

# CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Legal Name:** Fynbos Forum

**Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement):** Production of a Research Strategy to Support CFR Conservation

**Implementation Partners for This Project:** Members of the Fynbos Forum include managers, planners and researchers and other interested parties embracing the national, provincial and municipal spheres of government, as well as academia, the private sector and non-governmental organizations in the CFR. The CAPE Co-ordination Unit is an important member.

**Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):** May 1, 2005 – October 31, 2005

**Date of Report (month/year):** 26 March 2006

## II. OPENING REMARKS

**Provide any opening remarks that may assist in the review of this report.**

The Research Strategy resulted in 3 key products which need to be studied in order. The relationship between the key products is explained in the covering note compiled by Julia Wood.

Product 1 is the Purpose Statement and is contained in the covering note.

Product 2 is a document on the urgent need for research in the Cape Floristic Region. This also gave direction on the way forward.

Product 3 (also referred to as Annexure B) is a document on the research priorities for the Cape Floristic Region based on a participatory process.

## III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

### 1. What was the initial objective of this project?

The primary objective of this project is to determine, through a participatory process, a consensus on the current research priorities that are most likely to contribute to successful natural ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation in the Cape Floristic Region (CFR) and the achievement of the Cape Action for People and the Environment (C.A.P.E.) Strategy.

### 2. Did the objectives of your project change during implementation? If so, please explain why and how.

No they did not.

### **3. How was your project successful in achieving the expected objectives?**

The product was successful as it prioritized research questions in the CFR, set out a motivation for the need for research and clearly identified a way forward. The documents have given us an excellent basis to move forward towards implementation of the Research Strategy.

### **4. Did your team experience any disappointments or failures during implementation? If so, please explain and comment on how the team addressed these disappointments and/or failures.**

In the beginning the objective of the Research Strategy did not seem to have a common understanding amongst all members of the Fynbos Forum. Once this was corrected and a clear purpose statement agreed to, the process became more streamlined. As a result of this and other logistical problems, the Research Strategy took much longer than expected partly due to the need to extend comment periods to enable the members of the Fynbos Forum to comment. This, although it provided a fair amount of frustration for the members of the research working group, I believe resulted in a better product.

### **5. Describe any positive or negative lessons learned from this project that would be useful to share with other organizations interested in implementing a similar project.**

Sufficient time for comment periods and ensuring all participants are on the “same page”. The development of a clear purpose statement at the onset of a project is critical to its success.

### **6. Describe any follow-up activities related to this project.**

The follow up activities are explained in the document entitled Product 2 and I quote from the document:

“The crucial first step is the creation of a body to drive the re-invigoration of research into biodiversity and its conservation in the Cape Floristic Region. It is proposed that this be linked to the C.A.P.E Programme.

The second step is to secure a substantial increase in funding for this essential research. Table 1 indicates possible sources for funding for the various fields of research urgently needed.

The third step is to “reglamorize” research in this field. One element in this process might be through the creation of a “Centre of Excellence in Ecosystem Research in the Cape Floristic Region”. This “reglamorization” is considered an essential prerequisite if we are to capture and further develop the top-notch research capacity required.”

The Fynbos Forum Research working group, under the guidance of myself, will be responsible for ensuring the above take place.

**7. Please provide any additional information to assist CEPF in understanding any other aspects of your completed project.**

It is important to note that the documents produced here are a starting point and will need to be taken forward and review as and when necessary. The Fynbos Forum is committed to championing this Research Strategy.

**IV. ADDITIONAL FUNDING**

*Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.*

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Type of Funding*</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>

**\*Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:**

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*
- B** *Complementary funding (Other donors contribute to partner organizations that are working on a project linked with this CEPF project)*
- C** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*
- D** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

**Provide details of whether this project will continue in the future and if so, how any additional funding already secured or fundraising plans will help ensure its sustainability.**

It is important to note that the documents produced here are a starting point and will need to be taken forward and review as and when necessary. The Fynbos Forum is committed to championing this Research Strategy. Substantial amounts of funding need to be found to ensure the successful implementation of the Research Strategy. This initiative will also be assisted and embedded in the CAPE Partnership.

## V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I decided it would be useful to summarise the major elements that come out of the Research Strategy:

### ***Purpose statement***

**BY THE YEAR 2020 THE KEY RESEARCH QUESTIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CAPE VISION WILL HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED AND INCORPORATED INTO MANAGEMENT PRACTICE.**

The Objectives of the Research Strategy are:

- a. To identify questions important for management, systematic conservation planning and conservation implementation in the W Cape
- b. To direct researchers to these important questions
- c. To direct money to researchers addressing key questions
- d. To solicit funding for key questions – NRF, CAPE and others
- e. To encourage research programmes focused around interconnected key areas
- f.. To make conservation agency support available to research addressing key questions

### ***Most important research themes identified***

- a. Getting the necessary background information
- b. Managing human impacts on the CFR
- c. The special case of freshwater ecosystems
- d. Influencing the decision makers on biodiversity issues
- e. Working out what we must do to protect the CFR's biodiversity
- f. Finding out how well we are actually doing

Coming out of the workshop, the following important issue was raised: Biodiversity life science institutes were the only ones who were surveyed so the priorities that have come out have been focused mainly on the Biodiversity and Natural History approach as apposed interactions between Biodiversity, Social and Economic issues that are just as important for the implementation of the CAPE strategy. It was agreed once the Research Strategy is completed that it needs to be integrated into the CAPE structures to ensure that this issue is addressed.

### ***The way forward***

- 1 Set up a CFR Research Task Team under the aupices of CAPE to drive the Research Strategy
- 2 Ensure substantial increase in funding for essential research.
- 3 Reglamorize research and further develop top-notch research capacity perhaps through the creation of a Centre of Excellence in Ecosystem research in the CFR.

***Finally please note that the Fynbos Research Strategy resulted in a cost saving of R5318.57 (see financial spreadsheet titled income & expenditure: Fynbos Forum). It is requested that the balance is returned to the Fynbos Forum bank account held with the Botanical Society and ring-fenced for the further implementation of this Research Strategy.***

## VI. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF aims to increase sharing of experiences, lessons learned and results among our grant recipients and the wider conservation and donor communities. One way we do this is by making the text of final project completion reports available on our Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and by marketing these reports in our newsletter and other communications. Please indicate whether you would agree to publicly sharing your final project report with others in this way.

Yes  \_\_\_\_\_

No  \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please also complete the following:

**For more information about this project, please contact:**

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