



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001, Tel: (012) 310 5828, Fax: 012 -- 320 0025, E-mail: Zizka@eczone.denv.02/Zi

Mr. Michael Carroll
Team Leader, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
Senior Agriculturist
Latin Americans and Caribbean Division
The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20433
United States

Reference: *Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund- Succulent Karoo Ecosystem*

Dear Mr. Carroll

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 Succulent Karoo Ecosystem, 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 and we look forward to receiving annual listings of projects and activities conducted within South Africa.

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, we confirm that Succulent Karoo Ecosystem has been shared with the officials responsible for the Convention on Biological Diversity, and has undergone review in our country. We 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. We agree that the Donor Council may make the Ecosystem Profile publicly available after review and approval.

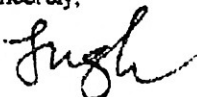
Yours sincerely

DIRECTOR-GENERAL
AND GEF FOCAL POINT

DATE: 14/02/03

In providing this endorsement, we confirm that the Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Profile has been shared with the officials responsible for the Convention on Biological Diversity, and has undergone review in our country. We 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. We agree that the ecosystem profile may be made publicly available after review and approval by the Donor Council.

Sincerely,



Nghitila Teofilus

Acting Director: DEA and GEF focal point in Namibia

cc: *CEPF Director of Business Development and Program Management*