was strengthened: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6,500 of private AfriSAM land in the Cape West Biosphere Reserve</li> <li>• 9,000 hectares of privately held land in Cape West in stewardship negotiations</li> <li>• 331,761 of land containing Swartland Shale Renosterveld and Sand Fynbos</li> <li>• 200,000 in Baviaanskloof Nature Reserve</li> </ul>
	3 projects located outside protected areas integrate biodiversity conservation in management practices	4 projects integrated biodiversity conservation into management practices for land outside protected areas. These included the AfriSAM land and Cape West stewardship results, listed above, as well as 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)

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Result</b>
	3 stakeholder networks strengthened to support long-term conservation action by replicating and scaling up CEPF successes	3 networks were created, through Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve, Bavianskloof, and TMF interns
	2 public-private partnerships mainstream biodiversity in the agriculture sector	3 public-private partnerships mainstreamed biodiversity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Choice;</li> <li>• Biodiversity and Wine Initiative</li> <li>• Biodiversity and Red Meat Initiative</li> </ul>
	100% of targeted communities involved in sustainable use projects demonstrate tangible socioeconomic benefits	It is not possible to state that this indicator was achieved. Grantees worked in multiple communities and with multiple stakeholders to encourage them to adopt better land management practices, better farming practices, and better livestock grazing practices. Each of these was for "sustainable use," but not all yielded direct benefits to the participants. None of the grants measured such benefits. Instead, there is a proxy of participation. By example, landowners voluntarily put 9,000 hectares of their own land into stewardship agreements reflecting their positive valuation of the activity. If they did not perceive some value (e.g., higher value agricultural or livestock product; more productive land; more resilient landscape), they would not have chosen to take that action.

<b>Intermediate Outcome</b>	<b>Intermediate Indicators</b>	<b>Result</b>
Outcome 1. Long-term sustainability of five corridors is secured (Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor, Gouritz Initiative, Baviaanskloof Mega-Reserve,	Industrial biodiversity corridor in Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve consolidated	57 tourism organizations and 10 communities agreed to the corridor plans
	Partnerships formed with National Department of Public Works, Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs, and Provincial Department of Planning	Partnerships were formed to promote the corridors
	Capacity strengthened to address and strengthen corridor, biosphere and world heritage site planning and implementation within CapeNature	Tourism Bureaus formed partnerships with the Cape West Coast Reserve; public funding was committed for a Conservation Manager, two Conservation Officers, a dedicated Tourism Officer, and an Awareness/Educator



Intermediate Outcome	Intermediate Indicators	Result
West Coast Biosphere Reserve and the lowland regions that have been targeted for stewardship interventions). \$584,000	5 Biodiversity and Citrus sites will be used to pilot farm level planning activities for wider adoption by a further 5 properties	Farm-level planning and auditing was piloted at six citrus farms
	Management of Baviaanskloof Nature Reserve improved as measured by METT	A METT score for Baviaanskloof Nature Reserve was completed in 2005 (score of 39), prior to the period of this grant, but as part of a grant during the first phase of CEPF investment. The consolidation grant ran from 2008-2011. A METT was conducted in 2009 with a score of 54. No further METTs were conducted during the project period.
Outcome 2. Local communities contribute to the sustainability of four Cape Floristic Region biodiversity corridors. \$166,000	Across a minimum of two localities, 10 CBO partners are effectively trained and mentored to develop and implement 45 environmental projects	35 CSOs partners were reached; 48 environmental projects were implemented
Outcome 3. Cape Floristic Region Phase 1 lessons captured and shared throughout the hotspot. \$150,000	6 learning exchange events, annual conferences in 2009 and 2010, and workshop on mainstreaming biodiversity planned, organized, facilitated and evaluated	Annual events were held in 2009, 2010, 2011; these included specific events on Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor and Cape Flats Nature
	Lessons published in multiple media and made available to stakeholders	21 case studies were completed, and a website was updated
	2 knowledge exchanges with other hotspots facilitated	Knowledge exchanges were held with the Succulent Karoo and Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspots

Intermediate Outcome	Intermediate Indicators	Result
<p>Outcome 4. Stakeholders understand and engage in sustainable and biodiversity-friendly industry initiatives.</p> <p>\$299,705</p>	1 document developed that informs future strategies on business and biodiversity initiatives and strategies implemented	2 documents were developed: <a href="#">Green Choice Living Farms Reference</a> , <a href="#">Green Choice Publications</a>
	1 network of interest groups formed.	Green Choice and multiple biodiversity-friendly commodity producer associations (wine, red meat, rooibos, flowers) were formed to agree on production standards, branding, and marketing
	1 resource center created and maintained	WWF South Africa and SANBI websites provided multiple active resources and communications platforms
	Qualitative and quantitatively measured growth in sales of biodiversity-friendly products results from committed retailers and a more informed consumer base	No quantifiable data were collected in relation to this indicator
<p>Outcome 5. Key implementing agencies and institutions have the capacity to sustain conservation gains.</p> <p>\$300,000</p>	Capacity development strategy developed and embedded within multiple municipalities within the region	West Coast and Eden District mainstreamed biodiversity into relevant offices
	LED officers identified and trained using CI IDP training model	LED and IDP officers were trained in West Coast and Eden District
	Workplace-based intervention developed and piloted at one priority municipality in the Western Cape for a minimum of 15 individuals	Training was conducted in municipalities throughout the Western Cape
	Young professional program and mentorship development program implemented	An intern-mentor program was created in West Coast and Eden District
	1 database updated to allow for broader contact and follow-up with graduates	Graduates of the program were presented to the SANBI Presidential Jobs Fund project
<p>Outcome 6. Selected high-level government officials understand and support long-term conservation of the Cape Floristic Region.</p> <p>\$150,000</p>	48 government officials exposed to the challenges and opportunities that conservation faces on an ongoing basis	Exposure visits were broadened beyond government officials
	Two coordinated and consistent communication and informational activities take place to ensure wider buy in and support	Separate events were held for classes of relevant stakeholders: municipal officials; private landowners; winemakers; business leaders; and artists