

# CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Legal Name:** Natures Valley Trust

**Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement):** Salt River Macro Invertebrate Sanctuary: Stakeholder Engagement Process

**Implementation Partners for This Project:** Nature's Valley Trust

**Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):** July 1, 2005 – September 30, 2005

**Date of Report (month/year):** October 2005

## II. OPENING REMARKS

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

## III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

The overall aim of the project was to engage with Salt River stakeholders in order to open channels of communication and create a better understanding of the Salt River system which will ultimately lead to better land use and management practices along the Salt River to protect the unique aquatic macro-invertebrate species found here.

The initial objective of this project was to engage with Salt River stakeholders in order to:

- identify potential impacts on the Salt River and mitigation measures,
- produce a plan of action,
- and establish a forum with representation of all stakeholders with clear Terms of Reference.

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

This was a short and fairly focussed project and, as a result, the objectives remained unchanged.

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

The project has been successful in that the utilizing of a consultant has, through its meditative approach, opened channels for discussion between all stakeholders. In

addition, it has highlighted the fact that most participants are willing to explore avenues and participate in better management and land use practices along the Salt River system. Through the discussions which have taken place, a plan of action has been produced which has highlighted certain needs and a path forward. From this, a Salt River Stakeholder Forum has been established.

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.

One of the stakeholders has declined to participate in this project. He is one of the key roleplayers in the stakeholder engagement process as he has plans for a large development overlooking the Salt River system and therefore the potential to impact on the system. However, we will be following up discussions with him and looking at ways in which we can work together to the benefit of the environment, the people and the economics of the area. He has expressed a willingness to engage with the forum if more flexible discussion is possible.

Although the Nature's Valley Trust would have preferred that the implementation of the stakeholder forum be taken up by stakeholders, this will, it appears, need more input from the Nature's Valley Trust before it is firmly established. We will be researching various mitigation possibilities to present to the forum in order to involve stakeholders more in taking action as a follow on to having identified actions necessary, i.e. The Nature's Valley Trust will need to undertake more in-depth research on specific actions and provide or facilitate guidance on how the identified actions can be implemented. In short, the establishment of a forum and buy-in of stakeholders requires additional input to enable implementation of actions.

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.

Due to trends in this area, a large 'divide' developed between environmental groups and developers. Unfortunately, the lower income communities are often caught in this divide. This Stakeholder Engagement Process has been extremely beneficial in establishing initial links or bridges across this divide which can be built on and, with this, a path forward can be negotiated more easily. This has demonstrated that a mediated approach to such situations can prove beneficial as a first step to establishing a common goal for widely diverse communities/stakeholders and ongoing discussion and work towards achieving this common goal.

It is vital that a set of actions are produced as a focus to carry such a process forward. Over and above this, additional input is necessary once a forum is established and there is buy-in of stakeholders to ensure that actions are implemented. This, in turn, leads to more in-depth discussion and participation.

When dealing with development issues from an environmental perspective, it is vital, from the start, to engage with all the stakeholders if possible to ensure that there is a clear understanding of the environmental perspective. It is vital to demonstrate the consideration in this perspective or argument of all facets including the socio-economic environment, political environment and natural environment.

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

The follow-up actions which were highlighted during this process include the following:

- An Ecological Reserve Study needs to be prioritized by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry. Letters and meetings need to be set up with DWAF to stress that, without an ecological reserve study, it cannot be determined what effect, if any, some of the land use practices could have on the Salt River system.
- The Stakeholder Engagement Process report prepared by the consultant to be distributed to all stakeholders.
- Create a social network in the area where people of Kurland Village can meet other residents of the area on an equal footing. The intention is to integrate the dreams and desires held by those promoting the social, economic and natural environment.
- Link with the Kurland Village Extension development Environmental Liaison Committee.
- Liaise and network with existing projects at Kurland Bricks.
- Investigate a water car and a coffer dam at Kurland Bricks to minimize dust pollution getting to river.
- Investigate FFC or ISO 14 000 accreditation for Kurland Brick and Koffieklip Houtprodukte.
- Investigate the possibility of chemical leakage from treated wood and recycling systems at Koffieklip Houtprodukte.
- Scientific investigation needed to determine:
  - Whether effluent standards set out by DWAF and adhered to by Bitou Municipality to guide the functioning of the sewage plant are sufficient.
  - What levels and types of fertilizer and chemical leakage would harm the river and the insects?
  - Will the effluent from the sewerage system treatment harm the insects?
- Discuss with Kurland Estate:
  - The presence of fish in dams and the application of fish traps
  - removing bluegum trees on river banks
  - Investigate fertilizing and insecticide alternatives.
  - Kurland Estate proposed development: connect with the environmental consultant, Pieter Badenhorst, as well as the water specialist, Retief Kleynhans. Arrange to be kept in the loop and to give inputs.
- Michael Johnson: Arrange follow up discussions to involve him in the forum.
- Follow up with new property owners in the area;
- Follow up and research alternative low impact products for fertilizing properties and the use of pesticides.

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

#### 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.*

| Donor | Type of Funding* | Amount | Notes |
|-------|------------------|--------|-------|
| Nil   |                  |        |       |
|       |                  |        |       |
|       |                  |        |       |
|       |                  |        |       |

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

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.

Although the stakeholder engagement process is over, ongoing discussion and action will take place through the established Salt River Forum.

#### V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 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

If yes, please also complete the following:

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