



**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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Mr. Gonzalo Castro  
Environment Department  
The World Bank  
1818 H Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20433  
United States

Dear Mr. Castro

**CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND: CAPE FLORISTIC REGION**

As the GEF Focal Point for the Government of the Republic of South Africa, I would like to inform you that I endorse the investment strategy outlined in the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) for the Cape Floristic Region (CFR), and the provision of grants to non-governmental and private sector organizations for projects and activities that fulfill the programmatic objectives outlined therein.

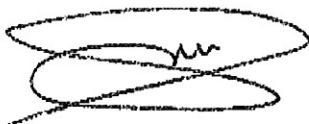
We are aware that information relative to all specific projects can be accessed on the CEPF web site [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and we look forward to receiving annual listings of projects and activities conducted within South Africa. Furthermore we understand that each of the donors (Conservation International, GEF, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank) has provided equal funding to the CEPF Initiative.

In providing this endorsement, I confirm that CFR project has broad based national government support and is of a high national priority for South Africa in terms of the conservation and sustainable use of our biological diversity. Furthermore the CFR project is an integral initiative within South Africa's GEF medium term priority framework and the CEPF would be complementary to the GEF funding.

I note that it will be submitted for further review and approval by the CEPF Donor Council, and that provision of funding for activities outlined in the Ecosystem Profile will be contingent upon approval by the CEPF Donor Council.

I would appreciate it if you could facilitate the approval of funding for the project and wish to reaffirm our support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely



**DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
and GEF FOCAL POINT**  
DATE: 26.11.01